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APRIL 18, 1904.

DID HERMANN DESTROY PROOFS?

WASHINGTON, April 16.—A mass of documentary evidence which had been gathered by the government inspectors against persons implicated in the Oregon timber and land frauds has mysteriously disappeared from the files of the land department under circumstances that strongly indicate that it was stolen for the purpose of shielding the conspirators from criminal prosecution, by depriving the government of its proofs.

The missing papers, 51 in number, were forwarded to Washington more than a year ago, and among them were the documents which caused the summary removal of Binger Hermann from the office of land commissioner. Their disappearance at this time, when it is known that the government is seriously considering the question of indicting Hermann for complicity in those frauds, is peculiarly significant.

One of the most important features of the case is the fact that these documents were deposited in the land office only a day or two before Hermann's removal and so far as can now be learned they have not been seen since that time. Secretary Hitchcock supposed that the papers were still on file until at least six weeks ago, when it became necessary to forward them to Oregon for use before the United States grand jury, which was investigating the frauds. Then it was found that not one of the papers remained on file, and it is said that no one in the land department has seen them since Hermann was dismissed from the office. He had the opportunity to destroy evidence which had been deemed by President Roosevelt sufficient to warrant his summary removal from office.

The evidence is ample, and government officials privately express the conviction that Hermann is directly responsible for its disappearance.

Among the missing papers were letters and telegrams from Hermann to persons who have since been indicted for complicity in the land and surveying frauds, and this correspondence is said to have been of a most incriminating character. An official who has followed closely the progress of the government's investigation of the land frauds said today:

"There is no positive proof that Binger Hermann destroyed the papers; but who else would be so much interested in doing so as he? You can be pretty sure that he would not have been a candidate for re-nomination and re-election to congress if that evidence was still extant."

The missing papers related particularly to the fraudulent surveys of government lands in Oregon, for which the former surveyor-general, Melstrom, has recently been indicted. But other charges have lately been filed against Hermann, supported by new evidence, and if the government should undertake to indict him, it will not be entirely dependent upon the proofs supplied by the papers which have so mysteriously disappeared. Nevertheless the papers were extremely important, and their loss greatly increases the difficulty of establishing the guilt of those engaged in the conspiracy. Without this evidence it is possible that some of the guilty parties may escape punishment.

The above record is copied from the Hearst Journal, of Portland. It shows upon its face that it is intended to be campaign matter to defeat Hermann; and at the same time it produces the proof of its falsity and clearly shows that the Journal is either a knave or a fool. In the first place, if there had been any crooked work done in the land office under Binger Hermann's administration, that office would not have been made the receptacle of the proof, and the Journal is now warming up the embalmment political hash which the Oregonian fed to its readers about fifteen months ago. The Oregonian at that time intimated in plain language, that Secretary Hitchcock had a pampered pet by the name of Green, in Oregon, to investigate affairs and this inspector reported direct to the Secretary of the Interior and not to the land office. The report, it was claimed, contained 400 pages of type-written matter and when Binger Hermann demanded a copy of it from the Secretary of the Interior, it was claimed to be lost from that office. The report, if one was ever made outside the imagination of Green and the Oregonian, was filed in the office of the Secretary of the Interior and not in the land office, and if there was a report made and the report was lost the Secretary of the Interior is directly responsible for the loss, and not Binger Hermann.

The facts in the case are: There is a political pet inspector in Portland who hates Hermann like the devil does holy water and this man is opposed by Hermann because of the financial or other grafts being cultivated under the guise of secret service, and this secret man, we believe, at the instigation of Hitchcock furnished the Oregonian with hot air

blasts against Hermann. And now, to throw all the Oregonian's and Journal's kettles of fish into the fire at one time, the PLAINDEALER states: within the past three months the editor was invited by one of the inspector's friends to go to room 400 at the Perkins hotel, where he could see a copy of the remarkable document which had been sent to the Secretary of the Interior, but he did not go. The Oregonian falsified at the time it made the statements; the Journal is falsifying now. If the Federal Grand Jury, Judge Bellinger, Hitchcock, Oregonian or Journal or the entire press want the matter to be investigated by the Federal Grand Jury, all they have to do is to summon Inspector Green to appear before that inquisitorial body and produce the copy of the report. It is about time for the Journal to close its jaws on the report episode.

CLEAN UP.

Spring is here. The season of the year when nature is at her best has arrived, and it suggests the idea that we place our homes in the best of condition.

A dollar or two spent for paint and seventy-five cents for a brush will return larger dividends than if put in bank stocks or mining shares. No householder should become so engrossed in business or pleasure or politics that he has no time or inclination to care for the condition and appearance of his homestead. Nor should he be too dignified or too indolent to remove his coat and do for himself, with his own hands, the little jobs which it is frequently expensive and not so easy as to have a carpenter or painter attend to. Not only does such attention preserve porches, railings, fences, steps, etc., but the additional charm to the home spot puts a contentment beyond price in the heart of wife and children. Some of us are too much inclined to spend for our backs and appetites money that should be spent on the home.

It is every good citizen's duty to love his home, and it is easy to love it if it is lovable. Make it attractive, and keep it attractive. Your children will be unconsciously influenced for good and you will be compensated in a hundred ways. Wake up, clean up, spruce up. If you live in a rented house, buy it. If you are unsettled, settle; then trim your lawn, set our rose bushes, train vines and paint the fence. Brush up; and if your wife won't help you—but she will.

THE J. C. CONN MYSTERY.

When questioned in Portland about the Conn mysterious disappearance a citizen of Lake county said: The body of Conn had not been found and that many citizens did not believe that the man had committed suicide the same as the first reports indicated. He also stated that many citizens of Lake county believed that murder had been committed and the body made away with; and there were men who at first thought that Conn had shot himself and then plunged into the creek to finish up the job but as days and weeks have elapsed and an almost constant search and watch kept up to find the corpse without any result being obtained, that many are wondering if a mistake was not made in supposing that Conn had committed suicide and that he might have been murdered instead. "True or false" the Lake county man said, "there is one man who will be suspicious as the cause of Conn's taking off if the body is not found."

The editor has read the proposed Local Option law to be voted on at the State election in June. It is a measure worthy of the highest consideration of every voter for it is not a political measure but one on which every political party can unite for or against and the majority will rule.

The Douglas County Republican convention endorsed for a direct primary law and as there is only one for the people to vote on at the next election we presume that it will pass by an overwhelming majority.

While the Russian admirals have been peddling hot air and telling what they were going to do, in the meantime the Japanese admirals have whispered soft and low and smashed the Russian navy.

DEMOCRATS IN SESSION.

Review's State Carried Out to the Letter. Boss Rice Busy Instructing as to the Rules.

"As good as a circus" was the general comment Saturday upon the opening of the Democratic County Convention which convened in this city that day at 10:30 a. m.

Long before the convention was called to order, Dexter Rice, the chairman of the Democratic Central Committee, was busy among the delegates prompting them in the duties of motions and seconds they were to make, and needless to say, these were carried out to the letter.

Irwin Wimberly, of Drain, was the unanimous choice of the convention for chairman, and Thos. Cobb and P. V. Dickman were chosen secretaries,

and the fun commenced. Chairman Wimberly in a neat speech well recited thanked the convention for the honor, etc. He stated that it was necessary to appoint several committees, but said that as he was not familiar with the names of the delegates, that it would be impossible to do justice unless he were handed a list of the delegates. He then asked if any member present had a list of the delegates. Lee Wimberly, the editor of the Review, had such a list readily prepared for the occasion, and immediately brought the same forward.

The list brought forward consisted of three sheets of paper, two of which consisted of blank paper on which were pasted the printed names of the delegates, but the third contained the written names or the slate of the names of the committees which were to be named, and which were carried out according to programme.

Peter Nelson, of Gardiner, arose and moved the appointment by the chair of a committee on credentials, which was appointed as follows: H. R. Challoner, of Civil Bend; Morris Weber, of Umpqua; C. D. Drain, of Drain; H. S. Conn, of West Roseburg; T. J. Williams, of Wilbur.

It will be seen that Mr. Nelson, who was the instigator of this committee, was not named as a member of it, of which point the democratic press took advantage in the republican convention.

A committee on permanent organization and order of business was appointed as follows: J. A. Davis, of Yoncalla, E. A. Wall, of Glendale, E. J. Page, of Oakland, J. T. Hinkle, of Deer creek, and G. W. Wannacott, of Riddle. The chair then, "according to programme," asked if any of the persons whose names were just read were not in the assembly, saying that, if so, others would be appointed to fill vacancies. Mr. Coshov, of Roseburg, arose and, "according to pro-

gramme," stated that Mr. Wannacott kicked a dog and, slamming his hat down over his ears, left the convention hall.

On motion of Mr. Waite, Mr. Bledsoe was declared the unanimous choice of the convention, for sheriff, by the Chair, although Mr. Challoner raised his voice in a mighty "no," as did Judge Riddle on the nomination of Senator Marsters in the Republican convention.

Mr. Bledsoe said he was surprised to receive the nomination, it was not his wish, as he had hoped to be able to support Mr. Dillard, he did not ask for it and did not want it, but thanked the convention.

John T. Long, in a long and rather pathetic speech, named Zopher N. Agee, of Oakland, for county clerk. As no one else wanted to take the chances against Mr. Hasard, Agee was declared the unanimous choice of the convention. When called for, Mr. Agee said: "Well, I'm before you again for county clerk. Two years ago I was too young and not capable. Now I'm two years older; try me again. I did not seek this nomination and did not want it, but will work for my election. I thank you and will try to make you a good clerk if elected."

TREASURER.

The nominations for treasurer were then called for and after a long wait, in which "Boss" Rice worked vigorously among the delegates, Mr. Strong stepped forward and sacrificed the name of J. T. Bryan, of Roseburg, who was nominated by acclamation.

COMMISSIONER.

Mr. Redford, of Comstock, placed the name of J. M. Ritchey, of Comstock, before the convention and Mr. Waite, of Roseburg, named the slated candidate, Morris Webber, of Roseburg. Ballot was then taken and Mr. Ritchey was 'snowed under, receiving 37 votes to the ring candi-

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Saturday's Specials

- 6 Spools O. N. T. Thread 25c
- 8 Spools Merricks " 25c
- 6 yds Lonsdale Muslin 49c
- 5 yds " Cambric 50c
- 5 yds Orchid " 40c
- 8 yds Cabat W 49c
- 10 yds Best Calico 50c
- 9 yds Best 32 in Percal 75c
- 6 yds Apron Check Gingham 36c

All our \$1.00 and \$1.25 Ladies Kid Gloves at the pair 83c. No gloves fitted except at regular price.

25 doz. Men's Fancy Sox regular 25 cent values 19c

25 doz. Men's Balbriggan undershirts and Drawers regular 25c per garment Surprise Sale price the suit 38c

120 yds Fancy Cotton Waists sold everywhere at 50c our price for Saturday's sale 3 yards for \$1.00

Japanese Crepe imported direct from Japan by us, Surprise Sale price 12 1/2c

1000 yd Torchon Lace from 2 to 5 in width Surprise Sale price 4c

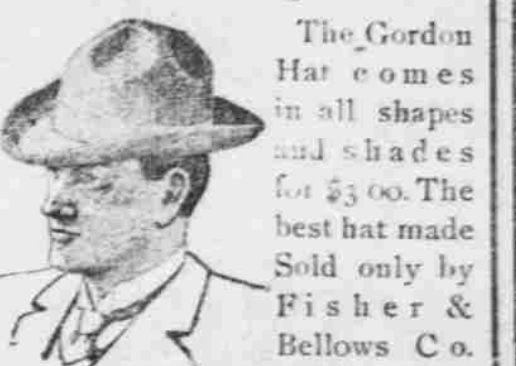
20 pieces Lawns and Dim ties last year's styles, excellent for Dressing Saques Waists and Wrappers regular 10, 12 1/2 and 15c values, Sale price per yd 5c

Saturday's Specials

Groceries

- 5 cans Standard Corn 50c
- 3 " " Tomatoes 30c
- 3 " " Beans 25c
- 3 " " Oysters 15 25c
- 2 " " Economy Cream 30c
- 3 " " Carnation " 29c
- 2 " " Defiance Baking Powder 16 oz 25c
- 1 can Golden West Baking Powder 16 oz 25c
- 1 can Royal Baking Powder 16 oz 45c
- 1 can K. C. Baking Powder 25 oz 20c
- 3 can Egg Phosphate Baking Powder 8 oz 25c
- 4 pkgs Arm & Hammer Soda 25c
- 4 " " Cow Brand Soda 25c
- 2 " " Grape Nut 28c
- 3 " " 5 Minute Mash 25c
- 3 " " Wheatine 35c
- 2 " " Cream of Wheat 35c
- 2 " " Presto 20c
- 2 " " Cero Fruito 25c
- 2 " " Force 25c
- 1 gal Acorn Syrup 40c
- 4 lbs Vermacilli 25c
- 4 " " Macaroni 25c
- 2 bottles Suider's Catsup 35c
- 7 bars Silk Soap 25c
- 6 bars Diamond C Soap 25c
- 6 bars Ble-ehing 25c
- 16 lbs Japan Rice \$1.00
- 8 lb Granulated Sugar 49c
- 4 pkgs Goss Starch 25c
- 4 " " Corn " 25c
- 1 lb Best Spider Leg Tea 38c
- 2 lb Best 15c Coffee 25c
- 1 lb Best 25c " 19c
- 2 cans best imported Sardines 25c

Saturday's Specials



The Gordon Hat comes in all shapes and shades for \$3.00. The best hat made. Sold only by Fisher & Bellows Co.

We carry a full line of staple groceries and can save you money by purchasing of us.

The Ultra \$3.50 Shoes for Ladies is the perfection of Shoe Making combining all that is neat, pretty and stylish with the most durable and lasting.

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We have a few pieces of Swiss Embroidry, new designs suitable for making corset covers and other purposes. These goods are cheap at double the price we ask. 12 in width Sale price 35c. 8 in " " " 25c. 5 in " " " 19c.

Also a few cheaper grades at half regular price.



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OTHER NOMINATIONS.
Thurman Chaney, of Myrtle Creek, school superintendent; J. L. Casebeer, of Deer creek, assessor; Jasper Shook, of Oakland, surveyor; Dr. C. E. Bogue, of Myrtle Creek, coroner, were all nominated by acclamation, they being the only names presented before the convention.

For delegates to the state convention the following were placed in nomination by Wm. Moore, who read them from a written list or slate: O. P. Coshov, F. B. Waite, W. H. Jamieson, Dexter Rice, Peter Nelson, J. D. Hamilton, Joseph Lyons, C. L. Chenoweth, David Crosby, E. J. Stroud, Dr. E. J. Page, F. G. Micelli. Mr. W. B. Hastings did not like the slate candidates and placed in nomination T. J. Williams, of Wilbur. Mr. Williams declined and the other twelve gentlemen were elected without opposition.

DEER CREEK DISTRICT.
As nominee for justice of the peace for the Deer Creek District (which included the four Roseburg precincts) Atty. John Long was chosen. For constable, Stephen Van Houten, a republican, who announced himself several days ago as an independent candidate, was endorsed.

Democratic ticket.
Senator—O. P. Coshov, of Roseburg.
Representatives—Willis Kramer, of Myrtle Creek; F. P. Well, of Elton.
Sheriff—Thos. E. Bledsoe, of Drain.
Clerk—Zopher N. Agee, of Oakland.
Treasurer—J. T. Bryan, of Roseburg.
Commissioner—Morris Webber, of

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