

# La Grande Evening Observer

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L AGRANDE, UNION COUNTY, OREGON.

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## B. F. WILSON'S RECORD

### Attempt Made to Bond Union County While Judge

#### POLITICAL MACHINE ASKS RETURN TO POWER

#### Read Official Document of the Records Telling of Plan to Bond.

#### MOB OF HONEST TAXPAYERS PROTECTED RIGHTS

#### Think of it-Wilson Now Dares to Ask for the Office of Judgeship Once More

Believing in fair play at all times, whether it be a horse race or a political campaign, the Observer has felt that the thrusts made by B. F. Wilson, candidate for county judge on the democratic ticket against Judge J. C. Henry, were uncalled for and without foundation. The ring of every sentence of the first circular letter and the one following it, seemed to hiss as a serpent in the grass.

With the knowledge that Mr. Wilson had been judge of Union county in the past, it was decided to look up the career of this man who had issued a letter full of so many reflections and direct charges. That investigation has proven about what all investigations prove when the one investigated places himself in the attitude that Mr. Wilson has assumed.

It is found that under the Wilson administration the extravagance in the use of county money was appalling. It is found that Wilson as judge was not one to improve the county; was not even an official who looked to the good of the many as he now claims he will if elected; that he was not a business man, but to put the matter plainly he was a politician who built a political machine in this county at the expense of the taxpayers. Today he is given credit by all sides for being the "foxiest" man in Union county.

Do the people of this valley want a "foxy" man to handle the money obtained by taxation?

Do you want a politician, who is so rated by his fellowmen, to have his hand on the throttle when Union county is just now taking her rightful place in the state?

Do you want to return this county to the days of burdensome debts, of poor highways, or discounted warrants?

Men are judged by the past not by what they say they will do.

This being true the Observer invites careful attention to some of the past records when B. F. Wilson was county judge.

#### WOULD BOND THE COUNTY.

Peenlar Transaction Shown by a Few Records.

The following copies of records shows a deal under the Wilson administration whereby an attempt was made to bond Union county with Jef-

erson Scriber as a party to the transaction.

Be it remembered that at a regular term of the County Court of the State of Oregon, for the County of Union, begun and held at the Court House in the City of Union in said County and State on Monday, the 6th day of February, 1899, and from day to day thereafter during the continuance of said term, when on Wednesday, the 8th day of February, 1899, or the third judicial day of said term the said County Court opened for the transaction of business with the following officers present, to-wit:

THE HON. B. F. WILSON,  
County Judge,  
HON. R. T. LANGRELL,  
Commissioner,  
HENRY HUG,  
Commissioner,  
G. W. BENSON,  
County Clerk,  
D. Y. K. DEERING,  
Sheriff.

When, on Friday, the 10th day of February, A. D. 1899, or the 5th judicial day of said term, the following proceedings were had, to-wit:

In the matter of the Proposition of J. W. Scriber to purchase bonds for the funding of the Warrant Indebtedness of Union County.

Now at this time this matter came on for consideration of the proposition of J. W. Scriber to purchase from the County of Union funding bonds to be hereafter issued for the funding of the present warrant indebtedness of the County of Union.

It appearing to the Court that it will be advisable and beneficial for said County and be of great saving to said County to bond the County to pay off the present warranted indebtedness. It is hereby ordered and considered that the said proposition of J. W. Scriber be and the same hereby is accepted and B. F. Wilson, County Judge, and R. T. Langrell and Henry Hug, County Commissioners are hereby authorized and directed to enter into an agreement with the said J. W. Scriber or his assigns for the sale of the said funding bonds in accordance with his said proposition, said funding bonds being payable in ten or twenty years at the option of said County to

bear interest at the rate of 5 per cent per annum, interest payable semi-annually.

(Signed) B. F. WILSON,  
County Judge.  
Scriber's Proposition.

To the Honorable County Judge and County Commissioners of Union County, Oregon.

Gentlemen:  
I hereby submit to you the following indebtedness of Union County, not exceeding the sum of one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars and not less than one hundred and sixty thousand dollars or so much thereof as will be necessary to fund all the outstanding indebtedness in warrants of said county together with accrued interest, said bonds to be ten twenty year bids, to be payable in gold coin of the United States of America or its equivalent and to bear interest at the rate of five per cent per annum, interest payable semi-annually at New York City in the State of New York or at any other place at option of myself, and I hereby agree to pay par for said bonds.

Said bonds to be of the denomination of One Thousand Dollars each, that said bonds shall be a valid and legal obligation of said County of Union which shall be satisfactory to myself, said county to furnish me all proceedings necessary to determine the legality of the issue of said bonds. That I will furnish the blank bonds and all lithographs etc., so that the county will not be at any expense in the issue of said bonds.

J. W. SCRIBER,  
2-10-99.

In the County Court of Union County Oregon, sitting for the transaction of County business.

Proposition of J. W. Scriber to purchase funding bonds. Filed Feb. 10, 1899.

G. W. BENSON,  
County Clerk.

(Extracts from file of Observer, commenting on the above transaction.)

Such combinations too often result in such schemes as the following wherein a few months after the 1898 election, the county court entered into an agreement to bond the county in the sum of \$175,000 without any competition whatever on the bonds and to par, when about the same time the

La Grande School District disposed of less than \$25,000 in bonds, which was duly advertised, there being several bidders and the district received several hundred dollars in premiums.

The first news that the people received that such a scheme was on was the five line notice in the published county court proceedings that Mr. Scriber's proposition to bond the county had been accepted. The result was that at the time the Observer brought the matter to the attention of the public and like the "tax sale" last year, the protests that went up were so many that the matter was dropped and the contract was annulled.

#### Memorandum of Agreement.

Made and entered into this tenth day of February, 1899, by and between the County of Union, State of Oregon, party of the first part, and J. W. Scriber, or his assigns, party of the second part.

Witnesseth: That the party of the first part hereby agrees to and does sell unto the second party funding bonds of said county amounting to one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars (\$175,000) or such an amount as may be required to fund the present outstanding general or county indebtedness represented by orders or warrants of said county, with accrued interest thereon; said orders or warrants to be funded being from No. 18, issue the day of . . . 18 . . . to No. . . . issued the . . . day of . . . 18 . . . , both numbers inclusive.

The party of the second part hereby agrees to and does purchase said bonds paying therefor the purchase price of the par value of said bonds with any accrued interest thereon; provided not less than one hundred and sixty thousand dollars (\$160,000) bonds be issued; and also agrees to make the exchange of warrants for bonds without charge.

Said sale and purchase is subject to the following terms and conditions.

Said bonds to be dated not later than the first day of July, 1899, and said county agrees said bonds shall be ready for delivery not later than said date. Said bonds to be divided into . . . series, numbered . . . and . . . ; and to be payable as follows: In ten or twenty years at option of party of the first part . . . both principal and interest on all of said bonds to be payable at the banking house of . . . in the city of New York, state of New York, and bonds to bear interest at the rate of five per cent per annum, payable semi-annually; both principal to be made payable in gold coin of the United States of America or equivalent to the present standard of weight and fineness; the bonds to be in denominations of one thousand dollars (\$1000) each; and to be properly signed and executed.

The party of the first part shall cause all said warrants to be funded to be called for payment, provided. However not such call shall be made till the party of the second part has notified the party of the first part as hereinafter set forth; that said bonds are a valid and legal obligation to the satisfaction of the attorney of the party of the second part and has designated to the party of the first part what warrants are valid and legally funded, and until such bonds are properly signed and executed and ready for delivery.

And as fast as said warrants are presented for payment said party of the second part shall pay the holder thereof the full value thereof, and thereafter present such warrants to

the county treasurer, whereupon such warrants shall be cancelled and equal amount of bonds simultaneously delivered.

The party of the first part shall furnish the party of the second part, all certificates, transcripts and copies of proceedings required by the party of the second part to satisfactorily show the legality of said bonds free of charge and expense.

The bonds shall be in the form prepared by the attorney of the party of the second part and shall be a valid and legal obligation of the county to the satisfaction of the attorney of the party of the second part; and the party of the second part shall be allowed a reasonable time to obtain the opinion of its attorney upon the validity of said bonds, and when said opinion is obtained shall immediately notify the party of the first part of the purpose of said opinion.

In witness thereof, the parties hereto have hereunto set their hands and seal this 10th day of February, 1899.

B. F. WILSON,  
County Judge.

R. T. LANGRELL,  
Commissioner.

HENRY HUG,  
Commissioner.

Attest: G. W. BENSON, County Clerk.

Endorsed, Filed Feb. 10, 1899.

G. W. BENSON, County Clerk.

State of Oregon,  
ss.

County of Union.

I, the undersigned County Clerk, in and for Union County, Oregon, and ex-officio Clerk of the County Court of said County, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript of Memorandum of Agreement between J. W. Scriber and Union County has been by me compared with the original agreement and that it is a correct Transcript therefrom and the whole of such original, as the same appears on file in my office and in my custody.

Witness my hand and seal of office this 10th day of February, A. D. 1899.

G. W. BENSON,  
County Clerk.

(Extract from editorial appearing in Observer of February 24, 1899.)

#### Bonds.

To say that the taxpayers of Union county were amazed upon reading the county court proceedings last week is presenting it mildly. A few lines stating the court had accepted a proposition to issue bonds to the extent of not less than \$160,000, nor more than \$175,000, to run not less than 10 years nor more than 20 years, to draw 5 per cent interest payable semi-annually.

First of all few knew that the indebtedness of Union county was anything like this appalling sum.

Again what is the county making by this action of the county court? By what authority can they do this? and etc., are the questions that run in rapid succession through the brain of every taxpayer.

There are always so many ways of figuring the same proposition that some favor the proposition, others criticize the action of the court.

We believe those who champion the bonding cause claim the saving in the next four years will be about \$175,000, resulting from the reduced interest rate.

Our understanding is the fact of the outstanding warrants is \$175,000 as we are four years behind besides accrued interests, which when these figures were taken (which was several months ago) is \$4,000 making a total debt of \$179,000.

Thus it will be seen that the difference in interest on \$155,000 at 8 per cent for one year is \$3450 or for four years the time which they will draw 8 per cent interest (or all warrants issued now only draw six per cent) will be \$13,880 the balance of the supposed profit is the saving the county will make during the four years in paying cash for its necessary supplies

(Continued on Page 4.)

### KING RUMORED ASSASSINATED AT MADRID

NEWS CLOSELY CENSORED AND FACTS CANNOT BE OBTAINED THOUGH MANY RUMORS.

#### SECRET NEWS ALARMING

Outcome Indicates Kingdom Will be Overthrown Before Tomorrow Night, Say Advices Reaching Paris Secretly—What is Actually Going on in the Interior is Not Known—Many Troops Gather.

London, Nov. 3.—The Spanish caudron of revolt is seething today and despite the strictest censorship it is known that a revolutionary movement is spreading. A force of 20,000 soldiers has been added to the Madrid garrison and also forts at Barcelona, Sebadel augmented with the pick of loyalist troops. Military police are provided with rapid fire guns.

Long predicted strikes among the workmen has begun, starting at Barcelona and is spreading. Thousand of laborers are idle. Among reports from the French frontier last night was that Alfonso had been assassinated and member of the royal family had fled. While it is little credited, it cannot be confirmed which shows the disturbed condition of the country. More arrests of political men were made today.

The English admiralty office has ordered the concentration of the western Mediterranean fleet at Gibraltar and the Eastern Mediterranean fleet to Malta, both near the Spanish port.

#### Secret Advices Show Danger.

Paris, Nov. 3.—Representatives of the Spanish Republican society predicted that Madrid and other Spanish cities will be in the hands of the revolutionists before tomorrow night. They allege they have received secret advices telling of the success of the revolutionary movement and desertion of the army to the Republicans. Reports are current that Don Jaime, the Carlist pretender, has taken a hand in the movement.

◆◆◆◆◆ In regard to Mr. Wilson's communication published to which he says: "Mr Wright will no doubt correct himself in one statement that he makes, and that is, that the statement made by Mr. Wilson is a wilful misstatement of the facts." I have the following to say. I desire to be perfectly fair with Mr. Wilson and will qualify my statement by withdrawing the word "wilful." I have no wish, however to correct my former communication in any other respect, as a comparison of Mr. Wilson's original letter to the voters with the records from which Mr. Wilson secured his data, will show a misquotation of the latter. Trusting that I have made my position in this matter clear and that this will end a controversy which is as distasteful to myself as it must be uninteresting to the public. Very sincerely,  
ED. WRIGHT,  
Co. Clerk of Union County, Oregon.