

Oregon City Courier-Herald

By A. W. CHENEY

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OREGON CITY, MARCH 21, 1902.

INTERNAL dissensions and opposition to the government on account of high taxes threaten to disrupt the kingdom of Italy.

CONGRESS has ordered an investigation of the Philippine transport service, in which the government was swindled out of millions of dollars.

CONGRESS, dominated by the millionaires, refuses to do justice to either Cuba or the Philippines. Misgovernment expresses the insular policy of congress.

The street car service of San Francisco is saddled with a debt of \$40,000,000, all but a few millions of which cost those who hold the debentures nothing—another instance of corporation swindling and rascally city and county officials.

CONGRESSMAN Miers, of Indiana, estimates it will take an army of 30,000 men 25 years to thoroughly pacify the Filipinos, and that it will cost the government \$1500 a year for each man, making a total of \$1,125,000,000 for maintenance alone; and he thinks the game isn't worth the candle.

SENATOR FRYE told the senate that people should not be shocked at paying money out of the treasury to ship owners. "You do it for every other industry in the country. You have been doing it for years. Subsidy is only another name for protection." And protection is only another name for subsidy. That is what the democrats have always maintained.

Commissioner Lewellen shows unpardonable ignorance in accusing the clerk of juggling with financial statements. The clerk follows the orders of the board, of which he is a member, and the law which says he shall charge expenses for roads not paid out of the road fund to "Bridges—built by contract, material and labor furnished, pay of keepers, etc." In another paragraph we show that had showing in this regard can be avoided and our state taxes reduced. Brother Porter, who had a hand in passing the law, also shows ignorance in permitting such an error to go into his organ.

COUNTY AFFAIRS.

We can already see the effect of the discussion of the acts of the county authorities. The board is now trying to keep the road expense paid out of the road fund instead of following the practice, on the slightest pretext, of paying the same out of the general fund. That former practice has made such a bad showing in the past for the general fund of the county, that Clackamas is the banner county of the state in this regard. If this policy had been followed the past year the general fund expense of Clackamas county would have been but about \$33,000 instead of \$69,000. It doesn't cost any more to pay interest on road fund warrants, and look at the difference in the showing made! We all want good roads, but we don't want the county given an unnecessary bad standing when it can be so easily avoided. The board at last session refused the assessor two extra deputies.

As will be seen by a communication in these columns, the borrowers of the county rock crusher have agreed to pay expense of loading and unloading the crusher from the cars besides paying the \$1 per day rental. No thanks to the board though.

TIME TO WAKE UP.

The good citizens of Clackamas county who have for a long time fought under the republican banner are not so insensible nor so indifferent to the intolerable condition of county government in Clackamas county as the party bosses are vainly trying to make it appear. They are not longer satisfied to intrust their public business to men of no business qualifications, to men who work themselves onto the machine slate by promises to stand by the dictator. Republicans who claim a right to think for themselves regardless of the party lash will be in the citizens convention which must know no political party.

When the voters assemble at the citizens primaries on April 5th, they must be far seeing, honest, unselfish. They must forget party, no matter whether there be a majority present, either of those who have been known as populists, republicans or democrats, and choose delegates from all classes.

Independent republicans throughout the various precincts should make their views known. The man who has the courage to refuse openly to go into a republican primary to nominate delegates whose only business will be to come to Oregon City to ratify a slate will have the commendation of good citizens. Such men will find their natural place in a citizens convention.

POLITICAL NOTES.

The Courier-Herald wishes no mistaking or personal attacks made on candidates during the present campaign and would ask correspondents to refrain from so doing. Nothing is gained by this sort of political warfare.

It is to be earnestly hoped that all good citizens who have the welfare of an independent ticket at heart will under no circumstances take part in the republican primaries. Packing primaries in its own interest, by the aid of such members of the opposition as would lower themselves by participating therein, has been one of the pet schemes of Clackamas county's machine.

Voters have until May 15th to register. Register before that time and save trouble at the polls in June.

It is the opinion of many that the present county board of commissioners will be completely wiped out by the next legislature and the old plan of a judge and two commissioners substituted. Whether the two hold-over commissioners will be legislated out of office and two new ones appointed is also a question for discussion. The board will no doubt go. The plan was tried in Multnomah county and did not work any better than here and was discarded. Clackamas county is the only county in the state that has such a board.

There promises to be a lively time at the primaries Saturday, when the republicans elect delegates to their county convention which meets March 29th. Each one of the numerous candidates has a favorite list of delegates which he wishes sent to the convention. There is an average of four or five candidates for each office except senatorship. It is rather amusing just now to watch the many hungry republicans that are willing to sacrifice all their relatives to get some official plum, and if the writer is not wonderfully mistaken some unexpected things will happen.

The republican machine in Clackamas county is weeping over the fall of the Simon machine in Portland. Little Joe's faithful allies in Clackamas county are all a-tremble. They fear the time is come for the killing off of bosses. The people throughout the land are taking a hand in the management of their own affairs. They will soon take a hand in Clackamas county.

County Clerk Replies.

Editor Courier-Herald: Commissioner Lewellen in last week's Enterprise in answering a letter of Mr. Cross, saw fit to say that the county clerk who saw fit (he supposed for political purposes) to charge to the bridge fund all the plank, all the culverts and all sawed timbers of every description that had gone into the 12 or 14 miles of plank road that had been built in the last year. This statement is simply ridiculous and without any foundation whatever. As this and all financial statements are taken from the abstract of warrants which is made from the commissioners' court journal after it is read to them each month and signed up by them (each day's proceedings separate) as a true and correct copy of their proceedings. Each item of expense being listed in this journal separate along with the fund to which it is charged as ordered by said board. All of this is published in both papers each month as it appears on said journal. If it has not been charged to the right fund why did not Bro. Lewellen find it out before. The facts of the matter are that it has been the custom of the board for years past when short of road money to charge every little culvert, sawed timbers, etc., to the bridge fund. Road supervisors send in their reports marked this way and they are thus allowed by the board. The following figures will show what has been in this way paid out of said fund for several years past.

Table with 2 columns: Year and Amount. 1893 \$27,240.14, 1894 22,092.02, 1895 16,729.08, 1896 9,969.85, 1897 28,686.62, 1898 15,149.18, 1899 11,178.32, 1900 19,656.65, 1901 18,247.48

These figures are taken from the annual reports made at the end of each year and can be seen by anyone at any time, and while the last year's figures are larger to some extent caused by the large cost of the Molalla bridge, they are a true and correct exhibit of amounts ordered paid by the board out of said fund and as shown by the commissioners' journal.

E. H. COOPER, County Clerk.

Will Pay for Loading.

The following communication speaks for itself, and we are pleased to know that the college will pay for loading and unloading the county rock crusher.

MOUNT ANGEL COLLEGE, Mount Angel, Or., March 15, '02. Editor Courier-Herald, Oregon City, Or.

Dear Sir: We beg to call your attention to some incorrect statements contained in the Courier-Herald of March 14th, under the caption of "Good? Financiering." It said that the rock crusher of Clackamas county was loaned to the Mount Angel Catholic school, the county having paid \$8 for repairs and \$32 for loading the machine on the cars and the same also would have to pay for unloading on its being returned. We beg to say that the repairs made were needed irrespective as to who would use the machine. We beg further to state that we, not the county of Clackamas, defray the expense of loading and unloading, besides the payment of \$1 a day. Considering the unfavorable weather-conditions of the past weeks the people of Clackamas county may consider this as good financiering.

Yours Truly, BENEVOLENT FATHERS.

To the Citizens of Clackamas County.

In obedience to the popular will as voiced in the growing discontent of our citizens at the repeated disregard of official trust and mindful that civic virtue underlies all political progress and national greatness, we, in firm reliance upon the patriotism and public spiritedness of our citizens demand better things for the people of Clackamas county. We, therefore believe:

That our citizens should not be burdened by unnecessary taxation.

That public monies should not be recklessly expended or used to pay private political debts.

That tax levies shall not be made that are prohibitory of needed immigration or that retard the national growth and development of the country.

We recognize with alarm the showing of the secretary of state as to the excessive per capita expenditure of Clackamas county as compared with other counties of the state and realize this condition of affairs is calculated to keep the intending settlers and the capital necessary to raise our county to its proper rank as one of the great counties in the commonwealth of Oregon.

Therefore, sinking partizanship in that larger patriotism which appeals to every citizen who loves his country and his flag we believe that a higher plane of political life will come as the result of our united efforts in behalf of the good name of our country and the welfare of all our citizens alike; to the end that government, "of the people, by the people and for the people" shall not perish from our midst.

All citizens of the county regardless of party affiliations are requested to unite in this effort for better county government.

- W. W. Jesse, Chairman, O. W. Eastham, Sec., O. W. Robbins, George Ogle, Henry Breithaupt, E. E. Charman, Harvey Starkweather, Charles F. Clarke, Robert A. Miller, Campaign Committee.

CALL FOR CITIZENS CONVENTION.

Notice is hereby given that the Citizens County Convention for Clackamas county will be held in Oregon City, Oregon, at 10 o'clock a. m., on APRIL 8th, 1902,

for the purpose of nominating candidates for the following county offices, to-wit: State senator, three representatives to the state legislature, county judge, county commissioner, sheriff, clerk, recorder, assessor, treasurer, surveyor, coroner, justices of the peace and constables and road supervisors for the several precincts.

The convention shall consist of 296 delegates, apportioned to the several precincts as follows: One delegate at large for each precinct and one for every 160 votes of the whole vote cast in each precinct at the last presidential election.

Table with 2 columns: Precinct and Number of Delegates. Abernethy 12, Barlow 6, Beaver Creek 9, Borings 4, Canyon Creek 4, Cascades 7, Canby 11, Clackamas 12, Cherryville 2, Canemah 8, Danasnas 5, Eagle Creek 5, Garfield 5, George 3, Harding 7, Highland 8, Macksburg 7, Molalla 12, Marquam 8, Milwaukie 13, Maple Lane 6, Needy 5, New Era 6, Oswego 9, Oregon City No. 1 17, Oregon City No. 2 23, Pleasant Hill 8, Slevers 8, Soda Springs 5, Springwater 5, Tualatin 7, Union 4, Viola 4, West Oregon City 11, Killin 5, Milk Creek 8.

The primaries are hereby called for SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 1902,

at two o'clock p. m., at the usual places of meeting for the purpose of electing delegates from the different precincts to the county convention. A chairman and secretary must be elected at each of the precinct primaries who will see that the delegates elected have their proper credentials. All citizens interested in the welfare of the county are specially invited to take part in these primaries.

W. W. JESSE, Chairman of Citizens Campaign Com. O. W. EASTHAM, Secretary.

DEMOCRATIC COUNTY CONVENTION.

Notice is hereby given that the Democratic County Convention of Clackamas county will be held in Oregon City, Oregon, at 11 o'clock a. m., on MONDAY, APRIL 7, 1902,

for the purpose of electing 13 delegates to the Democratic State Convention, to be held in Portland, Or., on April 10th, 1902 and for the purpose of nominating the following officers, to-wit: State senator, three representatives to the state legislature, county judge, county commissioner, sheriff, clerk, recorder, assessor, treasurer, surveyor, coroner, justices of the peace, constables and road supervisors for the several precincts, and for such other business as may regularly come before the convention.

The primaries are hereby called for THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 1902,

at the usual place of meeting and at the usual hours, for the purpose of electing delegates from the different precincts to the convention.

Table with 2 columns: Precinct and Number of Delegates. Abernethy 8, Barlow 4, Beaver Creek 5, Borings 2, Canyon Creek 2, Cascades 3, Canby 5, Clackamas 6, Cherryville 2, Canemah 3, Danasnas 5, Eagle Creek 5, Garfield 2, George 2, Harding 4, Highland 4, Macksburg 4, Molalla 9, Marquam 6, Milwaukie 5, Maple Lane 5, Needy 4, New Era 4, Oswego 4, Oregon City No. 1 7, Oregon City No. 2 9, Oregon City No. 3 5, Pleasant Hill 3, Slevers 1, Soda Springs 2, Springwater 4, Tualatin 3, Union 2, Viola 2, West Oregon City 7, Killin 3, Milk Creek 4.

Precinct chairmen are requested to look after the primaries and to see that all delegates have their proper credentials.

By order of the democratic county central committee. ROBERT A. MILLER, Chairman. A. W. CHENEY, Secretary.

SOCIALIST COLUMN.

Chairman, J. W. Grout. Secretary, Thomas Lindsay. Treasurer, Charles Moran.

THE TICKET.

State Senator—Fred J. Meindl, of Abernethy.

Representatives—Robert Gunther, of Beaver Creek precinct; A. J. Naville, of Canemah; Walter F. Pruden, of Springwater.

County Commissioner—George Lazzelle, of Canemah.

County Judge—Charles E. Spence, of Carus.

Sheriff—D. M. Klemson, of Canemah.

Clerk—Gilbert H. Robbins, of Killin.

Recorder of Conveyances—Franz Kraxberger, of Macksburg.

Assessor—William Beard, of Maple Lane.

Treasurer—N. W. Richards, of Maple Lane.

Coroner—Dr. W. F. Pruden, of Springwater.

ROAD SUPERVISORS.

Abernethy, J. S. Mayfield.

Beaver Creek, Wesley Hill.

Canemah, Thomas Lindsay.

Maple Lane, G. F. Gibbs.

Needy, Carl Hilton.

New Era, Joseph Reif.

Macksburg, Ed Morris.

JUSTICES AND CONSTABLES.

Barlow and Macksburg: Justice, R. R. Bratton, Barlow; constable, F. M. M. Thews, Macksburg.

New Era and Canby: Justice, Elmer Vetter; constable, F. Kelland.

Three Oregon City precincts, Abernethy, Canemah, Maple Lane and West Oregon City: Justice, J. W. Grout.

THE PLATFORM.

1. All officers shall be put on a flat salary.

2. Reduction of passenger and freight rates.

3. We favor precinct assessors, each precinct to elect their own assessor.

4. We reaffirm the principles of the national socialist platform.

Reduce Railroad Fares.

Editor Courier-Herald: On behalf of the socialist party of Clackamas county, I do not to take advantage of your kind offer of space in your paper for our views. One of the greatest and most vital question affecting the people of the state of Oregon and Clackamas county in particular is the transportation question. We stand by the government ownership of railways as laid down by our national platform, and before our party as a national body can attain that end we, the Clackamas county socialist party, will immediately begin to take steps through the legislature for a uniform transportation rate in the state of Oregon, and that no railroad company shall charge more than three cents a mile for transportation. There is no reason why the people of Clackamas county should be forced to pay four cents a mile for riding over the Southern Pacific railway when the O. R. & N. R. R., Northern Pacific R. R. and O. & C. R. R. only charge three cents a mile for carrying passengers, and that is too much any how.

That the Southern Pacific can carry passengers cheaper than that is proved by the fact they do carry passengers cheaper from points where they do have competition, and don't want their lobbyist in Salem next January sniveling that they will lose their money. Take Oregon City for instance. We can ride that 18 1/2 miles to Portland on the S. P. for 25 cents. That is 1 1/2 cents per mile. Between Portland and New Era the fare is 48 cents, about four cents a mile. At one time the rate was 25 cents between Portland and Newburg, which distance is 24 miles.

All of which shows that four cents a mile is highway robbery and the trains of the company can be operated at a profit for less, same as the other companies mentioned do. In view of the fact that the other railroads only charge three cents a mile, and the Southern Pacific can operate trains for less, it is evident that the next legislature should make the legal rate three cents a mile. Our candidates for legislature are pledged to work for the enforcement of a uniform rate of three cents a mile and every vote cast for our legislative nominees is a vote for a three cent rate in the state and a vote for government ownership of railways in the United States.

Very Truly Yours, MARCUS SUGARMAN, Oregon City, March 17, 1902.

Unjust to the County Clerk.

EDITOR:—As a reader of the local papers, I have been not a little interested and amused at the hotheadedness with which we have our politics served up towards election time. "Hot shot for Harvey Cross" is the last. I have no particular interest in defending Mr. Cross. He is no doubt, able to give a good account of himself. But I want to point out in a friendly way, if possible, where our commissioner has somewhat missed it, through getting too hot over what he considers Mr. Cross' insinuations of a graft.

He shows the county money to have been largely spent, on the demand of the taxpayers for the improvement of the roads, but in his haste to denounce Mr. Cross, he makes an unjust and unfair charge on the County Clerk, which cannot be sustained for a moment. It is quite pertinent for Mr. Cross, as a large taxpayer or any other taxpayer, to ask why such a large amount should be charged to the bridge fund, thereby enhancing our share of state taxes.

Commissioner Lewellen's answer is "that our clerk has seen fit (I suppose for political purposes) to charge up to the bridge fund, all the plank, all the culverts, and all the sawed timbers of every description that have gone into the twelve or fourteen miles of roads, that have been built during the last year, costing nearly \$1000 per mile besides other incidental expenses."

While many of us who know Mr. Lewellen could not impugn his general honesty, yet his heat and indignation on the charge of mal-administration has led him to accuse the County Clerk of the delinquency, and impute the lowest motives for it.

If the clerk is wrong in his statement

(Continued on page 7.)

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