

Republican Candidates are pledged to save \$5,000 to the County in two years. Do the voters favor Economy?

Corballis Gazette.

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R. W. JOHNSON, Editor and Business Manager.

CORVALLIS, OREGON, MAY 28, 1896.

Republican Ticket.

For Congressman, First Dis.,
THOMAS H. TONGUE.

For Supreme Judge,
R. S. BEAN.

For Dis. Attorney, Second Dis.,
W. E. YATES.

For Mem. Board Equalization,
ROBERT WALKER.

BENTON COUNTY.

For Representative,
R. O. LOGGAN.

For Joint Representative,
E. R. LAKE.

For Clerk,
W. W. BRISTOW.

For Sheriff,
GEO. A. WAGGONER.

For Recorder,
J. A. GELLATLY.

For Assessor,
L. N. EDWARDS.

For School Superintendent,
GEO. W. DENMAN.

For Treasurer,
F. G. CLARK.

For Commissioner,
JOHN A. BUCHANAN.

For Coroner,
L. G. ALTMAN.

For Surveyor,
GEORGE MERCER.

Jus. Peace, Corvallis Precinct,
W. H. HARTLESS.

ISSUE OF SENSE AND CENTS.

Stripped of all mystery, all doubt and misunderstanding, the people of Benton county are today, on the eve of election, confronted with a plain condition. The county pays its officials too much money. Even the democrats admit this when they say the legislature should reduce the salaries. If the county is paying out too much of the people's money, it should stop it and stop it now.

We will take it for granted that populists uphold their county platform. Some of the populist leaders repudiate it, but the majority of populist voters evidently uphold it. The republicans and the populists say, then, "We pledge our nominees, if elected, to serve for the salaries now provided by the law, furnishing their own deputy hire at their own expense."

The democrats say, "We believe in reducing the salaries of the various county officials by legislative enactment." The democrats have no legislative candidates, but the republican and populist candidates for the legislature favor the same thing, so that there is no issue here. The legislature cannot possibly pass a law that will go into effect before July 1st of next year. There is no likelihood of its passing any law affecting officials in office. The legislative plan of reform is, therefore, at best, only a possible contingency, a slow reform, and a reform that is not an issue between the candidates for county offices because the law, whatever it is and whenever it passes, will bind one man as well as another. What remedy have the people for the present extravagance? Must they wait for the legislature to act and, in the meantime, continue to pay out extravagant salaries from their scanty earnings? They can do so, but they do not need to do it and it is very evident that they will not do it. They can elect the republican candidates or the populist candidates and commence the desired and just economy on July 1st, 1896.

Public extravagance has of late been brought home too closely to the taxpayers of Benton county for them to pay much regard to party prejudice or personal spite or favor. Business is business and the people of the county owe it to themselves to elect men to the county offices who interpret the salary law to mean that the officials shall pay their deputy and clerk hire from the salary allowed them by law. The democratic candidates do not so interpret the law, while the republican and populist nominees do. The facts are plain, the opportunity present, the duty clear.

FAT PICKINGS FROM THE PUBLIC CRIB.

"As to assessments," the Times has said that it requires six weeks to make the assessment roll and some other rot without either meaning or truth.

Grant 6 weeks or 36 working days to make the roll, and 365 days, less 52 Sundays, and we have 353 working days for assessor and his assistant in assessing the county and making the roll, if every legal day in the year is used. Notice the figures below.

When Benton county extended to the coast the work of the assessor was more than double what it is now. Notice these figures. The year ending July, 1888, it cost for assessing the whole county by Mr. Skipton, \$650.21.

July, 1889.....\$ 903 00
July, 1890.....759 00
July, 1891.....1005 00
July, 1892.....1341 40

While for assessing the county out to the summit, being less than half the work done by Mr. Skipton, and comprising but little more than half the work of making the attendant assessment rolls, has cost under Mr. Alexander's assessing, as follows:

To July, 1893.....\$1140 00
To July, 1894.....1092 00
To July, 1895.....981 00
To May, 1896.....1236 00

These figures are taken from the court records and are correct.

Notice how it is done. For instance, take 1893. The assessor's bill reads as follows: "Oct. 4, 1893, Benton county, to A. B. Alexander, assessor, Dr: To 380 days, at 3 per day, \$1,140; Cr. by pay for 100 days at \$3 per day, \$300; by 168 poll taxes collected, \$168; total credits, \$468; bal. due, \$672."

This bill was allowed Oct. 5, 1893, and paid by order No. 8,205. The \$300 credit had been paid before by order No. 8,177. The polls collected, the assessor simply used, notwithstanding the law plainly directs that the county monies shall all go through the county treasury.

In Jan., 1896, the county paid \$5 for a trip to Salem by Mr. Alexander. See order No. 10,496. In Jan., 1895, \$4.75; also see order No. 9,464. In Feb., 1895, \$10 for an index, order No. 9,495, and now the assessor has had a bill for \$50 in the county court (see pages 440-446-462, Journal 5) for three months, trying to make the county pay for "compiling assessor's book," a book not of the county's records and purely private. Of course, it can not be allowed until after the election, as that would hurt Mr. Rickard's candidacy for sheriff. Wait and see.

Without pursuing these details further, enough has been said to show plainly that Alexander is in office for the money there is in it. Duty is secondary. A hand in the public crib first. The pickings are of pure gold, Benton county is rich, indeed. We have 360 working days for our assessor. If his assistant put in 36 days at 10 hours a day, which is more time than it has ever taken to make a Benton county tax roll, but if he did put in 36 such days, and the assessor all of the time every one of the 317 legal working days of the whole year, there could be only 353 days at best. Where are the extra 27 days at \$3 per day to come from? It is simply from the imagination and nothing less. It amounts to \$81.

But, in fact, the assessor does not, can not, begin assessing under the law until March 1st and his work must be done by Oct. 1st. Even with the usual extensions granted by the court, seven months—150 days less than a year and 130 working days less—it is not possible for the assessor, with his one assistant, to lawfully put in over 223 working days in assessing and making the roll. But he charges for 380 days! Where are the 157 days at \$3 per day or \$471, then, which the assessor charged for in 1893? There is an actual fact and food for serious reflection. There is an actual overcharge which Benton county taxpayers have had to pay by the sweat of their brows, at low prices and grinding labor, for the benefit of an assessor, with his hand deep in the public crib. It is high time such infamy was stopped.

Mr. Edwards promises to assess the county and make the roll all in 200 days. He and not the county will pay his assistant. The average saving will be over

\$500 per year and the work will be intelligently and faithfully performed, and it will be honest, and it will be impartial. And Mr. Edwards will not charge \$3 per day for electioneering, nor for pleasure excursions, nor will he use his favors in assessing in order to secure votes. That is the difference between a good, faithful assessor and the one we now have and one whom heaven and earth are being moved to retain.

"DISINTERESTED KINDNESS."

"Many a man in Benton county whose land title was imperfect has had his attention called to the matter, and has been afforded clear-headed assistance in straightening out and perfecting the title to his home by Virgil Watters. In all these cases Mr. Watters' act was merely the manifestation of friendly and disinterested kindness, and today these persons all remember kindly the man who volunteered it. Many of them will put a cross opposite the name of Virgil Watters on election day."—Times.

"Benton County Abstract Co., Corvallis, Oregon, Abstractors. I have the only set of abstracts of Benton county, and am prepared to do all business entrusted to me promptly. VIRGIL E. WATTERS."

Also Times, same issue. \$10 to \$30 per title is about the usual price of Mr. Watters' "manifestations of friendly and disinterested kindness." His abstracts are kept in the fire-proof vault of the Benton county recorder's office, along with the public records, and from this citadel of exclusive monopoly, Mr. Watters reaps a golden harvest, while the actual work of the recorder's office is practically performed by

Wm. Buchanan, who, with great difficulty, copies nearly all the deeds and mortgages, etc., into the public records with his single left hand, he being naturally right-handed before losing his right arm in an accident, and Mr. Buchanan does this work, actually conducts the recorder's office and does nearly all the work all the time, and all the work part of the time, for the munificent salary of \$20 per month, while the high-salaried recorder, Mr. Watters, conducts the business of extending and building up his monopoly of the abstracts, and makes lucrative contracts for present owner maps at several hundred dollars, and keeps up the present owner books at a good price per month, and makes maps for the county, for taxpayers to pay for, and all the while drawing his large salary as recorder.

The fact is that for the past year Wm. Buchanan has been the actual recorder, as the records will testify, while Mr. Watters has been devoted to the private pursuit of keeping up and extending his abstract monopoly and making contracts for Benton taxpayers to pay for, and electioneering, and other private pursuits, all at the public expense, and with only a fraction of his time devoted to the duties of his office.

Do the citizens of Benton county wish to continue supporting, at the public expense, an official who turns his office into a private monopoly, and who still disdains to invest a single dollar in Benton county real estate or enterprise of any kind? If so, vote for Mr. Watters, by all means, and it is certain that what they will get. But if the taxpayers of Benton County desire a man for clerk who will attend strictly to the duties of his office without running it in connection with an outside private business, and who will pay the deputy hire out of his own salary, thus conducting the office at the least possible expense, and a man that invests his money in Benton county enterprises and real estate, vote for W. W. Bristow.

The election of Waggoner, Bristow, Gellatly and Edwards will save the county \$5,000 in two years. Wouldn't it be a good thing to save for road improvements?

THE HERD LAW.

The voters of Corvallis should refrain from voting on the herd law question. It is not a matter that directly affects them and they should have no more voice in settling this question than the people of the country had in the "cow ordinance" of this city. Farmers and stockmen should be allowed to settle such matters affecting only themselves, among themselves. They are able to vote intelligently and comprehensively, whereas we here, in Corvallis, will vote carelessly or in accordance with superficial impressions. Let the people who are directly interested, who are personally affected and who understand the effects of the proposed law be the exclusive judges as to the advisability of putting it into operation.

MITCHELL OR NO.

A few democrats have been persuaded to support the populist legislative ticket, understanding that McFadden and Whitaker were "Mitchell" men. These gentlemen have carefully refrained from expressing their sentiments upon this matter, at least publicly, and the people have been left in the dark. However, one of the populist speakers, Geo. Robinson, at a public meeting in Fairmount precinct last Thursday, in the presence and with the approval of Whitaker and McFadden, said: "Mitchell is not the man to represent us at Washington. He can accomplish nothing."

E. R. Lake and R. O. Loggan earnestly believe that John H. Mitchell is the proper man to look out for the best interests of our state and will vote in caucus and in joint assembly for his election. These gentlemen are pledged to work for economical legislation, are personally in favor of business-like methods in state government and have ability and influence to accomplish something.

Let us be reasonable and sensible in choosing our officers. If we believe Pennoyer is the man to send to Washington as a representative Oregonian, we should by all means vote the populist legislative ticket. If, however, whether we are gold standard republicans or silver standard republicans, or sensible democrats, we believe protection is the thing and Mitchell is the man, we should vote for Loggan and Lake.

Rickard has been an office holder in the past four years. So have Watters and Alexander. Here is a combination of professional office holders who value their experience gained at the taxpayers' expense, so highly that they demand a premium of \$5,000 over the legal salary, for a continuance of their venal services.

PETER RICKARD is a county officer and has been for the past four years. Have his official acts been such as to justify the people in supporting him again? Has his policy as commissioner been commendable? Taxes have been allowed to run uncollected, the property in many instances going into the hands of new owners who were unaware of the unpaid taxes of a few years previous. These taxes were allowed to go uncollected until the people were in the most desperate financial straits; it was impossible to sell or to borrow. Then the fiat went forth and a great many homes were sold for taxes, while pitiful sacrifices and desperate exertion barely sufficed to save others, their little all. Was this a wise policy; was it just; was it honorable? Who profited by it? The men of means. The men who can and do speculate in tax titles. Mr. Rickard can not escape responsibility. He is trying to glide smoothly into office without opening his mouth to explain these other matters. He is not going to bind himself by any promises to the people. He makes no statement in print or from the rostrum. His election speech is "Have a drink." If he is elected, the office of sheriff may be expected to an be expensive one to the taxpayers. Mr. Rickard has his sawmill, his 80-acre ranch and other things to look after. He wants an office that pays big or none at all. He can not afford to lose his time for a paltry \$1,200 a year. At the Fairmount meeting all the other candidates present, including Geo. Waggoner, stated their position on the various matters of interest to the voters. Peter Rickard was called upon and had "nothing to say." There is manliness for you. The people are not so afraid of expressing themselves and on next Monday they will have "something to say."

The schools of Benton county could not be in safer hands than those of George Denman, the republican nominee for county superintendent.

THE Times, the organ of the fancy-priced office seekers, does not meet the issues of this campaign seriously and sensibly. Every fair argument and business proposition causes it to flutter around and cry "bogus reform," "fraud," "deceit," "lies" and such exclamations. It evades or denies the main pertinent issues. We wish only to present facts, sound arguments, indisputable figures and official records. The voters can distinguish sense from deceit, argument from exclamation.

To the Voters and Taxpayers of Benton County.

GENTLEMEN:—The democrats having objected to meeting the people in joint canvass for the purpose of discussing their claims to further support at your hands, as previously arranged and published, and as I have no other way of stating my position on the subject of the salary of the sheriff, I am compelled to resort to the county papers in order to let you know what you may rely upon in case I should be elected.

It is claimed by the framers of the bill fixing the salary of sheriff, that it was their intention that the sheriff should perform all the duties of his office for \$2,000, paying his own clerk and deputies. The law appears capable of a different interpretation and since its enactment, our county court has allowed clerk and deputy hire to be paid by the county. This subject was discussed in the republican county convention and decided in favor of the taxpayers. The populist convention took the same position. The democratic convention contented itself with allowing the interpretation heretofore given to the law to stand, and recommended the next legislature to reduce the salary. Such a reduction, if passed, could not affect the incoming officers and should the democrats succeed in electing their officers, the county would again be mulched for two years. That there might be no possible impediment in the way of their enjoyment of excessive salaries not contemplated by law, they did not nominate a legislative ticket, but left it blank, intending to assist the populist candidates, provided the populist voters would in return help them to steal \$5,000 from the taxpayers. They deny, quibble, bluster and ridicule, but this is just what they mean—only this and nothing more.

But they have reckoned without their host. The populist party has interpreted the salary law as the republicans did and stands committed before the people. It dare not add this steal on pain of political annihilation. If elected, I will perform the duties of sheriff for \$2,000 and will pay my own clerk and deputies out of my own pocket.

G. A. WAGGONER.

Mr. Robinson, whoever he is, says the GAZETTE abuses him—a private citizen. Mr. Robinson is rather sensitive for a man who voluntarily assumes to accuse a public newspaper of untruthfulness. He must learn that he who voluntarily, publicly, and without provocation, calls another a liar, cannot well plead "private citizenship" as a defense against notice from the party he assails. Mr. Robinson, in the Times, seeks to identify himself, for our benefit, but somehow we still fail to comprehend his assumed importance. Mr. Robinson has a right to vote for Pete Rickard if he desires, but has no right to do so and claim to be in favor of economy and lower taxes. Mr. Robinson, it is easy to realize, is supporting Rickard as a politician, and for political reasons. He repudiates the populist county platform in so doing, but such repudiation is easy for men who make a god of their party, and have no respect for the people or the people's good. Mr. Robinson cannot, however, speak for the populist voters. They are able to choose for themselves, and they will vote for the people's interest in preference to supporting a political trade that they had no hand in making.

Loggan and Lake stand for an economical, businesslike administration of the state's affairs, and for the re-election of John H. Mitchell to the United States Senate.

JOHN HENRY says, "out of four newspapers in the county the editors of three of them are members of the order," meaning the A. P. A. We know positively that the editor of the GAZETTE is not a member of that organization, so Mr. Henry must mean to include the editor of the Times. That is why the Times then, said "there are many good citizens in the A. P. A." The office devil must have written the paragraph about "killing a dog, a varmint or an A. P. A." John Henry is an invaluable source of information.

There are this year but two candidates in the field for district attorney in the second judicial district. W. E. Yates of Corvallis is the republican nominee, and J. M. Upton has been nominated by the democrats and populists. But little is known here of Mr. Upton. The republican nominee is well known in this county. He is a good citizen, a sound lawyer, perfectly qualified for the position, and will undoubtedly get a good vote in Benton.—Times, Apr. 25.

THE net total taxable property in the state of Oregon is \$144,445,426. Of this amount Benton county has \$2,873,110. This county therefore pays about 1-50th of the taxes of the state. The proposed lopping off of expenses by the legislature will, if accomplished, save the state something like \$100,000, or a saving to the taxpayers of Benton county, of about \$2,000. It is worth saving, certainly. But, by employing officials who will positively pay for their deputy hire from their salaries, the taxpayers of this county can save \$5,000. Then why look so helplessly to the legislature for relief from burdensome taxation, when the voters can help themselves by means of the ballot? Elect Waggoner, Bristow, Gellatly, Edwards and the rest of the ticket nominated by the republican convention, and do your own reforming.

L. N. Edwards, the republican nominee for assessor, will assess the county for \$600. Alexander, the present assessor, who is up for re-election, has drawn since last June \$1,236, more than twice the amount Mr. Edwards agrees to do the work for.

THE Corvallis Times says that Geo. Waggoner's election will save Benton county only \$600 a year or \$1200 for the term. Twelve hundred dollars, even, if the sheriff's office is worth saving to the taxpayers. But is the Times right? The sheriff's office will have cost the county for the present term \$6,360, exclusive of board for prisoners, etc. The legal salary for the two years is \$4,000. The Times says that only \$1200 is paid for deputy hire. Then what has become of that other \$1600? Geo. A. Waggoner proposes to do the work for the salary, \$4000 for the two years, and pay his own deputy and clerk hire. What is the county going to do with the \$2360 balance? Save it, of course. There are none so blind as those who won't see.

Two certain votes for John H. Mitchell are assured by the election of Loggan and Lake.

THE republican county ticket was topped out at Portland by the nomination of E. R. Lake for joint representative for Benton and Lincoln. The nomination is conceded to be a very good one, as Prof. Lake is an able man. If elected * * * his strong personality will prevent him from being swayed by any and all influences, and in so much, would be a safe man.—Times, Apr. 18.

THE voters should understand that the Times' support of Mr. Waggoner for sheriff is entirely unauthorized. That paper sees the certainty of Mr. Waggoner's election and wishes to hedge.

Nervous

People often wonder why their nerves are so weak; why they get tired so easily; why they start at every slight but sudden sound; why they do not sleep naturally; why they have frequent headaches, indigestion and nervous

Dyspepsia

The explanation is simple. It is found in that impure blood which is continually feeding the nerves upon refuse instead of the elements of strength and vigor. In such condition opiate and nerve compounds simply deaden and do not cure. Hood's Sarsaparilla feeds the nerves pure, rich, red blood; gives natural sleep, perfect digestion, is the true remedy for all nervous troubles.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Is the One True Blood Purifier. \$1 per bottle. Prepared only by C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.

Hood's Pills cure Liver Ills; easy to take, easy to operate. 50c.

Wanted.

Several trustworthy gentlemen or ladies travel in Oregon for established, reliable homes. Salary \$750 and expenses. Steady position. No close reference and self-addressed, stamped envelope. The Dominion Company, Third Floor, Omaha Bldg., Chicago, Ill.

Wanted—A reliable lady or gentleman to distribute samples and make a house-to-house canvass for our Vegetable Toilet-Soaps and Pure Flavoring Extracts. \$40 to \$75 a month easily made. Address Crofts & Reed, Chicago, Ill.

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Place in the valley to buy Harness, Saddles, Whips, Harness Oil, and other horse-men's supplies, is at

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