Oregon City Enterprise

CITY AND COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER.

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WANTED—A platform on which the Democrats of Clackamas county can stand and wage a legitimate contest against the present Republican county officers.

THE Clackamas county Democracy was reduced to desperate conditions in finding men who wou'd accept their various nominations on the county ticket. Mr Lang, their candidate for county recorder, was until a few months ago a resident of Multnomah county. Could not the Democrats find enough of their number among the older residents of the county to form a ticket?

A GREATER compliment to the satisfactory administration of their respective offices perhaps could not have been paid Judge McBride and District Attorney Allen than the failure of the Democrats to name opposing candidates for these offices in the Fifth Judicial District. These candidates should and will receive a flattering indorsement at the hands of the voters at the June election.

CALL the police! summon the detectives! employ experts! The Democratic mathematician of the Courier has discovered that there is a discrepancy of $14,000 in the recent semi-annual reports of the county officers, hence it must follow that Clackamas county has been robbed of that amount. A little investigating would have convinced even our contemporary that any charge of shortage or misplaced funds was quite entirely without foundation.

THERE is another fact in connection with the semi-annual reports of the county officers, recently made public. that the Enterprise has failed to comment on. That is this:— These reports were issued promptly on April 1, the time required by law. This is the first time in the history of the county that these statements have been made as by law directed. It is in striking contrast with the condition of affairs two years ago, when the Democratic-Fusion combination did not publish the reports until late in the month of May and did so then at the command of the court.

AND now the Republican county officers are charged with getting away with about $14,000 in county funds. But then the Democrats must have something to talk about. It is only to be wondered what they will next allege. In making these various accusations, the Democrats fail to charge the Republicans with "getting away" in the last twelve months with about $80,000 of the county's warrant indebtedness. the cancellation of a road debt of $37,000, and at the same time accomplishing a reduction in the current expenses of the county from $69,000 to $37,000 in the last six months. These are the facts but of course they would not look well in a Democratic paper and would not serve the purposes of the questionable campaign that has been inaugurated by that party in this county in connection with county affairs.

THE COURIER MAKES A DISCOVERY.

The semi-annual report of the sheriff of Clackamas county, published in the Enterprise of April 8, 1904, shows "the amount of money and warrants received for taxes, and money paid to the county treasurer by the sheriff of Clackamas county, Oregon, for the six months ending on the 31st day of March, 1904." The sum paid to the treasurer is stated as $190,865.27. The treasurer's statement covering the same period of time shows that he has received from the sheriff the sum of $176,340.74. It is thus seen that there is a discrepancy in the two accounts of $14,524.53. Where is that money? The sheriff certifies that it is not in his hands while the treasurer certifies that he has not received it. A "Semi-Annual Summary Statement," published with the reports of the county officers, but signed by no one and certified to by no one, states that there was no money in the hands of the sheriff on the 31st day of March, 1904, applicable to the payment of county warrants. Thus it appears by the testimony of three witnesses—the sheriff, the treasurer and the ——— who failed to sign and certify to the "Semi-Annual Summary Statement," that there has dropped from sight the sum of $14,524.53. Of course that is only a trifling amount and has probably dropped into some chink in the floor of the safe, and will reappear as soon as the people demand an accounting. But the fact remains, unless at least one officer has certified to a false statement, that the county is short $14,524.53. —Courier.

The Courier has again violated its promise to be fair in the discussion of county affairs. This time the volation amounts to the making of a semi-criminal charge against the present Republican county officers, who are charged with failing to account for about $14,000 in county funds. The Courier is unfair in circulating such insinuations. No effort was made by the editor of that paper to ascertain the condition of the county's finances. From an inquiry of any of the county officers the apparent discrepancy would have been explained, while a careful and intelligent examination of the reports from which the Courier claims to have obtained its statistics would have disclosed that there was contained therein nothing concerning the special school taxes or the Oregon City municipal tax. The aggregate of these sums amounts to the difference in the reports of Sheriff Shaver and Treasurer Cahill.

Not only is the Courier's charge without foundation, but its figures are faulty. In the six months ending March 31 last, Treasurer Cahill received in actual taxes from Sheriff Shaver on the 1901, 1902 and 1903 tax rolls $164,791.90. On the other hand, Sheriff Shaver holds receipts for $190,865.27 which was delivered to the county treasurer and that amount the latter has received and given proper credit. The difference in these two amounts, or $26,073.37, consisted of special school district taxes and the Oregon City tax. In making his report, Treasurer Cahill simply followed the example of his predecessors and did not make a statement as to special school district and Oregon City municipal taxes received and disburied. On the 1903 tax roll, special taxes were levied by 43 of the school districts of the county which with the Oregon City tax account wound have made 44 additional funds to have been reported. Had this been done, as is done in a number of the other counties of the state, the Democrats would never have gotten over howling about the cost of advertising the same.

But we have already extended our remarks more than was required. The failure of the county treasurer to report these funds cannot be construed a criminal omission. Preceding officers have not reported these funds and nothing was ever thought of it. The records are in the treasurer's office and the public is invited to call at any time and look over the various school funds and the Oregon City tax account to their heart's content. While of course it would have been better, perhaps, to have published a report of these funds, still a failure to do so can have no possible criminal significance and any effort to enlist sympathy and support for the Democratic ticket by aimlessly making such charges cannot accomplish much. Intimations by Democrats of shortages and misappropriation of funds by Republican officers will not receive any consideration other than that born of prejudice in view of the record that has been made by the present officers for an economical administration and a capacity to wipe out part of a long-standing indebtedness that had its inception in Judge White's administration.

THE SOUTH AND THE PRESIDENCY.

Signs are not wanting that the South desires a President from its own confines, and these signs have not escaped the eyes of the Democratic politicians. They confess that material for a candidate is somehow lacking; that the Democracy looks toward no one prophet in this season when the land of promise seems to them near; they speak but two names, both of New York and one almost an impossibility it tradition is to hold sway. And in their meditation on these things the party seers have suddenly remembered the stronghold of Democracy—the Solid South. It is recalled that this section in forty years has been unrepresented in the Presidency, and emphasis is laid on the fact that the Southern loyalty to the party deserves recognition and reward. But the question is, Has the time come?

The Atlanta Constitution boldly affirms that the Southerner is hereafter "available." It proclaims that "the whirligig of time has left the political ghouls of the dead past no issue or prejudice, based on the half-forgotten struggle of the sections, that can influence the result of a national election. The better reason of the republic has asserted itself, and the unity of American citizenship is complete. The Southern Democracy is, therefore, hereafter done with this political self-abasement, and is to stand on equal ground with other sections of our common country in the matter of Presidential 'availability.' It will merely ask that its public men be taken on their intrinsic merits, without historical or geographical prejudice." So the Savannah News and the Macon Telegraph. So a baker's dozen of the strong men of the Democratic party in Congress. Congressman Champ Clark says "the barring out of Southern men from Presidential and Vice Presidential nominations is arrant nonsense." Maynard, of Virginia, says "the time is ripe for giving a Southern man recognition on the Presidential ticket." Senator Simmons, of North Carolina, thinks it would not hurt the party's chances, and John Sharp Williams, the minority leader, is held up as a good example of the sort of timber the South could provide.

But there is still a large conservative element among the Southern statesmen. They are willing to say, with the Atlantic Constitution, that the South demands its rights, but they also say with that journal, "The South will not demand it this year, but let the whole reunited country be put on notice that the forty years' embargo is ended with the ides of next November, and that thereafter no point of 'availability' is to be raised against the strongest men of the nation simply because they happen to hail from the Southern states." Congressman Little, of Arkansas, thinks "we can wait a liitle longer for the national recognition which will eventually come to us." Two Northern representatives—Schober, of New York, and Thayer, of Massachussetts—think the time is not ripe; personally, they favor the notion, but they fear the loss of doubtful states.

Yet after all, thirteen out of twenty-five prominent Democrats interviewed by the New York Herald, speak out boldly for a Southern nominee. They say there is weakness to be overcome, and that there is no candidate in the North who is able to strengthen his party as it must be strengthened to win this year. Asserting that the echoes of the Civil War have ceased to keep sectional feeling awake, they contend that the South, known as the Solid, is the natural place for a riven party to turn to be reunited. Upon the Pelion of their argument, they pile the Ossa of complaint. Since the war, the Democrats have nominated only two men from the South for Vice-President, and not a solitary man for the chief office. As a matter of pride they would like to have a candidate all their own. They feel that it is their right, and they call upon the future to justify their demands by crowning the campaign with success. And yet, with all their asking and arguing, these men said, purely in an inside, that they suppose Parker will be the candidate, and they will gladly support him. All of which goes to show that there will be no bitterness if the South does not get her desire this time. But it is also perfectly certain that she has not spoken unheard or unheeded.—Argonaut

READ THE BILL CAREFULLY.

Proposed Local Option Measure Means Practical Prohibition.

Before voting for or against either of the measures proposed by initiative petition for indorsement by the people at the June election, the voter should carefully read and interpret the two bills and gain a positive understanding of each. This is particularly true of the local option measure. Copies of this bill are to be had for the asking at the office of the county clerk.

As a matter of fact, the enactment of this apparently fair measure into a law by the people will prove simply a step preliminary to positive prohibition in the state of Oregon. The question arises, do the people of the state want prohibition?

Under the statutes as they now exist a saloon cannot be established in any precinct of the county save by petition of more than a majority of the voters of that precinct. When established, these resorts are regulated and controlled by county court or city council, while the business of these places and the manner in which it shall be carried on is regulated by law. Therefore, the people of the state practically have local option now.

Appended are a few opinions from prominent men of the country touching on the subject of local option and prohibition:

Bishop Stanley, of North Dakota—"I am convinced that prohibition is doing incalculable harm to the state and to many of its inhabitants. In many trips around the state I see and hear these facts. Such being the case, I contend that the time has come to make a change for the better. While refraining from approving of or disapproving prohibition as a theory, I say that prohibition as a fact is a flat failure in North Dakota."

Ex Secretary Russell A. Alger, Michigan—"You can't talk prohibition in Michigan, for we have tried it and know what a dire failure it is. When we had prohibition, the state was flooded with smuggled beer and whiskey, and it was impossible for us to prevent it. We now license the saloons, and while there is no more liquor drunk than there was during the reign of prohibition, we derive an enormous revenue from the traffic, besides preventing liquors from being smuggled into the state and sold illegally, as it puts the saloon men to guarding each other. I have always considered prohibition a failure, and don't believe it can ever be made effectual."

U. S. Judge D. E. Bryant, Texas—"Theory is one thing, but actual observation and experience are better. When prohibition was submitted to a vote of the people of Texas, I voted for it in good faith. Since June 2, 1890, I have faithfully endeavored to enforce prohibition laws of the United States prevailing in the Indian Territory in my jurisdiction I have had the assistance of competent and faithful district attorneys and marshals, excellent grand and petit juries, in fact, everything that could be desired to make the law effective, if it could be made so. My experience has taught me that it is folly to believe for a moment that it can be successfully prohibited. It leads to all manner of evasions, even to perjury and subornation of perjury. It builds up feuds locally, which frequenty result in personal conflicts, and in some instances murder is the result. Notwithstanding the rigid prosecution the traffic is unabated; in fact, if any difference, increases.

"Wherever local option exists you will find lawless persons who will sell to any and everybody wherever they can, not respecting minority or other conditions. The courts will be flooded with prosecutions, and there will be but few convictions, and the expense will be very large."

SCHEDULES OF TIME

SOUTHERN PACIFIC RAILWAY

NORTH BOUND.
7:00 a. m.
9:22 a. m. (Albany Local)
6:10 p. m.

SOUTH BOUND.
9:22 a. m.
4:50 p. m. (Albany Local)
9:14 p. m.