

The Frontier

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The Holt county oil machine seems to be as successful in stifling opposition as the Standard Oil company.

President Taft, here's to you. May the success of your administration exceed your fondest expectations, or that of your friends.

The cheering information is given out that Mr. Bryan will be a presidential candidate up to 1920. That insures at least three more republican presidents in succession.

Governor Haskell having lost out in the courts of his own state in the first round with the Hearst newspaper syndicate, that excellent and immaculate democrat may conclude to proceed no further toward making good his bluff.

There continues to be something doing in this world of invention. A college professor has perfected a machine which he claims will reveal objects on and inhabitants of the planet Mars. Another scientific genius says he has solved the problem of storing the sun's rays.

The state legislature is proving a travesty on the popular conception of the term democratic. Instead of leaving the administration of the state government in the hands of the representatives of the people they are exerting every effort to centralize the power in the hands of one man.

The railroads have been getting some pretty severe jolts for rebating. It is costing these big corporations several millions to learn the lesson that the laws for the protection of the public are valid, but they will probably learn in the end that the legitimate way of railroading is the more profitable.

Everybody wishes Mr. Taft a pleasant and prosperous administration, his duties as president beginning today. He takes hold of the reigns of government under favorable circumstances. The country is prosperous and at peace and the large vote Mr. Taft received indicates that the people have faith in his ability to maintain or improve present conditions.

Jim Jeffries, the undefeated heavyweight champion pugilist of the world, who retired from the fistic arena four years ago, announces that he will re-enter the ring and fight Johnson for the championship. Johnson is a colored man and won the title from Burns in Australia a few months ago. Jeff may find it a case of "too much Johnson" before he gets through with the nig.

The Holt county delegation in the legislature, especially the O'Neill contingent, are proving a disappointment even to their party friends. There never was a better opportunity and probably will not be again for many years to come to get a state normal school located in this county, but they seem to be too busy framing up political jobs and introducing bills of no consequence to do anything substantial for their constituents.

Experience demonstrates that two newspapers are enough in the ordinary town. O'Neill has had a varied experience with newspapers, and the discontinuance last week of the third paper after a little over one year's existence is further evidence that two papers are enough for a town the size of O'Neill. Mr. Eves published a fairly good paper but with the field already occupied it could not be made a paying venture. The Frontier has for over a quarter of a century maintained supremacy with the largest list of subscribers who order and take the paper because they want it. Our relations have usually been pleasant with all competitors and we expect to continue issuing a paper regularly each week.

A DEMOCRATIC INDICTMENT.

The Columbus Telegram, which is usually satisfied with anything bearing the democratic label, is disgusted with the horse play of the legislature. It brands three of the democratic majority as seducers, and says:

There is a strong law in Nebraska against seduction, but it does not apply to political seduction.

The only law which can reach and punish that kind of a crime is the law of public opinion, and the Telegram now invokes that law against three men who have seduced the democratic majority in the Nebraska legislature. The three seducers are:

Senator Ransom, of Douglas.
Senator Howel, of Douglas.
Representative Clark, of Richardson.

These three seducers have had many assistants, but to these three belong the credit or the shame for every step the democratic legislature has taken in the direction of doing the will of the corporations.

It is a mistake to imagine that these men appear in the guise of devils with horns, although all the devils and all the horns could not bring greater injury or greater shame to the democratic party in this state than they are bringing. Fact is, each of the three is a winsome seducer. Each has a pleasing personality, and each uses that personality to betray the democratic cause.

Frank Ransom and Edward Howel were sent to the state senate for a specific purpose. That purpose is to guard the interests of the Omaha Stockyards company and the Omaha brewery combine, primarily, and the interests generally of every other Nebraska corporation which seeks special favors in the law. Representative Clark stands more prominently as the lieutenant of the railroad lobby, although he works in perfect harmony with Ransom and Howel, because it must always be remembered that in every legislative session the corporation lobbyists always work together, each delivering the votes it controls to the other.

After this indictment, the Telegram continues with a half column appeal for the democratic majority to redeem itself and the party pledges, concluding with:

GENTLEMEN OF THE DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY, YOU CANNOT MAKE A SATISFACTORY RECORD WHILE FOLLOWING THE LEAD OF RANSOM HOWELL AND CLARK.

You dare not go home and ask your home people to approve a record of subservency to such leadership. It is time for you to awake to the situation, and to the danger of it. There is yet time to save the situation. There is yet time to show the people of the state that the democratic party in Nebraska is strong enough to resist an attempted rape by the corporations.

We call upon every legislator not under the hypnotic spell of the corporation leaders to run quick to the work of taking the democratic leadership out of the hands of the Ransoms, and Howells, the Bartos and the Clarks, and place it in the hands of men who love the party, and who love the cause of common men.

It is too late in the session for the democrats to throw off the corporation grip. They sold themselves on the start and will not be able to get away from the clutches of the "seducers."

THE LEGISLATURE.

Lincoln, Neb., Mar. 1.—(Special Correspondence.)—During the state campaign of last fall the people heard many repeated charges from democratic orators alleging extravagance in the conduct of the state government by the republican party in control of state affairs through the state officers. It is a safe guess that no one hears the charge repeated just now and probably will not hear it again in a long time, and the reason therefore is not hard to seek. The democrats of the house have just found out something they either did not know before or if they did refuse to tell. The house committee on finance, ways and means, of which Representative Clark of Richardson is chairman, has just completed the general appropriation bills for the conduct of the state government for the next two years and despite the efforts of this able gentleman and his assistants on the committee to trim expenses and thus make good the campaign statements of the dem-

ocrats, that the republicans were extravagant, they have found it necessary to report a general appropriation bill, carrying nearly \$30,000 more for salaries and maintenance than were represented by the same items in the appropriation bill of two years ago. The total carried by the bill this year is \$1,807,668.

Should even a quarter of the bills now pending before the legislature creating new state offices and salaries be passed, the expenditures of the state government every year will be increased over the republican record by many thousands of dollars. Perhaps the worst sign of the times that may be observed by the taxpayers of the state is that there is a great probability that not only one-fourth, but indeed a great majority of the "new job" bills will pass and become laws.

The business of creating new jobs for democrats has not languished this week in the legislature. This branch of legislation appears to have peculiar attractions for the democratic majority and but few days are allowed to pass without some new and brilliant thought on the part of an enthusiastic member directed towards making a new place on the state payroll for some faithful democrat. During the past week this effort is represented by a bill providing an additional deputy game and fish warden for the Eighth senatorial district who shall be appointed by the governor and draw \$50 a month; a bill creating a board to be appointed by the governor, regulating the practice of public accounting; another providing for the control of the liquor traffic through a state dispensary, which would create another multitude of state officers; a proposed law that the governor shall hereafter appoint the state board of agriculture; another bill giving the governor the power to appoint the secretaries to the state board of health; a bill which makes the governor the state architect and provides for the appointment of an assistant at \$3,000 and a second assistant at \$1,500; another bill which

creates a state bureau of printing with the governor as printing commissioner.

These little additions proposed to the state payroll are merely heaped upon those of the weeks which have gone before since this legislature came into being. The thought may come to the average taxpayer that he will be reasonably busy within the next two years earning the money necessary to pay the taxes inflicted on him by these peculiar brands of democratic "economy."

A legislator may be judged as well by what it refuses to do as by the things accomplished. The democratic majority in House and Senate have left some marks of this character during the past week. Among the bills killed in the Senate were S. F. 261 by Thompson of Cuming, providing for reduction of 20 per cent in the freight rates on unwashed wool. The Senate also took a fall out of the bill by Taylor of York, H. R. 58, which had already passed the House. This bill provided for the taxation of real estate mortgages, and the exemption of the mortgage real estate to the amount of the mortgage. This did not appeal to the sympathies of the democratic Senate and the measure was put to death in that body. The House occasionally shows the same disposition towards measures of a character regulating corporations. During the week the House killed the bill by Leidigh, H. R. 333, providing maximum rates for long distance telephone messages.

The oft-repeated assertion that no legislation seriously regulating corporations would be passed by the democratic Senate at this session would seem from developments to have some of the democratic members of the House. The influence of the three democratic senators from Douglas county is admittedly great in the upper house of the legislature and no one has ever accused these gentlemen of any radical antipathies toward corporate organizations. In fact,

Senator Ransom, who heads the Omaha senatorial delegation, and is an old and experienced legislator is known throughout the state as an able corporation attorney. House members in many cases have been nervous about what might happen to their measures in the Senate, and among them Taylor of Custer had an opportunity to find out. Taylor's bill, providing for a canvas of constitutional amendment votes by the State Board of Canvassers, recently reached the Senate and was killed there without delay. This made the Custer county member sit up and take notice. He remembered that several bills regulating the charges at stock yards had been quietly sleeping for weeks in the hands of a House committee and one day during the past week he suddenly moved that the committee report the bills at once and that they be placed at the head of the general file. This movement the House supported and the bills are now in condition for consideration. The Omaha senators are much interested in the Omaha charter which is now pending in the House and it is

freely predicted that there will not be "much doing" in the matter of the Omaha charter in the House until the Douglas county senators make a showing of their attitude towards the stock yards legislation which bill will come to the Senate from the House.

During the past week one of the newspapers published at the capital city made some observations along the line that decided friendliness was exhibited by the Senate towards corporate interests, and that these interests had received some favors at the hands of the railroad committee of the Senate. This led Senator Ollis of Valley to introduce a resolution in the Senate, the purport of which was that the article contained false and misleading statements, asked for an investigating committee to the end that "untruthful and unreliable reporters" be denied access to the Senate chamber. The Senate took cognizance of the resolution and appointed a committee of three to investigate the reporter who had made the reflections on the railroad committee. Up to this date there has

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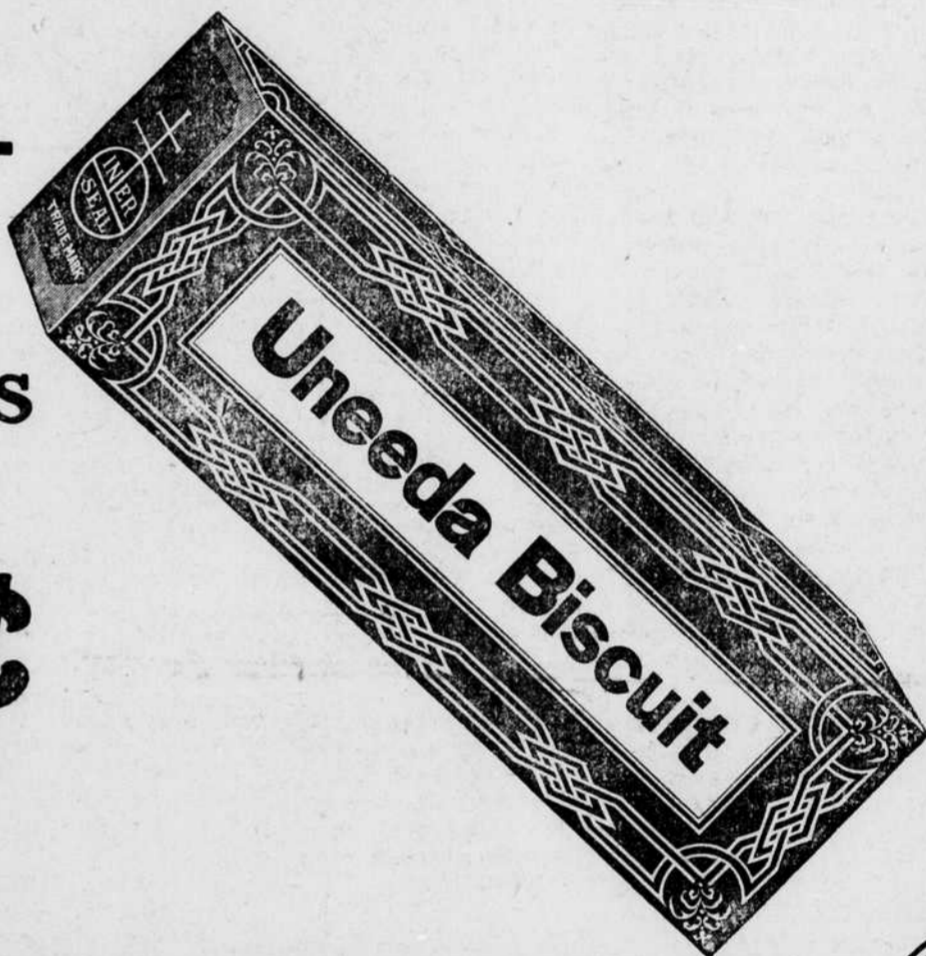
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