

Municipal Ownership

The growth of sentiment in favor of municipal ownership of public utilities is growing in every part of the country. In his recent speech at Stayton, Oregon, Governor Chamberlain came out squarely and plainly on this issue, using the following language:

"Franchise grabbing has gone on for such a length of time that the people have become accustomed to having valuable rights frittered away without just—and in most instances without any—compensation being paid, but the time has arrived when a halt has to be called upon legislating away the rights of the people without a full, adequate and complete consideration being paid. I strenuously oppose the granting of any perpetual franchise, and if limited franchises are given at all it ought to be done with strict limitations and for short periods only, and so that absolute control and supervision may be retained by the people themselves, and whatever franchises are granted ought to be taxed at what they are actually worth, so that the beneficiaries may be compelled to contribute a just proportion of the burden of government."

"BUT BETTER THAN ALL THIS IS THE PUBLIC OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL OF PUBLIC UTILITIES SO THAT THE STATE AND SEVERAL MUNICIPALITIES MAY UTILIZE THEM, NOT FOR PROFIT, BUT AT THE LOWEST RATES COMPATIBLE WITH THE PUBLIC GOOD"

It is true that there are some people who hold the old-fashioned idea that "the earth and the fullness thereof" belong to private corporations, and among these may be mentioned James Withycombe, Republican candidate for governor, who said in his keynote speech, on opening his campaign at Corvallis:

"PUBLIC UTILITIES, I BELIEVE, ARE BEST ADMINISTERED BY PRIVATE INTERESTS RATHER THAN BY PUBLIC SERVANTS, FOR IN THE LATTER CASE SELF-INTEREST, THE GREATEST OF INCENTIVES, IS LACKING AND THIRTYLESS AND UNBUSINESSLIKE METHODS WILL SURELY SOONER OR LATER PREVAIL."

"I believe that the people should reserve control over all public utility franchises to the extent necessary to insure the greatest efficiency of the public service at the least expense, subject only to the right of capital to be justly compensated for its investment. I must not be taken, however, to have a lack of regard for vested interests; our laws should and wisely do protect capital in its investment."

This talk of Withycombe smacks too much of the times gone by when it was the vogue to enulogize the "captains of industry," many of whom are now under indictment by the Roosevelt administration, it not actually in prison, for violation of the laws. This no acute regard for the welfare of capital is suspicious, to say the least; capital is able to take care of itself generally and it is the public interests that officials take a solemn oath to safeguard. This divergence of views marks a wide difference of opinion between George Chamberlain, a plain man of the people, and James Withycombe, who stands for the "vested rights" of private monopolies.

Jonathan Bourne, Bigot

The nomination of this man Jonathan Bourne for the high office of United States senator sends a hark back of the turbulent days of A. P. Aism. If we remember rightly, and we think we do, Mr. Bourne, as a Republican member of the legislature from Multnomah county, some years ago, refused to vote for Sol Hirsch for United States senator, after he had received the caucus nomination of his party. The reason he gave for bolting his party at that time was that he "would not vote for a Jew." That was at a session of the legislature previous to the famous holdup where Mr. Bourne kept open house at Salem, where populists and free-silver members are said to have in-

dulged in orgies during a 40-days' holdup of the legislature, that were not entirely compatible with the regulations of good society and the ethics of approved morality.

The principal point to be considered is whether Mr. Bourne's election will not mark a return to the disquieting times of race and religious prejudice. It is now an accepted fact that good citizenship should be the measure of a man, not the religious creed to which he subscribes or the accident of his nativity, which no man can control. In this country there should be no class or race distinction, no Jew or Gentile, no Catholic or Protestant, so far as affairs of government are concerned, and this view is so just and so generally accepted at this time that it would seem a mistake to elect to office a man possessed of the narrow religious bigotry exhibited by Mr. Bourne on the occasion referred to.

Withycombe Case Fairly Stated

Portland Daily Journal. James Withycombe, candidate for governor, has never been assailed by the Journal, either directly or indirectly, on account of the fact that he is not a native born citizen of the United States.

There has never been a hint nor a suggestion that he is less worthy to be governor of Oregon because his birthplace was in England and not in the United States.

The sole criticism made by the Journal—and it is a just criticism—is that for seventeen years after coming to Oregon James Withycombe remained an alien, and not until he became ambitious to hold public office did he forswear allegiance to Great Britain and become an American citizen. This is the charge against him, not that he is of foreign birth.

Mr. Withycombe seeks to excuse his extraordinary delay in becoming naturalized by saying that he supposed it unnecessary, imagining that he had become a citizen because his father had declared his intention of so doing. Any man with the most rudimentary knowledge of the laws relating to citizenship would have known that the father's mere declaration of an intention which might never be carried to consummation could not by any possibility make a citizen of the son.

Other members of the Withycombe family realized this fact years before it seemed to have dawned upon James. His two brothers became naturalized respectively five and eight years before he finally saw the necessity of forswearing allegiance to the British flag and enrolling himself under the Stars and Stripes.

For seventeen years James Withycombe was a resident of Oregon without becoming a citizen. For thirteen years of this time he exercised the privileges of citizenship, although he had no legal right to do so. In 1888 he became ambitious to go to the legislature and then for the first time he took the trouble to look up the law and found that he was not a citizen.

A naturalized citizen, under our broad and liberal system of government, has the same right to seek state office as one who is native born. But an alien who comes to our land and who remains for seventeen years in gross ignorance of the laws of citizenship, becoming naturalized only when he wants to break into public office, may well be regarded with doubt.

Same Old Bunko Game

The Oregonian is at its old tricks again. Yesterday it came out with the customary biennial dispatch from Washington stating that the eyes of the nation are upon Oregon and, in brief, expects this state to go Republican in order to save the nation and the G. O. P. from eternal damnation. It even goes further and has Senator Charlie Fulton intimate that Roosevelt is losing sleep for fear a few Republican justices of the peace may be defeated out here, because the world would look upon such an occurrence as a condemnation of his policies.

Same old gag and the same old Oregonian and Charlie Fulton springing it upon a public that has been hearing it regularly every two years for the last quarter of a century!

Four years ago when Furnish was

running for governor the Oregonian had that same story from Washington. Furnish was defeated, but the Republican party of the nation managed to survive the shock and carry the next presidential election.

Three years ago, when Binger Hermann was a candidate for congress at the special election the Oregonian worked the frazzled lodge by printing that infamous snapshot showing President Roosevelt on the rear platform of his special train with his arm around the oily Binger. The voters bit that time and elected Hermann, although they knew that Roosevelt had just kicked him out of the general land office for unlawful acts.

Two years ago the dodge worked again and Binger Hermann and J. N. Williamson were re-elected to congress because Roosevelt wanted them—and in a few months both were indicted for criminal practices by the officials of the Republican national administration.

With this record before them the voters of Oregon are not likely this year to be caught with the same old bait. They have voted for "any old thing" just to please Eastern Republicans, as reported by the Oregonian, and "fire the first gun" for the old party until the state's political corruption has become a byword and a reproach throughout the nation; and they intend to vote hereafter according to the dictates of an untrammelled judgment. Charlie Fulton, the practical politician, will have enough to do to keep his own record clean without essaying to crack the party lash about the shoulders of men whose love for Oregon, her welfare and honor, will be uppermost in their minds on election day.

Resolutions to Censure Withycombe

On July 13, 1905, the board of regents of the State Agricultural College had before them the following resolutions:

Whereas, It is a self-evident fact that the interests of the State Agricultural College and the United States experiment station are and must always be paramount to the interests of any individual; and

Whereas, It is a matter of public notoriety that James Withycombe, director of the station and professor of agriculture in the college, several months since did announce himself as a candidate for an important political office and has continually and systematically worked to advance his political interests to the neglect and great detriment of the college farm, the classes in agriculture and investigations of the experiment station; and

Whereas, Such action and neglect upon the part of James Withycombe is entirely incompatible with the duties pertaining to his position in the college and station, is subversive of the educational interests and welfare of the institution, hence a violation of the moral obligations due the board of regents and the state of Oregon; therefore be it

Resolved, That said James Withycombe is hereby given the alternative of either withdrawing his candidacy for a political office or resigning the position he now holds in the college and station; and be it further

Resolved, That if the said James Withycombe has not acted as herein indicated within a period of ten days from and after the date hereof, his position shall become vacant at that time without further action of this board.

Note the date, about the middle of 1905, when there were no politics stirring except in the Withycombe brain. Four of the eleven regents voted for the resolution, two Republicans and two Democrats—W. P. Keady, of Portland and J. D. Daly, secretary of the board, who from his position must have known of Withycombe's neglect of college duties, Republicans, and James K. Weatherford and Walter M. Pierce, Democrats, both the latter graduates there. At least one of the regents who voted to save Withycombe was a candidate for office himself.

Here is the question which every voter must answer for himself: If Dr. Withycombe neglected his college duties for which he was being paid a big salary by the state—several times the amount paid the working man, with less than ten months' work to the year—is he not liable to neglect the duties of governor, if elected, for his private interests? Do you want to take chances on such a man?

The figures taken from the record and printed in the GUARD show an

interesting study in county commissioners' salaries. During the 1902-4 term Edwards received \$1301.57 and Hill \$735.90; during the 1904-6 Edwards drew \$1461.00 and Price \$1087.05. This showing indicates that Mr. Edwards is learning by experience how to increase his perquisite, and that Mr. Price is more alive to his own interests than his predecessor, Mr. Hill, although a novice as compared with his more experienced colleague, Edwards. The detailed figures tend to show, however, that Mr. Price is improving under the tutelage of the thrifty Edwards, inasmuch as he has been paying himself more salary monthly of late than when he was first inducted into office. The problem the taxpayers have to figure out is an interesting one—what will be Mr. Edwards' salary at the end of another four years' term, if re-elected, at the present rate of increase? They might also inquire where the law justifies any such salaries as those received by the commissioners, but that would probably be an impertinent question for people, who have nothing to do but pay the bills, to ask of officials who have nothing to do but to spend the money.

The candidacy of Hon. R. M. Veatch for state senator is being received with favor in every part of the county. During the twelve years that he represented the people in the legislature he stood for economy in expenditures and for the interests of the public against all corporation measures. The voters remember this record and it is doing much to rally to Mr. Veatch's support a large class of independent voters who realize that a good, strong man is needed in the upper branch of the legislature from Lane county. This movement is strengthened by the fact that there is no political significance in the choice of legislators this year, since the candidates of both parties have signed statement 1, pledging themselves to vote for the people's choice for United States senator. This being the situation it is up to the voters to choose the best men for legislators, those most thoroughly equipped for law making, and measured by this standard Hon. R. M. Veatch will certainly receive a very decided preference among the rank and file of all parties.

George W. Perkins, former vice president of the New York Life Insurance Company, according to a decision of the appellate division of the supreme court of New York, committed no crime when he contributed \$48,702.50 to the presidential campaign fund in 1904. It looks like this decision makes looting of trust funds for future political campaigns very easy. A man has a right to give from his own wealth for purposes outside of his business, but it is hard to see where he obtains the legal or moral right to lavishly contribute from other people's money, of which he may happen to be in control, for such purposes. If Mr. Perkins had a right to give \$50,000, why not \$500,000? Such a decision makes it imperative to pass laws strictly defining the responsibility of holders of trust funds.

Hon. J. D. Matlock has placed himself on record as of the men to so earnest and consistent advocates of municipal ownership in this city. He has been plain and outspoken on this subject as on all others that concern the public welfare—he is not trimmer or a dodger, keeping his eyes glued on the weathervane of public opinion, but rather a man of firm opinions, possessing in a notable degree the courage of his honest convictions. Such a man as J. D. Matlock is needed in the office of state treasurer and we feel confident that the people of Lane county think so too. He pledges himself to stop the practice of loaning the state funds for private gain, and what he promises to do, it is certain he will do if elected.

Puter did some very pretty swindling, selling timber lands that he did not own, to wealthy Michigan investors. His arrest at San Francisco, though, proves him not entirely bad. The earthquake and fire had left his wife sick and in distress, and he risked his liberty to aid her.

Sheriff Fred Fisk seems to be meeting with such universal endorsement and hearty encouragement in his canvass for re-election that it is about in order for a motion to make it unanimous. This state of affairs leads to the reflection that the people of any community may be trusted implicitly to discriminate between good official service and recreancy to public duty. Mr. Fisk has served his constituents faithfully and in turn they show their confidence in him by decreeing that he shall retain a position of trust and responsibility. It is this erasing of party lines upon occasion that is the strength of popular government, when citizenship is placed above partisan prejudice and earth is recognized at its true value. The same spirit that in a larger sense caused two million lifelong Democrats to cast their ballots for President Roosevelt crops out in state, county and municipal elections all over the nation, and the growing independence of the voter is the most cheering tendency of the times. Sheriff Fisk is a Democrat in politics for reasons sufficient to himself, conscience being a man's truest guide in such matters, but above all party considerations he is a faithful official and as such is loyally supported by hundreds of Republicans, who realize that after all parties are organized and maintained only that good and sufficient government may be secured. That is the Rooseveltian idea and it is growing in popularity among all classes of good citizens.

Hon. J. D. Matlock is assured of a splendid majority in Lane county because he is one of us—the only local candidate on either state ticket. Moreover, the record of the life he has lived is an open book wherein all men may read a story of honest, earnest endeavor, of manly effort and achievement, and these are the essential elements of a well-directed life. Mr. Matlock has passed through these successive stages that are common to most self-made Americans—he has been a laborer, farmer and business man and at all times he has kept his own self respect and secured as well the confidence of those with whom he has come into contact. No man has ever been nominated for the responsible position of state treasurer who is better fitted to fill the office; he desires no graft, no perquisites outside of the constitutional salary and will see that all interest earned by the public funds will go into the treasury, where of right it belongs. In his platform Mr. Matlock makes this pledge and every Lane county voter knows that his word is as good as the best bond ever written.

The Junet-on City Times says the GUARD isn't very independent politically. Well, perhaps not this year—it's hard to be neutral when two strong men like Chamberlain and Geary heading one ticket against Bourne and Withycombe on the other side. Beyond that the GUARD has little interest in the state candidates—except that it believes J. D. Matlock, the only candidate from Lane county, should get a big vote at home. And after all our readers will find the GUARD independent enough, politically and otherwise, when occasion arises, but don't make the mistake that being independent means to be neutral and cowardly upon subjects where public opinion is divided.

This T. T. Geer, whose speeches are being printed in so many party organs of the state, is apparently the same man who is alleged to have sold appointive state offices to Sheriff Hy Plummer, of Polk county and others during his term of office; whose administration was so distasteful to his own party that a nomination was refused him by his state convention. A pretty politician to talk about honest government and criticize the acts of a governor like Geo. E. Chamberlain!

An open road to the Blue River mines is a better platform for Eugene than any political party has yet put out.

Don't vote straight—vote right! This advice holds good to Democrats and Republicans alike.

Hon. J. D. Matlock, candidate for state treasurer, has always been and is now a consistent advocate of municipal ownership. While this has no direct bearing upon the office of state treasurer, it may be taken as an index of the political creed to which Mr. Matlock subscribes, having always been one of the plain people and not a corporation man and opponent to the monopolistic tendencies of the times. He furthermore believes in flat salaries for all state officers and does not desire to handle the state funds in the interest of some favorite bank as has been the custom in the past. These are some of the many reasons why Mr. Matlock should receive a rousing vote in Lane county, where he has lived so long and always stood so high among his fellow citizens.

Candidate Withycombe's brother John took out naturalization papers in February, 1880, and another brother, Thomas, in June, 1883. The candidate for governor, however, voted right along, though a subject of the queen of Great Britain, till the spring of 1888, when having a political hat in his bonnet—he desired to go to the legislature—he got naturalized. Now he says he did not know it was necessary—thought his father's taking out papers sufficed for him, a minor. It looks strange that his brothers taking out papers he should not have realized the necessity of doing so himself. Under these admitted facts not a few will entertain the belief that Mr. Withycombe was careless about the matter for those thirteen years before he renounced the queen at the age of thirty-four, that he was just as willing to remain a subject of Great Britain as to become an American citizen.

J. J. Walton for Representative

Lane county interests cannot fail to be well looked after the coming session of the legislature, judging from the character of the candidate of the several parties. Among the number J. J. Walton, for representative, for a number of reasons stands well to the fore.

Judge Walton has seen considerable service in public matters in Lane county, thereby being more than usually well fitted to legislate for the best interests of the people. He was county judge eight years, was an important factor in the securing of the state university, of which he was regent many years, then secretary of the board of regents till recently, when the growth of the university demanded that an office somewhat of the character of a business manager should be established, into which the secretaryship was merged. In the city and school district he has held positions as councilman and director for considerable periods. The high school was built under his direction.

Then Judge Walton is a considerable taxpayer, has a personal interest in low taxation, would vote for economy in state affairs. He owns a brick block in Eugene and the valuable acreage property where his home is located on the east side of the mill race between Eighth and Ninth streets. Keeping up his home property and growing a good garden he gets not only the satisfaction that comes from outdoor labor, but some profit and best of all, good health.

Lane county interests would be well looked after by Judge Walton in the event of his election. His past history is his recommendation for the future.

DEMOCRATIC TICKET

- State. U. S. SENATOR John M. Geary. CONGRESSMAN Chas. V. GalJoway. GOVERNOR Geo. E. Chamberlain. SECRETARY OF STATE P. H. Sroat. STATE TREASURER J. D. Matlock. SUPREME JUDGE T. G. Hayley. ATTORNEY-GENERAL R. A. Miller. STATE PRINTER J. Scott Taylor.

- County. STATE SENATOR R. M. Veatch. REPRESENTATIVES L. K. Edmunson. James Hayes. J. J. Walton. COUNTY CLERK J. C. Parker. SHERIFF Fred Fisk. COMMISSIONER S. M. Douglas. SURVEYOR S. Klordahl. CORONER R. M. Day. JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, 2d DISTRICT GENE DISTRICT Geo. W. Kinsey. CONSTABLE, EUGENE DISTRICT L. Bonney.

COUN F The F meeting, public pe... petition To the of L Gen of Eugene this com with the of the l erty ow nated at willamet bridge a street. very nee county e ed on a n river an native tr ent and ground i tent as a and time cur body to prevent p mised in addi moral of will sec and und portion done w will cau least on point to but subst such rul care and as will be aral park county i measure- are citizen n of his pr think, i public sp vance for are you this matt Mo By Mrs. Mrs. Eugene. O. J. K O. J. K head by livery st day, Ma the foret home ce tenth a morning he recel time bef scious an covery, was such sible. Orid county, n land is in 1903. H greater gene thro employe injured f He leav -two bo rents an ters, as Foster, Albany: Mrs. Ne Mrs. Mar lma, Wa of Fisher Only t entire fa at the ol in reunie The de gme Can carrying The Pe ed franc Company traction lines dov Portland by a una bers of t The st elected t Austin wer, C Mrs. Clu ard, W stward, lino, Os R. Hirs tary, Mr