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THE EVENING HERALD

W. O. SMITH, Editor

Published daily except Sunday by the Herald Publishing Company of Klamath Falls, at 115 Fourth St.

Entered at the postoffice at Klamath Falls, Oregon, for transmission through the mails as second-class matter.

Subscription terms by mail to any address in the United States:
One year \$5.00
One month50

WEST'S SECRETARY IS OVERPAID SALARY

It is Charged that \$50 a Month of Illegal Money is Paid to the State Executive's Assistant. \$1200 to Date

SALEM, Oct. 30.—When the present biennial period ends the first of the year, Ralph W. Watson, private secretary to Governor West, with the knowledge and consent of the governor, will have drawn from the state, without warrant of law—in fact, contrary to law—it is declared, an excess salary of \$1,200.

Should it also happen that nothing arises before the end of the governor's administration to cause him to withdraw his hand from the public treasury, he will draw another excess salary of \$1,200, making a total of \$2,400; for the governor has two years left in which to draw the money through the press that he is saving money for them, and initiating reforms for their benefit, and his private secretary two more years to assist him in his arduous labor on an excess salary.

Recently the governor declared in a newspaper article that he would recommend to the legislature the merging of all boards governing state institutions into the state board. In it he lamented the fact that, should the legislature carry out the recommendations, the salary of his private secretary would be reduced, and offered the suggestion that provision should be made in such an event to raise it to what it is at present. He also declared in the article that by the merging of the various boards into the state board, the office of purchasing agent would be abolished, but left the inference that a place would be found for the present agent as secretary of the board. Should the legislature carry these recommendations into effect the private secretary of the governor would suffer a reduction in his salary; but in view of the fact that he feels that in such an event it should be raised back to what it is at the present; and in view of the fact that the state purchasing agent would be but transferred to the state board and his salary continue, it is likely that he would experience difficulty in demonstrating to the legislature where any saving would be effected, and it is not considered likely here that they will heed his recommendations.

When the last legislature passed the general appropriation bill for the payment of the expenses and the maintenance of the executive, administrative, legislative, judicial and other departments, it specifically provided that no more should be appropriated for the payment of the different offices for the two years constituting the biennial period of 1911-12. For the payment of the salary of the private secretary to the governor, including his salary as clerk of the board of trustees of the Oregon State insane asylum, clerk of the Public Buildings commission, \$4,500 was appropriated.

Not satisfied with that salary an arrangement was entered into whereby the governor's private secretary was made the clerk for the board of the Oregon training school, the board of the Tuberculosis sanitarium, the board of the Feeble-Minded school and the board of the Eastern Oregon asylum. From each of these boards it was arranged that he should draw a salary of \$12.50 a month, making a total of \$50 a month, a total of \$600 annually, and a total of \$1,200 for the biennial period.

The constitution of the state provides that it shall be unlawful for any person holding a state office or appointment to hold two lucrative offices at the same time. Attorneys who have investigated the subject declare that the case of the governor's private secretary comes within this constitutional provision, and are emphatic in the declaration that under the law he has not been entitled in the past, and that he is not now entitled to draw a salary as clerk from any of these boards. Relying upon this constitutional provision, both Governor West and Secretary of State Olcott in the past have refused to make board appointments whenever it was shown that the appointment was a lucrative office and that the applicant was already holding a lucrative office, but for some reason they have never seen fit to raise this objection against the private secretary of the governor. The subject has been a matter of gossip about the capitol building for months, and the suggestion is made by those conversant with the case that prior to launching in earnest his justification campaign which it is declared he is now delaying for the benefit of his appointee, Secretary of State Olcott, who is a candidate for re-election, the governor clear his own skirts and demonstrate his sincerity by eliminating the excess salary of his private secretary.

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(Paid Advertisement)
LETTER NO. 2 TO THE PEOPLE

Whether County Surveyor E. B. Henry will explain the article published in yesterday's issue of The Herald and Northwestern remains to be seen. Regardless, I here make statements which I stand ready at any time to make before any court of investigation, be this a jury or the voters themselves.

Some time before May 1, 1911, the superintendent of a power company ordered Henry & McConnell to make a map of Klamath county, two inches to the mile, and showing survey notes, natural topography and ownership. The superintendent was advised as to the size of such a map, and Henry & McConnell made some compromise whereby they were to make prints and retain the original, so I understand. When the bill for the work and material for the map came to the attention of the officials of the power company, these gentlemen called upon Mr. Henry, and some satisfactory arrangement arrived at. This arrangement is no reflection on the bill Mr. Henry presented to the county. This arrangement was arrived at some time in December or January of this year, and Mr. Henry received a check from the power company in February, 1912, for the sum of \$500, and while other checks were issued to Mr. Henry by the power company, I believe this one was for the map. Without discussing why the firm of Henry & McConnell was dissolved, at any rate I believe the checks from the power company were made payable to Mr. E. B. Henry, and that McConnell could give us an interesting chapter on this subject.

When Mr. Henry made the bargain with the county, he told me, and there were no witnesses to this statement, that he sold two maps to the county for \$250 each, and that he was making a present of a third map. While the power company in a careful business way waited until February, 1912, to settle, on the other hand, the county allowed Mr. Henry's bill in October, 1911, when at a matter of fact, the maps had not even been mounted. Here is a copy of a certified copy of the bill presented by the county surveyor:

"Klamath Falls, Oregon, Oct. 16, 1911. Klamath County to E. B. Henry, Dr., County maps and work mounting same, \$550.00. I E. B. Henry, being first duly sworn, on my oath say that the above claim against Klamath county and in favor of E. B. Henry for the sum of \$ is just and true, and the amount claimed is due and unpaid. Subscribed and sworn to before me this 16th day of October, 1911. C. R. De Lap, clerk, by Chas. F. De Lap, Deputy. No. 23941, allowed in the sum of \$550.00 this 17th day of October, 1911. Wm. S. Worden, county judge; S. T. Summers, C. G. Merrill, commissioners. Filed, Oct. 16, 1911.

Two maps at \$250 makes \$500, which leaves \$50 for the third map. Cloth blue prints from the original of a map which was ordered by a private company. I will make the prints, mount same, and deliver them for a total of \$150, and add \$50 to be liberal, making a total of \$200. It would be interesting to know how the \$25 bill was arrived at. This last mentioned sum appears on the record made by the clerk, "Maps, etc., County Roads, No. 24958, \$25."

The election laws allow me to spend not over \$100 to make my campaign, and I may find use for some of this money other than campaign.

I thank the business men and others that have nominated me, and here make the statement that I am pledged to no political organization.

GEORGE M. KLEIN.

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