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**OUR EDITORIAL POLICY**

1. To advocate, aid and support any measures that will bring the most good to the most people
2. To encourage industries to establish in Tillamook county.
3. To urge the improvement of a port for Tillamook City.
4. To insist on an American standard of labor.
5. To be politically independent, but to support the candidates for public office who will bring the most good to the people of Tillamook county and of the State of Oregon.

FRIDAY, MAY 9, 1924

**OUR MISTER BRIMHALL**

Appearing in other columns, several of them, in this issue, is a campaign speech delivered by H. S. Brimhall, present incumbent in the county clerk's office for this county, which was delivered at Garibaldi on the evening of April 30.

Judging from Mister Brimhall's first Epistle to the Garibaldians, he is going to force us to be painfully frank. Far be it from the Headlight to inflict unnecessary pain. Perish the thought that this paper particularly enjoys lampooning anyone; especially a person of an extremely nervous and sensitive disposition—but public welfare makes certain demands, and any newspaper that so fails to justify its existence by ignoring the common good out of sympathy for an individual has not the right to receive the confidence of its community. Nor will it receive that confidence.

The apparently harsh words which have been directed against the county clerk may be compared to a spanking given a naughty child; they are painful both to the spanker and the spankee but certain benefits are derived therefrom.

To begin with how did Tillamook county get its present county clerk? It is going to be the hardest blow of all, so all those who are newcomers to the county are hereby warned to get right to their seats when they are called to this: At the time of the nomination and election of Mister Brimhall as county clerk, he was employed as a teacher in one of the schools of the county. Just as he became obnoxious to the taxpayers of this district is not quite clear, but they decided they did not want his services longer and planned to get him off on the county so as to get rid of him without hurting his feelings in the doing thereof. Accordingly they got behind his campaign with a will and put him in office. That is how Tillamook county got its present clerk. Let him bring the Headlight before the court he has about and prove this isn't so.

The Headlight was not in favor of Mister Brimhall when he was elected county clerk. It was very much surprised at the result which was cast for him, but decided to make the best of the situation and give him full support. It may take long however to find out if he was a very difficult man to support, as his super serious-mindedness and idiosyncrasies made him the subject of many cruel jokes and pranks.

The Headlight supported him, hoping that he would have sense enough to not run for office again. When it was found that he had filed for nomination, the Headlight decided that the joke had gone far enough and was determined to stop it.

Mister Brimhall states in his Garibaldi talk that this paper had no right to criticize him than it had to kill a man.

When the state can go so far as to take away a man's liberty or even life for the good of society, then a newspaper can, without fear, condemn a candidate's attempt to fill public office when he obviously is not fit for the place.

The Headlight cannot conscientiously subject itself to a mute when a serious mistake is likely to be made, recognizing it, and refuses to pandering to the follies of a mistaken few.

who shout the loudest but least effectively.

Mister Brimhall thinks the Headlight is trying to ride him out of office because he was stingy with his printing patronage.

Now, for the sake of argument, let us concede that everyone in Tillamook county, except the county clerk, is responsible for the much-discussed budget error; let's concede that the present county clerk is a paragon of conscientiousness and honesty; concede that the Headlight is fighting him purely out of spite work—and you still face the facts that his term in office has been the most inefficient in the late history of the county, and the most expensive of any county in the state for the past year. The fact regarding inefficiency is from local observation and that regarding the expenses from a financial journal published in Portland. The Headlight would be interested in hearing Mister Brimhall make another speech and explain about THIS.

Now about printing—One thing which seems peculiar to us is this: Not over a month or two ago practically all the printers in the county were "cussing" the county clerk and other county officials for sending so much money out of the county for printing. Now he apparently claims the hearty support of the majority of them. Just how this change in attitude was brought about is what puzzles the Headlight.

**A GOOD RECORD**

While the Headlight is not an opponent of the timber interests primarily, it does believe that they have not been paying their just proportion of taxes in the past and is striving to get the county's financial affairs adjusted to a better basis, so that all property owners in the county will be treated equally and alike.

Certain timber interests made a big mistake when they fought the reassessment which was instituted by the county court some time ago, as that action naturally brings much suspicion upon them.

It is common belief that these large interests are trying to control the county as they have candidates for practically every office at the coming primary election and their influence will be further felt later in their support of the candidates offering them the most relief.

They have openly and at all times opposed the efforts of the present county court to have the timber tracts of the county reassessed.

Information filed with the court shows that the present county assessor, C. A. Johnson, was instrumental in having the reassessment made, with a result that with a reassessment of less than one half of the timber area gone over \$5,401,260 has been added to the taxable value of the county, and practically doubled the taxes paid by the timber owners. The result of this is a reduction of the taxes paid by resident property owners. Timber values have been increased over \$11,500,000 in the past ten years. Why should the county court spend a large sum of money for a reassessment to raise timber values if there is not a man in the assessor's office who can and will make use of it?

The Headlight suggests that the taxpayers of this county support the men who are working for their interests, and the county assessor's office is the most important part of the county government from the standpoint of financial affairs. Considerable trouble could be had in case an error was made by an inexperienced and impractical man in this position.

**BRIMHALL MAKES REPLY**

(Continued from page 2)  
 the fair board. They were especially elated. Pine was glad—so was the county court—everyone knew that it had carried. Now, we make up an abstract of the votes after all general and special elections. So we made up this abstract of votes and sent a copy to the secretary of state, and keep one

to file here in our office. One was sent up stairs—the county court work in the office Mr. Lamb used to have—your old office, Mr. Edner, is now used for a grand jury room, and the school superintendent is over in the Goyne building now. So we had the abstract of votes all made up. Now you watch me close, and you will see where Mr. Harrison is wrong in his statement. Now this was in November we made up this abstract of votes. The county court were meeting—they meet the first Wednesday of each month in transaction of county business—allowing bills and carry out road business and looking after any business that arises.

Well, all the county court knew—and it is a part of every county official's business to know and he is sworn to look after the county's business—we are just like a family. I have just one position but I am under

a \$10,000 bond and Tillamook county is indemnified in that amount if I do not fulfill my pledge to give honest and conscientious service and I feel the responsibility greatly. But we are all expected to help one another in the carrying out of the county's business. I try to be careful and not let anything slip past that I might remind the others of and save them trouble, and we are supposed to do that, all of us. All business of the county court, the assessor's office, the treasurer's, Miss Mills; and myself—it is our bonded duty to help each other without friction. Now then, they all knew and this is where the point comes in—there is a lot of things in the law that not any of us know. Two large volumes with thousands of pages—I have something else to do besides have my nose in a law book all the time, so I am mostly guided by my predecessors. I go back and see how the other fellow did it. See how Mr. Mason handled the elections when he was county clerk. In the election of November, 1920, they voted on the purchase of the fair

grounds by a one-mill tax levy—they had a special election in 1920 and Mr. Mason certified to it and I did this one the same way. They levied a one-mill tax on all the taxable property in Tillamook county and it was put in the levy for 1920 and I did this

one the same way. Now this is what all this "hullaballo" is about and that is why I am here tonight and I want all those here to know the facts. Why they are saying I am not big enough for the job—that I ought to (Continued on page 4)

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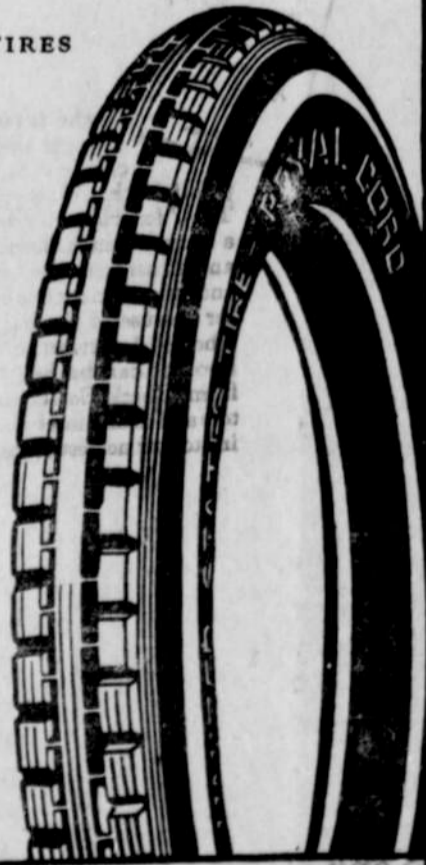
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