

Proof of Graft is Now in Possession of Herald

The personnel of the real "ringsters" in the city council of Klamath Falls has become known, and it develops that, although in office but a few weeks, already these men have violated their oath of office by bribery.

Two notes, totalling about \$860, and \$150 in cash was the inducement which Herbert Savidge and his close associates on the city council solicited to influence their votes as members of the council.

And when the money was paid and the notes given, Savidge and his associates at the meeting of the city council on the night of June 3d voted as they had agreed to.

In other words, they "delivered the goods."

But Savidge and associates are not cheap grafters. At first they demanded that \$1,600 be paid, but when this amount was not forthcoming after at least two ineffectual attempts to force the payment by threats of adverse legislation, Savidge and his partners in this enterprise cut the amount almost in two.

Money actually passed and two notes were actually given the city officials to bring about the transfer of a liquor license.

The full details of the final meeting between the city councilmen and the man who sought favors is now in possession of The Herald. It reads like a chapter from the life of Abe Ruef in his palmy days in San Francisco.

"Pay, or you won't get your license transfer," was the threat of Savidge.

And the pay was forthcoming.

But Savidge was not to be trusted, in the opinion of the favor-seeking citizen, and the money and notes were placed in an envelope to be held by a well known citizen until such time as Savidge and associates had performed their part of the nefarious contract.

And then at the first meeting of the city council in which Savidge sat for the first time as a trusted servant of the people, he arose to his feet and moved that the liquor license be transferred, knowing that only by the approval of his motion could he and his associates come into the possession of the \$150 in cash and the two notes.

How it was divided is not known, but it is certain that there was no quarreling over the spoils, for since there has been harmony between the members of the ring, and the opinion of one has been the opinion of the others. They have stood shoulder to shoulder on most measures, just as they did on the saloon transfer proposition and on the city advertising steal.

The transferring of the liquor license was not in itself an iniquitous act. Innocent members of the council voted "aye" to the motion. They did not know that if there had not been money forthcoming Savidge and associates would have voted against it.

And if there had not been money in sight, Savidge, according to his own threat, would not have blandly risen to his feet, and, as one of his first official acts, asked that the application for the transfer of the license be granted.

"If you don't pay you can't have the license transferred," Savidge thundered.

"I can't pay," replied the favor seeking man. "I haven't got the money."

"I'll give you until 3 o'clock tomorrow afternoon to get it," said Savidge.

But the money had not been raised at the time limit fixed by the new councilman.

But Savidge persisted, and finally, at a meeting held in the office of a prominent lawyer the compromise was effected.

Savidge would have his pound of flesh.

Did Sam Evans know that Savidge had been engaged in trafficking in legislation and "see" the boss before he submitted his outrageous bid on the city advertising?

Did the virtuous owner of the morning paper know in advance that Savidge could and would "deliver the goods?"

Probably. Or it is possible that Savidge, believing in the simplicity of the newspaper man down the street, "came through" without price, in order to be insured of continued subservience of Evans.

Developments will show the true inwardness of the deal. The county grand jury may become inquisitive concerning this city advertising matter and conclude to investigate.

In that event, the location of the "graft in the city printing" will be shown.

In the meantime nothing definite can be ascertained from the authorities as to what the first step will be looking toward the punishment of the representatives of the taxpayers of Klamath Falls who have violated the trust imposed in them. These men, no

doubt, will be allowed to offer their explanations in a court of justice, and it may be found that when they do so considerable light will be thrown on the causes of granting the Northwestern the advertising contract which means the robbing of the taxpayers of Klamath Falls of almost \$2,000 a year.

The exposure of the graft by members of the Klamath Falls city council made by The Herald yesterday has aroused the most intense excitement, and has had the effect of bringing to The Herald additional information.

It has developed that many citizens had been aware of the dishonesty of officials, but had not dared to make the details known until The Herald's exposure came.

The details of the transaction which will result in a grand jury investigation shows that besides Herbert Savidge, Councilmen Goeller and Crisler are involved. The story of this iniquitous deal commences with the failure of the Livermores in the hotel and saloon business.

The saloon was offered for sale at auction by Sheriff Barnes on May 28, 1912, and was bid in by James H. Wheeler for \$3,450. Wheeler then sought to have the license transferred from Livermore to himself. On the day after the public sale Councilmen Savidge, Goeller and Crisler, a member of the retiring council and two other citizens visited the Livermore bar for a consultation with Wheeler. This was held in the room adjoining the bar, and which is now occupied by a restaurant.

"This sale to you of this saloon was a straight hold-up," the spokesman for the councilmen stated, "and we have got to have our money. If you don't pay it you cannot get the license transferred."

About \$1,600 was demanded. This was the amount of claims which the councilmen and their friends held against the Livermores. Included in the list of claims was one for meat. This aroused Mr. Wheeler to rebellion. He declared that he failed to see what connection a meat bill for several hundred dollars could have against a bar, and then the absurdity of the other claims became apparent. He declined to pay the money, and was again warned that if he did not do so he would find that the license transfer would not be made.

"I cannot pay because I haven't got the money," finally declared Mr. Wheeler, and the conference came to an end.

The councilmen went back the second time, and Mr. Wheeler was given until 3 o'clock that afternoon to raise the money. He was not able to do so at that time, and a conference was arranged to be held the next day in a law office on Main street. At this meeting there were present but two city officials, Councilmen Savidge and Goeller.

After some preliminary discussion, Mr. Wheeler agreed to pay \$150 in cash and give notes for the balance of the claims of about \$860. The money, with the notes, was put into an envelope, and was to be kept in trust until the councilmen had fulfilled their part of the transaction—that is, cause the Livermore license to be transferred to Wheeler.

The question of who should hold the envelope was discussed. The councilmen did not feel inclined to trust the lawyer or another citizen who was present, so finally the money was turned over to Councilman Goeller, with instructions to return the envelope to Wheeler in the event of the license transfer not being made.

On the night of June 3, the first meeting of the new council was held. The record shows that Councilman Savidge, as one of his first official acts, moved that the Livermore license be transferred to Wheeler.

This motion was carried without opposition.

The foregoing information, together with proof, is available for any court of justice or any public official. The affidavits of those who are familiar with the transaction, for that matter, are already in the hands of the proper officials.

What action is to be taken cannot be ascertained. It is not expected, however, that the grand jury will be called for a week or two, or until the return to the city of Judge Benson. The regular grand jury term was not to be started until next month, but it is believed that the sensational exposure of graft in municipal affairs here will cause a special term to be called.

That the resignations of Councilmen Savidge, Goeller and Crisler will be demanded immediately on the return to this city of Mayor Nicholas is a foregone conclusion. In

BUNTING IS SUED BY THE U. S.

PERMANENT INJUNCTION IS SOUGHT BY ATTORNEYS FOR UNCLE SAM TO PREVENT INTERFERENCE WITH DITCH

Before United States Commissioner Chas. J. Ferguson in district court room Monday afternoon was begun preliminary hearing of the injunction proceedings brought by the United States government against C. A. Bunting and his wife, M. Veneta Bunting. The government seeks to restrain what it claims is Bunting's interference with the government's irrigation system.

He and his wife have a half section about a mile and a half east of Merrill, and it is alleged by the government that the landholders have been unduly free with the ditches from the Stukel lateral, which are adjacent to their land.

The government wants the United States court to make an injunction which will prevent the Buntings from any further interference with its canal rights. Attorney for the government in the case are Deputy United States District Attorney Robert Maguire and Oliver P. Morton, legal adviser for the reclamation service, while the rights of the Buntings are in the hands of Attorney C. C. Brower of this city.

KLAMATH BOY

GETS HONORS

Carlton Spencer, at one time a student in the Klamath schools, has been selected as the teacher of the course in debating which has just been added to the curriculum of the University of Oregon correspondence course. This comes in recognition of his ability as a debater during the three years he has represented the university in intercollegiate debates.

In his freshman year, Mr. Spencer won the alumni debate medal, which is awarded annually to the champion debater of the university. In 1911 he won the intercollegiate oratorical contest, and last June won second honors in the interstate oratorical contest held at Missoula, Mont.

The course is designed especially for students who take part in the Oregon interscholastic debate league. Forty high schools of the state annually enter teams in this league, which was organized by Professor E. E. DeCou, head of the department of mathematics at the University of Oregon, four years ago. Last year Albany high school, by defeating The Dalles high school in the final debate, won the championship of the league.

WAREHOUSE FOR

HERE PLANNED

To make the preliminary arrangements for the establishment here of a warehouse, G. L. Moselle, vice president of the Co-Operative Supply house, arrived in the city Saturday afternoon, and today is engaged in interviewing the farmers of this section.

The plan of the supply house includes the marketing of the produce of the members. It is claimed that by the co-operative plan a better price is secured and considerable of the labor involved in marketing is taken off the farmer's shoulders.

Notice to Taxpayers

The tax roll for 1912 is now ready for inspection at the office of the county assessor. All property owners interested are requested to call and make inspection before the meeting of the board of equalization. The books will be open until September 15.

J. P. LEE, Assessor.

5-6t h 4tr

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Miss Pearl Boivin, a graduate of the local high school, left Sunday for the South. She will attend Berkeley this year. She was accompanied by her parents, who will return in about two weeks.

Oregon Agricultural College

This great institution opens its doors for the fall semester on September 20th. Courses of instruction include: General Agriculture, Agronomy, Animal Husbandry, Dairy Husbandry, Bacteriology, Botany and Plant Pathology, Poultry Husbandry, Horticulture, Entomology, Veterinary Science, Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Mining Engineering, Domestic Science, Domestic Art, Commerce, Forestry, Pharmacy, Zoology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, English Language and Literature, Public Speaking, Modern Languages, History, Art, Architecture, Industrial Pedagogy, Physical Education, Military Science and Tactics, and Music.

Catalogue and illustrated literature mailed free on application. Address: Registrar, Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, Oregon. School Year opens September 20th.

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fact, rumors are current on the street today that at least one of these resignations has already been prepared, and will be tendered at the first opportunity.

The course of The Herald in this exposure has been commended on all sides, while the attitude of the morning paper is being unanimously condemned. Last night and today The Herald office was besieged by citizens

who desired to compliment the owner of the paper on the stand taken, and much useful information concerning conditions in municipal affairs here has been voluntarily given. As the proper time arrives this information will be placed before the taxpayers, so that they may no longer be kept in ignorance of the scheme which has been carried on with a view of looting the city treasury.

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