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## ACCOUNTS SHOW SHORTAGE

**\$21,372.07 Disappears. W. A. Jones Makes Deficiency Good.**

A decided sensation was caused the latter part of last week when the information was given out that the sheriff's office was short over \$20,000 in its accounts, since which time speculation has been rife and any number of theories advanced to account for the shortage. Retiring Sheriff W. A. Jones promptly made the deficiency good, mortgaging property owned by himself and his mother in order to raise the money. Mr. Jones' statement that he knew nothing of such a shortage prior to Dec. 26th is accepted without question by those who know him, and his action in making good the shortage without accusation or quibble of any kind is widely commended.

Mr. Jones says he has no idea where or how the money went, as the handling of tax money was left by him in the hands of his chief deputy, R. B. Dow, in whose integrity he had, and still has, the utmost confidence. The money was kept in a safe in the county clerk's office to which there were but three keys—one held by Jones, one by Dow and one by County Clerk Coleman.

Expert J. H. Wilson, who recently experted the county books is of the opinion that the money did not disappear at once but in small amounts extending through several years. His own words are as follows:

"I will state that in my own opinion the bulk of these delinquencies occurred prior to 1912. On January 1st 1912 I had against the sheriff \$21,095.01 and these amounts were deposited between January 18th, 1912 and April 13th, 1912. There were late collections a number of months prior to January 1st, 1912. At the time the money was deposited taxes for 1911 were coming in freely, and the sheriff had on hands a large sum of money from 1911 collections. It became known that this shortage was evident January 1st, 1912 as soon as my report was published and consequently I came down to Jacksonville in June 1912 voluntarily to investigate to the first of July, at which time the sheriff and treasurer both showed me statements from their banks showing the deposits to their favor July 1st, 1912. The sheriff showed me bank balances of \$63,943.43 cash and currency and checks \$2,635.55 and two deposits dated June 26th and 29th according to the sheriff's deposit book aggregating \$13,439.49 or a total of \$80,099.53. I had him charged on July

1st with but \$79,214.50, the overplus being money on hands for which receipts had not been written. I was satisfied that he actually had the county's money safely in the banks and treasury. I notice, however, that the deposits were made July 2nd which in event the money deposited was drawn from the bank that day, would diminish his balance on hand of actual cash, and actual bank balances, by that amount. That however, does not affect this report in any way."

Ex-Sheriff Jones and R. B. Dow still have a desk in the sheriff's office and are going over the books together in hopes that a careful examination will reveal clerical errors that will account for the shortage.

## Dynamite Plant Under Barn.

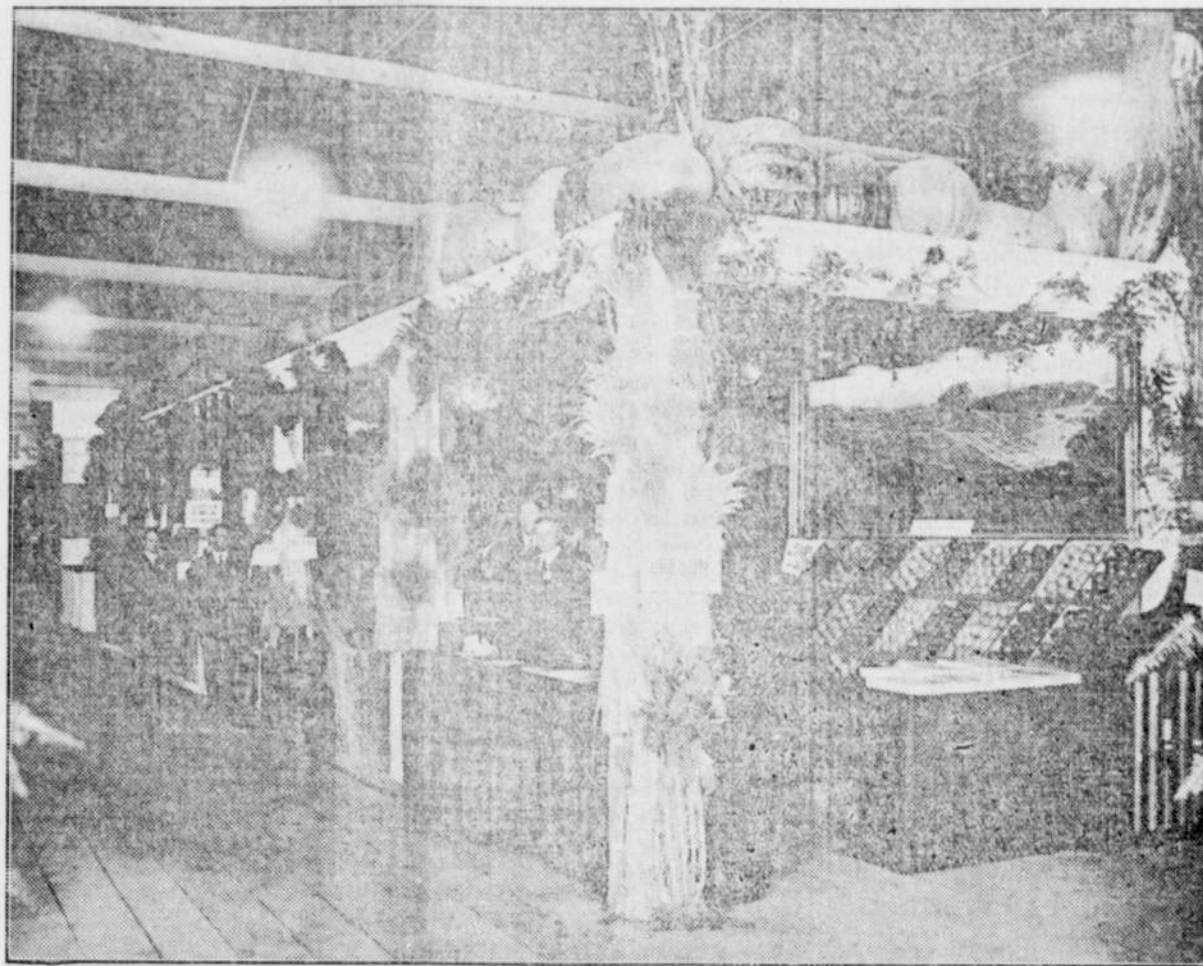
Grant Garrison, of Gold Hill, is thanking providence for the lucky termination of an attempt to wreck his barn by dynamite. Sunday morning,

while choring around the premises, Mr. Harrison noted a coil of fuse, such as is used in blasting operations, protruding from a dust heap beneath the corner of his barn. Presumably the coil had been scratched out by his chickens. Investigating the coil he discovered that it had been ignited and completely burned, and further search discovered seven sticks of dynamite, carefully packed down and covered by sacking. Apparently the fuse had set off the cap, which was not found, but for some unknown reason the powder had failed to respond.

As several heavy frosts have been experienced of late it is thought that the sticks were frozen at the time of the attempt, in which condition it is not infrequently difficult to cause an explosion. Directly above the plant were the stalls of Mr. Harrison's team and had the apparent plan not miscarried, these would have undoubtedly met death in the complete demolition of the barn. The structure is but a few steps removed from dwelling houses, which would also have been endangered by the terrific blast. The discovery was reported to the authorities, and an investigation will be made to trace the dynamite to its point of sale by the datings which are upon each stick. Mr. Harrison has no opinion to offer as to the perpetrator, stating that no enmity exists to his knowledge that would prompt so cowardly an attempt at reprisal.—Gold Hill News.

The American Bonding Co. of Baltimore will go on your bond and write burglary insurance.

D. W. BAGSHAW, Agent.



## OREGON AT THE NORTHWEST PRODUCTS EXPOSITION

The state of Oregon was fully represented at the Northwest Products Exposition by the finest collections of fruits, grains, grasses and vegetables that the state has ever sent East to an industrial and agricultural show. In charge of the

booths were Messrs. O. E. Freytag of Oregon City, J. E. Sawhill of Bend, and M. J. Duryea of Eugene, Oregon.

All three gentlemen were prominent speakers at banquets given by the Minneapolis Civic and Commerce Association

during the course of the land show. Thousands of booklets, leaflets and folders of handsome appearance were distributed to the land seekers who crowded the show during the entire two weeks.

## Gold Ray Pond Frozen.

Rogue River at the mill pond near the dam at Gold Ray was frozen over thick enough for skating for the first time in years Monday. Water in the flumes at the California-Oregon Power company's power plant was frozen solid and caused the company some worry and extra work. In Medford the main damage occasioned by the cold was at the Sparta building where pipes bursted on the second floor and flooded the building, staining plaster on the ground floor. In many neighborhoods water froze in the gas mains and shut off the supply of gas.

Except for a small channel in mid stream Bear creek was frozen over Monday.—Tribune.

For the next sixty days, 25 per cent off on all wall paper. Fred J. Fick.

## NEW COURT IN CHARGE

County Officers Sworn in Monday. New Rules in Order.

Every county officer elected last November, with the exception of Sheriff Aug. D. Singler, was sworn into office Monday. Owing to the fact that the sheriff's bond had been raised by the county court from \$10,000, the amount furnished by Mr. Singler's predecessor, W. A. Jones, to \$15,000, Mr. Singler was not sworn in until later in the week. In his capacity as tax collector Mr. Singler is required to give a \$40,000 surety bond, which is a raise of \$20,000 over the bond required of ex-Sheriff Jones, the county however paying the premium on the \$40,000 bond.

Some friction occurred between the county court and Sheriff Singler over the matter of the appointment of W. R. Coleman as chief deputy in the sheriff's office. County Judge Tou Velle refusing to approve the appointment of Mr. Coleman. The matter is still unsettled, but it is hoped an amicable understanding may be reached.

The new county court, consisting of Judge F. L. Tou Velle, and commissioners W. C. Leever of Central Point and J. C. Smith of Rogue River, in session this week instituted a number of reforms in the court house, including the proper observance of stated office hours, a concentration of authority in the hands of the county court and the introduction of up-to-date business methods in the conduct of the different county offices. Besides routine business, the appointment of road supervisors, subdivision of road districts, fixing the tax levy, etc. received the attention of the court. Ex-County Judge J. R. Neil, who stepped out of office Monday, will devote his time to the practice of law.

G. A. Gardner, the new county clerk has appointed Miss Flora Thompson and Frank Coleman as his deputies. W. R. Coleman, the retiring clerk, will remain in the office for a short time until Mr. Gardner learns the details of his office. County Recorder Fred L. Colvig, who was re-elected to office will be assisted by Mrs. Colvig and Miss Ona Humphrey.

There is no new faces in the assessor's, treasurer's and school superintendents offices, the former incumbents being re-elected.

## County Valuation \$38,000,000.

The total valuation of Jackson county for 1912 will be between \$37,000,000 and \$38,000,000, depending on what the wheat corporation valuations are to be made by the state. The valuation will be a little less than in 1911. The levies will be made by the county court this week.

## BLUE LEDGE DEAL OFF

For Property Valued at \$1,000,000, Eastern Copper Interests Inspect.

Negotiations for the sale of the Blue Ledge mine, owned by the Americano company, R. S. Towne holding the controlling interest, are said to be under way. Monday an auto party consisting of H. C. Russell of Marquette, Mich., representing large holders of copper property in the Lake Superior district, J. F. Reddy, A. L. Jones, who is interested in the Copper King group, Walter McCallum and Roger S. Bennett, left Medford for Blue Ledge, where they were shown over the property by Superintendent F. W. Carnahan.

The Blue Ledge mine has 125,000 tons of ore blocked out, which according to expert opinion carries values of \$15 per ton. The mine was operated up until a couple of years ago, when it was shut down mainly on account of lack of transportation facilities. The Blue Ledge is credited with being one of the most valuable mining properties in the west, the present owners putting a figure of \$1,000,000 on their holdings.

Mr. Russell it is understood will make a complete report on the mine and will also secure specimens of the ore to take with him on his return to the east, where it is expected preliminary details of the deal will be completed.

It is also expected that Mr. Russell will negotiate for the control of properties held by Dr. Reddy, A. L. Jones and others.

## 1913 Tax Levy Fixed.

Following is the tax levy for 1913 fixed by the county court in session at the court house this week.

School and Library	1.6 mills
State	1.1 "
High School	.3 "
Fruit Inspection	.4 "
Advertising	.1 "
Gen Ex and Redemption	.34 "
Public Buildings	.1 "
General Road	.3 "
Total	10. mills

## Royal Neighbors Meet.

The Royal Neighbors held their regular monthly meeting at the home of Mrs. Jos. Morcom in this city Tuesday evening. At the conclusion of business dainty refreshments were served by the hostess and an enjoyable evening was spent. Those present were: Mrs. Conklin and Mrs. John Norling of Medford; Mrs. T. T. Shaw, Mrs. D. W. Bagshaw, Mrs. Decatur Davis, Mrs. S. Walsh and Mrs. Wilcox.

## COUNCIL MEETING

Held Tuesday evening. Regular Routine. Improvement Bonds Sold to Jacobson-Edwards Co.

The city council met in regular session Tuesday evening. Present Mayor Shaw, Councilmen Britt, Fick, McIntyre and Ulrich, Recorder Doh.

Minutes of previous meeting read and approved. Reports of committees and officers were presented. The usual monthly bills for labor, supplies, etc. were presented, audited and ordered paid.

Proposal of Mr. Hayslett to furnish the recorder with a copy of transcripts of real property within the city, for a term of one year at \$5.00 per month, was read and laid on table.

The bids for improvement bonds were then called for, the recorder reporting that only one bid, that of Jacobson-Edwards Co. had been received. This bid was for the entire issue in each of the five districts at par and a request in rest up to the delivery of bond.

On motion duly made and seconded it was ordered that the bid of Jacobson-Edwards Co. be accepted.

Application of E. E. Dunnington for sales license was presented and there being no remonstrance, the application was granted, bond approved and license issued.

Street Commissioner Ulrich reported on the work along Menor property on all main street and Camron property on South Jacksonville to be in bad condition. On motion duly made and seconded, the street commissioner was directed to notify the owners of adjoining property to repair walks within ten days or same would be done at their expense.

Councilman Fick reported controversy with Home Telephone people regarding the rate of rental for phone. On motion the City Attorney was instructed to take up the matter with the company.

The recorder was directed to advertise for bids for furnishing 2500 ft. wire fencing, delivered at dam on Jackson creek.

## Postal Thieves Steal Pennie.

Chief of Police Hittson has received word from Gold Hill that the postoffice at that place was entered by thieves Monday evening, and looted of \$6 in pennies and a \$2 bill. The railroad shed was also burglarized of a railroad velocipede upon which the thieves made their escape. Both Grants Pass and Medford were notified but this afternoon on neither the velocipede nor the thieves had been located.

This is the fourth post office robbery in the Rogue River valley in the past ten days, Medford, Eagle Point and Talent all having been visited by thieves who secured but little in cash or stamps.—Tribune.

## Talent Gun Club Organized.

A number of trap-shooting enthusiasts met at the city hall in Talent Friday evening for the purpose of organizing a gun club. H. M. Gleim was chosen president, Charles M. Anderson, vice-president and G. W. Ager secretary and treasurer. A suitable constitution and by-laws were drawn up and adopted. The club will hold monthly shoots on the first Saturday afternoon of each month and suitable trophies will be offered to members making the highest percentages during the series of shoots in 1913. January 11 was selected as the day for the first shoot.—Tribune.

## Blizzard Sweep Washington.

Seattle, Jan. 6.—Four inches of snow fell in Seattle today and tonight snow is still falling.

In the Cascade mountains, where the transcontinental railroads have been fighting blizzards for a week, a light snow fell all day and developed into another blizzard by nightfall.

As yet the northern Pacific and the Milwaukee have experienced little trouble, and the operating officials expect to be able to keep the track clear. The Great Northern continues to operate its overland trains over the Northern Pacific tracks. They expect to have their road open tomorrow, but it is feared the present storm will delay further work of clearing the line.

# DEL MONTE

## Canned Fruits and Vegetables

# Ulrich Brothers

Leading Merchants

Jacksonville

Oregon