

POLITICS MIXED IN

Bitterness, if Not Crookedness, in Nez Perces County.

UNWARRANTED FINANCIAL STATUS

History of the Proceedings That Brought Investigation, and the Results of It to Date.

LEWISTON, Idaho, March 4.—During the campaign in 1899, the Republicans made charges of misappropriation of the public money by previous county officials, and the data for the charges was supplied from the records of the county. There was also the promise of the Republican nominee for Clerk of the District Court and ex-officio Auditor and Recorder that he would, if elected, run that office for \$100 per year, which was then costing the county. This was counted a good campaign argument, whether there was any truth in the charges or not, and the result of a hot and bitter fight was the defeat of the entire Democratic ticket.

In the years from 1891 to 1895 the office of District Clerk was held by H. K. Barnett, a Republican, and he was succeeded in 1895 by S. O. Tammahill, a Democrat, who held the office from that time to 1899. Tammahill had just then completed a two years' term of office as Assessor and ex-officio Tax Collector in the years 1898 and 1899, and was a very popular young man. The office of County Treasurer from 1891 to 1895 was held by D. S. Dent, a Democrat, and from 1895 to 1899 by J. B. Morrison, also a Democrat. The other offices were held sometimes by Democrats and sometimes by Republicans, but for the most part county affairs were administered by Democrats.

After the new regime in 1899 took official charge of the county's affairs complaints became frequent from outside parties who had furnished supplies or rendered services to the county, and it failed for some reason to receive the warrants drawn for their claims as allowed by the Board of County Commissioners, and upon an investigation it was ascertained that the warrants were drawn and put into circulation. Other persons who had redeemed their lands which had been sold for taxes and of which the county had become the purchaser, or who had sent to or left money with some of the former officials for the purpose of redeeming their lands, upon inquiring if the same had been done were invariably answered that the warrants had not been cancelled. From these circumstances suspicions of a grave nature were aroused, and in deference to public sentiment and the wishes of the present officials, who did not feel that they had the necessary and particular qualifications to make an accurate and thorough investigation, it was determined to employ some competent person, and an agreement was made with an investigator, who was to make an investigation, which was done and the accountant employed began work September 15, 1899.

The first report of the expert was submitted at the annual meeting of the County Commissioners, and dealt with all records pertaining to the issuance of warrants from statehood to January 10, 1899, a period of eight years. The report charged many irregularities, was full of errors, incompetency and in a number of instances "fraud."

The second result of the expert's report was a statement showing the amount of outstanding warrants, and the amount of the county at face on January 10, 1899, the day on which the new administration took charge. In November, 1899, the county agreed to pay the amount of \$85,000, but there had accumulated after that time an additional net debt in outstanding warrants amounting to \$60,000, or a total at the rate of about \$145,000 per year.

It has been charged by Mr. Tammahill that he is being persecuted for "political reasons," but at about the time he was arrested the warrants were held and proceedings against him in Boise to recover 25% of attorneys' fees, which it alleges, is due, and that he collected and neglected to turn over. The administration of the county has not paid to the taxpayers why he should not include that action in his charge of "persecution for political reasons."

As a result of the bitterness stirred up by the investigation, there has been a civil and criminal, against the officials and a strife that exists between the Board of County Commissioners and the Prosecuting Attorney. The present County Treasurer, C. A. Hastings, was elected under an old law in Idaho that requires every candidate of public funds to segregate the money as a special deposit whenever a bank is used as a depository. In other words, public funds in Idaho cannot be placed in a bank and mixed with the bank's money. They must be kept separate and, therefore, under a strict investigation of the ordinary way, it is doubtful if in the whole State of Idaho there is any public official who lives up to the letter of the law regarding special deposits. The law is, however, a good one to protect public money in the event of a bank failure, for a special deposit could not be classed as one of the bank's assets when the bank was closed and segregated from the use of the bank.

That the law is peculiar and unusual there is not the slightest doubt. It would be manifestly impossible for a public official to find a bank that would accept a special deposit without being paid for the service. The bank that is usually chosen as a depository takes upon itself the duty of finding securities for a public official, looking to the use of the money for compensation. It was under this peculiar law that Treasurer Hastings was arrested. He was discharged for want of prosecution, and yet there was certain informality about it all that showed an utter disregard of criminal procedure. There was one Treasurer of Nez Perces County who lived up to the letter of the law. His name was J. B. Morrison, and he ran along without the banks. He kept the money in a safe and was his own cashier.

The other County Treasurers in this judicial district keep their money in safe provided by the county, but they do not deposit it in the banks. They keep their money at a very low figure by redeeming warrants as fast as possible.

REAL INDIAN LOVE STORY. A Lewiston citizen, who occupies the position of Advisor for several Nez Perces Indians, has received two interesting letters. They were written by a young Indian and unfolded a love story. The story is told in two chapters by quoting the two letters, as follows: CHAPTER I. "Lapwai, Feb. 15, 1899.—Dear Sir H.: I thought I would write a few words to say that I am well and also Cora. I just got back from the Flou on the train. I spend a few weeks up there to visit my folks. We are alright, me and Cora, and so I will ask you about got married. Cora will be getting married by Indian preacher. I have no time to get down Lewiston and so I write to you this afternoon. I think that's all. Yours loving friend, The Lawsonist Advisor, immediately after the receipt of the last letter, sent a marriage license to the young Indian. The sequel is yet to be written.

HABITS OF THE COSSACKS

HOW THEIR PECULIAR ORGANIZATION CAME TO BE.

Based on Complete Equality of Members and Self-Government—They Are Great Fighters.

RIASSK, Russia, Aug. 18.—This is the junction point at which the Transcaucasian railway crosses the Russian Empire from north to south, between Moscow and the Caucasus, cross the European portion of the Transcaucasian Railway. It is but 194 miles south of Moscow, so that I have had to come all the way back to the center of European Russia in order to start eastward again into Asia.

KANSAS CITY DOG SHOW.

There Will Be 500 Exhibits and \$25,000 in Cash Prizes.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., March 4.—The Kansas City Kennel Club's third annual dog show, which is scheduled for Convention Hall from March 14 to 17, promises to be the best ever held in the Central West, as it follows the Chicago show. This assures a large entry list, and the result of a hot and bitter fight was the defeat of the entire Democratic ticket.

Louisville Jockey Club.

The Kentucky Derby, \$500,000, a mile and a quarter—Admiral Schley, Thrive, Prince Wilhelm, Diendone, Flaunt, Orontas, Hindus, Stets, Waldeck, Soldan, His Excellency, Bender, Colonel Stray, General W. Brode, Sam Phillips, Greenock, Lieutenant Gibson, Dr. Amburg, Star Bright, Highland Lad, Florizor, Caylar.

Boxers and Wrestlers in Frisco.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 4.—The champion Eastern boxers and wrestlers were to participate in the amateur tournament given under the auspices of the Olympia Club of this city, arrived from New York today. The party includes six boxers and four wrestlers. The tournament will begin Tuesday night and continue during the week. Jack Kitchen, of the Athletic Club, of Oakland, has been chosen as referee.

SWEDEN'S METHODS.

She Is Sufficient unto Herself in Her Merchant Marine Service.

Sweden evidently believes in the old saying, "Every man for himself and God for all." Owing to Sweden's geographical position almost all articles of interchange with foreign countries are made through the ports in Sweden. The imports in value is estimated in Sweden to be about 20 per cent of the exports. In the Swedish merchant service are 3000 steamers of 27,000 tons, and 178 sailing vessels of 100,000 tons. Most of the material works are made in Sweden, from steel plates to timber. All the warships of Sweden, completed and in course of construction, are built in Sweden.

To Test Louisiana Constitution.

WASHINGTON, March 4.—An important conference of representative Afro-Americans was held here yesterday, at which the test of the suffrage law legislation of the southern states, especially Louisiana, was thoroughly discussed. A conference was not held under the auspices of the National Afro-American Council, but it was decided to indorse the action of the council in determining to bring to a final test the constitutionality of the suffrage clause of the Louisiana constitution, and a sufficient amount of money was raised to ensure the institution of a proper case in the United States Supreme Court. The test case will be brought at once.

Red Rag for a Flair.

OMAHA, Neb., Jan. 25.—The incidents of the heated municipal campaign which closes tomorrow was the tearing down and destroying of an American flag and another flag, which was the red rag on the flagpole some time Saturday morning. The Mayor, who is running for reelection, was astonished to see the red flag where erstwhile the Stars and Stripes floated. The Mayor had to have the flag in the first department to run up a ladder and take down the red cloth. He then ran up a brand new American flag, and another flag, which was the red rag, one pull it down. The work is thought to have been done by political opponents.

Homes Hunger in London.

Newspaper (Eng.) chronicler. People unfamiliar with the very serious overcrowding which exists in the metropolis. The medical officers of health have just made a return which brings home to us the terrible distress of our poorer population. In that parish there are 12,885 one-roomed tenements, occupied by 21,285 persons; 16,716 two-roomed tenements, with 60,203 persons living in them; 11,006 three-roomed tenements, with 49,782 occupants, and 801 four-roomed houses, sheltering 4,740 people.

Council of Jewish Women.

CLEVELAND, March 4.—The annual meeting of the Council of Jewish Women and officers of the city were held here this evening and nearly 20 delegates in attendance. After a secret session, a public meeting was held at which the president, Mrs. Hannah G. Solomon, of Chicago, read her annual report.

A Pertinent Question.

Canyon City News. If a man should wear his pantaloons so long that whenever he stepped on the street he would be obliged to reach around behind and grab hold of the slack and hold them up, wouldn't the ladies laugh?

Milwaukee in the League.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., March 4.—W. R. Kille, president of the baseball club, has a deal closed which Milwaukee becomes a member of the American League.

Specie From France.

NEW YORK, March 4.—The French liner La Champagne, which arrived today from Havre, carried 200 sacks of specie, containing \$3,383,000 francs.

THE ALEXANDER BRIDGE ACROSS THE VOLGA RIVER.



THE ALEXANDER BRIDGE ACROSS THE VOLGA RIVER.

strong and active, and the history of the first body serves to make clearer the history of the second. The Don Cossacks are now the oldest and the largest body of these troops. They grew into a military society at the end of the 16th century by the gathering of refugees from all parts of the Russian Empire in Europe before he reaches the southern border of the empire, one by one by the Black Sea, and the other by the Caspian sea; the other by the Crimea and Sebastopol, and the service of the year of the Paris peace, always ready for campaigning. Finding it almost impossible to curb them, the Russian Government has done better to disarm them than to try to rule them out of the country. It ended the military organization to preserve their military organization and martial spirit for the purpose of re-organizing the army with cavalry, and thus curtailing the regular contingent of that expensive branch of the service.

Live After Their Own Fashion.

The Cossacks have large allotments of land and many privileges of self-government after their own fashion. In return for which they are required to give certain special military service. Each body of this organization is divided into the service troops and the reserve, the former being 20 years of age, and the latter 21 to 25 years of age. From 15 to 21 years they are in the preparatory contingent, and then for 12 years they are reckoned as active troops, although they are actually under arms but do not wear uniforms. They must provide their own uniforms, equipment and horses. The help appointed to the Cossack throne is the Commander-in-Chief of all the Cossacks in the Empire, and the Deputy Ataman, who also governs the local civil administration. In time of peace the Cossacks are divided into the body guard of the Emperor, 140,000 men, 29 separate squadrons, 29 platoon battalions and 38 horse artillery regiments, and the regular troops. 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