

ROSS RISES FROM PROBE UNSMIRCHED

Washington Land Commissioner, Subject of Inquiry, But Record Vindicates.

POST MADE HIM TARGET

Though Gross Irregularities Are Unearthed, They Date Back Before His Incumbency—Innuendo Is Weapon.

OLYMPIA, Wash., April 13.—(Special.)—With the report of the legislative investigating committee into the affairs of the State Land Commissioner the inquisitorial body has shot its bolt but has missed the target. It has unearched gross irregularities, as everybody knew it would, extending through a number of years, but it has not harmed Land Commissioner E. W. Ross, nor has it brought home to him in the least degree guilty knowledge of transactions admittedly improper if not fraudulent.

Ross was the object. He was recognized as the big plum on the tree. On the continuation of the investigating committee, with Sam H. Nichols, Secretary of State, quitting his office and first and John H. Schively, Insurance Commissioner, facing impeachment, the whispered word went round, "now they're after Ross." It has been understood by the committee last summer, when its members visited Spokane, Medical Lake, Pullman, Walla Walla and North Yakima, the underground of the inquiry began upon the record of the Land Commissioner. He was brought to the front as an official who had fought many a pitched battle and had won many a political scrap, and whose influence in the state, particularly on the east side, easily made him of gubernatorial size.

Ross' Record Clean.

His record is clean. All that the investigating committee could do, was to rake over transactions dating back to 1901, long before Ross went into office. He cannot even be connected with them by implication. The only weapon attempted to be used on the basis of the report, is innuendo, and that has fallen so short as to make the action of the committee a vindication.

With the failure of the attempt to "get" Ross is written the final word of a chapter of state and Senatorial politics. In the Populist year, 1896, Ross, a young attorney of Clatsop, was defeated for Attorney-General. Three years later he had T. P. Fisk, now Prosecuting Attorney of Mason County, were managers of the Anthony Senatorial campaign and in 1900 he came to the front as one of the anti-McBride combination. Ross controlled five of the 13 delegates from his county to the convention, and thereby aided materially in the victory for his allies. In 1894, when a candidate for Land Commissioner, he asserts that Anthony gave him the nomination, and that John L. Wilson, Senatorial candidate, and a year later, just after his election as Land Commissioner, he was the real manager of the Wilson campaign. In fact, it was at a gathering of supporters in the office of Ross that Wilson received the caucus vote and would be elected Senator the following day.

Ross professed no friendship for Governor Mead during that official's term, and it has been generally understood that for some time past he has been steadily drifting away from the Wilson forces.

1905 Probe Vindicated.

Prior to his election as Land Commissioner, Ross had been Assistant Attorney-General, and in that capacity was in charge of some land business and assigned to him. An attempt was made in 1905 to start an investigation of the Land Commissioner's office. Ross fought it, as did the representatives of the lumbering interests, who served notice on Ross that if the investigation was made at that time they would fight him for the Senate. Two years later, when the Senatorial campaign had been eliminated, such an investigation was authorized, and remedial measures were passed by the Legislature. As in the present instance, Ross' record was found to be clear. The legislators found that the state had outgrown its statutes, and that the land laws could be amended advantageously.

At the last Legislature an important amendment to the laws governing the Yukon Exposition was taken by Ross. He and State Senator George U. Pine, of King, inquired into the question of the state's liability to the Seattle fair, and together they drafted the plan authorizing the sale of \$1,000,000 Lake Washington shore lands in aid of that project.

Influence Never Used.

Financially, Ross is well-to-do, and a part of his means is invested in the lumbering. He has never used his influence as Land Commissioner to effect the sale of timber lands, to the enterprises in which he is interested. The records disclose that when any of his associates have applied for lands, Ross himself has had nothing whatever to do with the transaction. He has uniformly passed such matters to the Land Commissioner, which is an appropriate body, and upon which has devolved the duty of approving the sale and issuing the deeds.

Ross is now in Washington, D. C., attempting to secure the restoration of the state of more than \$500,000 in school lands wrongfully withheld by the Federal Government.

While the investigating committee, composed of P. L. Allen, H. O. Fishback, Howard D. Taylor and McManister, has not been able to connect Ross with irregularities in the office, for the simple reason that they happened before he assumed charge, it has made an important recommendation. The committee recommends that the next Legislature provide for a Land Commission to be composed of one elective Commissioner, and two members with equal authority, to be elected by the Governor—the three to select one of their number chairman. This is understood to be substantially in line with recommendations already made by Ross. The Board at present is composed of an elected Commissioner, the State Fire Warden, and the members of the State Tax Commission, the Land Commissioner being chairman and having charge of the State Land Office.

ROSS' FRIEND SCENTS PLOT

"Fair Play" Believes Probe Aims to Quash Gubernatorial Chances.

CASTLE ROCK, Wash., April 12.—(To the Editor.)—The legislative committee, from newspaper reports, has kindled the political smoke for the coming campaign and is endeavoring to bumish some of the citizens of the state by insinuating fraud and conspiracy perpetrated particularly by our Land Commissioner and his friends. It is very easy to see the purpose and intent of the report from the fact that the report given in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer of April 9 purports to set out in detail the sales made in Cowlitz County particularly and the cruises made by the committee's men.

Why was the committee desirous to make public the lands sold in Cowlitz County, that have been acquired by the Inver Lake Railway & Lumber Company? For no other reason than that the present Land Commissioner happens to own a very small portion of the capital stock of said company and the further reason that the incumbent is mentioned favorably by many of our influential citizens as an available candidate for Governor. Therefore, the charge of conspiracy to defraud the state out of its valuable lands from the printed report is thrown directly or indirectly at Mr. Ross, to eliminate his chance for the nomination of Governor.

The writer has had a personal interview with Joseph O'Neill, who purchased from the state a quarter section of school land in section 16, township 2 north, range 2 east, in 1901. Mr. O'Neill says that "in 1901 he made application for the said land through G. W. Taylor, who he knew Taylor was somewhat acquainted with the lands." He further says "the said Taylor never occupied an office adjoining his residence at the time the application was made for the purchase of the said land or at any time prior to or since, and that at no time did O'Neill ever mention the buying of state lands to E. W. Ross to get a minimum cruise, as at said time Mr. Ross had no connection with the Land Office or had anything to do with the cruing of the same. That as to any conversation held in the office with Israel and Billings, the statement is untrue and false, as O'Neill did not know either of those gentlemen at the time he made the application, and has never seen Mr. Israel at any time; that all the dealings and conversations supposed to have taken place at Castle Rock in O'Neill's office with Ross and the crusers, Israel and Billings, are branded as absolutely false and untrue."

Mr. O'Neill declares that after he had made the purchase of the land from the state, he offered to sell a half interest in said land to George Taylor for just what it cost, and that he offered it for sale for a year after he had purchased it to any purchaser for \$2000, and found no buyer; and at the time the purchase was made he was made value according to what other lands were sold for in the same vicinity by individual holders.

Mr. O'Neill further asserts that from reports given to the Governor's legislative committee he fears they have avoided seeking evidence from reputable sources, but on the contrary have sought such from that which would savor of the Harry Orchard element.

FAIR PLAY.

Seaside Uncertain Indian Skeleton.

SEASIDE, Or., April 12.—(Special.)—Workmen, employed in making an excavation of Bridge street, have unearthed the skull and a part of the skeleton of a Flathead Indian. The skull is now on exhibition here and is regarded as a valuable curiosity by medical men who have examined it.

CLARK TRANGLE BIG

Official Says State May Be in Ore Inspector's Debt.

THEFT IS DISCREDITED

Accused Man to Remain at Olympia Pending Investigation—He Denies Taking Money, Expresses Sorrow for Mistake.

OLYMPIA, Wash., April 13.—(Special.)—The state may owe ex-Oil Inspector Clark hundreds of dollars instead of his being short in his accounts, said one of the Bureau of Inspection tonight.

"From start to finish he had not the remotest idea where he stood financially. On checking up such books as are here it is shown that he paid the state \$900 more than he collected. In his innocent way he told me how for many months he could not find enough money in his office to meet what he figured his receipts for the state had been, so he would draw from his personal account to make up the apparent shortage.

"Of course, his books may be and probably are, in such shape we can never figure actually what the balance should be. I am satisfied the old man never stole anything, but since the charges were made he has been so rattled he did not know what he did."

Mr. Clark said today:

"I am going to stay here in Olympia until my books are all checked up and it is proved positively I never stole a dollar. I know I made a mistake. I was so worried. I never should have lied to the Governor nor should I have tried to fix up the old checks, but I know I never took a cent of state money that did not belong to me and that a thorough investigation will clear my good name."

Yesterday, after Mr. Clark was removed from office, he was induced to remain in the office of J. P. Lehigh, at the Capitol, that Clark could send no messages to Seattle until Lehigh and Holander had reached the Oil Inspector's office there and had taken charge. This fact gave rise today to a report that Clark was in custody.

LA GRANDE BUSY THIS YEAR

Vast Amount of Money to Be Spent on Improvements.

LA GRANDE, Or., April 13.—(Special.)—La Grande, always steadily moving onward, has brighter prospects this year than ever before, and to aggregate the total expenditure here for repairs this year would mean juggling with figures that would astonish a city of approximately 6000. In accordance with the popular wish of the taxpayers, expressed at a special election recently, the city is to build a \$75,000 High School this summer, and bonds are floated and plans are being drawn for such a structure to be commenced at once.

According to assurances from Washington, October will see construction of the Government building here, a \$85,000 project. A few weeks ago the city voted to float \$40,000 bonds for sewerage systems, and plans have been drawn for that development. A refuse collection system is being constructed along modern lines to dispose of the refuse. Then in conjunction with the sewer system goes the hard surface paving order that calls for hard surface paving along a distance of nine blocks on Adams avenue and four blocks on Depot street. In addition to this project, to be let when bids are called in this month some time, there are street improvements to the extent of macadam paving on exactly two miles of streets. This will be commenced immediately, though probably not completed this year. The \$400,000 irrigation scheme is to be commenced this summer.

PLANING MILL IS BURNED.

Fire-Alarm Boxes So Rusty That Alarm Doesn't Sound.

SPOKANE, Wash., April 13.—(Special.)—Fire from an unknown cause in the Turner planing mill, east of this city, at midnight last night destroyed the plant and lumber to the extent of \$20,000. The entire plant and stock were valued at \$50,000 and \$10,000 insurance was carried.

The fire department was hampered by a poor force of water and the fact that only two small lines of hose were available. A strong west wind was all that prevented the blaze spreading to other buildings and threatening the entire city. The two alarm boxes which were rung were so rusty they did not communicate the alarm. James Underwood, an employe of the mill, slept in a little wooden shack adjoining the building and narrowly escaped cremation, as he did not awaken until it was in flames. The planing mill is owned by Joseph Turner.

SHERIFF OFFERS REWARD

Anxious to Get Evidence as to Who Fired Into Rhoda Home.

VANCOUVER, Wash., April 13.—(Special.)—A reward of \$50 has been offered by Sheriff Sappington for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person who fired a number of shots into the Richard Rhoda home last Monday night.

One of the bullets went between the heads of two little girls as they lay sleeping on a pillow, passed into the next room, struck a chimney, broke in two, one half going through the roof and the other tearing the cheek of a small boy. Another bullet passed a few inches above the body of another child, Fred Miller, who lives near the Rhoda home, was accused of firing the bullets and a chain of circumstantial evidence was forged, which apparently was conclusive. Sheriff Sappington made a thorough investigation and proved by five witnesses that Miller was sleeping at the time the shots were fired and was absolutely innocent.

SPECIAL SESSION IS HELD

Judge Bradshaw Will Hear Oregon Trunk Land Suit.

THE DALLES, Or., April 13.—(Special.)—This afternoon the Oregon Trunk Line began suit against J. H. Taffe and his wife, Mary Taffe, of Celilo, to enforce the specific performance of a contract to give a right-of-way deed across the Taffe property. Judge Terry, of Portland, and H. S. Wilson, of The Dalles, are attorneys for the plaintiff, and Bennett & Skinnert for the defendant.

A special session of Circuit Court was convened by Judge Bradshaw today in



order to have the case disposed of as soon as possible, as the Trunk Line people cannot proceed with their work at Celilo until this is settled.

The purchase price agreed upon for the right of way was \$200, but the Taffes contend that the survey lines take in more land than agreed. It is expected that the testimony will be concluded and the Judge's decision given tomorrow.

fruits from the stove marked the zone of proper temperature and, having discovered this, they soon became interested in the particles of sand and oatmeal which was there in such abundance that they started off on a career of scratching and eating just as naturally and apparently as happily as if they had been hatched and raised by a real mother instead of by a machine and an oil stove.

CHICK EXPERIMENT NEW

Total of 1200 Fowls, One Day Old, Thrive at O. A. C. Hatchery.

OREGON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, Corvallis, April 13.—(Special.)—Twelve hundred fluffy little chicks, one day old, encompassed in a circular space 12 feet in diameter and mothered by a single oil stove, represents one of the peculiar features of an experiment which is now being carried on by Professor James Dryden, of the Oregon Agricultural College.

The experiment is under way for the purpose of testing the feasibility of raising chickens in large flocks. If the new method proves successful it will be a great boon to the poultry industry.

The chicks which are being used in this experiment were hatched in incubators. Twelve machines were used, the machines producing an average of 100 chicks each.

This number of chicks was hatched from a total of 1250 eggs. Each incubator, containing eggs from several breeds of chickens, was regulated differently from each of the others as to moisture, ventilation and methods of cooling. The chicks taken from each of the machines have been carefully marked and the strength of the chickens and the vitality will be accurately compared with the strange mother.

The chicks seemed perfectly satisfied with their strange mother. They were not long in discovering what dis-

PAVING CHARGE REDUCED

The Dalles Will Pay \$1.90 a Yard for Bitulithic.

THE DALLES, Or., April 13.—(Special.)—The City Council last night accepted the modified bid of the Warren Construction Company to pave Third street with bitulithic paving at \$1.90 a square yard, and the contract has been signed.

An ordinance prohibiting the allowing of minors in pool or billiard rooms or hanging about cigar or tobacco stands, and providing for fines for both the owners of places and minors transgressing the law was passed.

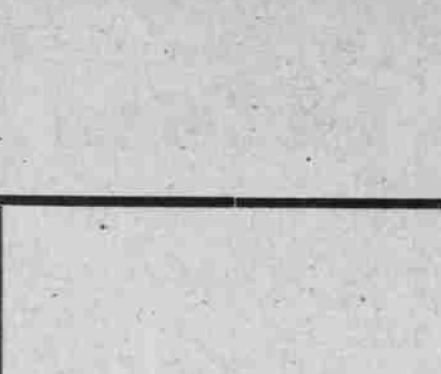
An automobile ordinance was also passed, regulating the speed to 12 miles an hour in the city limits, and requiring a registered number to be displayed at all times, also three lights at night, two in front and a red one in the rear.

O. A. C. Regents to Meet.

OREGON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, Corvallis, Or., April 13.—(Special.)—A special meeting of the board of regents of the Oregon Agricultural College will be held at the Imperial Hotel, in Portland, Saturday, April 16. Following the meeting, the regents will go to Eastern Oregon to visit the experiment stations at Union, Hermiston and Moro.

Bumper Fruit Crop Predicted.

MEDFORD, Or., April 13.—(Special.)—Professor O'Gara predicts that the



danger from frost is practically past in the history of Rogue River Valley. All the orchards are in splendid condition, being as free from pests and disease as it is possible for them to be.

fruit crop this year will be the largest in the history of Rogue River Valley. All the orchards are in splendid condition, being as free from pests and disease as it is possible for them to be.

DISCRIMINATION WINS!!!

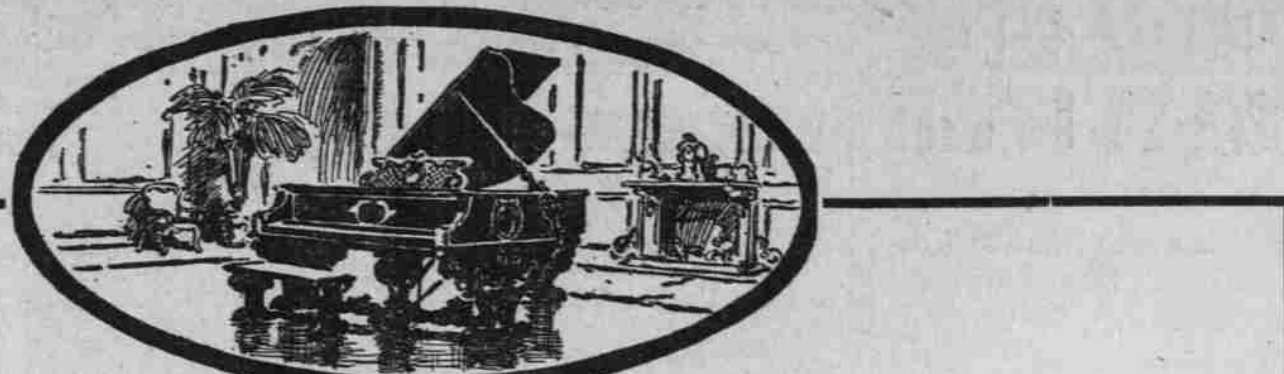
In every walk in life discrimination between the true and the false wins and enjoys success.

In every walk in life discrimination between the true and the false wins and enjoys success. In questions of form, of style and of values, whether financial, commercial or medicinal, the judgement of the men and women who select and appreciate and utilize the true and genuine product, proves most profitable and most satisfactory to themselves and to all who follow them.

Therefore, in connection with so important a subject as the physical well-being of the people, the most eminent physicians insist on full information as to the wholesome nature and truly beneficial character of the component parts of the remedies used and prescribed by them, and the wise manufacturer not only supplies them with the knowledge desired, but also combines for them in proper proportions the very substances most approved by them and omits every objectionable substance. The world-wide acceptance of Syrup of Figs and Elixir of Senna by physicians and the well-informed of the world, as the best of family laxatives, is due to the universal satisfaction which it has given for more than a quarter of a century and also to the fact that it is a remedy of known quality and known component parts and to the further fact that the California Fig Syrup Co. presents it to the world simply as the ideal strengthening personal laxative to cleanse and sweeten the system gently, yet effectually, and to dispel colds and headaches and to assist in overcoming constipation. To get its beneficial effects—always buy the original and genuine, for sale by all leading druggists. The full name of the company—California Fig Syrup Co.—is always plainly printed on the front of every package.



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