

The Headlight.

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THE NEHALEM AND NESTUCCA ROAD.

At the last session of the Legislature, Representative J. W. Maxwell was the author of and secured the passage of a bill appropriating \$10,000 of the state funds to aid Tillamook county in building a wagon road from Nestucca to Nehalem, with a branch road to Netarts. The county was to pay the expense of the surveying and of superintending the road on the road. According to the provisions of the bill F. Scherzinger, A. L. Alderman and Dr. E. W. Mills, the road commissioners named in the bill, selected Mr. Maxwell as superintendent of the road at a salary of \$5 per day.

The survey was begun the last of March, and after considerable difficulty and contention, caused by Dr. Mills, was completed. The money from the state could not be obtained until the road was completed and several substantial citizens had agreed to become responsible for the amount and borrow the money so the work of building the road could proceed, but through the interference of Dr. Mills, they were prevented from so doing. It was hard to find men who would work so long and wait for their money, but at last the work was begun by Mr. Maxwell assuming personal responsibility for over \$2500 of the amount. He went to work faithfully and completed the work in the best manner possible under the circumstances. The bills were made out and audited by Mills, Scherzinger and Alderman, the County Judge approving the report. The money was then forthcoming, but the County Treasurer instead of allowing the bank in this place to handle the \$10,000 for the sum of \$25, made arrangements with a Portland bank, and after a long delay and considerable discounting, the bank here receiving the benefit of the discount on warrants, those who did the labor received their pay.

If the money had been secured at the start, as it would have been had there been no interference, the road could have been built 25 per cent cheaper, or when the first \$7,500 was expended, as much work would have been done as there was when the whole amount was expended. Of course men could not work as cheap, or the work be managed so expeditiously, when there was so long a delay about receiving the money. There are few men who would have become personally responsible for the amount Mr. Maxwell did.

The bill was so guarded that a steal or crooked work was impossible, unless the road commissioners, the County Court, and State officers should have all conspired together, and then any crookedness could have been easily detected.

If any are not satisfied with this explanation, we have a large quantity of data and documents in regard to the affair, and will give any further information, and publish the appropriation bill if necessary.

ON THE FENCE.

The following is an extract from a letter written by L. J. Johnson, (which is on file aseevidence in the case of Bodle vs Johnson) before he started the Watchtower in this place:

"As to the land office business is concerned my opinion is that the Democratic occupancy is short lived & no doubt a change will be made against the time I get there. In fact it is likely to occur at any time. Please find out whether we can depend upon Portland to furnish ready prints each week & at

proper time for our issue. I believe the people of Tillamook have decided to have the paper list its Political Color at the first. This agrees with my desire yet it might not be for the best we cannot tell this far ahead from the field operation. It is a Republican County & if I started an Independent sheet no doubt in the near future some republican paper would sail in for county patronage and two republican papers would not pay & I would be very sorry to adopt the alternative of publishing a Democratic sheet or starve."

ONE OF L. J. JOHNSON'S LETTERS.

The following are extracts from a letter written by L. J. Johnson, editor of the watchtower. In his anxiety to sell his paper to the party he was writing to, he makes some startling statements, the truth of which, we shall let our readers determine:

*** In regard to the political color of the other paper published here, [the HEADLIGHT,] will say that from any article that ever appeared in its columns, no man can tell its politics, and there is no ability in it to become a factor in any political party. They cannot write a political editorial two inches long. ***** The population of the county now will be as much as 8000 and as for supporting 2 papers we are very sure of the support of ours and we don't care for the other 9x14 sheet in fact it has no support now, it is nearly 2 years old and our circulation is as much as 3 times what it has and as the time expires with its subscribers, the majority fall to us. Land office business is not good now being the winter season. *** The Republican majority was about 400 last election. ***

Now, Mr. Johnson, let us hear from you on this subject. Can you substantiate anything in the above assertions? Can you substantiate one-third of the claim you make in regard to subscription lists? In fact, don't you know you were lying when you wrote it?

MOSS-BACKS.

There has been a great deal of talk about "moss-backs" of late. Of course the term moss-back, and "web-feet," are applied in a jocular way to all old Oregonians, but what we term a "moss-back" is found in every clime. He is a man who always opposes public enterprise, and has no ambition in life except to eke out an existence for himself without regard to the welfare of others. There are some in Tillamook who have been here for years; some who have but recently arrived, and no doubt others coming. Tillamook probably has no more of this class than the average community, and it does not necessarily follow that a man is a "moss-back" because he has resided here for a long time. In fact we are acquainted with some of the oldest residents of this locality who are as generous, enterprising and public spirited as any men we ever saw, and they deserve great credit for maintaining such virtues for so long a time in a country that has so long been comparatively isolated from the rest of the world.

The candidates for the various offices who have announced themselves have shown their good sense by publishing their letters in the HEADLIGHT. They appreciated the fact that their letters will appear in an intelligible form and if they give any tables they feel assured that they will not be hopelessly mixed and inaccurate.

Brief Editorials.

No newspaper has a right to make indiscriminate charges of dishonesty and immorality, unless the charges can be proven beyond a doubt, and not even then except in particularly obnoxious cases.

Tillamook is not the only county where politics are warming up. In most of the counties of the Valley there is considerable excitement politically. However this is the first time newspapers have figured in politics here.

Since the principal excitement and political fight is now over, let us now get down to solid harmonious work and elect the nominees of the coming convention.

Some of the candidates who were backed by the Watchtower have stated that the methods of that sheet had defeated them. If they had succeeded, it would not have been on account of the Watchtower's efforts, but in spite of its efforts. Those who backed the Watchtower have no reason to complain, and can blame no one but themselves with their defeat.

If there is anything in the signs of the times, or "The survival of the fittest," the result of the Republican primaries held in this precinct last Saturday, in which R. R. Hays received a majority of 47 out of a total vote 176 (almost two to one) would seem that Mr. Hays, has a walk-over for his re-nomination as County Clerk. This result is a clear vindication of Mr. Hays, as to all the charges made against him, and at the same time, it is a scathing rebuke to the illiterate, illegitimate, degraded, contemptible journalism of the Western Watchtower.

Many who have acted and sympathized with the watchtower's fight are honorable and fair-minded men, but they have had the state of affairs misrepresented to them by some of the more rabid members. They were first led to sympathize with that sheet because it claimed persecution, and it is not to be wondered at altogether, as most men like to see fair-play and are ready to aid those who are being imposed upon. But their experience has led them to see the barrenness of the persecution dodge and they have had a good chance to observe the fallacies of the managers of that sheet. There are very few who will not show themselves to be loyal Republicans, and true to the best interests of the party and the public.

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(Mention this paper.)

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