

# POLITICAL FORUM

## Friends of the Two Mayoralty Candidates Advance Arguments for Consideration of Marshfield Voters.

(All communications must be in The Times office by 10 o'clock a. m. to secure publication the same day. This is necessary in order that they can be handled without preventing the handling of telegraph and other important news.)

### IMPORTANT NOTICE.

The Times is compelled to hold out a couple of political communications and several items of news because of impossibility to have them placed in type in time for today's paper.

## FOR SMITH

Marshfield, Or., Dec. 2, '09.

Dr. C. W. Tower, chairman executive committee of Administration Club, City.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your communication of the 1st inst., in which on behalf of Candidate E. E. Straw, you decline the invitation of the Citizens' League to meet Candidate I. S. Smith in a discussion of the issues of the campaign, and you state that the reason of your declination is that there are no issues to discuss.

I beg to inform you that the supporters of Candidate Smith do not concede your position with reference to the lack of issues in the present mayoralty campaign, but we do place before you the following subjects of debate which are issues in this campaign and upon which the people of Marshfield desire a full and free discussion:

1. Mayor Straw exhibited a lack of business foresight and judgment in the purchase of the street roller, and the tennis court on Knob Hill.

2. Mayor Straw has failed to conduct the business of the city in a business-like manner and the same is proven by the necessity of the issuance of bonds for running expenses.

3. Through Mayor Straw's administration wage and material have cost the city more money than a private individual because of the discount of warrants, and the persons benefiting thereby were the bankers who could afford to buy and hold the warrants.

4. The present cash basis of the city was brought about by the efforts of Councilmen Powers and Hennessey working together with the supporters of Candidate Smith, and the appointment of said councilmen was forced by the supporters of Candidate Smith after mayor Straw had resorted to a law suit to enforce his personal choice.

5. After Mayor Straw had sent for Contractor McCann, he failed in an attempt to obtain work for McCann but turned McCann over to other citizens of the city to arrange for contracts, and within twenty-four hours, citizens who were not officials of this city, had taken charge of the paving matter and had signed up several blocks of paving, and the efforts of those private individuals and not of Mayor Straw were responsible for the beginning of the paving improvement.

6. The fire ordinance of the city under Mayor Straw's administration has been a farce and enforced with partiality.

7. The people of the city want to know whether Mayor Straw was really nominated at the caucus held for that purpose, or whether he was in reality put up by a secret caucus of a few men held in the office of Snover & Feeney only a few days previous. And the people would like to know if it is a fact that that secret caucus was dominated by city contractors and if, at that caucus every man was named who was expected to nominate or second a nomination.

8. Why does Mayor Straw, in contravention of the custom of American politics, seek a third term election? Why, after he has received the honor of the people and, as he says, has neglected his private business to its detriment, should he seek a further injury to that private business?

All of the above matters and many others are being discussed by the voters of this city in the present campaign and the facts in regard to these matters should be put before the voters that they may vote intelligently. The supporters of Smith desire a campaign in the open, before the people, and if there is any skeleton in the closet, now is the time to bring it out. We do not believe that it is proper to circulate re-

## FOR STRAW

### MAYOR STRAW'S STATEMENT.

Editor Times: Answering the inquiry published in your issue of yesterday,—would I publicly disclaim a purpose if elected mayor to supplant J. W. Carter as city marshal by the appointment of Levi Smith,—I, then, publicly declare that while J. W. Carter continues to be as efficient an officer as he has been in the past, I shall not supplant him by the appointment of Levi Smith or any other man; and I further thus publicly declare that I will not appoint Mr. Walter Condon as nightwatch.

E. E. STRAW.

### MR. BUTLER'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Editor Times: In your issue of yesterday, and over the signature of Mr. John W. Butler, city recorder, and that of Mr. C. A. Johnson, chairman of the League, appears what purports to be a summary of the city's financial affairs during Mayor Straw's administration which was evidently intended to, and which does seriously reflect upon that administration—if true.

Mr. Butler, as recorder of the city, and the custodian of its records is in a position to secure exact figures.

As such officer, his statement imports verity; it is practically an official statement, and should carry, and in the minds of many doubtless has carried much weight.

Either Mr. Butler knew his figures and statements to be accurate or he should have withheld them.

A false or misleading statement seriously reflecting upon an official may, in the minds of some, be pardonable when made by a partisan newspaper, but such a statement emanating from the custodian of the records will not be viewed so charitably by those who are willing and anxious to accord to every man a "square deal."

We quote Mr. Butler: "Four years ago, the city had a debt of approximately \$15,000, a large part of which was incurred for the construction of a sewer. At present the debt of the city amounts to \$54,000 and our property has been mortgaged for that amount."

On the first day of January, 1906, when Mayor Straw went into office, Messrs. Poyntz and Lockhart, both reputable citizens and expert accountants, and directed to ascertain the warrant indebtedness of the city, found the same to be \$24,635.43, or \$9,835.43 in excess of Mr. Butler's.

If Mr. Butler computed that indebtedness before making his unqualified statement? If not, why not?

As to the present indebtedness of the city, we are not in possession of accurate information, and are therefore not in a position to give the same, but unless Mr. Butler is prepared to say his figures are based upon reports and rumors by word of mouth in secret caucus, alley or dark corner, but we do want these matters discussed before the people, with the other fellow present and given an opportunity to deny or explain, and then the voters can get a clear idea of the honest condition of affairs and base their judgment accordingly.

That the voters may be enlightened in regard to the above matters and any others that may be raised, on behalf of Candidate Smith, I do challenge your candidate, Mayor E. E. Straw, to a joint debate with candidate Smith at such time and place as we may agree upon. And notice is hereby given that in case this challenge is refused, Candidate Smith will himself take up these matters and discuss them from the platform.

Very respectfully,  
C. A. JOHNSON, chairman.  
JOHN W. BUTLER, Secretary.

upon the records, we have faith in the approximate correctness of our estimate, which is \$51,000, or \$3,000 less.

Then follows this paragraph: "What has been done with the \$39,000 of indebtedness that has been incurred during the last four years? Has it been spent for city improvements? No, the facts are the abutting property owners have paid for the city improvements out of their own pockets.

"Is it not a fact that this \$39,000 was spent for a street roller, for unimproved property not needed for city purposes, and for a deficit in the running expenses of the city government?"

It will appear that there is not "\$39,000 to be accounted for," but only the sum of \$26,364.57.

And that the city has not paid out money for street improvements will be seen to be another reckless statement upon reference to the subjoined showing of expenditures made during this administration, during which the population of Marshfield has increased from 2,000 to practically 5,000, thus necessitating increased expenditures.

The much-derided steam roller cost \$3,600.

The Seaman lot cost \$2,650.

The raising of the city hall, the construction of an addition thereto, and other work on same, cost \$2,650.

Fitting up recorder's office with books, typewriter, filing cabinet, etc., and chairs for council rooms, cost \$300.

Improvement of Front street in front of city hall, cost \$593.48.

Improvement of Park avenue cost \$1,008.95.

Drain on same cost \$100.

Lowering sewer on Broadway cost \$156.35.

Lowering sewer on Alder street cost \$100.

Sewers and manholes cost \$385.

Making and placing steel cells for jail cost \$908.

Surveying Mill Slough (Mr. Albrecht's plan) cost \$170.

Fitting up and supplying city engineer's office, including a level, cost \$255.

The chemical engine cost \$750.

Fire hose cost \$2,000.

Dredging, building and other expenses connected with the ferry landing, cost \$1,386.62.

Witness and attorney fees and other expenses incident to B street litigation, cost \$1,200.

Making a total expenditure of \$18,925.40, aside from "running expenses."

And let it be kept in mind that every expenditure except that for B street is represented by a live asset, and when the reader balances these assets, even Mr. Butler's indebtedness figures are not so staggering as he evidently hoped the people would consider them.

Which of these items may fairly be placed in the "reckless administration" class?

Go over them again, carefully considering each item, and then re-read Mr. Butler's sage and ominous conclusion:

"Let the reader keep in mind, too, that the bond issue was intended to cover the purchase of the end of B street, \$7,500, another asset and an absolute necessity."

In conclusion, why does not Mr. Butler, who as the custodian of the records, has all of the figures immediately available, give out a full and itemized statement, that the people may themselves ascertain how nearly they are hovering on the brink of bankruptcy?

Surely a league official should be to the forefront with the indubitable evidences of an impending municipal calamity.

Will Mr. Butler furnish the figures or will he withhold them and ask the public to accept his bald statement that the city is going to the bad and that the administration is incapable? The people would prefer the figures we think, and we also think that if the figures—all of the figures—would make any such showing as Mr. Butler has offered, he would have blazoned them forth long since.

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The Chosen People did not reach their goal by following their noses. The pages of the Scripture teach that they were wisely led by Moses.

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