

West Side Enterprise.

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JULIUS N. HART.

This paper is accused by the McMinnville News of exhibiting considerable familiarity with the duties of a district attorney, and for that reason it is intimated should state whether it is for or against Mr. Hart. Not necessarily. If so, the News falls farther short of its own requirement than the WEST SIDE ENTERPRISE, for the Yamhill paper reproduces the article from this paper, adds a stick of comment and leaves its readers in darkness as to whether the McMinnville purveyor of news is for or against Mr. Hart.

The fact is it is not the proper function for newspapers to be for or against individuals so much as for or against measures. It is only in an individual's relation to a policy or public duty that a paper is called upon to favor or oppose that individual and the only concern the press or public has about Mr. Hart is as to whether or not he fills the requirements of the office of district attorney. Capability of a high order and unqualified integrity are qualities essential to the man who should fill this important trust. There have been complaints against Mr. Hart, the present district attorney touching his ability and zeal in living up to his oath of office and such complaints have come largely from Yamhill county. As to whether reports emanating from that county are true or, are idle talk this paper has not sufficient information at hand to state. Yamhill county stories of "graft" and incompetence belong in the bailiwick of the McMinnville papers and we pass them up to the News.

As a matter of fact, people as a rule, are too ready to criticize a public official and much said against them is unjust. Since this paper has been under its present management there have been allegations from this locality charging the district attorney with "standing in" with law breakers in the matter of gambling.

Investigation has been made into the matter and Mr. Hart's action in the case we consider within the warrant of the law. As to giving one of his deputies, J. H. McNary of Salem, part of his salary, Mr. Hart makes no denial of that. Mr. McNary's extra compensation comes under the head of pay for services rendered for appearing before the justice of the peace across the river from Salem in Polk county.

Objections may properly be urged against this division of salary. While there may be nothing especially bad in such arrangement, it has nothing to commend it. Division of salary tends to a division of authority and influence and has no ten-

dency toward the elevation of the office. A man honored with the nomination of the republican state convention should be big enough to be district attorney alone. Political exigency should not be permitted to split the office in order to favor any one. That is what weakened state printer, J. R. Whitney with the party.

It has been persistently claimed and never denied that Mr. Whitney in return for the influence that secured his nomination pays a certain sum during his term as state printer. Such arrangements are objectionable and will operate to make it harder for those who share in them, to be elected by the people. The objections are no less applicable to the office of district attorney than to the office of state printer.

GOVERNOR AND THE FAIR.

The replacing of George Chandler, president of the state board of agriculture, by W. F. Matlock was an executive mistake.

It savors of politics and was undoubtedly done for political reasons. Already, it is bearing its fruits, for Mr. Westgate, another member of the same political faith as Chandler, has resigned.

The fact is Mr. Chandler formerly was a democrat, but like many others left the democratic party in 1896 because of its stand on the money question. Generally speaking, men who changed their party affiliations in '96 and swore allegiance to the gold-standard party, were pretty good men. Subsequent events have proven that they foresaw what was for the country's weal and had the courage to espouse what seemed at the time to be an unpopular cause. Men of that class cannot be truthfully accused of lacking "in courage or discernment. But Governor Chamberlain, his acts would indicate, is too partizan to tolerate a man of that kind. In the governor's political eyes, he is a common deserter. Had these deserting gold democrats stood for free silver and voted the ticket, Bryan would today be president and how different things would be. But Chandler's name is not found on the Bryan list. He committed the unpardonable. His head is in the waste basket. The State Fair Board is disorganized. It has no president. One of the five members has resigned. Of the four remaining, but one served on the old board that conducted fairs so successfully the past few years. That one is not active.

Such are the conditions wrought by the injection of politics into the State Board of Agriculture. Mr. Chandler had just been selected by his fellow members of the board as the most suitable among them to serve as president. The action of the Governor in not re-appointing him inferentially takes issue with their judgment and invites them to try again. There is no other alternative. They are left without a president and Chandler is stricken from the list of eligibles.

It is unfortunate for the interests of the State Fair that the Governor should see fit to have the board's president replaced at this time especially as George

Chandler had served for years on the board and was familiar with the work having served when the fair was at its best which was the past four years. It really was not a matter into which political considerations should enter. Governor Chamberlain in this might have buried politics as was done by his predecessor. When it devolved upon Governor Geer, to fill out by appointment the personnel of the board, inquiry was made all over the state for a man that would fill the requirements. W. H. Wehrung was selected as the best qualified man available. He was appointed regardless of political belief or affiliations and for the sole reason that he was known to be a good business man who took pride in making a success of all his undertakings, and a man of integrity. Wehrung became the leading member of the board, was made its president and was backed in all he did by the governor. Wehrung was of opposite political faith to the power that appointed him and was in position to injure Geer politically more than it was possible for Chandler to hurt Chamberlain. Wehrung was at the time of his appointment a member of the state senate and wielded his influence against Geer politically. But he made a success of the state fair. Under Wehrung it was better each succeeding year until last year when the high water mark was reached. On one day last year the attendance was 22,000, nearly double that of and preceding day in the history of the fair. The fair under the Wehrung management was redeemed from the disrepute into which it had fallen under the old board of twelve. People of the state were taking a pride in it and for the past few years it has furnished exhibits to be proud of and there have been no charges of grafting. At the 1903 exhibit, the banner year, Polk county took the blue ribbon for the best county exhibit. She is ready to vie with sister counties any year and the fact that such experienced and tried men as Wehrung and Chandler cannot be retained at the head of the fair is deplored.

It is now the Matlock board against the Wehrung board. Friends of the fair will wish it success while regretting the change.

Horace G. McKinley has returned from the east; S. A. D. Puter is in California; and Marie Ware is in Eugene ready to answer the government charges of fraudulent manipulations in government lands. In case of Booth and Bridges the report of the special agent was denounced, the record made clear so far as they were concerned and they were commissioned to continue in the land business. Defendants in this case could not ask for more.

Many Oregonians will be pleased to learn that C. H. Markham will succeed Mr. Kruttschnitt of the Southern Pacific with headquarters at San Francisco. Mr. Markham always lent a willing ear to the requests of Oregon people.

Sheriff Storey of Portland has

at last reached that ripe old age to which some must attain before they learn that in politics promises are often made but to be broken.

The Carey crowd won overwhelmingly over the Simon crowd in Multnomah county primaries last week. This should settle it. Every nominee should be elected.

Mr. Hermann claims the credit of getting a rural delivery route established out of Rickreall. Will he now secure one leading out of Independence, to the south?

The Albany Democrat advises the populists of Linn county to take part in the democratic primaries. The Democrat's

kindness is excelled only by its liberality.

The Independence Improvement League will meet again Monday evening at the city hall. The doors will be open at 8 o'clock. Everybody is invited.

Larry Sullivan and Sheriff Storey got shoved off in the political scramble in Portland last week.

Conundrum — Who'll be nominated by the republicans for state senator in Polk county?

There is nothing so uncertain as a political "certainty."

Every American is a politician under the skin.

Portland and Return \$2.40

The Southern Pacific Co. is now selling round trip tickets to Portland from Independence, for \$2.40 good going Saturday or Sunday returning Sunday and Monday giving all day Sunday and Monday in Portland. The same arrangement applies from Portland, giving Portland people a chance to visit Valley points at greatly reduced rates.

Will Open Up Here.

The Oregon Lumber Wood Light Co. of Falls City will be ready to supply Independence trade with any kind of fir lumber or wood by or about the first of April. It will pay you to get our prices.

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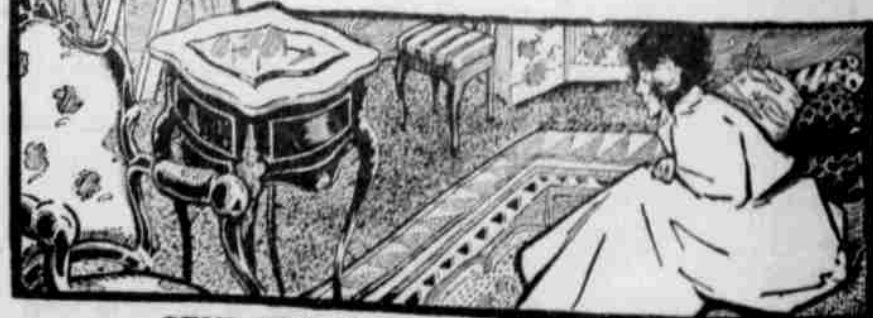
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