Oregon Scout.

AMOS K. JONES, - - - EDITOR.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 1891.

THAT $1,200 APPROPRIATION.

Considerable talk has been indulged in recently concerning an appropriation made by the county court last summer to improve the wagon road from this city to the depot, and certain actions of Nelson Schoonover who was appointed by the court to superintend the work and disburse the money. The La Grande Chronicle, of the 2d inst., contained the following:

A very little probing around the court house at Union is liable to reveal some richness from present indications. The records show that an appropriation was made on or about June 7, 1890, of $1,200 in county funds for the purpose of improving the county road from Union depot to the city of Union, and that N. Schoonover was appointed to superintend the expenditure of the same. The records show that Mr. Schoonover drew five two and two one hundred county warrants and receipted for the same. The Chronicle has made critical investigation with a powerful magnifying glass and has been unable to discover any improvements whatever. Mr. Schoonover is a subscriber to The Chronicle and will no doubt see this item and in behalf of the taxpayers of Union county we tender him the use of enough space to tell where the improvement referred to was placed or where the county warrants drawn by him can be found. The county court's attention is also respectfully called to the fact that space is tendered them or either of them for an explanation of this somewhat strange proceeding.

Upon investigation we find that the statements made by The Chronicle are correct. Following is a copy of the journal entry of the 7th day of last June, appearing on page 40, volume E, of the records of the county court:

In the matter of petition to grade road from Union to Union depot and fencing same.

Now at this time, based on the petition of taxpayers this day filed herein, it is considered and ordered that there be and is hereby appropriated for the purpose of straightening and grading the county road leading from Union to Union depot the sum of twelve hundred ($1,200) dollars, and that Nelson Schoonover be and he is hereby appointed superintendent to draw said warrants for said purpose. It is further ordered that no part of said work be done or appropriation expended until Hutchinson Bros. shall make a good and sufficient deed in fee simple to the county for county road purposes only, of a right of way over their lands forty feet in width clear of the Union Electric Power and Light Company's right of way. (Signed)

O. P. GOODALL,
County Judge.

Being loth to believe that there was anything in the matter that Mr. Schoonover could not satisfactorily explain we sought an interview with him, and he said that he would answer, through our columns, the article that appeared in the Chronicle, but, on account of the late hour at which it was handed in, we were unable to publish it in our last issue. It is as follows:

SCHOONOVER'S ANSWER.

UNION, Oregon, Jan. 7, 1891.

EDITOR OREGON SCOUT:—

Will you kindly inform the editor of the Chronicle, through the columns of your paper, that I am greatly indebted to him for his generously extended offer of the columns of his paper to reply to a communication appearing in the last issue of his paper, reflecting on me. I hope, however, that in as much as I have stolen nothing that I need do not ing more than thank him for his generous offer.

In the month of December, 1890, a gentleman, the first letter of whose name is Samuel A. Pursel, was a candidate for mayor of the city of Union and at the election, I felt that the interests of the city would be better subserved by the election of his opponent. I think if I should say nothing now this would be a sufficient explanation of the mare's nest referred to, so far as those who know me are concerned. But to those who do not know me I will say that in June, 1890, the county court, without my knowledge, made an appropriation of $1,200 to purchase and to straighten and grade the road from the Union depot to the town, and appointed me to superintend the work and notified me of the fact. I immediately drew the warrants and made preparations to commence to work, but when I made inquiry about the scrapers, I was informed that there was a few days work yet to be done on the Union railway and was asked to wait until the scrapers could be used in the completion of the grade on that road. Before the completion of the work on this grade, my harvesting came on and I was compelled to go at that, which lasted eight or ten weeks. When I was again ready to commence work, the question of completing the railroad at an early day had become one of serious doubt by reason of which fact I determined that it would be as well to wait until spring, and now that the completion of the railroad at an early day is a settled fact, it is my intention to commence work on the road as soon as I can possibly do so, economically, unless the people of Union should say turn the money back, in which case back it goes. But I know and every man in Union knows that when the railroad is completed it will be impossible to leave the road in its present zig zag form and operate it and the railroad at the same time, to say nothing of the condition of the land through which it passes.

This I think is all the explanation I have to make. I have been the county's agent for doing work on roads that need heavy grade work, for many years. Why not punch me up on some of the others. There may be something wrong about some of them.

You will find that I could not always do the work as soon as it might have been done, by some one who had less business of his own and more of other people's to attend to.

N. SCHOONOVER.

Mr. Schoonover has been a resident of this county for many years and has, we believe, always borne a good reputation for veracity and honesty. Whether he has "fallen from grace" or not we leave our readers to decide from the foregoing. They are as able to judge as we are. If the La Grande papers think that fraud has been committed they are perfectly right in ventilating the matter, for that is the most sacred trust that falls to journalism—the righting of wrongs and guarding the interests of the people. THE SCOUT has never failed in this yet when convinced that action was necessary. So far as the appropriation in question is concerned we believed at the time that if the road between this city and the depot could be straightened for that amount of money it would be well expended, for the road gets very bad in the winter and would be crossed five or six times by the motor line. In an interview with Judge Goodall on this subject a few days ago he said that one of the conditions upon which the appropriation was made, was that the Hutchinson Bros. were to build and maintain a wire fence on the south side of the road the entire length through their land, as it was thought this would prevent the piling of snow drifts across the road. We fail to see any mention of this, however, in the journal entry copied above.

The La Grande Gazette, with the narrowness for which it is noted, seems to see in this matter a villianous plot to rob the county, in which the newspapers and all the people of Union are implicated. Whatever its opinion may be regarding the individual actors in the affair it is going too far in its insinuations against us and the people of Union. It says:

Why should the matter be preserved with such secrecy and every effort put forth to hush it up? Why did the two great conservators of public morals, published at Union, say nothing of this appropriation at the time it was made, and why do they not now demand that the money be expended as originally intended?

If the editor of the Gazette will look at the court proceedings published in THE SCOUT at the time—issue of June the 19th—he will find that a full statement in regard to this appropriation was published, also of the appropriation of $600 made to grade around a bend in Grande Ronde river above Hilgard, to save the construction of two bridges; the appropriation of $200 in Starkey Prairie and $500 in Eagle val to assist the people of that valley in opening up a road petitioned for by L. L. Holcomb and others. The Gazette will please not confound the actions of THE SCOUT with those of the Republican across the way, a concern in which we have as little confidence as anyone could have. We do not wish to be judged, or to have the people of Union judged by anything it has said or done, or may say or do in the future. THE SCOUT does not "now demand that the money be expended as oririnally intended." It has expressed no opinion concerning it, being willing to let the county commissioners adjust the matter according to their best judgment. It is free to say, however, that since the proposed motor line has been changed to a regular railway on which steam engines will be used, it doubts very much the advisability of constructing the wagon road alongside of it.

No one in the county need feign to be ignorant of the appropriation being made, for THE SCOUT gave it wide publicity at the time. If there is anything wrong in Mr. Schoonover's actions none would be more anxious to ferret it out than the people of Union. This is proven by the fact that last week a petition for the county court to investigate the matter was circulated in this city and signed by nine-tenths of the representative citizens to whom it was presented, many of whom were Mr. Schoonover's personal friends. They felt that if he was clear of any base designs or intrigues he could easily prove himself innocent; if guilty he could not be brought to time any too soon. The result of this action on the part of the people here was that the court looked into the matter, and, as noted in the court proceedings published elsewhere in this paper, required Mr. Schoonover to furnish good and sufficient bonds to do the work when ordered by the court, or to return the money on demand. This bond Mr. Schoonover gave with W. T. Wright as surety.

THE city council, in obedience to a provision in the charter, notified THE SCOUT and Republican a short time ago, that sealed bids for doing the city printing for the ensueing year, would be received and awarded to the paper that would do it the cheapest. Both papers sent in bids which were opened in the presence of the council. The members of that body not being familiar with the names of the different size types and the printing terms used, appointed a committee of three to investigate the matter and report. That committee were either imposed upon or made a mistake in their figures some way, for they reported the bids were very close, but slightly in favor of the Republican. The council, thereupon, awarded the contract to that paper. We are informed that in making up their report the committee figured up the proposal of the Republican on job printing which they allowed it to make, verbally, after ascertaining our bid, a proceeding that is without precedent. But, permitting their verbal bid to stand and giving them all possible allowance, the bid made by THE SCOUT is, at least, one half less than that made by the Republican. We are willing to leave this to any unprejudiced printer or newspaper man. In view of these facts we respectfully ask the council to reconsider the matter at its next meeting. We do not wish to believe that they mean to intentionally do us an injustice.

SPEAKER REED remarks contemptuously that the next house will be an assemblage of cranks, says the San Francisco Examiner. It is true then a good many remarkable ideas will find expression among some of the untutored statesmen cast up by the tidal wave, but Mr. Reed need not look askance of them. He will not find among them all, from sub-treasury to land mortgage scheme a notion more wildly fantastic than the idea that a nation can tax itself rich.

THE Farmer's Alliance is a protest against the unequal distribution of the profits arising from labor in production. A protest against these economic methods which give to labor a bare living and make capital the beneficiary of all life's pleasures and comforts. It is a protest against forced economy, debt and privation to the producer, and peace, plenty, happiness and prosperty to the non-producer.—Alliance Tribune.

OUR farmers, very truthfully says the Advocate, are taking their first lesson in learning to think for themselves, as they have been paying rather dear for the whistle, they will take lessons and do their own thinking in the future. It is proved beyond any successful contradiction that they can think for themselves much cheaper than to employ an expert.

WE would earnestly urge the people of the southern portion of the county to be on the alert and checkmate and schemes put up by the Baker City "ghouls" in their efforts to annex that portion to Baker county. Remonstrances should be circulated and sent to our representatives in the legislature without delay.

A WORD OF CAUTION.

In this as in every other locality where it is known, there are hundreds of persons who are taking Joy's Vegetable Sarsaparilla. To those we want to say one word. In nine cases out of every ten it is effecting specific cures. But word comes to us occasionally of people who report that it operates too freely upon the bowels. We want to call the attention of those to the fact that they are not following the printed instructions and are taking too much of it. If it acts too freely reduce the dose, never taking any more at any time than causes easy and perfect action. Keep this injunction in mind, and take it regularly for a while and do not indulge in too much greasy food and we will have your testimonial within a fortnight. If taken under these conditions it is an absolute cure for indigestion, dyspepsia, sick headaches, constipation, face eruptions and liver and kidney disorders. It may be asked how it can possibly cure so many ailments. But the reason is clear. All those troubles are the legitimate result of improper liver and kidney action or impaired digestive organs. Its effects upon those functions are as astonishing to the medical fraternity as to the thousands who are daily taking it.

THE COUNTY COURT.

Record of the Business Transacted at the January Term.

Road petitioned for by A W Strange et al; dismissed on account of indefinite description.

Road petitioned for by George Lafferty et al; same.

The reports of the following road supervisors were duly approved and their claims allowed: C S Miller No. 5; Jno Graham, 16; John Elliott, 17; Robert Cummins, 18; J W Minnick, 20; J R Gilkison, 27; A P Greener, 31; Dan F Moore, 28; L C Marley, 33; John O Mickleson, 37; H A Hansen, 41; W S Hamilton, 34; G G Gray, 7; D H McWaters, 39; D W Elledge, 1; W G Peach, 4; Jesse Imbler, 10; A Shaw, 12; Jacob Hug, 14; Henry Gressman, 13; John McCall, 3; John McCall, (deputy) 44; Charles Howell, 30; Robert Frizzell, 11; J H Riggs, 36; John Alderman, 29.

Road petitioned for by J A Shafer et al; dismissed.

County Clerk Oliver ordered to draw an entry instructing road supervisors in regard to the new road law and to forward a certified copy of the same to each supervisor.

Liquor licenses granted to Ott Bros., of Island City, and Thorson & Co., of Elgin, the former for a period of one year and the latter for six months.

Duncan McLean, of Island City, appointed coroner to fill vacancy.

Arch Johnson appointed constable of Union precinct.

Nelson Schoonover was ordered to hold the appropriation recently made and turned over to him, for the purpose of grading the Union-Union depot wagon road, subject to the order of the court, and to pay over the same when required by the court; and further that he file with the clerk a good and sufficient undertaking to faithfully perform the trust thus conferred upon him. [A bond was given with W. T. Wright as surety.]

Clerk ordered to solicit bids for lining the corridor of the jail with a sheeting of steel to insure the safekeeping of prisoners.

Road petitioned for by L L Holcomb et al; the conditional appropriation of $150 heretofore made was ordered paid as the conditions were complied with, and it appearing that there was yet due the sum of $35 on road work the same was ordered paid by the court. William Gover, the superintendent of this road was settled with in full.

Two hundred names were selected from the tax roll to serve as jurors the ensuing year.

Sheriff made his return on the delinquent tax roll and the same was ordered returned to him with warrant returnable on the first Monday in April.

Robert Ruckman ordered to refund to the county the sum of $50 paid to him out of the county treasury for damages by reason of county road pasthrough his land, the supreme court having decided that the alleged road is illegal and does not exist.

The following persons were appointed to serve as road supervisors for the year 1891. The respective numbers of their districts are set opposite their names:

D W Elledge	1	Warrer. Frazier	23
Ed Mulholland	2	Thomas Shaw	24
E J Parker	3	L S Kelsay	25
W G Peach	4	J A Tucker	26
C E Davis	5	J R Gilkison	27
H L Dougherty	6	Dan F Moore	28
E E Willard	7	Geo Henderson	29
Clark Oliver	8	Chas Howell	30
George Ackles	9	Chas Oliver	31
Ed Garn	10	D Hawes	32
Robt Frizzell	11	L C Marley	33
A Shaw	12	Peter McDonald	34
Jno Cantrell	13	J W Lytle	35
Jacob Hug	14	Jas H Riggs	36
THigginbotham	15	Charles Wyatt	37
J Graham Jr	16	W J Townley	38
E E Taylor	17	A Thompson	39
Al Keifer	18	P G Strickland	40
Steve Connor	19	H A Hansen	41
A Wilkinson	20	Wm Stafford	42
W A Cates	21	Jas K Graham	43
W T Martin	22	Jno Rynearson	44

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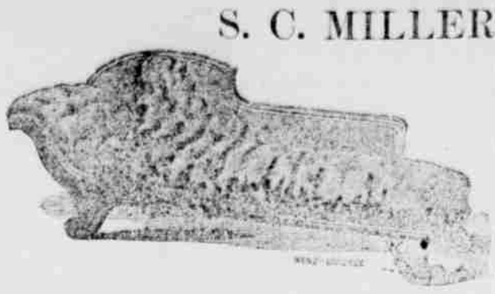

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