

Free Agricultural Short Course at Prineville, February 23d to 28th, inclusive. COME!

Crook County Journal

COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER FOR CROOK COUNTY

COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER, \$1.50 YEAR

PRINEVILLE, CROOK COUNTY, OREGON, THURSDAY, FEB. 19, 1914.

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All is Serene at the Court House

A special session of the county court was held Monday and the atmosphere about the courthouse is clarifying. The judge and sheriff have never been very chummy but there was no open rebellion until the delinquent tax rolls were taken from the custody of the sheriff. This was the straw that did the business and set both sides by the ears.

The county expert got the rolls from the sheriff's office and took them up stairs for examination. That same evening Sheriff Elkins went up stairs, unlocked the door of the room in which these books were held and took them to his office and locked them up in the vault where they are kept. When the expert demanded the books in the morning he was informed that he could have them under certain conditions. The expert could have desk room in the sheriff's office or a room leading into the sheriff's office would be placed at his disposal but that all delinquent tax rolls must not be taken up stairs at any one time.

Now, the judge and the expert both thought they were acting within their legal rights when they demanded the books and the sheriff held a like view. Both men got their necks bowed and neither would yield. Lawyers were consulted; in fact Attorney Bert Haney of Portland was called in to act for the district attorney who was attending to county business before the supreme court at Salem.

Attorney Haney agreed that the sheriff was the legal custodian of the books so that part of the controversy was cleared.

Judge Springer then announced that as the purpose of the meeting was to see whether the expert should go ahead or not he would ask those present who were in favor of going ahead to stand up. Nearly everybody stood up.

After a good deal of squabbling on the part of the members of the court about the order authorizing the judge to employ an expert Commissioner Brown and Bailey took issue with the judge about approving the report of the expert until the whole report was made. Commissioner Bailey thought it a one man affair from start to finish.

Strong delegations were present from the north end of the county urging further investigation into the affairs of the county. They wanted the delinquent tax books gone over and if there were any evidence of wrongdoing wanted it uncovered. These delegates were backed by a petition from the Farmers' Union of Crook county.

Upon motion of Judge Springer it was ordered that A. M. McE. Ball be and he is hereby employed to continue his work of experting and auditing the books and official records of the various officials of Crook county and to make his report to this court and his compensation is hereby fixed at the sum of \$10 per day per man together with expenses.

Mr. Ball was asked to read his report. That gentleman prefaced his remarks by stating that he was engaged to investigate the books of the various county officials and to get at the truth no matter who was hurt. The expert was also requested to criticize the work of the officials. This report, unaccompanied by any explanations from some of the county officials, was manifestly unfair.

The county treasurer was found to be O. K. with the exception of an item of \$11.63 in the First National Bank of Bend which was found to be in excess of the balance as shown by the treasurer's books.

The records of the clerk's office were found to be in order. The revenue for 1913 amounted to \$8768.54, while the expenditures were \$5206.33. The expert recommended that the clerk file sub-vouchers showing how \$100 a month for extra help was expended. "We are under the impression, however, that the help he employs, viz., two young men on the record books and one young lady in the office a portion of the time, receive more than \$100 for their combined services, but in any event sub-vouchers should be filed for the disbursement of this \$100." Other minor recommendations were made.

The county assessor did not get off as easily as the clerk. Expert Ball says: General laws of Oregon, 1913, Chap. 370, page 761, sec. 8, provides that "The county assessor may appoint five deputy assessors whose salaries shall be \$100 per annum each, etc. We would direct your attention to the wide discrepancy between the provisions of this law and the number of deputy assessors as set forth in Schedule 9, whose compensation amounts to \$4710.73.

While Chap. 184, page 348, sec. 48 of the General Laws of Oregon, 1913, provides for necessary clerical assistance, there is a difference of \$4210.73 between the number allowed by law and the amount they should receive, and the number actually employed and the amount they did receive. Assessor Foster says that the expert's report is unfair to him. He called the expert's attention to a later law "General Laws of Oregon, chap. 184, page 348, sec. 48. Headed, Deputies and Clerical Assistance for Assessors or Tax Collectors, which reads as follows: In addition to the deputies and the clerical assistance now or hereafter provided and specified by law, each county assessor or tax collector shall be entitled to such additional deputies and clerical assistance as may be necessary properly to transact the business and perform the work of his office. Such deputies and clerical assistance shall be furnished by the county court at the expense of the county. The county surveyor was the next man to be hauled over the coals. The expert says: We would direct your attention to this office in order that you may determine whether or not the amounts drawn in compensation are regular. Sec. 3003, L. O. L., 1910, regulates the fees of this office and in our opinion the rate of 10 cents per mile is allowed in lieu of all other compensation. That is to say, that where the surveyor uses the day to go to and from the place of his labors he is not entitled to \$5 per day and 10 cents per mile. If he charges mileage he is not entitled to per diem compensation. During the year under examination this official has charged \$374.40 for mileage and admitted to us that he charged per diem for the time of going to and from his labors. It is our opinion

that the court should cause the surveyor to reimburse the county to extent of \$374.40 for irregular mileage collected by him, etc. Mr. Rice, who was present at the

Reasons for Attending the Short Course

The Short Course of the Oregon Agricultural College will be held here next week and it is hoped that a large number of Prineville citizens and residents generally of Crook county will attend to take advantage of the helpful, practical program that has been prepared for the occasion.

There are so many reasons why all taxpayers and patrons of the educational system of Oregon should attend this course that an unusually large attendance should be the result.

The primary reason for the people of Crook county to be interested in the Short Course is that they will have an opportunity to observe at first hand the methods of one of our greatest state schools. It is a case where the "College comes to the people," and the people should be present to judge the value of the extension work which is a regular department of the Agricultural School.

Another good reason why people should attend the school course is that they will have the privilege of listening to the advice of scientific experts—men and women who have specialized in their particular work and have had years of practical experience to supplement their knowledge.

Then there is the opportunity to make comparison in a free unbiased way, of the old "learn stock raising, dairying, horticulture and farming," as tried out by the methods that these instructors advocate. To convince yourself of the success of these methods you should first hear them, and second, practice them. Visit any of the schools or extension farms for visual confirmation of the statements made.

The agricultural work in our county high school is along these practical, useful lines and you will more clearly understand its great value to Crook county after you have heard the "College Farmers" explain the co-operative plan of the trained agriculturist with the individual farmer. The great movement called "back to the farm" had its inception in the schools. Work which has previously been dreary drudgery is now a successful business because business methods and a love for this oldest of all industries is being instilled into the youth of the land. Agriculture is the chief occupation of the earth, scientific agriculture the most successful. Come to the Short Course and be convinced.

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meeting, ask Judge Springer if he might say a word in explanation. The privilege being granted the county surveyor stated that he

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DAIRYMEN!

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We have arranged our work so that hereafter the use of our testing apparatus will be reserved for the use of our patrons on Saturday of each week. Prof. Pratt has kindly consented to give instruction in testing, and we hope that our patrons will take advantage of this opportunity. Come in and learn how to do your own testing. Don't forget the Agricultural Short Course at Prineville February 23d to 28th inclusive.

Pioneer Cream Company

PRINEVILLE

OREGON