

THE CROOK COUNTY JOURNAL

An Independent Newspaper

D. F. STEFFA.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 1904.

OFF FOR ELECTION.

With the close of both the Democratic and Republican conventions, the two predominating parties in the field for the county offices. The voters later on will have the opportunity to pick their men from either party, not so much for their party affiliations as from the feeling that worth and merit constitute the two cardinal principles upon which county elections should be based.

Crook county has seldom been known to cast straight tickets when it came to a choice of candidates to fill the county offices. The rule will in all probability hold true this year and election day find both Democrats and Republicans victors in the race for the plums. A matter of strength with a candidate, whichever party he clings to, has generally been in the past the open sesame to the office he was seeking, and neither party can say this year that this or that ticket will be elected. For it went the party in Crook county which could elect every nominee on its ticket would be an ideal one indeed, and in its ranks would be found the strongest men from both sides of the political fence. Nothing short of a fusion ticket would accomplish an end of that kind, and the result would likely be highly satisfactory to as many Republicans as Democrats.

So the fact remains that in June both Democrats and Republicans will be counted in as the winners. It is therefore not so much the matter of party connections as the choosing of the best men for their respective offices. Able men, capable ones, are the only ones wanted. And with every office filled with one whose capabilities, integrity and business principles are recognized and appreciated it would be impossible for the county to suffer from a stroke of bad government. Good government and progressive ways and means at this time of the county's rapid development are both essential and paramount to all other phases of the matter. The men who stand for a future are the men wanted, irrespective of their party.

THE DIRECT PRIMARY.

The movement in favor of the direct primary law is gaining ground continually, and the Direct Primary Nominating League of Portland is working hard to advance the cause. The bill will be voted upon in June and as much publicity as possible is being given its provisions. The St. Paul Pioneer Press, speaking of its effects, says:

There has been some dissatisfaction expressed with the primary law this year, but it is significant that it has all come either from those who used to run the conventions and believe that government was instituted among men for the benefit of the machine, or from those who have listened to the plaintiff notes of these wounded leaders. Instead of a horde of office seekers bound to this or that faction and foisted on the public to feed at the public crib and to play into the hands of a small coterie of Republicans the primary law stimulated the search for good candidates all over the city, and the result was a primary ticket composed largely of men whom the office had sought, unpledged and indebted to no one. Most of these men have been nominated. The result is the strongest ticket the Republican party has had for years. A ticket of strong campaigners and of men who are entitled to the confidence of the tax-

payers and who have it. No convention ever did so well except when stimulated by popular impatience, and that was about once in a decade.

The machine politicians don't like this primary law, but they never have. They fought it from the first and continue to snivel at it. But it must be judged by its results. Two years ago it redeemed the city council from the clutches of the street railway company and this year it has insured another honest assembly and has given the opportunity for a much more satisfactory board of aldermen than the present one. No special interest can manipulate the people. The people may make mistakes, but if they do they can correct them. Under the convention system they were compelled to choose whoever was offered to them, and even after his unfitness was shown a dangerous alderman or assemblyman was often thrust down the popular throat. If he was a good party man he could do what he pleased with the interests of the public. If he "stood in" with any special interest and had access to its campaign fund it only made him a more desirable candidate. The self-constituted clique calling itself "the party" ignored both the real party and the interests of any one but themselves. The logical result of a continuance of that system would have been in St. Paul, as it has been generally, subjection to a machine, corruption and inefficiency in administration and all the other evils of oligarchic rule masquerading as popular government.

J. A. Laycock, the nominee for state senator from the ninth senatorial district is a resident of Mt. Vernon, Grant county. He was formerly judge of that county and his administration of affairs earned for him an enviable reputation as a conservative business man who had the taxpayer's welfare at heart. Since his term expired as county judge he has been actively engaged in caring for his farming and stockraising interests which are quite extensive. He is in every sense of the word a representative man.

The Hearst presidential boom is simmering down to the same gas bottom as do many of the stories in the Hearst papers.

Out of the Onion Sack.

The father and son will be ringing the bells in local politics before long.

The new townsite of Bend is to have a Gam street. It is to be presumed that everyone living on it will chew the rag.

Miss Blah—"I understand that young Mr. Newrich is very insolent."
Miss Natter—"Yes, you see he is a minor heir to his father's estate."

Mr. L. Ham, of Albany, has sold his farm. Mr. Ham was compelled to do this on account of sickness caused by a short rill.

Ode to the Ochoco.
Ach, Himmel! My lot goes off like this—
"Vv don't der city fix it?
I cannot sleep, but only weep.
To see der water mix it,
I swear by all der Enderlan"
I think will be a crazy man
So soon as der I possibly can
If der city don't pretty soon lend
a hand—
Ach Himmel!

This is a story they are telling on the Columbia Southern:
Not long ago a man of surly disposition was trying to make himself as comfortable as possible in the combined express-smoker-passenger coach. The train was making about three miles an hour, exclusive of repeated stops to take on hay, cane of milk, etc. The man was knocking, and his displeasure, voiced in sonorous tones, reached the ears of the conductor.

"Well, if you don't like the way the train's running," said the ticket puncher, "why don't you get off and walk?"

"I would," said the man who was kicking to beat the curs, "only my folks don't expect me before the train arrives."

D. F. S.

Additional Locals
Calico Ball tomorrow night at the Athletic club. Don't forget it.
William Holder and family left Wednesday morning for Paisley where they will make their future home.
Judge M. R. Biggs returned Wednesday from a six weeks business visit to the Willamette Valley and Washington D. C.
W. T. Fogle and wife will leave in a few days for Portland to remain permanently. Mr. Fogle expects to open a barber shop there.
Dr. Harold Clark and wife returned Wednesday from a several month's tour through the central part of the state where Dr. Clark has been practicing dentistry.
Arthur Hodges and wife left Wednesday morning for the Willamette Valley. Mr. Hodges will go as far as Portland to attend to business matters and Mrs. Hodges will spend several weeks visiting with her parents at Salem.
A. V. Morden arrived in the city from Portland Wednesday and left on the noon stage for Bend where he enters the engineering force of the Deschutes Irrigation company. Mr. Morden was formerly the draughtsman for the Columbia Southern Irrigation company when they began work in that section two years ago.
During the recent high water, an enterprising ranchman up the Ochoco conceived the idea of placing a large rope first around his body and then wading out in the stream to place brush in an advantageous position to save the banks from being washed away. The thought gave birth to immediate action and his life saving apparatus was rigged up and he braved the stream. But no sooner had his feet touched the swift waters than they were swept from under him with the force of an infant tornado. After he had dangled half in air, half in water for about an hour some obliging neighbors came to the rescue and pulled him ashore somewhat the worse for his unexpected bath.

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JEREMAS, A Detective..... HENRY SMITH
JUNE, A Black Miner..... BRUCE GRAY
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