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RESULT OF ELECTION

David Taylor and His Stand Taken on the Water Question Is Vindicated at the Polls.

A great deal of interest centered in the city election Tuesday, and the water issue was threshed out to a frazzle. The vote polled was the largest counted in a municipal election here for some years. The total number of votes cast was 150.

Interest centered in the water question and the people of Athena overwhelmingly sustained the stand taken by Mr. Taylor, returning him winner by almost a two to one vote over his opponent, Mr. Watts. Mr. Taylor received 98 votes and Mr. Watts 54 votes.

The race between Mr. Hawks and Mr. Foss for the office of city treasurer turned out to be a close one. Mr. Hawks received 80 and Mr. Foss 69 votes. Through a clerical error by the recorder in arrangement of the ballot copy for the printer, the names of these two candidates were not placed in alphabetical order as provided by the Australian ballot law, and Mr. Foss has stated that if he felt so disposed he could contest the legality of the election on that ground. He believes that he would have been elected had his name appeared on the ballot over that of Mr. Hawks.

A. B. McEwen had no opposition for the office of Mayor, and received 137 votes.

An unlooked for complication arises in the race for election of councilmen. It develops that George Gross, who received the highest number of votes of any candidate for that office, can not qualify for the reason that he has not been a resident for the required length of time, having been in from the farm a little over four months, the charter requiring six months residence to hold office. This is regrettable, for the reason that Mr. Gross has held office before and proved himself an able and efficient official.

As it now stands, W. W. Jacobs, who among others receiving scattering votes for the office of councilman, would be the logical office holder should he care to qualify, and the newly elected councilmen would be Betts, LeGrow and Jacobs. The vote for councilmen was Gross, 134; Betts, 124; LeGrow, 58; Jacobs, 7. The next highest man receiving scattering votes for councilman is Henry Keen, with four votes. Mr. LeGrow's name did not appear on the ticket for the reason that his acceptance of nomination was not filed with the recorder, although he received the highest number of votes in the nominating convention.

The ballots were cast in the election as follows:

For Mayor—A. B. McEwen, 137; scattering, 2.
For councilmen—G. W. Gross, 134; Chas. Betts, 124; F. S. LeGrow, 58; scattering, 26.
For Treasurer—Byron N. Hawks, 80; Austin A. Foss, 69.
For Recorder—B. B. Richards, 124; scattering, 1.
For Water Commissioner—David Taylor, 98; M. L. Watts, 54.

Prof. Case Re-elected Principal.
In recognition of his efficient services in the capacity of principal of the Athena High school, Prof. Case was elected to that position for another year, at a meeting of the school board, Tuesday evening. Mr. Case's services were in demand by other schools, and in view of this fact, it was thought best by the board to settle the matter of his retention at once. Other boards are also electing their principals at this time. Last week the school board at Milton re-elected Principal Young.

Death of Mrs. Fletcher.
Grandma Fletcher died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Weber, west of town Tuesday morning, aged over 85 years. She had been practically

helpless for about three years, and her death was due to a general breakdown incident to old age. Until the death of her daughter, Mrs. John Keen, she had made her home there. The funeral was held yesterday afternoon. The services were conducted by Rev. Bradley.

Miss Susan Lee was born July 20, 1825, in Hardman county Tennessee. She was married to Washington Eastwood in December 1844. Eastwood died from exposure and wounds received during the Civil War. Later she was married to Hugh Fletcher. In the fall of 1874 they crossed the plains to Idaho. From Idaho they moved to Umatilla county Oregon, where they lived for nearly a year. From this county they moved to Wallowa where Mr. Fletcher died.

A COUNTY BASEBALL LEAGUE

League With Pendleton, Athena, Weston and Pilot Rock is Talked.

Athena is asked to enter a baseball team in a proposed four-team league, comprising the towns of Weston, Athena, Pendleton and Pilot Rock. Clark Nelson, of Pendleton, was in the city Tuesday interviewing players and fans on the proposition. A meeting of the ball players now in the city is called for Sunday, at which time the baseball situation will be discussed.

The East Oregonian says: The four town baseball league is now assured, according to Clark Nelson, who has just returned from a visit to Athena in the interest of the organization. It is to be strictly an amateur league and the towns of Weston, Athena, Pilot Rock and Pendleton will be represented.

The Weston and Pilot Rock organizations have already been perfected and the Athena fans are to have a meeting in the near future to form the organization. Nelson reports much interest in Athena, the town which has the reputation of putting out the best ball teams of any city of its size in the entire northwest. It is therefore evident that when the Athena spirit gets to working properly that the town will be represented with a team which will not be found at the foot of the pole in the race for the pennant.

Athena will be the most fortunate town of the empire league in many respects. The new city park which is being formed will include a baseball diamond as well as a track for field meets. As the park is supplied with shade and is almost within the very center of the city the conditions are ideal for successful ball.

DEMONSTRATION TRAIN COMING

O. R. & N. Company Will Start One March 21, From Portland.

The first demonstration train to be sent out this year by the O. R. and N. company will be the largest and most complete ever prepared since the idea was first conceived and carried into action by Traffic Manager R. B. Miller, according to the Portland Journal. It will leave there March 21 for eastern Oregon, to remain 10 days on the road.

The train will consist of 10 cars and a locomotive, seven cars to be devoted to exhibits, agriculture, horticultural, livestock, poultry and farming machinery and implements. The entire exhibit will be in charge of 12 members of the faculty of the Oregon Agricultural college, who will deliver lectures along the route.

A sleeping car and a day coach will be carried for the lecturers and officials accompanying the train. The train will be in charge of Colonel A. A. Morse, special agent of the freight department, who has been the executive officer on previous demonstration tour trains.

The itinerary will be made up some time next week, and the intention is to make about 30 stops, three each day. The train will go as far east as Baker City and into Wallowa county.

The character of the lectures will be governed largely by conditions in the various districts and they are intended to be instructive in a way that will result in larger traffic for the railroad company going to the expense of equipping it.

The stock car will carry several head of fancy stock from the college farm, and the poultry car will carry a colony house such as a farmer can build at a small cost. The poultry house will illustrate how to guard against insect pests and best systems of feeding. Brooders and incubators will also be shown in operation.

The horticultural car will have an exhibit of packed fruit and fruit in course of packing, and this, it is believed, will prove a very valuable exhibit in view of the great interest taken in that industry in this state.

Mr. Jesse Smith and Miss Effie Phipps were married in Pendleton Wednesday. Both are well known in this city, where the groom is an employe in the Preston-Parson Mills. The home of the bride is in Weston. The young couple will make their home in Athena.

INCREASE IN TAXES

Assessor Strain Shows Tax Has More Than Doubled In Period of Seven Years.

To the Editor:—

If you will kindly grant me space in your valuable paper, I will state a few points relative to the tax laws which I think will be of benefit to your readers:

1. It is very important that a person's tax receipt shall cover each and every piece of his property, for it is now held by the District Attorney, as I understand it, that the County Court has no authority to abate such penalty and interest as might accrue against delinquent property. A further reason is that a tax title in the future will be a much better title than it has been in the past, which renders the danger of losing property through neglect or oversight in taxes greater than it has been heretofore.

2. Assessors and Boards of Equalization are now compelled under the law to assess property as nearly as possible at its full market value. Severe penalties are provided for the punishment of such assessors as fail to comply with the law in this respect. The oath which we have to take and which I took three times last year, follows, to-wit:

"I, _____, being the duly elected, qualified and acting assessor of Umatilla County, do solemnly swear that I have diligently and to the best of my ability assessed all of the property in said county, which by law I am permitted to assess at the full cash value thereof, that I have not willfully or knowingly omitted to assess any person or property, or assessed over or under the full cash value thereof, any property or class of property whatever."

It will be seen from the above oath, taken in connection with the fact that its violation works the forfeiture of the assessor's position, that the assessor cannot safely violate the full value requirements of the law. Besides this violation of the law is likely to result in an injury to the county, for the reason that we now have a state Board of Equalization with power to raise or lower a county assessment for the purpose of state taxation. This board is checking up closely on county assessors and if we violate the law they are sure to find it out. If we lose their confidence in this way they are likely to make sure that we do not defraud the state. They will resolve doubts as to actual values against the county attempting to defraud them.

However, it is not unlikely that in attempting to comply with the law relative to full value I have unwittingly assessed some property above its real value. It is my earnest desire to correct all such errors this year. It is important that corrections of this kind be made for the reason that I have a classification of the property in a record in the assessor's office that is intended to be a permanent one. An error will therefore be repeated from year to year unless corrected.

3. Tax-payers have been asking from year to year why taxes are higher. The answer to this question should be made by school districts, cities, and the State Legislature. But since the question is so often asked me and my deputies, I will state that the increase has come to us from each and every one of the various governments which has authority to levy a tax. The greater increase has come from local governments, that is, school districts and cities. I have been acquainted with tax matters since 1902 and I submit below a comparative statement for the years 1902 and 1909:

	1902	1909
County and State	\$158,604	\$384,473
City	10,265	65,701
Special School	26,634	91,014

Total \$196,553 \$441,188

Under the item "County and State tax" is included the county school tax, the road tax, the maintenance of the poor and of public property and the payment of salaries. In 1902 the rate tax was \$45,080 and the county school tax was \$28,000, making \$73,080 for these two items. Subtracting this from \$185,604 we have \$85,524 which was the cost of the roads, salaries, and other ordinary expenses. In 1909 the state tax was \$74,000 and the county school tax was \$63,000, making \$137,000, for these two items. Subtracting this from the \$384,473 we have \$147,473, which represents the cost in 1909 of roads, salaries and other ordinary expenses.

From \$441,473 which represents the combined tax for 1902, and we have \$245,655, which is the increase in 1909 over 1902 in the taxes on Umatilla county property.

C. P. Strain
County Assessor.

"I'm Dead and so are You."
Pardon Dock Bently died Monday morning at St. Mary's hospital Walla Walla and will now occupy the tomb which has long attracted attention of all visitors to the cemetery. In that city. On this monument, set up

several years ago, Bently had inscribed:

"I am here; how do you do, 'I am dead and so are you.'"
Mr. Bently was a pioneer of the Walla Walla country and was at one time sexton of the graveyard where he erected his tombstone in advance. He was born in New York state in 1833.

Well to Be Shot.
The casing has been pulled out of the artesian well and a big blast will be shot off at the 390 foot level where the vein of water was encountered, in the hope that the explosion will serve to open up a greater flow. The charge of explosives will be lowered to the desired location, when it will be discharged by means of an electric current.

RAILROAD MAN PASSES AWAY

Hunt, Pioneer Railroad Builder Died in Portland.

George W. Hunt, one of Oregon's pioneers died at his home in Portland Saturday aged 68 years. Mr. Hunt came west in 1859 and spent his life in Oregon, Washington and Idaho. He established a freight line, using horses, in eastern Oregon and later opened up a line between The Dalles, Ore., and Boise, Idaho. He built the Corvallis and Eastern railway and the Hunt system which opened a great wheat country in eastern Oregon and Washington. These lines extended from Wallula to Pendleton and Athena from Wallula to Walla Walla, Dayton and Wabburg, and now form part of the Northern Pacific system. The Corvallis and eastern runs from Corvallis, in the Willamette valley to Newport on Yaquina Bay, Oregon.

Mr. Hunt originated the idea of a water level road down the Columbia river, which would obviate the mountain climb over the Cascades and which was finally accomplished by the construction of the North Bank road. Mr. Hunt lost a fortune in building a road from Centralia to Grays Harbor, but later recouped a large portion of it in Western Umatilla county lands. A short time ago he possessed 33,000 acres in that section. He was rated as a millionaire at his death.

IDAHO TOWNS UNDER DEBRIS

Slide, Solid as Granite Covers Up Two Idaho Towns.

Under a mass of ice, rock and debris, packed with almost the solidity of granite, the little mining towns of Mace and Burke, Idaho, lie buried, tombs for both the living and the dead.

Crushed and piled in inextricable wreckage are the bodies of many of the inhabitants of the little villages, is the belief of the rescuers who are laboring without rest that they may perhaps be not too late. Coming without the slightest warning except for the thunderous roar momentarily preceding the immolation of the sleeping residents of Mace the huge avalanche swept down the precipitous sides of Ooster mountain Sunday night, and filled the narrow canyon to a depth of 75 feet. The slide is approximately 3,000 feet long, and save for a few places is packed as solid as ice.

The first slide came down a draw between two of the tallest hills surrounding Mace, a distance of two and a half miles. The momentum thus gained explains the destruction of 11 houses across the creek.

The depressions in the valley were filled with heavier snow, ice and rocks while the main body of the avalanche swept on over the level thus made, was buried with terrific force against the houses which offered no more resistance than paper. To add to the horror of the situation in Mace, poles bearing telephones, electric light and power lines were borne down, and the town was thus in darkness, without ability to communicate with neighboring places for more than an hour.

Some of the miners at the scene of the first slide are confident that the remains of two, possibly three, Italian laborers are beneath the overturned boarding cars at the bottom of Coeur d'Alene river, from which place the remains of Foreman John Thompson were taken.

The corrected list of the dead show that 13 persons lost their lives at Mace and four at Burke.

Thirty persons, including many children, have been dug out of the mass of debris alive. It is believed several among the women thus rescued will not survive the shock of their nerve-racking ordeal.

Missionary Society.
The ladies of the Baptist Missionary society were entertained yesterday afternoon at the home of Mrs. T. J. Kirk. About twenty ladies were present, and after election of officers and other business, substantial refreshments were served in the dining room. A separate table was spread for the little folks, and was presided over by Miss Vivian Ehrhart.

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