

OREGON MIST

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E. H. FLAGG,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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FRIDAY, February 23, 1906.

WITHCOMBE'S PLATFORM.

To F. I. Dunbar, Secretary of State of the State of Oregon, and to the Republican party and the electors of Oregon in the State of Oregon:

I, James Withcombe, reside at Corvallis, Benton County, Oregon, and my postoffice address is "Corvallis, Oregon." I am a duly registered member of the Republican party. If I am nominated for the office of Governor, at the primary nominating election to be held in the State of Oregon the twentieth day of April, 1906, I will accept the nomination and will not withdraw, and if I am elected I will qualify as such officer.

If I am nominated and elected I will, during my term of office, advocate and support:

Taxation of franchises and gross earnings tax on telegraph, telephone, express and sleeping car corporations.

Uniform assessment and taxation of railroads.

State regulation and examination of State and private banks, trust companies and savings banks.

Protection of the State in its ownership of public lands.

A Board of Control for State institutions.

One board for management of Normal Schools.

Improvement of the Columbia and Willamette rivers and coast seaports.

National ownership of the Oregon City locks.

Constitutional amendment permitting the Governor or people to veto individual items of appropriations.

Form for nominating ballot—"An honest and fearless performance of public duty."

THE OREGONIAN AND STATE-NEXT NO. 1.

The Portland Oregonian has come out in direct opposition to statement No. 1 and claims that it is not binding in a member of the Legislature if he does not approve of the people's choice. Democratic members, it says, cannot be expected to vote for a Republican Senator and Republican members cannot be expected to vote for a Democratic Senator.

That is just exactly what they can and should do provided the people so elect. If the people of the State of Oregon desire to elect a Democratic Senator they have a right to do so, and no member of the Legislature has any right to oppose their choice.

If the Oregon idea is carried out in good faith it will be adopted by other States and in a few years we will have a United States Senate elected by the people instead of by the corporations.

That is what we want and that is what statement No. 1 means.

"Stump and pasture land," says Judge Hattan, "is assessed at about one-fifth of its cash value." This will be news to the ranchers.

"We," says Judge Hattan, "are glad the grange has taken the matter up, but think they should investigate carefully before passing too many resolutions." "We" are glad the Judge is glad, but never before saw gladness manifested in so peculiar a manner.

T. T. Geer and Judge Hattan seem to be thinking along the same lines. Neither of them wants that bad man Flag nominated.

Judge Lionel Webster is said to be hesitating as to whether he wants the judgeship of Multnomah County or the Senatorial toga. These hesitations very seldom get anything.

The Portland detectives have undertaken to drive all women of questionable character in that city north of Burnside street. Now if they will do the same by all men of like character, what a boom there will be in rentals in that part of the town. Possibly the detectives themselves would have to live there.

H. M. Calk, who announces himself as a candidate for United States Senator, is well known to the people of this county. He is a self-made man, who has achieved success by hard work in his chosen profession, and it can fairly be said of him that he is just as plain and unassuming as he was twenty or more years ago, when briefs were scarce and fees small. He is just the right age to enter the Senate and do good work for twenty years to come.

The Rainier Review gives T. T. Geer a most complete roasting. It shows up his smallness in such a manner as to make it plain that he is altogether unfit to receive the Republican nomination for Governor—and he won't get it.

In answer to a correspondent who wishes to discuss the tariff question, we are compelled to decline. Just at present we are engaged in a mill with Hon. R. S. Hattan and Timothy Tibbott Geer. When we get through with these two gentlemen, if Mitchell will keep still for a moment, we may be open for an engagement.

The Republican primary election in April should be conducted along clean, friendly lines. The candidate who resorts to mud throwing will not profit by such a course.

MR. GEER'S MISSTATEMENTS

The Official Record Confronts Him at Every Twist and Turn

Mr. T. T. Geer, who desires the nomination for Governor of Oregon, makes the following intensely small and personal statement in the Register of February 16th. We publish it in full, in order that its falsity may be completely shown. As to his personal attack upon the editor of the Mist, we pass that by as unworthy of any attention. It simply demonstrates the small caliber of the man:

"Editor Register: Through the kindness of a clipping bureau, I see that Mr. Flagg is still engaged in his endeavor to prove to the people of Columbia County that Ananias only blazed the way where he himself stands at the head of the list. In his paper of the 22d of December he says, speaking of the State Land Agent, 'the bill creating the office was engineered through the Legislature by Governor Geer, and he must have had in mind at the time appointment of his cousin to fill the office thus created.' This is a lie. The truth is that the law creating the office of State Land Agent was passed at the session of 1865, four years before I became Governor, at the beginning of Governor Lord's administration, and he appointed T. W. Davenport to fill the office.

"At the end of his term Governor Lord recommended that the office be abolished, since there was no more land to be selected, but as there was a large number of farms which had come into possession of the State under foreclosure, and no one to look after their renting, or sale, the law was amended so far as to make it the duty of the State Land Agent to rent these farms, collect the rent, and secure buyers for them as fast as possible.

"This was a good piece of legislation, since during the following four years the State Land Agent sold ninety farms for \$188,000 which had cost the State \$165,000, a net gain to the State of \$23,000. "But even as to this amendment, I never mentioned the matter to a single member of the Senate or of the House—though it would have been a wholesome thing for the State if I had. "During my administration the State never lost an acre of land or one dollar in money on any land transaction. "It has not been two months since Mr. Flagg, in Portland, urged me to become a candidate for the U. S. Senate, insisting that I was entitled to it from every point of view, adding that he would as willingly support me for Governor, but that he was tied up to another man for that position. He also informed me that he would be a member of the Legislature next winter from Columbia County, and would take a special pleasure in supporting me for the U. S. Senate, and he hoped I would not get in the way of his man for Governor. "There are numbers of splendid men in Columbia County for the Legislature, and it is to be hoped that the Republicans down there will put this Flagg, always ready to adjust itself to what appears to be the most promising passing breeze, permanently at half-mast."

A lie, according to Webster, is an attempt to deceive, but an erroneous statement, not uttered for the purpose of deceiving, is not a lie. Judged by this standard, Mr. Geer is the liar, and not the editor of the Mist, as we will clearly prove by the record.

The office of State Land Agent was created by the Legislature of 1865 and the salary fixed at \$1200 per annum. Hon. T. W. Davenport was appointed by Governor Lord to fill the office and he held it during Governor Lord's term. The Cascade Forest Reserve had just been created a short time prior to his appointment and there was much indemnity due the State for the loss of school sections within the reserve. Mr. Davenport set about to give the public the benefit of the base and saw that base was furnished and selections made without charge. It was the first time in the history of the State when one could have a selection made without going to some member of the land ring and having to "dig up" in order to secure base for his selection. When Mr. Davenport's term of office had expired he stated that there was no more base available for selections and recommended the abolishment of the office. He believed this to be true, for he had used all the Cascade Reserve base and his age and lack of clerical assistance prevented him from making a complete abstract of the records to ascertain what losses were unsatisfied. Had he been able to do so he would have found no doubt much unused base. He, however, gave some very good advice in his report, and had his recommendations been given any consideration by his successor the State School Fund would have been a great deal richer today.

During the session of 1899 (the time Governor Geer was inaugurated) the law was changed so as to add the care and disposition of the farms taken by the State through mortgage foreclosure to the duties of the State Land Agent, and his salary was fixed at \$1800 per annum. This was a raise of \$600 per annum, and L. B. Geer, the Governor's cousin, was given the appointment. Now can any man believe that T. T. Geer did not engineer this deal? L. B. seems to have been willing to be guided by the report of his predecessor, in so far as the statement that the base was all used and losses satisfied is concerned, for we do not find that he bothered his head about examining the records to see if the base had all been used, but that he turned the lien land business over to Odell and other brokers who furnished the public with base for a consideration. Nearly all of Odell's base (near 100,000 acres) proved invalid, but many thousands furnished by McCormack and others was good, and was available all the time, and should have been listed and furnished to the public without charge by State Land Agent Geer.

The ex-Governor seems to be proud of the record of Cousin Bi with reference to the disposition of the farms the State had on hand. He says that during the four years of his term he disposed of ninety farms for \$188,000 which had cost the State \$165,000—a net gain to the State of \$23,000. A careful examination of the records of the State Land Office shows that the ex-Governor is not good at figures and that Cousin Bi is a dandy.

The reports of L. B. Geer for the years 1901-2-3-4 show that he disposed of 150 farms, for which the State received, in round numbers, \$265,000, and which cost the State \$308,000, or a loss of \$43,000 to the school fund. The ninety farms Mr. Geer speaks of were sold for \$187,000, and the State lost \$35,000 instead of making \$23,000, as stated by Mr. Geer.

The following examples will give the public an insight into the Geer family's system of juggling with figures for the sake of politics. These figures and those above can be verified by examining the records of the State Land Office: On the 28th of April, 1894, the State loaned J. W. Conn \$5,800 on mortgage security. Conn got behind in his interest and the State foreclosed and bid in the place in June, 1899. The entries on the books of the State Land Office are as follows:

Principal \$3800 00
Interest (due and unpaid at date of foreclosure)..... 1549 55
Attorney fees..... 30 00
Public sale notice..... 26 25
Recording sheriff's deed..... 1 50
Back taxes (year 1899)..... 55 00
Surveying (at time of sale)..... 14 00
Total cost to State..... \$5496 30

On October 16, 1906, this place was sold back to J. W. Conn (and Henry Conn) for \$4500, which meant a loss to the State of \$966.30, yet State Land Agent Geer in his report claims that he sold the place at a profit of \$237.75. He places the cost of the place at \$3876.25, but how he does his figuring no one knows but himself.

Another example is the J. M. Osburn place, which was sold to General Odell and then turned over to L. B. Geer. This is the farm that the Benton County people are kicking so much about because Bi has never taken a deed to it and by leaving the title in the State is avoiding taxes. This place cost the State as follows:

Principal \$5000 00
Interest to date of foreclosure..... 384 45
Attorney fee..... 25 00
Total..... \$5409 45

Bi bought it through General Odell for \$5500, a profit to the State of \$90.55. His report shows that the State made \$475 on the sale. For an officer of the State to acquire property from the State in this manner is, to say the least, subject to severe criticism, but with T. T. in the Governor's chair Bi was not afraid to make the deal.

It will be seen by the above that the reports of State Land Agent Geer were doctored up so as to make a good showing in the sales of farms. There was no occasion for this, as the farms were not expected to bring any more than they were worth, no matter what they may have cost the State. State Land Agent Geer no doubt made many good sales and did as well as anyone could in disposing of them, but the sin lies in doctoring up his reports so as to show profits where actual losses had occurred. But then T. T. had to have something to make a campaign on.

The proceedings of the County Court for the February term are as follows: In the matter of the petition of Everding & Farrell for a road of public easement. Ordered that Board of County Road Viewers view survey and report on proposed road, and that they meet for this purpose on premises of petitioner on February 28th, 1906; and it was further ordered that the parties upon whose lands said proposed road will be located be served with a copy of this order within four days from this date.

In the matter of considering bids for special road tax work in R. D. No. 4. Bid of Albert Adams on specification No. 2, division No. 1, amount \$50, considered and accepted. All other bids for R. D. No. 4 were rejected, and it was ordered by the court that all special road tax work in said district, with above exception, be worked out by the road supervisor of said district, under the supervision of this court.

In the matter of considering the plans and specifications for proposed new county courthouse. The court considered all the plans and specifications submitted, and it was ordered that the plans submitted by Messrs. Hendricks & Toby, with certain modifications thereof agreed upon between the court and said architects, be adopted, provided that contract can be let for the construction of said courthouse according to plans and speci-

fications furnished, but modified as agreed upon, for not to exceed the sum of \$25,000; said plans to be so modified and working plans of the building prepared and filed by said architects as soon as same can be done, whereupon same shall be examined by the County Judge, and if found to be in accordance with the modifications agreed upon the County Judge shall instruct the Clerk to advertise for bids for the erection of the building, at least 30 days notice to bidders to be given.

As several of the parties appointed as judges and clerks of election had refused to serve or have failed to qualify as such, the following appointments were made: Apiary Precinct—W. B. Lowman, clerk, in place of J. R. Headlee.

Auburn Precinct—C. W. Mellinger, judge, in place of Wm. Wilson.

Beaver Falls Precinct—W. H. Holsapple, clerk, in place of John Sall.

Clatskanie Precinct—John A. Barr, judge, in place of Adam Barr; J. W. McDonald, clerk, in place of G. C. Tichenor; Fred Hlatt, clerk, in place of H. E. LaBare.

Marshland Precinct—Cecil Bryant, clerk, in place of Jos. Dixon.

Rainier Precinct—W. J. Muckle, judge, in place of J. B. E. Bourne; C. B. McKee, clerk, in place of S. M. Rice; W. C. Fischer, clerk, in place of W. J. Deitz.

Union Precinct—A. H. Mathews, judge, in place of E. A. Emerson; Clay Clark, judge, in place of J. W. Day; Frank George, clerk, in place of J. Deming; R. H. Mitchell, clerk, in place of John H. Black.

In the matter of awarding contract for the erection of county bridge on north fork of Deep Creek, bids of C. C. Keasy and John P. Cheldelin were considered and bid of Mr. Cheldelin, \$110, accepted. Bridge to be built according to specifications furnished the court by said John P. Cheldelin and be completed by May 1st, 1906, and be examined and accepted by County Court before payment is made.

Luckiest Man in Arkansas.

"I'm the luckiest man in Arkansas," writes H. L. Stanley, of Bruno, "since the restoration of my wife's health after five years of continuous coughing and bleeding from the lungs; and I owe my good fortune to the world's greatest medicine, Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, which I know from experience will cure consumption if taken in time. My wife improved with first bottle and twelve bottles completed the cure." Cures the worst coughs and colds or money refunded at Perry & Graham, druggists. 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottle free.

COMMUNICATED.
Houlton, Ore., Feb. 16, 1906.
Editor Mist: Will the editor of the Mist be so kind as to allow me a little space in the Mist to explain an item that appeared in the Columbia Register, published at Houlton, Friday, February 10, 1906?

The item reads, "Dora and Maud," meaning Dora Crouse and Maud Decker, "would do very well collaborating in the kitchen, providing no crank was around." It should have read, "providing an old woman stood over them with a club."

Of course this is not very complimentary to the girls, but we must take this from whence it came. There must be all the allowance in the world made for our "genial" editor, Mr. Mitchell. May the good Lord forgive me for lying, and I know the good people of Houlton will, for they well know that I must be joking when I speak of Mr. Mitchell as a "genial" fellow.

The facts are these: Mr. Mitchell has the "blines" a good part of the time, which is known as "hypochondriacism," and that is put down in medical works and doctor books as a disease; that is why we should pity him more than blame him, for we are informed by the Apostle Paul that charity covers a multitude of sins.

The item above mentioned was handed to Dora Crouse Thursday morning to set up and she made the change from the "old woman" to the "crank," meaning Mr. Mitchell. Dora took it for granted that he meant it as an insult and left the office and came home.

I am not feeling very bad about it, for I think Mr. Mitchell is not at all times accountable for his acts. So that is where charity comes in. I'll will to none with love to all.

ABRAHAM CHOUSE.
A Healing Gospel.
The Rev. J. C. Warren, pastor of Sharon Baptist Church, Belair, Ga., says of Electric Bitters: "It's a Godsend to mankind. It cured me of lame back, stiff joints, and complete physical collapse. I was so weak it took me half an hour to walk a mile. Two bottles of Electric Bitters have made me so strong I have just walked three miles in 50 minutes and feel like walking three more. It's made a new man of me." Greatest remedy for weakness and all stomach, liver and kidney complaints. Sold under guarantee at Perry & Graham's drug store. Price 50c.

SUMMONS
In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for the County of Columbia.
Frank S. Akin and Ben Selling, plaintiffs, vs. Merrill Investment Company, defendant.
To Hewitt Investment Company, the above named defendant:
In the name of the State of Oregon you are hereby required to appear and answer the complaint filed against you in the above entitled cause on or before April 7th, 1906, and if you fail to do so answer, or fail to answer, the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded in the complaint, to-wit:

That the court decree that plaintiffs are the owners and in possession and entitled to the possession of the northwest quarter of section 29, in township 5 north of range 3 west of the Willamette Meridian, containing one hundred and sixty acres, situate in Columbia County, Oregon; and that it further decrees that any claim of the defendant therein is invalid and that the title of plaintiffs is quieted as against any claims and demands of the defendant therein, and that plaintiffs have judgment for their costs and disbursements.

This summons is published by order of the Hon. Thomas A. Melville, judge of the above entitled court, of date February 16th, 1906. The date of the first publication is February 23, 1906.
The time prescribed in the order for the publication of this summons is hereby extended to and by the undersigned, J. S. Snow & McCann, Attorneys for Plaintiffs.

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VERNONIA ITEMS.

Miss Grace Powell, of Pittsburg, visited with Miss Margaret Spencer over the Sabbath.

Albert Thompson, an artist from Rainier, has been taking pictures in this vicinity the past week.

Frank Tracy made a trip out to Clatskanie last week, bringing in a load for merchant Pringle and some extras for the Grange for their Washington's birthday entertainment.

W. D. Case, of Pittsburg, has been out at Rainier the past few weeks working at his trade.

Grandpa Hess was quite sick again last week, but is better at this writing.

A subscription was made at the conclusion of the Sunday evening services at the suggestion of Dr. Hiatt, to procure a light to be placed in front of the church. Enough was raised to buy one of the best gasoline-electric street lights.

Joseph Higginbotham, of Hillsboro, has been here the past few days arranging to rent his farm, the Baker place, but at this writing has not succeeded.

D. W. Keasy returned Wednesday of last week from a ten days inspection of the Klamath Falls country. He went in the interests of several of our citizens who thought it might be a pretty good place to locate, now that the government is going to open it up by irrigation. But Mr. Keasy reports that the government will have nothing to do with the sale of lands; that while it is a good country, land is high, consequently it is not the place for a poor man to go.

The third quarterly meeting of this conference year will be held at the church over next Sunday. The business meeting will be held Saturday at the church at 2 p. m. Preaching by Presiding Elder Maurer Sunday morning and evening. All are cordially invited to attend.

Prospects for the new railroad seem to be getting better and better. We notice in the Portland and Hillsboro papers that bonds for the construction of same have been sold to San Francisco parties, and Mr. Lytle informs a friend of ours that a large force of men will be put on in the spring to push the work. He also says that the road will not miss Vernonia. The surveyors are now camped at the summit, near O'Donnell's and an agent of the company has been in this vicinity the past week or two looking up routes, timber prospects, and other matters in connection with the road's interests.

Ed Sesseman, Will Allen, Jr., and Harrison Rose left Monday for the outside, their purpose being to obtain work for the spring and summer. They were going to Houlton first, but will go where they can get a good job.

RAILROAD LANDS FOR LEASE

Lands of the Oregon and California Railroad Company, in Oregon, will be leased for the year 1906 subject to cancellation of lease in the event of the sale of the land during the term of lease. Owners of farms and ranches adjoining railroad lands should file their applications not later than February 1, 1906, after which date applications from others will also be considered. Address CHARLES W. EBERLIN, Acting Land Agent, 1025 Merchants' Exchange, San Francisco, Cal.

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