

KLAMATH REPUBLICAN

E. J. MURRAY, Editor.

LEADING NEWSPAPER OF INTERIOR OREGON.
TWO DOLLARS THE YEAR IN ADVANCE.

Klamath Falls, Ore., Thursday, April 12, 1906.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

Assessments and Roads

O. A. STEARNS Advances Arguments
in Relation to Both

Editor Republican:—There are two matters of deep concern to the people of this county, to which their attention is particularly called, and in the solution of which the voter is a potent factor. These are:

First—The equalizing of the valuation in land for taxable purposes.

Second—The beginning and persistent following of a thorough, systematic method of road making. A system that will better the condition of the road from year to year and show something tangible for the expenditure of our road fund.

As to the first subject, it may not be generally known that there are some things over two hundred thousand acres of swamp lands in this county, owned largely by non-resident speculators.

These lands were bought of the state from twenty to thirty or more years ago, and, until the last year had been assessed at the low valuation of one dollar per acre. All other classes of lands have been gradually assessed at an increasing ratio, while these lands alone, from some unexplained cause, have escaped the raise. The small land owner with his dry sage brush farm that he has reclaimed from a condition of worthlessness by hard labor, sees his land valued at from \$4 to \$5 per acre, and his improvements also taxed to pay the county and state expenses, while the adjoining large tracts of land, owned by alien capitalists who contribute nothing towards the development of the country, remain as unimproved, and undeveloped, as they were thirty or more years ago, waiting until the enhanced value of land, caused by the labor and industry of the small land owner, enables them to dispose of their large holdings at from ten to twenty times its assessed valuation. Another feature of the injustice of this exemption from taxation lies in the fact that these lands were acquired by one of the most iniquitous legislation jobs that was ever perpetrated upon a people. The law under which these lands were purchased, provided as a condition precedent to the acquiring of title, that the lands should be actually reclaimed by the purchaser, but, after holding them for eight or ten years and compelling the state to spend thousands of dollars fighting settlers who were trying to make homes upon some of these lands, (fraudulently returned as reclaimed) the claimants had a bill introduced through the Legislature (in 1882, I think) giving them the right to pay the remainder due on the purchase price of these lands "without proof of reclamation."

I have endeavored for years to have our various County Courts adjust this matter and raise the valuation on these lands to that of the lands of settlers of adjoining lands, but without avail. Had this been done as in justice it should have been, twenty or more years ago, the county to-day, would have been out of debt, and the burden of taxation would have been less heavy than it has been in the past. As it was not done there has been a loss to the county of taxes on from \$200,000 to \$400,000 each year during that time. In other words the people have been paying taxes on from \$200,000 to \$400,000 more than they ought to have paid that the taxes might be remitted to these alien land owners.

The excuse for not raising the valuation on these lands has been that these swamp lands were non-productive, bringing in no returns to their owners. This might have been equally true of all other lands had their owners left them unimproved. But it is a well known fact that many thousands of acres of these so called swamp lands are the most valuable meadow and grazing lands in the county, and could not at any time in the past twenty years or more have been bought at less than from \$10 to \$20 per acre. Besides many more thousands of acres of these lands were decided by the state to the claimants prior to the repeal of the reclamation clause "UPON PROOF SATISFACTORY TO THE BOARD" that they had been reclaimed.

As the people have been the sufferers in this unjust discrimination they should demand that it cease and see to it that a County Board is elected who will do equal justice to all.

As to the second matter of roads: We have been from year to year squandering thousands of dollars in a futile effort to better our roads by throwing the money into the worst mud holes, with no appreciable improvement of their condition. There is this year over \$1800 state road money for this county. Now would it not be a sensible plan to either rent the city rock crusher for the county, or buy one, together with a good heavy steam roller and grader, use the county road funds in the several districts, grading up the worst places ready to receive crushed rock; let each road district have the use of the rock crusher to crush up all the rock that the road money and volunteer labor in each district could deliver to the crusher; then,

when farm work was not pushing and labor plentiful, let the people of each district deliver the crushed rock along the road, and under a competent road engineer follow with the steam roller? By adopting such a system every district would soon have their worst roads permanently reconstructed and ere long all the roads of the county could be traveled with heavily loaded teams at all times of the year, and we would realize that we were getting full value for our money.

The foregoing needed improvements and innovations in the county methods of the past were the main reasons for my announcing my candidacy for the County Judgeship, but because I am a candidate do not for a moment think that I give it a special plea for my nomination or wish to convey that I am the one and only fit person to carry out the above reforms. But they are, I think, matters that need to be attended to as essential to the welfare and prosperity of the county and it matters less to the people who is elected, as that the person elected is a man who has the disposition and will do it.

O. A. STEARNS.

Letter to the Voters of Klamath County

Bonanza, Oregon, April 7, 1906.
To the Republican voters of Klamath County:—I take this method of impressing upon your minds the necessity of making a careful selection and business consideration of the man you select for the office of County Judge at the coming Primary on the 20th of this month and ask you to carefully consider the situation and various platforms and qualifications of all several candidates for that office.

The office of County Judge is one of great interest to the people and the welfare of the county at large. The article in the Republican published at Klamath Falls on the 29th of March last relative to the tax roll is a sample of Klamath county politics and political debt paying. If the County Judge and the remainder of the County Board of equalization, at their regular annual sitting, would exercise their judgement and the data that is furnished them in the proper manner and take the schedules one at a time and carefully go over them and see that they are up to the standard of a true and correct schedule, and not then accept them until they are, and see that "all created with equal rights and special privileges to none," there will never be any occasion for an article of that kind to appear in the papers of Klamath county again.

Now, can you expect a man in the office of County Judge, who has not agreed to devote his entire time to the business of the County, but who expects to use the office as a "side issue" to further the interests of his farm or mercantile business" to do this? Is this the man you desire to have nominated for County Judge?

Then there are other qualifications a man must have to make a good Judge. He must have ability and be imbued with integrity and be above allowing any particular locality to guide his actions, and be a man who is broad enough to see the wants of the whole county and not the particular little zone in which he resides.

We also want a man that will not be guided by party politics to the extent that if he is elected on the republican ticket he cannot see that if a man is of some other or different political faith that he has merit and is the man for the best interests of that part of the county and should have some recognition as the man for the place.

Then we want a man who has identified himself with the present question of today in the "Great Irrigation project" and not the man who has fought the enterprise from the start to the present time, as this is the one great question that is of vital interest to the county as whole and not any particular locality. Now in conclusion let me say that if you will search the records of the county you will find that I have taken more contracts and devoted more time going over the county in the interest of the Government Irrigation project than any other man outside of the service. I have been a resident of the county for 25 years and know every part of it.

I have been permanently located at Bonanza for 20 years, and am well and favorably known; and I am well qualified from a legal standpoint for the office as any candidate in the county, having been in legal and notary business for the past 18 years.

And from a stand point of knowledge of the legal descriptions of lands, I can locate from memory on section, and range more residents than any other man in Klamath county, having been, during the past 18 years, a good portion of the time surveying and locating homes and by this means, Poe valley, Yonna valley and Langell valley are as "A, B, C-s" to me.

I have as many friends in these valleys as any man in Klamath county, both democrat and republican, and more than any other candidate of the Republican party.

Now as a last statement you have all read my Platform, in which I agree to keep regular office hours and devote my time and ability fairly and impartially with "prudence, zeal and integrity,"

JONATHAN BOURNE, JR.

Republican Candidate for United States Senator.

CHAMPION OF STATEMENT ONE

Jonathan Bourne, Jr., candidate before the Republican primaries for the nomination of United States Senator in Congress, for the long term commencing March 4, 1907, was born in New Bedford, Mass., February 23, 1855; was a member of the class of 1877 at Harvard University; came to Portland May 16, 1878; was a Republican member of the Oregon Legislature in the session of 1885 and the extra session of 1886; was one of Oregon's delegates to the Republican National Convention of 1888 and Oregon's member of the Republican National Committee from 1888 to 1892, and a delegate to the Republican National Convention of 1892; and was elected as a Mitchell Republican to the Oregon Legislature in 1896.

Mr. Bourne has been more prominently identified with the development of the mineral resources of Oregon than any other man in the state, having expended in the last 20 years over \$1,000,000 of his own money in the acquisition and development of Oregon mines.

While Mr. Bourne has had his residence and main office at Portland since 1878, he has had another office at New Bedford, Mass., and has carried on the business of his father's estate since 1889, which makes him familiar with many of the large interests and leading men in the east. These qualifications, in conjunction with his tremendous energy, originality, executive ability and experience in business and political affairs pre-eminently qualify him for making an able and influential Senator for the State of Oregon.

Mr. Bourne has always favored extending the direct power of the people over their government as far as possible. He was one of the leading spirits in the Initiative and Referendum movement from 1890 until it was approved by the voters at the June election in 1902. In 1904 he was a member of the executive committee of the Direct Primary Nominations League, and holds the same position with the People's Power League at this time. In all these movements he has been one of the few to guarantee the necessary expenses of preparing and proposing their measures to the people.

He says that the choice of United States Senator should be by direct vote of the people, and that the Legislature should be compelled to elect the man the people select. To accomplish this result, he is championing Statement No. 1 of the primary election law as the only method by which public opinion may be crystallized and made effective upon the Legislature.

In his petition for nomination he says: "If I am nominated and elected I will, during my term of office, favor:

Republican Politics.

Amending National Constitution for People's Election of United States Senators.

Public Political Campaign Expenses.

National Control of Corporations in Interstate Commerce.

Rigid Exclusion of Asiatic Coolie Labor; Good Wages Make Good Citizens.

Legal Limitation Labor Hours for Safety on Railroads.

Parcels Post, Including Rural Delivery.

Pure Food Laws.

Liberal Appropriations for Panama Canal, Coast Defenses, River and Harbor Improvements, Including Columbia, Willamette rivers, Coos, Yaquina and other Oregon harbors, Cello Canal, Government Canal at Oregon City.

Fair Share of Irrigation Fund for Oregon.

Loyal Support of Successful Candidates.

Rigid Enforcement Statement One.

Roosevelt for Second Elective Term.

I desire that the following statement be printed after my name on the nominating ballot:

I WILL SUPPORT PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S DETERMINATION THAT JUSTICE BE DONE ALL MEN."

An Exciting Experience.

Last Monday witnessed one of the hottest contests ever held in this city. It was over a piece of property placed in the hands of a local real estate firm for sale. It was a bargain, and two parties wanted. Negotiations were on for some time, and noon Monday was the time set to close the deal. Both parties made a race for it, landed about the same time, got worked up to a high pitch and then began to bid up the property. There was only one end to it—the highest bidder got it. "That's the best bargain I ever made!" said the man who got it. "I'm glad I put my property in the hands of Horning & Casey, for they certainly can do business for a man," was the opinion expressed by the owner of the land sold. Try them and see.

and especially to the assessment roll, and if you think I am the best man for the office or nomination give me your support, if not give it to the next best man carefully considering all I have said, and act in accordance with your best judgement.

I am your's, for honest and efficient officer.

J. O. HAMAKER.

Voters Remember

That C. K. Brandenburg is a candidate for County Judge. He is a young man 34 years of age, temperate, industrious, intelligent and honest. Klamath county has been his home for 18 years. He has always been interested in every effort and enterprise projected for the rebuilding and betterment of the county. It was he who interested Senator Fulton in the Klamath Irrigation Project, and no man deserves more credit for the splendid success of the project than he. If elected to the office the people of Klamath county may expect an able administration and "a square deal." His platform as it appeared in his announcement is as follows:

If nominated and elected I will during my term of office put forth my best efforts to see that the money raised by taxes shall be expended in a business like manner.

Second—That strict attention shall be given to the county roads and bridges.

Third—That county property shall be kept in repair and all needed improvements made.

Fourth—That all county work, in so far as practicable, shall be given to the lowest bidder.

Fifth—That all county supplies shall be bought where they can be had the cheapest.

Sixth—That strict attention shall be given to all business that may come before the county court.

My motto shall be: "The interests of the county first, favoritism to none."

Yours Truly,
C. K. Brandenburg.

R. A. Emmitt

Candidate For the Office of County Judge.

As a candidate for the nomination for County Judge, subject to the approval of the Republican voters on April 20th I feel it incumbent to say that in case of

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ALEX. MARTIN Jr., Cashier E. M. BUIB, Asst. Cashier



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