

THE EVENING NEWS

BY B. W. BATES

ISSUED DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAY.

Entered as second-class matter November 5, 1905, at Roseburg Ore. under act of March 3, 1879.

Subscription Rates—Daily.
Per year, by mail \$3.00
Per month, delivered .50
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McGINN ON "NON-PARTISAN".

About Twenty-five People Listen to His Spel.

Posing as a friend of the "poor people" and declaring himself as opposed to the methods employed by the corporations, Judge Henry E. McGinn, of Portland, attorney for the Pullman Car Company, and recognized throughout the entire Northwest as the great corporation lawyer, delivered a short address in the presence of about twenty-five people at the courthouse last evening. In its entirety the meeting had all the appearance of a typical democratic gathering—no less than two-thirds of those present being affiliated with the staid old democratic ring of Douglas county. The remainder of the audience was comprised of one or two newspaper men, and here and there a republican whose curiosity overwhelmed his better judgment.

Mr. McGinn, who by the way pretends to be a republican, was introduced by J. W. Wright, who, in a brief address, told of how the speaker of the evening had donated his services and had journeyed to Roseburg for no other purpose than to advocate the selection of Supreme Judges, regardless of party affiliation. To make a long story short McGinn chose as his subject, "A Non-Political Judiciary."

According to the usual custom of political spellbinders, McGinn first peddled a "bunch of hot air" relative to Roseburg and its people, and then with a slight wave of the hand turned to the chairman and announced that he was in readiness to delve into the merits of the issue at hand. To quote Mr. McGinn's remarks would be almost impossible—if for no other reason than his statements were badly disconnected, and appealed to the listener as a conglomeration of brief sentences with details wholly eliminated.

As an appropriate preliminary Mr. McGinn lauded the present members of the supreme bench, (three republicans and two democrats) for the manner in which they had conducted the affairs of their honorary positions, and declared emphatically that he believed they should be retained, regardless of their party affiliation. In an apparent attempt to baffle his listeners and at the same time score his point, the speaker then sprang a couple of crude illustrations—much the same as those advanced by democratic and "non-partisan" orators of the minority class who chance to come this way.

"Why," said McGinn, "what difference does it make whether the judges are democrats or republicans as long as they serve the people in a manner becoming to their dignity. The voters of this state should retain the present members of the supreme bench regardless of politics or political strife."

As above stated McGinn's remarks were abrupt and without substantiation, and the above declaration might be considered a fair sample. He said nothing, whatever, as to why the present members of the supreme bench should be retained, save that Judge Burnette, of Salem, and Wallace McCamant, of Portland, prospective candidates for supreme judges were of the corporation craft.

McGinn then spoke in thunderous tones, and denounced Burnette as a tyrant and a man possessed of a disposition warranting his downfall in the first round. "Why," said McGinn, "that man Burnette is a fine fellow on the street, but the minute he assumes the seat of justice he becomes a tyrant, and the attorney who is compelled to practice in his court is in constant fear of rebuke and humiliation."

Many of those present at the meeting afterwards expressed themselves that the shots at Burnette were probably uttered for a purpose, and were not confined to Burnette alone, but to other judges throughout the state who appear to possess a similar attitude toward their subordinates.

Disposing of Judge Burnette's case McGinn then proceeded to flay Wallace McCamant, referring to him as the corporation attorney, McGinn said that McCamant was the assembly candidate for supreme judge, not because he was sincere in meeting the ends of justice, but for the direct purpose of favoring the corporations.

McGinn then told of a certain meeting that is alleged to have occurred in the Fenton building, at Portland, to which was invited only corporation attorneys. McGinn named away a number of the attorneys that were present at that meeting, and concluding then went on to relate the corporations or firms they represented. In passing down the line—from the Standard Oil Company to the Pacific States Telephone Company the speaker painted a picture of distress, and in a mighty effort, attempted to convey the impression that it would only be a short time until the poor man would be practically barred in the race for an existence, while his superiors—those of the capitalist class, would be wallowing in the spoils of their dishonest dealings. The latter statement had little effect with the listeners,

and from the giddy smile that crept over the countenances of the few assembled, it was apparently received as a socialist joke. In connection with naming the long list of corporations, McGinn displayed his cunningness in omitting the Pullman Car Company, knowing as he does that he is employed by that corporation by the year. That his employment with the Pullman people in general is the same as other corporation attorneys, was illustrated to the satisfaction of all in Roseburg only a few weeks ago, when it was announced in the local justice court that McGinn, attorney for the Pullman Car Company, would be present at the trial of the negro porter, arrested at Grants Pass several weeks ago on a charge of assault, for the purpose, no doubt, of protecting his corporation against a civil action for damages.

In a fruitless attempt to besmirch McCamant in the eyes of the people of Douglas county, McGinn then went on to tell of that horrible "Marquam" steal, in which he said McCamant was the chief actor. Notwithstanding that the facts regarding the Marquam affair are still fresh in the minds of the public, the speaker was not satisfied to eliminate the details, but on the contrary he worried the audience with a prolonged statement of how McCamant, representing the Ladd estate of Portland, stole (?) of "Poor Old Marquam" a block of land situated in the very heart of Portland's business district.

According to McGinn's remarks, however, the voters gathered at last evening's meeting were unable to detect evidence of theft, when the speaker admitted that Marquam borrowed something like \$300,000 of Ladd and his associates with which to erect the Marquam Grand building, and to secure the loan gave a mortgage upon the structure—which was later foreclosed when Marquam was unable to come through in accordance with the terms of the contract. According to McGinn's own statements, the foreclosure was regular and free from graft and corruption.

In brief, McGinn's address was a sort of a whole-whale conglomeration of remarks, compiled and expounded, no doubt, for the express purpose of aiding the minority (democratic) party in attaining representation on the supreme bench in a republican state.

From the tenor of McGinn's statements he is practically devoid of argument, and for that reason he con-

tents himself in besmirching McCamant and Burnette in order to attain the goal of his political ambitions.

Briefly he wishes to aid the present democratic supreme judges in re-election.

LOCAL NEWS.

County Judge Wonacott leaves for Drain tomorrow noon where he expects to remain for four or five days.

Through his attorney Elbert B. Hermann, William Groat, who languishes in the county jail on a charge of lewd-cohabitation, has filed suit for divorce against his wife Anna A. Groat, who resides at Vina, California.

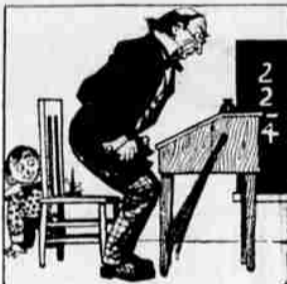
County Judge G. W. Wonacott, Commissioner M. R. Ryan and County Health Officer George E. Houck spent yesterday at Camas and Sugar Pine mountains where they awarded several contracts for lumber, preparatory to improving the roads in those localities. It is the intention of the county court to spend considerable money this fall in road improvements, and they deem a plank road the more durable in the vicinity of the places above mentioned.

A transient by the name of Graham, who was recently employed by the local forestry officials to fight fire, was arrested by Constable Edward Singleton late yesterday afternoon accused of larceny from a building, owned by H. A. Blakeley, and situated near Peel. It is the state's contention that Graham entered the cabin and appropriated a wagon cover valued at approximately \$4. At the time the accused was arrested he was accompanied by a couple of pals who are being held at the city jail as witnesses. The case will probably come up for hearing some time tomorrow.

TO WATER CONSUMERS.

Owing to extensive changes in the laying of new water mains under streets to be newly paved short interruptions in the service will occur from time to time during the next two months and we would request water consumers to keep a moderate supply of water drawn for domestic use.

J. L. & S. A. KENDALL.



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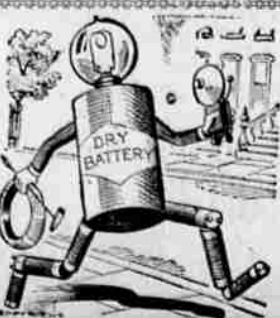
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