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CITY OFFICIAL PAPER

NOW FOR THE COUNTY CAMPAIGN.

Decision to run a Non-Partisan ticket in the local county campaign this fall is welcome news to those—and there are many of them—who want to see a determined fight made to overcome the organization which has manipulated affairs in and around the courthouse and throughout the county for so long. An inroad was made on it two years ago and there have been further defections in the intervening period, so that the prospects for a successful outcome to this year's fight are most excellent.

This newspaper supported the Non-Partisan ticket two years ago. It has been anxious for some time to see the fight against the courthouse organization carried further, believing confidently that there are enough voters in the county who are sick and disgusted with the things that have been done, the way various offices have been conducted, and with the official dereliction of various officers, that they would join a movement to "clean out the courthouse" and make individual merit and capability the criterions upon which candidates are to be judged.

That is the only real basis for the selection of city and county officers, when you get right down to "brass tacks." Just because a man belongs to a party or to an organization, or just because he has been secretly put forward by the organization as a candidate for an office, is no reason why he should be elected to that office. The only thing that counts, the thing that we taxpayers pay for and the thing we should get, is individual capability, the officer's actual capacity to do what he is elected to do.

We have already been treated to a lot of buncombe about the Non-Partisan ticket; we shall be treated to more, for the organization knows that a Non-Partisan ticket will give it a harder fight than could any other and it will attempt to discredit it every way it can. But we must pass over these things as only to be expected and center our attention solely on the real issue: the question of the fitness of each individual candidate for the place he seeks.

If we elect our county officials on that basis, if we choose our officers because of their ability, then our county business will be handled in a much more satisfactory and expeditious manner and, obviously, much cheaper.

**THE STATE DIDN'T ROCK.**

Hung up to the highest bidder for several weeks and then finally published, the story which the convicted industrial insurance looter Gillies promised would "rock the state," appeared last Sunday and shortly disappeared, without any apparent disturbance. It didn't measure up to the advance publicity concerning it; except for the unsupported charge of the twice-convicted jail-breaker that the three former commissioners framed up the frauds and that he himself was an innocent party to them and the "goat," the long dissertation is very vague, very general and full of all kinds of loopholes.

For some time the Seattle Times, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer and the Perkins outfit of newspapers have insinuated and suggested all manner of vague and mysterious hints about the industrial insurance looting, struggling to convey the impression that something had been "hushed up" to protect some "higher up" and intimating that this "rock the state" story would divulge a lot of interesting information. With the exception of the Seattle Times, these are the same newspapers which blocked every move of the investigation of the industrial insurance frauds, which sought to ridicule it and belittle it from the start and which have steadfastly minimized every effort that was made to get the guilty parties and bring them to justice; while the Times has labored under an hallucination which prompted it to publish all manner of rot about an "underworld" it conceived here.

These newspapers are lax in public duty if they know anything about the industrial insurance looting that has not been probed, or have any evidence against any one who has not hitherto been involved, and do not put that information in the hands of the authorities. The truth of the matter is that they do not know anything, or else they are prostituting their profession.

This newspaper holds no brief for the former industrial insurance commissioners. They should have been "fired" long before they were, for they were guilty of gross official negligence and incompetency. But these veiled hints and slurs, these insinuations and suggestions, these mouthings of political gossip whose only foundation is the

statement of a twice-convicted jail-breaker, a man whose personal life has been notorious, fill us with scorn and contempt for those who make them.

**A STATE POWDER FACTORY.**

Failure to learn all of the facts connected with the proposal to establish a state powder factory has led a writer in the current issue of the Agricultural Grange News, the official monthly publication of the Washington State Grange, to convey the wrong impression as to why such a factory has not been established. The writer quotes the law passed by the 1913 legislature, but stops there—he fails to proceed with his article to the 1915 legislature, to learn what happened then and to find out the actual reason why there is no state powder factory. Therein he made a mistake and plunged himself into a serious error.

The facts concerning this situation should be well known to every farmer and especially to the State Grange, but apparently are not. The writer is correct when he says the legislature appropriated \$50,000 for the establishment of a factory. It did, and it also authorized the governor to appoint an investigating committee, one of whom should be the state chemist, which he did. But this writer makes no attempt whatever to find out what this committee did or why a factory was not established, and blames everything on to the governor.

Here are the facts: an investigation was made by the committee. It found that the state could manufacture powder for about seven cents a pound, and also learned the private factories would contract to sell it at eight and three-quarter cents a pound in carload lots. But more important, it found that it would cost the state all of the fifty thousand dollars appropriated to erect and equip the factory, and that, after it was built, there would be no money to operate it or to buy the materials from which to make the powder.

There was only one thing to do. The committee reported the situation to Governor Lister and he in turn reported it to the 1915 legislature, saying, on pages fifty-four and fifty-five of his message to that body, "that a fund would have to be appropriated by the legislature in addition to that already appropriated, to be used in the purchase of raw materials, payment of operating expenses, etc."

Again, in the concluding paragraph of this portion of his message, after stating, "I did not feel that I ought to direct the construction of the factory as there would have been no fund for its operation available when completed," the governor repeated the statement that, "should you decide in favor of the establishment of the powder factory it will be necessary to re-appropriate the fund available two years ago and also to appropriate a sufficient amount for its operation."

In accordance with the committee's report and the governor's recommendation to the legislature, several bills were introduced in the 1915 session, but that is as far as they got. They died. So persistent was the opposition to them by those who were running that session that one representative, who was particularly interested in the factory project and had introduced one of the bills, quit the session in despair and disgust before it was officially closed.

We make this somewhat lengthy statement of the situation to correct a misunderstanding due to lack of information, and to put before the farmers the real facts in the case.

Now comes President Suzzalo of the University of Washington, who says that the instability of the lumber business is the result of "tremendous over-production in the face of increasing under-consumption." And that is the situation, "Wild Bill" Humphrey notwithstanding.

The Employers' Association is pulling a good one—it is offering the editors of the state substantial cash prizes for the two best editorials on why Washington should have the "open shop." That's about as cute a publicity scheme as has been concocted recently—it will be interesting to watch how many editors fall for it.

It may have been the shrewd workings of a master criminal mind that prompted Gillies to telegraph a local girl for funds, but it strikes us as being the best exhibition of "boneheadedness" of which we ever heard. He might have gone to work and earned that thirty dollars, or he might have telegraphed some friend in any other city in the United States and "gotten away" with it. He was too lazy to do the former; the latter, of course, led to his arrest.

The American farmer produced in three years of a Democratic administration a yearly income one billion dollars greater than under the preceding Republican regime. Will he vote in November against the increase in his income?

How can there be any joy in the Republican camp this year when there is no way to credit the three-billion-dollar gain in bank resources of the country to a Republican protective tariff?

Perhaps the hundred per cent increase in bank deposits in Oklahoma since 1912 is also due to the European war munitions business. Perhaps!



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**WHAT OUR FATHERS READ ABOUT IN THIS PAPER FIFTY YEARS AGO**

From The Washington Standard for August 4, 1866. Vol. VI. No. 39.

The flying-ship of Prof. Andrews of New York made her second experimental trip on the 6th of June. The professor was accompanied by the well-known aeronaut, Mr. Plumb. In addition, the car contained 400 pounds of ballast.

One of the most important works ever begun on the Pacific coast, says the San Francisco Leader, is the construction of the great sea-wall along the city front, which is already commenced and will be completed within five years.

A dispatch from Denver, Colo., represents the emigration westward as unusually large.

The Atlantic telegraph cable, connecting the United States with England and "the balance of creation" has been successfully laid. The charge for telegraphic correspondence is rather high—only ten dollars a word.

Hon. Levi Farnsworth arrived in town on Wednesday evening. He will proceed immediately to make a thorough exploration of the passes of the Cascade mountains, to decide upon the most practicable route for a wagon road—a duty assigned to him by the last legislature.

**PRESIDENT WELCOMES SUPPORTERS OF THE INDEPENDENT VOTERS.**

President Wilson sent the following letter to Representative William Kent of California, when he was recently selected as the chairman of the Woodrow Wilson Independent League:  
My Dear Mr. Kent:

It gratifies me very much that you should have been selected as the chairman of the Woodrow Wilson Independent League and that you should be willing to serve in that capacity. The support of independent men whose convictions I share and whose purposes are my purposes also gives me the greatest encouragement not only, but makes me feel that the political processes of the country are clearing for a new and more effective combination in the work of advancing all reasonable reform to early consummation.  
Cordially and sincerely yours,  
WOODROW WILSON.

W. E. Chambers, publisher of the News-Independent of Kirland, was an Olympia visitor the latter part of last week.

**SIMMONS NON-SAG SPRING—THE SPRING WITH A BACKBONE**

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Come in and let us show you this wonderful spring—then you will understand that this store is considering your needs all the time.

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