



VOL. XX.

## THE SCHOOL FUNDS AGAIN

## MR. BAIN SUGGESTS A GOOD WAY TO SETTLE MATTER.

Proposes to Act With Superintendent and Mr. Randall in Going Over Books and Records of the Office.

Supt. Rigby's explanation looks quite plausible to the casual reader and to the uninitiated might appear alright, yet he has not gotten to the points at issue. He has indulged in a long "evasion" of generalities without touching particularly upon facts.

The superintendent says at the beginning that my assertions are false, yet he makes false statements in an effort to show that I am a liar. I contend in my former communication that the school funds were not apportioned in accordance with the law and the superintendent's own statement shows it to be a fact. His figures in both the April and October apportionments show discrepancies particularly in the amount apportioned to district No 10 in April and district No 2 in October to my certain knowledge. Whether this hold good in other districts I am unable to state positively, not having access to the books and records at this time.

His explanation of the method of appropriating the funds, or rather that the treasurer is the custodian of the school fund, was unnecessary. I am not attacking the treasurer's books for they were thoroughly examined by the county expert at the time the county records were under examination. It is a fact that the treasurer has the handling of the funds, but not one penny is paid out except upon the order of the superintendent. It is the accounts between the latter and the various district clerks that need the investigation. He admits favoring certain districts which he wished to "tide over" and unabashedly states that he advised district clerks to evade the law in making their annual reports. From appearances the superintendent has handled the school funds to the particular interest of certain districts without regard to the law, or the effect it would have on other districts.

District No 2 did not ask directly for an April apportionment, but in reply to his own inquiry as to the amount of funds it would likely require for the school year, stated that it would need in the neighborhood of \$600. It had always been the custom to make an apportionment in April and the districts naturally expected it. Although he found but three districts in need of money the superintendent apportioned to the entire 29. What became of the surplus of the 26 districts that did not need it? Was it returned to the general funds to be re-apportioned?

Supt. Rigby pleads ignorance as accountable for his mistakes and would make it appear that this was his first offense. As a matter of fact his attention had been called to this manner of apportioning the school funds over a year ago but he took no notice of it, at least, he failed to take the matter far enough to do the school districts any good.

If he charged up the various districts with the over amount upon finding he had "misinterpreted the law" why was not the matter adjusted at the October apportionment at which time he admits the law compels him to apportion the entire school fund to the county treasury? I fail to see the equity of his "tiding over" certain districts to the detriment of others that are following the law. We have laws governing these matters and until they are repealed or amended we should follow them.

Now in conclusion I would suggest that The Times-Herald arrange a time suitable for Supt. Rigby and invite Mr. Randall, the gentleman who was employed to expert the county books and records, to meet with me and the three of us go over the records of the school superintendent's office and I will prove my assertions. It seems that trying the case over in the newspaper does not bring out the required results anyway. The school patrons of Harney county desire justice in every respect and that is the end I am working for and not newspaper notoriety. I want it understood, too, that I volunteer my services in this matter of going over the records of the superintendent's office and that no charges will be made

for my time regardless of the number of hours, days or weeks it requires.

I also desire that The Times-Herald publish the result of this investigation.

THOM BAIN.

## COUNTY EXPENSES LAST YEAR.

County Clerk Mothershead's report to the secretary of state shows the following expenses in Harney county for 1906:

Expense of county court and commissioners	\$ 2,077.79
Circuit court	7,735.94
Justices' court	190.30
Sheriff's office	3,399.98
Clerk's office	3,399.98
Treasurer's office	699.98
Coroner's office	253.50
School superintendent's office	873.48
Stock inspector	380.24
Assessor's office	1,629.50
Assessment and collection of taxes	62.20
Tax rebates	21.68
Current expenses	795.74
Court house expenses	1,246.42
Jail	449.70
Poor, care of	3,863.96
Electric expense	1,582.29
High school, building, teachers' salaries, etc	4,130.36
County fair appropriation	250.00
Road supervisors salaries	1,500.00
Road and bridge account	829.96
Total expense for year	\$35,373.00

The financial condition of the county was never better at this season of the year. With but two months until taxpaying time and practically no expense after the warrants drawn at the January term are paid, the treasurer will have a very substantial balance on hand. The report of the treasurer shows cash on hand Jan. 1, 1907, \$13,240.23, with warrants outstanding to the amount of \$1,134.62, leaving a balance of \$12,105.61 to the good.

## New Lumber Mill.

There is excellent authority for the statement that President David Eccles, who was here a few days ago, has completed plans for the building of a large, modern, saw mill at Austin station, including a planing mill plant and that he will extend the Sumpter Valley railroad to Prairie City in the John Day country.

This means that instead of hauling the logs from the forest into Baker City and cutting them up here, the finished lumber will be hauled down and shipped from the South Baker yards to the east.

The manufacturing will be done close to the timber and expense of operation saved.

Report of the new plans could not be confirmed last night by officers of the company here, but there is reason to believe Mr. Eccles has contemplated this move for some time.—Democrat.

## Will a Farmer Be.

V. B. Staples has purchased of Mrs. E. Stewart 20 acres of choice land adjoining the townsite of Ontario and in the spring will improve the same by planting it to alfalfa, orchard, etc. Virg will make an overall farmer hard to beat. He will look good coming to town with his one-horse shay bent on selling radish, cabbage, eggs and "sich" things.—Argus.

## Beats the Music Cure.

To keep the body in tune, writes Mrs. Mary Brown, 20 Lafayette Place, Poughkeepsie, N. Y. "I take Dr. King's New Life Pills. They are the most reliable and pleasant laxative I have found." Best for the stomach, liver and bowels. Guaranteed by City Drug Store, 25c.

## INTERESTING INDIAN LEGEND

## EASTERN OREGON SCENE OF RED MAN'S MYTH.

Love Affair of a Brave Warrio and Young Maiden Caused the Deep Cut in The John Day Canyon.

The following Indian legend concerning the John Day river was recently published by a San Francisco paper:

"The John Day river in Eastern Oregon, has through long centuries of erosion, cut a narrow channel several hundred feet deep, extending from the Columbia river far back into the interior. The canyon is considered one of the richest fossil fields on the Pacific coast. There is a curious Indian legend in connection with the formation of this canyon.

"Many years ago, long before the advent of the white man, this section of the country was inhabited by a powerful band of Indians, perhaps it may have been the same tribe as is now known as the Umatillas. The chief of the tribe was Eagle Feather, a man known far and wide as a mighty warrior, and at the same time a man of rigid justice and honesty. He had a son a strong, handsome lad, who was the pride of his father's life, and the old chief had many pleasant visions of a powerful warrior who should rule in his place after he had gone to the father."

"One day as the young man was hunting some distance away he came upon a beautiful maiden of another tribe and immediately fell in love with her. Thereafter much to the disgust of his father, he lost all interest in hunting and fishing and every thing that made a warrior great. The old chief scolded and threatened but to no effect, and finally in desperation prayed the Great Spirit to separate the two so that they could never see each other again.

"That night the heavens were dark and the rain fell in sheets and the breath of the Great Spirit shook the earth. When the sun rose clear in the eastern sky the next morning the Indians looked from their tepees on a deep narrow chasm, from whose depth came the muffled roar of a raging torrent. The young man separated from the object of his love, paced disconsolately up and down the brink of the chasm.

"At last he sat down on the side of a boulder and there remained in stoical silence. And even after the shades of night had settled down and the full moon had risen in the eastern sky, shedding its mellow light over the earth, he still sat gazing toward the home of his loved one. The next morning he was not to be seen and, although the old chief in his sorrow searched the country for miles around he was never seen afterwards.

"There are Indians still living near the same place that will tell you that if you station yourself a little distance from the boulder, some evening, when the moon is full, you may see the spirit of the young man come from behind the rocks and take its place on the boulder and there remain until the morning light dispells the shadows and if you listen closely when a slight breeze stirs the leaves you may hear a low heartbreaking moan."

## SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES.

Showing, as by law required, the amount of claims presented, filed and recorded against the County of Harney, State of Oregon, and the amount allowed at the regular January, 1907, term of the county court:

TO WHOM ISSUED AMT CEM'D AL WED

Joe Hill, jurors circuit court and mileage Oct.

and Nov. term 1906... \$ 16.00 \$ 16.00

Wm. Bardwell, ditto 24.00 24.00

A Egli, ditto 34.00 34.00

Emory Hill, ditto 15.00 15.00

Jasper Davis, ditto 16.00 16.00

J W Shown, ditto 16.00 16.00

George W Casfield, ditto 24.00 24.00

J B Bunyard, ditto 20.00 20.00

Matt Riggs, ditto 2.20 2.20

Chris Lackman, ditto 2.20 2.20

Ed Springer, ditto 2.20 2.20

Boht, Drinkwater, ditto 2.20 2.20

Ora Hill, ditto 2.20 2.20

J M Bunyard, ditto 2.20 2.20

E Dixon, ditto 2.00 2.00

Frank Whiting, ditto 3.00 3.00

F Seigrist, ditto 2.20 2.20

Tom Sager, ditto 2.20 2.20

H Richardson, ditto 2.20 2.20

Vic Gibson, ditto 2.20 2.20

Simon Lewis, ditto 2.20 2.20

J H Gulp, ditto 3.00 3.00

J P Farris, ditto 2.60 2.60

BURNS, HARNEY COUNTY, OREGON, JANUARY 26, 1907.

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## NORTHERN PACIFIC BUTTS IN

## BUYS ASTORIA &amp; COLUMBIA RIVER RAILWAY LINE.

Shows the Plan of Hill to invade Harriman Territory in Central and Western Oregon—Trunk Line.

The Portland Journal says:

After negotiations extending over several months, the Astoria & Columbia River railroad was yesterday purchased by the Northern Pacific Railroad company. The price is not known, but the Northern Pacific is said to have taken over all of the stock and property under the optional terms of a lease by which trackage from Goble to Portland, 39 miles, was granted to the Astoria road by the Northern Pacific some years ago.

The Oregon tax commission in its report for 1905 returned the Astoria & Columbia River railroad as follows: Total valuation \$2,363,122, mileage 82, valuation per mile \$28,820. The road was owned by H. E. Huntington, A. B. Hammond and General Hubbard of New York.

Repeatedly rumors have been published to the effect that the Harriman interests had purchased the Astoria road, but such a disposition of the property was from the first illogical, as it is said the Northern Pacific, in granting a 99-year lease of its trackage from Portland to Goble, exacted in the original agreement a provision that should the Astoria road be offered for sale the Northern Pacific should have the first option to purchase.

It is said the Northern Pacific recently concluded to exercise this option, and that it is a part of a Hill plan to build down the west coast of Oregon.

Surveyors have been in the field for some time between Seaside, the coast terminus, and Tillamook. They have been working extensively under orders from the Hammond management, but it is now believed that these operations are but a part of the Hill scheme of invasion of Harriman territory. This explains the warmth of the contest that has been on between the Astoria & Columbia River and the Pacific Railway & Navigation company agents for rights of way between Seaside and Tillamook.

It is reported that the Oregon Coast & Eastern, promoted by Baker and Crabtree of St. Louis, is a part of a great scheme of Hill to cross from east to west, in conjunction with the proposed line from the mouth of the Deschutes river to central Oregon. If such a plan is worked out, the Hill companies will have a system paralleling the coast and crossing the state from the mouth of the Siuslaw, via Eugene, to central Oregon, and there connecting with the Deschutes river line, completely hemming in the most productive portion of the state.

Robert Irving, drawing jury list Harvey pres' 3.00 3.00

Jasper Davis, ditto 3.00 3.00

Alma Davis, ditto 3.00 3.00

Geo. W. Cleverley, chair for circuit judge 1.50 1.50

J L Scott, lunch for jurors 6.00 6.00

F A Cole, meals, ditto 6.50 6.50

Carl Weiser, serving summons on A J Johnson 12.00 12.00

C E Peterson, rebate on taxes 1905. 3.89 3.89

Mrs C Luckman, washing for prisoners 7.10 7.10

H E Thompson, board for prisoners 36.00 36.00

G M Shad, Peace officer at primaries and June election 6.75 Disal'd 3.00 3.00

New Hoover, services as Road Master dist No 2 64.00 64.00

James Gilbert, ditto, No 1 184.90 184.90

Pacific States Tel Co, for Dec and Jan. 14.00 14.00

Times-Herald, printing 17.95 17.95

A E Richardson, jail fees and stamp 37.75 37.75

W L Marion, salary for one year as health officer 150.00 150.00

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Lattle Going Up

Manager Brown, of the Baker City Packing company, the largest meat producer and stock buying institution in eastern Oregon, is authority for the statement that the local cattle market is steadily improving and is now nearly at the figure where it was before the slump last month, says the Baker City Democrat of January 9. In a few days it is expected that normal prices will prevail.

Between the 15th and 20th a solid trainload of Baker county prime beef will be shipped to Portland.

Why not put your money in a bank? I have a large sum of money in a bank and it is safe.

I will not only be able to sell it—same time—but will be able to sell it quickly. I am a member of the Bankers Association and have a large sum of money in a bank.

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