

**CURRENT POLITICAL DISCUSSION.**

The Questions at Issue Before the People of Oregon Today.

**HARTMAN - FURNISH**

**THE COUNTY JUDGE WILL BEGIN A SUIT**

Says he Will Personally Pay All Expenses of the Action if a Judgment is not Secured in Favor of the County.

Pendleton, Or., May 28, 1902. (To the Editor)—In your report of Mr. Furnish's speech here on the 26th, you quote him as waiving his rights under the statute of limitations, in case suit is brought against him to recover illegal fees.

I promise the taxpayers that this suit will be brought and I further promise that I will pay all of the costs of the suit, in case it does not result in a judgment in favor of the county. He charges that insinuations have been made. This cannot apply to me for I have tried to make direct charges in all cases over my own signature. I get my information from the records and files of the clerk's office, and anyone can do the same. The law fixes the fee of the sheriff at \$2.66 per day for attendance on the county court. It also fixes the fees of the jurors and witnesses at \$2.00 per day. I do now charge him with presenting to the county court a claim which was allowed, Nov. 16, 1892, by the county court,

and to which he added 5 per cent to his per diem for attendance at the county court. Now, admitting that county warrants were not worth face at that time did anyone ever hear of adding five per cent to jurors' or witnesses' fees for attending court? Now, I repeat that in many cases 15 per cent was added to his already stuffed claims, and that the one selected is only a sample. I also repeat that he advanced money to the county without any authority of law and charged 15 per cent for the use of it for about thirty days, and as the script drew eight per cent, I repeat that this makes 188 per cent per annum. Bills, such as he claims to have paid out money for should have been presented to the county court, the same as jurors witnesses and other claims to be audited.

I have only mentioned a few items of the many that the suit will expose in the total of \$48,000 paid him by the county during his four years' term.

Now as to him spending large sums of money at the primaries, the county and state conventions. He did not seem to have the crowd with him when he denied this, if it can be called a denial, as there was no applause at this point. Your report states that he "challenges anyone to show where he spent a dollar in this manner," practically admitting it, but challenging anyone to catch him at it. I am reliably informed that he promised, Jack Matthews, of the Portland campaign committee, \$15,000 for his use alone, in case he was nominated, but I can't vouch for this as there is no record available. We, who know him best, know that he does not allow a few dollars to stand between him and political success.

In his charge that he has been shamefully vilified and misrepresented, and that the attacks were actuated by disappointment and jealousy on one hand and bitter personal antagonism on the other, I cannot feel that he means me, for I never met a disappointment in my life and am not of a jealous disposition, but on the contrary am too confiding, and there is not the slightest tinge of the personal in anything I have said or done.

I consider it a duty to make the effort to recover anything of value that has been wrongfully taken from the taxpayers of this county, and there is no doubt in my mind of being successful in the case.

There does not appear to have been any demand by the people of the state of Oregon for his nomination, except that originated in his own fertile brain. I base this statement on the fact that there are at least one-third of his own party in this county openly opposed to him. And again I repeat that but for his wealth his name would not be coupled with the nomination of governor G. A. HARTMAN.

**MR. STRAIN CORRECT.**

The Assessment of a Valuable Block in Pendleton is as he Stated It.

Pendleton, Or., May 28. (To the Editor)—I charge that assessment and taxation in Umatilla county is not equitable or fair. Some property is assessed too high and other very much too low. I have cited cases of too low valuations, placed upon property by Assessor George Buzan, candidate on the republican ticket for re-election, notably that of the railroad corporations, which are assessed at something like 10 cents on the dollar, and the Byers mill block in Pendleton and others. On the tax roll for 1901 this block, on which the big brick mill building, and three big warehouses are situated, is assessed at \$1000 for the land of the block and \$10,000 for the improvements, or a total of \$11,000 for the entire block and the brick mill buildings and warehouses. A fair valuation of this property is fully \$100,000 and a fair assessment compared to the assessed valuation of other property in Pendleton and other parts of the county would be \$30,000. I am told that Mr. Byers admits that his property is under-assessed compared with other property but that he was not aware of it until recently, when his attention was called to it. In any event the tax rolls in the sheriff's office are as I have stated them here, as can be verified by a visit to that office.

I am led to make this statement here because friends of Assessor Buzan are denying the truth of it when it is made by my friends in the county districts.

C. P. STRAIN, Democratic candidate for Assessor

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