

The News Record

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THURSDAY, Editorial Page, APRIL 9

Wallowa County's Candidate.

There is one office that Wallowa county voters of the blue ballots on April 17, need not hesitate over. That is circuit judge, for which the Hon. Daniel W. Sheahan is the only candidate from this county. Not only as a matter of county pride but for many other more material reasons we hope that the great majority of the Democratic voters will place a cross between the number "15" and Mr. Sheahan's name.

Mr. Sheahan's ability is unquestioned. Attorneys say that in legal knowledge Mr. Sheahan ranks with any lawyer in Eastern Oregon.

His platform is "impartial, speedy and economical administration of justice in both counties of the district." Impartiality is the chief attribute of the judge. Mr. Sheahan would keep the dockets of both counties open all the time, which insures both speedy and economical administration of justice. It means, of course, hard work for the judge but Mr. Sheahan is a hard worker from choice and if he had to make several trips a month between Enterprise and La Grande to accommodate litigants and attorneys, he will do it.

Union county has taken to herself heretofore practically all the district offices except joint representative. There is a disposition out there this spring to act more fairly, and it is neither betraying a secret nor speaking without knowledge when the News Record says that if the Democratic voters of this county give Mr. Sheahan the support on April 17 that he deserves, he will be nominated.

A final fact that is quite important from a Democratic standpoint, if nominated Mr. Sheahan will probably be elected. Hundreds of Republicans, not only in Wallowa but in Union county, are his friends, and he would poll a big vote among them. In addition, the Socialist and Independent vote is more likely to go to him than to any other old party candidate because of his known broad views on questions of public policy.

Without anything but good will toward the other worthy gentlemen who aspire to that high position, the News Record hopes that the next judge of the Tenth judicial district will hail from Wallowa county.

The Square Deal in County Politics.

For the good of the county as a whole, as well as in all justice and fairness, the North Country should have a personal representative on the county court. That great section of the county has road and bridge problems peculiar to itself, and about which few men in the valley are familiar. The conditions are fully known only to men who live in the North Country. When the appropriations for the W. H. Nicason hill and the Deer Creek road were made at the last term of court, the editor of the News Record was present and noticed that the court relied upon Mr. Wilson for data to guide them in the matter. This we are told is of daily occurrence during a term, for every day something comes up involving men or conditions in the North Country.

Mr. Wilson retires on July 1, and there is but one candidate in either party from the North Country to succeed him. No matter how the election goes, there will be at least two members of the court this side of Sled Springs. In all fairness the third member should come from north of Sled.

The North Country, through its local paper, the Flora Journal, asks that the rest of the county give it a square deal by helping to nominate its candidate for county commissioner, W. C. Locke, who, the Journal says, is "as good a man as the county affords."

Mr. Locke will not get everybody's vote up north. No one could do that. There are men in the valley, possibly, that don't like him. He wouldn't be much of a man if he didn't have some enemies. But practically everyone says he would make an excellent member of the court, so there is no reason why he shouldn't receive the hearty support of all lovers of the square deal in county politics.

No less than five Portland Republicans are after Railroad Commissioner Aitchison's job. They are comparatively unknown in Wallowa county. One, A. N. Hamilton, is reliably reported as unfit, both in character and ability. The other four may or may not be good men. Mr. Aitchison is known to be a good man. He was considered good enough by Governor Chamberlain who appointed him. Both the Oregonian and the Journal praise his ability and say he is square. Jay H. Dobbin of this county knows him personally and believes he should be renominated. His two years experience on the board should decide in his favor even if any other or all the candidates were his equal in ability and fairness.

The special attention of every reader of the News Record is called to what is said in the Grouse letter in this paper about a bridge across the Grande Ronde. There is one of the best parts of this grand county, but it is undeveloped and will remain undeveloped until given an outlet to market. "We are poor and will always be poor as long as we remain locked up." They are willing to help themselves as far as they are able, and the county should meet them more than halfway. The only argument offered against building the bridge is the Harriman argument against railroads for Central Oregon. In a few years after the bridge is completed the increased assessment of Grouse, Eden and the Wenaha Valley would more than repay the amount expended by the county.

There is a movement under way in the North Country to build a telephone line to Sled Springs to connect with the Forest Service line

WALLOWA COUNTY'S CANDIDATE FOR CIRCUIT JUDGE.



Hon. Daniel W. Sheahan, of Enterprise.

"The law's delays!" Hamlet enumerated that as among the chief reasons why men would "shuffle off this mortal coil," if it were not for the fear of the unknown beyond the grave. So there were vexations and unnecessary delays in justice when all the world was a stage for the Bard of Avon—before Coke's time; many, many years before Blackstone required a whole volume to tell of the excellencies of the common law and was too near-sighted to see a single defect.

There were delays centuries before the people of Wallowa and Union counties found just cause for complaint, but that makes it none the easier to bear in this year of our Lord.

A county with two terms of court a year and all the remainder of the time the court of justice a "sealed book," must necessarily see the worst side of the administration of justice. Litigants, jurors, and witnesses called from their home and business and detained days and weeks while cases are being brought to issue by attorneys, wronged litigants seeing their all scattered away by tedious waits, until the whole sum in dispute is swallowed up in expense bills. Jurors and State witnesses drawing their per diem for many unnecessary days and weeks spent at court, until the total is a very large sum that is a big drain on even so fat a pocketbook as the Wallowa county treasury. These are a few of the ills that past conditions have developed here.

In Union county are long-drawn out jury terms, the jury trying about one case a week. Cases not at issue and a big expense piling up every day.

This may not be the fault of recent occupants of the bench but is a system inaugurated years ago when there was but little court business in either Union or Wallowa county. At present the court work in the two counties is such that the judge should be at work practically all the time to keep the dockets clear.

Hon. D. W. Sheahan, the leader in years of service as well as in other respects, of the Wallowa county bar, has seen and suffered from the delays as have other lawyers. He is a candidate for the Democratic nomination for circuit judge and if elected will surely put a working plan in force, that would save thousands of dollars to Wallowa and Union county people. He would keep the dockets in BOTH COUNTIES

running from there to Wallowa. The Home Company will build from Flora to Sled Springs if given sufficient bonus. This line when completed would be a toll line, and while better than none, there should be a free line. Free county service should be the rule for telephone systems and placed in all franchises.

Our Word About the Candidates.

The News Record is an independent newspaper but is by no means neutral where a principle is involved, or where in an election it is not simply a choice between two or more candidates all well qualified, and no question of public policy at stake. When this condition prevails the News Record will state its convictions without fear or favor. When it is only a choice between good men with no issue involved, they will all look alike to us, regardless of party brand.

There is a big issue involved in the contest for the Republican nomination for U. S. senator. H. M. Calk is the avowed champion of the right of the people to elect. He is a clean man personally so far as we have heard, and the only thing said against him is that he is a corporation attorney, which may be only a tribute to his ability as a lawyer. On the other hand, Fulton must be set down as opposed to the popular election of senators. He is opposed to Roosevelt and the Roosevelt policies. He trains and encourages the dirty tools of lawless corporate interests in Washington in their mud slinging campaign against the President. Fulton is openly charged by Francis J. Heney with being a grafter, and all he does is to make faces at Heney and say "tisn't so." Last week's Colliers, the great national paper, speaking of Fulton, says: "Out of the nest they fouled all the political crooks and thimble-riggers that have dominated Oregon for years, have been

driven—all but one. He has been pilloried in the stocks of public contempt, but the law is powerless to reach him."

Unless we mistake, the decent Republican voters of Oregon will reach him on April 17, and Fulton will be elected to stay at home.

For some reason Chamberlain's petition for the Democratic nomination for senator was not in time to put his name on the ballot, but it will be written there by the voters. We don't know anything about the Democratic candidates for congressmen, and precious little about the Republicans. Must be all good men for bad things are always told about candidates. The only argument we have seen for Geer's appointing Daddy Ellis is that the former put his card in the News Record, but we are afraid that's entirely to personal for us to dwell on. We guess none of the four would sea anybody into his down at Washington by their transcendent abilities.

For supreme court justice, dairy and food commissioner and circuit judge (Republican), you pay your money and take your choice. For the first two named offices the Democrats have no candidates, and the last named is treated at length elsewhere on this page. The Republicans for railroad commissioner and for Wallowa county commissioner are also given special treatment.

Both Eberhard and Rusk have signed Statement No. 1, and walk on nothing, except rumor, against the character of either. The Democrats will write in the name of a mighty popular man, but it would be "telling" to name him now.

While H. N. Williams forgot to put his candidate's name in the News Record, believes it is for the interests of the county as a whole, that he be nominated for county judge. McLain is a good man too, but as we understand it Williams says June settles the court house question with him. That's our platform to the dot.

Aside from those mentioned in this and other editorials, if there is any choice among all the other candidates, other than a personal one, the News Record is unaware of it. It is claimed that this or that one is supported by the whisky men, but investigation shows their opponents have supporters from the same crowd. None that has a possible chance for success is disqualified by lack of character or ability for the office he seeks. To those so disqualified, we would not add a drop to the cup of bitterness that defeat will hand them a week from Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Courtney of Lostine were in town the latter part of the week, guests of the latter's sister, Mrs. J. L. Hartshorn. Mr. Courtney has the News Record sent to his father, P. L. Courtney, who was a resident here two years ago, but is now living at Orange, California.

Candidates cards at the News Record office—neatest work, quickest delivery.

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