

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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With Medford Stop-Over

MEDYNSKI SIGNED POWER CONTRACT BILL TOTALS \$427

Overzealousness on the part of Councilman Medynski in signing an agreement with the California-Oregon Power company for power for the operation of the pump at the old condemned city well, without the knowledge of his colleagues, assuming the powers of a committee of the council to which he does not belong, bids fair to cost the city of Medford \$427.50.

The Medynski agreement with the power company was entered into June 16, in furtherance of the councilman's plan that water from the Bear creek well could be pumped into the water mains in case of fire, or the breaking of the service. Dr. Pickel and other citizens at the time Medynski first broached his plan filed a vigorous protest, claiming the action would menace the health of residents.

The first bill was filed the first of September, the finance committee refusing to approve. Another came October first. The majority of the council are just learning the details, and surprise is expressed. This week Councilmen Medynski and Sargent went to the power company, and annulled the contract. The city received no benefit whatsoever from the deal.

Councilman Medynski is not a member of the water committee, but during his tenure of office has conducted the department, with the aid of Councilman Sargent. Medynski is chairman of the street committee, and Sargent of the finance committee.

The power company bases its claim upon one of the fundamental principles of equity law—"that a principal is responsible for the acts and signature of his agents." The rate was fixed at \$1 a horsepower. One hundred thirty-five horsepower was used monthly. For three and one-half months this totals \$427.50. The charter provides that no contract shall be valid on the part of the city unless made by ordinance—a legal straw to which the city now clings.

JOSEPHINE COUNTY JUDGE PASSES AWAY

Stephen Jewell, county judge of Josephine county, and long prominent in democratic politics, died at his home in Grants Pass, October 9, from diabetes. He was born in Grant county, Kentucky, December 6, 1847. At the age of 25 he moved to Texas, where he was married in 1874 to Miss Nannie S. Taylor. In 1887 the family came to Oregon, taking up a homestead three miles southwest of Grants Pass, teaching school for many years. Eight years ago he was elected county judge and was re-nominated recently for a third term by the democrats. A widow and eight sons and daughters survive him. The funeral will be held Sunday, October 11th.

C. E. S. WOODS WILL MAKE TALK FOR HANLEY

C. E. S. Woods will tour southern Oregon in the interests of the candidacy of Bill Hanley for the U. S. senate speaking at Grants Pass, Wednesday, Oct. 14, Ashland, Thursday, Oct. 15, and Medford, Friday, Oct. 16 at the Page theatre, under the auspices of the Women's Hanley club. Mr. Woods is one of the ablest speakers in the state, and well known in this section.

WHICH OF THE TWO?

VOTERS of Oregon are offered their choice between two men for governor—James Withycombe and Charles J. Smith.

James Withycombe is an affable and talkative old gentleman of stand-pat proclivities and tory tendencies. He is a native of Great Britain, but was naturalized a citizen of the United States in 1888 and has held public office ever since. By occupation he was then a farmer, practicing locally as a veterinarian.

At the session of 1889 Dr. Withycombe lobbied through the legislature the bill creating the first commission—the state veterinary commission—and therefore is justly entitled to be called the father of state commissions, since become so numerous, one of the causes of increased taxation, and now a campaign issue.

Dr. Withycombe was appointed state veterinarian upon the passage of the bill he had lobbied through. He served as state veterinarian until September 30, 1898, when he joined the Oregon Agricultural college staff as professor of agriculture, and later became director of the experiment station. His record as director is not particularly brilliant.

In 1906, Dr. Withycombe was nominated for governor by the republicans, but defeated because of his reactionary tendencies by George E. Chamberlain. In 1910 he was a candidate before the "assembly," but defeated by Jay Bowerman. He represents in himself no real issue, but is the figurehead behind which hide the reactionaries seeking return to power.

Charles J. Smith has lived nearly all of his active life in Oregon. He was born in Ohio in 1864, and after graduation as a physician, came to Pendleton, Or., in 1890. In Pendleton he served one term as mayor, was for eighteen years a member of the school board, and twice elected to the state senate, where his record is an excellent one. He served for many years on the state board of health and was president of the State Medical society. He has made a success in business, as a physician, and is a man of affairs.

Dr. Smith stands for law enforcement, for consolidation and abolition of useless commissions, for lower taxes, for economy and efficiency in office. As mayor of Pendleton in 1898 he "closed the town," that is, he stopped open gambling and enforced the criminal laws. In the legislature he helped sustain the local option law and led the fight for popular government. He has always championed the public schools and served on the state board of curricula for many years.

Dr. Smith is in the prime of life, conservative, even balanced. He is of true gubernatorial caliber. As governor, he would be independent and use the veto freely for economy. He would enforce the law, not perhaps in the spectacular manner of Governor West—but only law-breakers worry about law enforcement.

It is for the voter to determine which of these two men will best serve Oregon and his or her own interests—the kindly, garrulous old gentleman, with little or no practical or executive experience, distrustful of popular government and believer in assemblies, or the vigorous, well-poised, successful man of affairs, proved champion of the Oregon system, who has made good in public as in private life.

BOOTH'S CHINESE EGGS

WOODROW WILSON'S work has hardly been commenced, but his nineteen months of service are filled with constructive service.

Will Woodrow Wilson be upheld by the people of Oregon giving him the aid of George E. Chamberlain, or will they send one whose only assistance will be to sit in a corner and croak, "Chinese eggs"?

This cheap, idiotic attempt to make an issue on the question of eggs bespeaks the character of the men who make it.

Even fools know trade between nations is reciprocal. To buy, they must sell. International trade means exchange of the products of the nations. Oregon sells China shiploads of wheat, shiploads of flour, shiploads of lumber. Does any man object to that? We buy from China, rice, silks and perhaps enough eggs in a year to pay for one-eighth of one shipload of the many shiploads of flour we send over there every year.

But because of this, Mr. Booth insists on parading the farmer as an ignorant, illiterate ass who is going to vote for him because a few eggs have come over here.

The Oregon farmer is not a fool. He knows he is getting more for his eggs than before. He knows that eggs are shipped here from Iowa, Kansas and other states because he cannot supply the demand. He knows Oregon does not raise its own pork. He knows that Mr. Booth's weeping over the eggs is cheap political talk that went out of style thirty years ago, and that Mr. Booth has been so infernally busy grabbing land that he has not progressed any politically since that time.

Mr. Booth has no eggs to sell, only lumber, and if the importation of a shipload of eggs a week from China would help the lumber business, Mr. Booth would devoutly say, "God is good, and I'm not in the chicken business, anyway." How sublime it will be to listen to this shepherd of the chickens in the senate of the United States on the egg question, and eggs 45 cents a dozen!

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