## DEMOCRATIC COLUMN

This column is conducted by the Democratic County Central Committee. All communications should be addressed to T. Y. Dean, chairman, Grants Pass, Oregon. Any questions concerning the political situation, asked in good faith and signed, will be cheerfully answered.

### DEMOCRATIC STATE TICKET.

For Supreme Judge—Thomas O'Day, of Multnomah county.

For State Food and Dairy Comissioner — W. S. Douglas of Douglas County.

For Congressman, First District—R. M. Veatch of Lane county.

For Judge, First Judicial District—J. R. Neil of Jackson county.

For Prosecuting Attorney, First District—A. E. Reames of Jackson county.

For State Senator—L. Bilyeu of Lane county.

### COUNTY TICKET.

Representative—Robert Glenn Smith.
Commissioner—John Wells.
Assessor—H. C. Perkins.
Sheriff—C. F. Lovelace.
County Clerk—J. A. Slover.
Treasurer—J. T. Taylor.
School Supt.,—Dennis H. Stovall.
Surveyor—H. J. Reynolds.
Coroner—W. H. Flanagan.
Justice of the Peace—Marcus Robbins.
Constable—George Hartman.

### Note and Comment

Is the county to run forever to keep up the Observer crowd?

The word has gone out from republican headquarters to muzzle the editors of the local republican press.

The question is not so much who shall be clerk or sheriff as to whether they shall be men who are owned or controlled by Chauses.

Next week on this page, we will give a recapitulation of the amount of money the Observer has drawn from the county and tax-payers through the medium of the clerk's office the sheriffs office and the county court during the past ten years.

The question now is shall Chausse's grafting of the county through the county officers be stopped or shall it continue forever? Next week we will give the amount he has obtained from the county through the various county officers during the past two years.

The Observer seems to be very close to the local water monopoly. The original reports of Mr. Grondahl and others are in possession of W. H. Hampton. Copies were in possession of R. W. Clarke, manager of the local water trust. Where did the Observer get them?

The Observer is very angry because some one has suggested he might be deputy clerk. Perhaps not, but has he secured the right to name the deputy? We have heard of a certain individual who made a great howl about six years ago because the republican clerk as he charged refused to allow him to name the deputy.

The Observer has had a good thing during the past two years in the county offices in printing supplies sufficient to last for the next two years. While the Hon. Geo. W. Colvig is preparing his matter for publishing in the Observer concerning the county's financial condition, why not show the amount that county officials have turned into the Observer out of the treasury of the people?

The unpleasant notoriety the Observer is giving Mr. Geo. H. Durham in an effort to defeat A. E. Reames, is under the circumstances, very contemptible. Mr. Durham, when the publisher was sued by Hume, generously volunteered his services and assisted in his defense. Now he is being repaid. He may well exclaim "Ingratitude, thy name is Oregon Observer!"

For years the water company has been fighting the right of the city to run sewers into Rogue river. The ordinance granting its franchise requires it take its water out above all sewers. This would cost it some money. It went so far once as to get an injunction against the building of a sewer and has threatened other suits. Mr. Clarke has been more than active in his efforts to assist his company in holding up the people.

### The Bridge and Dam.

The legal editor of the Observer has a long splurge about what it calls Smith's resolutions adopted by the democratic county convention. This is the resolution:

"We demand legislation to prevent corporations from erecting dams and obstructions in streams and rivers when the same shall menace or destroy expensive bridges upon the public highways."

"We commend our county court for its efforts to prevent the destruction of bridges across Rogue river; and demand that it shall continue its efforts until such danger is obliterated."

What is wrong about that? The Rogue river bridge is undoubtedly in danger because the Grants Pass Water Co. has propose1 to spend several hundred dollars to prevent further danger. The legal savant suggests that he found the law in Blackstone that covered this case. That is true. It is also true that all the laws of criminal procedure is in Blackstone, but nevertheless has been enacted into statutory law by all the states. It gives added force to it. In this matter the legislature should enact the law into a penal one and make a heavy fine and damages the result, and then such dams would not be built. Again the legislature can enact a law abrogating the common law that the learned lawyer quotes from Blackstone. There is on the republican legislative ticket in Multnomah county two attorneys of the owners of the local water monopoly to-wit: W. T. Muir and S. B. Linthicum. If they are elected and Mr. Clarke they constitute a strong working force. It has already been given out by one of their adherents that the owners of the water company will have a strong hold upon the next legislature. Let us hope it does not become strong enough to abrogate the law of Blackstone. Let it not be a strangle hold.

The closing is an intimation that the resolution was an attempt to help the building of a bridge and incidentally rob the county. Such thoughts come natural to those who would not hesitate to engage in such transactions, and sometimes to honest men in a moment of anger or misguided zeal. Let us be charitable enough to hope the latter is the true explanation. But no more of such dirty insinuations.

### In the Forest.

Willie on the tree
Singing pee-wee, pee-wee,
Cast your vote for Freddie
For clerk, you see
And a vote for me;
And my paper, by gee!
Pee-wee, pee-wee pee-wee.

P. S. Fred has since got a sling-shot and says he will stop that jay's noise.

### An Honest Answer Expected.

By mistake last week we said that railroad land was assessed at 75 cents. We apologize and repeat that it is assessed for $1.50. But the railroad mortgaged for $30,000 a mile is assessed for $4,400. This increase on land does not hurt the railroad very badly as much of the land is held under contract and the contract requires the intending purchasers to pay all the taxes. How about assessment of depot grounds in the heart of the city? Regardless of the results of the election, these inequalities should be corrected. Taxation should be equal. The Southern Pacific is not the only one escaping. All should be served alike and any honorable man should welcome any honest discussions that will bring about a change for the better. There are people in this world who cannot be deterred by personal vilification or abuse. Let this question be answered by the republican press of this county. Are you in favor of having the property of Josephine county assessed so that rich and poor shall be assessed at the proportions of its actual value?

### The Escheat Case

The Observer attacks A. E. Reames in a column editorial concerning that "$1000 fee in the escheat case." Well, what about it? The fee was allowed and fixed by H. K. Hanna, republican candidate for circuit judge, and was paid to W. M. Colvig (at present a republican) who is stumping Jackson county for Judge Hanna, and his partner Geo. H. Durham, a republican leader in Josephine county. The Observer may think it is hurting Mr. Reames but what about the judge who allowed the fee? Was this wrong? Was it wrong in Colvig and Durham to ask for such a fee and accept it? Let us have an answer.

Now let us take a little republican evidence in the matter from republican orator W. M. Colvig. In a letter written by him and published over his signature on the first pages of the Ashland Tidings of May 6th he says:

"I had known Wood for twenty-six years prior to his death, and was his attorney and confidential adviser. I told Mr. Durham about the condition of the estate, and he informed the governor. Governor Chamberlain appointed Durham a special attorney for the state in the matter. Mr. Reames is not blamable for failing to notify the governor, as the administration of the estate was yet running. He had plenty of time yet remaining in which to do so. Durham did not wait Mr. Reames' mode to request for assistance, did not doubt any, and absolutely had no notice of Durham's appointment until Mr. Durham and myself walked into Salem and laid the governor's commission down before him. And in the interest of an estate which show me to be that Mr. Reames did and was prompt in the matter. He acted from the best motives. I for one had no cause to complain of his conduct of the matter. I felt that I had made a mistake in the matter, and so stated to him. Reames did not,