

The Santiam News

Politically Independent

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COUNTY SEAT OBSERVATIONS

LAST WEEK, THE NEWS MAN, as was the case with many other citizens of the "Forks," was subpoenaed as a witness in the Compton-Eason damage trial. While waiting to be called to the witness stand, nearly every department of the county's big business concerns was visited. We can say, without any conscientious scruples, that the county business is being conducted in an economic manner and that the affairs of each office is being handled both economically and efficiently.

But when we come to size matters up, the conducting of the county business is a "big" business. About \$350,000 is collected and disbursed annually. To do this, the service of about fifteen people are required regularly and more upon special occasions. The salary list amounts to between \$1500 and 2000 each month. We believe that there is not a particle of graft attached to the administration of any of the offices and that they are being conducted with wisdom. At the same time, the people desire to know how their \$350,000 tax moneys are expended, and the county court would be applauded by a vast majority of the people if an itemized statement of expense should be published monthly. The cost would be trifling in comparison with the satisfaction it would give to the public. If a business of the same magnitude should be carried on by a private corporation, firm or individual, every official head of a department would be required to render a report of every detail of his department. Is not the tax paying public—the proprietor in this matter, entitled to the knowledge of their business, as well?

Publicity of public business is most important. Of course any tax payer has the right to inspect the books of any or all of the various county offices. But few have the time to do so and very many of them are incapable of making an intelligent inspection. For these reasons the people should require a detailed report published at stated periods.

THE NATION'S BIRTHDAY

LAST TUESDAY was the one-hundred and thirty-fifth anniversary of the birth of our nation. For many years the people observed the day in a patriotic manner but, of late years, the commercial spirit has, to a great extent, superseded the patriotic. Very little attention is given now, by the people, to a reading of the Declaration of Independence or to the address which usually follows, unless the speaker is a man of large reputation. The main object of the few is to make money and which the many seems willing to spend. The sports and other entertaining features have almost obliterated the real meaning of the day.

This loss of patriotic reverence for our nation's birthday, is unpleasant to think about, to say the least. It implies a careless disregard for the memory of our Revolutionary sires and what they

accomplished through eight years of extraordinary toil and hardship. True, the day is a legal holiday in every state and holidays are usually devoted to pleasure as suits one's taste and convenience. But every citizen should be willing and regard it as a duty, to give reverent thought to our nation, and for what it stands for before the nations of the world; what it has accomplished in promoting the course of liberty among men; of what the citizens of our nation has given to the world in science, art, invention, etc., and then give a thought to the heroes of '76, who made it possible. These thoughts can be brought about if we listen to an address from a speaker capable of reciting them in an intelligent and pleasing manner.

Hence, to devote the day to sports alone, without a thought of what the holiday means, is almost sacrilege. It tends to create in the minds of the young, a careless disregard for the memory of the men who made it possible for their enjoyment of a home in a land of political and religious liberty.

HOW TIMES DO CHANGE

DR. WILSON'S ATTITUDE with respect to the recall of the judiciary does not in the least surprise us; in fact the surprise lies the other way about—in the extent to which he, a man of scholastic temperament, with conservative surroundings and in the difficult position of a prospective candidate for president, has been willing to go on the road toward absolute democracy. Many stout hearts that pass through direct nominations and direct election of senators without a quiver hesitate at the referendum. Others go on until they come to the initiative, at which they balk. When we get to the recall there is panic all along the line, and it is only the seasoned veterans or the reckless young enthusiasts that walk up without flinching. Yet these three principles are the very essence of real democracy. Wit out them there can be no rule of the people.

How rapidly we move in these days! Only three years ago when Mr. Bryan got back from Europe in the speeches preliminary to the campaign made for the nomination, he played up the initiative and referendum. He did not venture the recall. Straightway Harper's Weekly pictured him holding up two wicker rag babies, and beneath the legend: "The sawdust twins." This same paper is now ardently supporting Dr. Wilson, who goes about the country doing just what Bryan did and doing it better.—California Outlook.

As a matter of fact, the Outlook should give the credit to the Populist party; for that party first taught the Initiative and Referendum as well as Recall and, in Oregon, it first taught the principle of Direct Legislation, or the application of the Initiative.

However, there is not much difference between Populism and true Democracy or true Republicanism. All want the same thing, and that is good and equitable government. The only difficulty is, they all differ in the method by which this desirable result can be accomplished.

The NEWS acknowledges its mistake with reference to the Albany celebration, when it stated there would be no oration upon that occasion. We gathered our information from posted bills and also from an ad sent us for publication. We are glad to know that our county seat friends have not forgotten the primary meaning and real significance of the national anniversary. We will have to acknowledge ourselves. Brother Herald, an involuntary candidate for the Annanias club.

The necessity of providing decently for women jurors may introduce more rational methods of handling juries in the state of Washington. Why should jurymen be imprisoned, starved and spied upon? One would think juries were made up of criminal imbeciles from the way they are treated. If the inclusion of women in the panel leads to some ameliorations of this barbarous practice equal suffrage will have at least one substantial reform to its credit.

Congress is making some movement towards investigating the extortionate express charges. The express companies, in their endeavor to shut off investigation, have revised their rates downward. They want to keep the enactment of a parcels post law as far distant as possible and they fear investigation will hasten the enactment of the law.

Those congressmen down in Washington, D. C., are surely earning their salaries these days, when the thermometer is loafing about the 100 mark. The reciprocity measure, is all that keeps congress in session during the heated term.

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Atlantic City	\$104.55

Sale Dates:

June 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23, 24, 28, 29 and 30.
July 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 19, 20, 26, 27 and 28
August 3, 4, 5, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23, 28, 29 and 30.
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