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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 20.

HIDALGO HOT

Over Unaccountable Proceedings of County Officials.

From Our Regular Correspondent.

Hidalgo, Texas, April 18.—It has been noticed by your reporter that for several days quite a ripple of excitement was disturbing the usual quiet of our county.

"On the 2nd day of this month commissioners' court of this county was convened in special session upon a call of the county judge at which were present his honor, Wm. P. Dougherty, county judge, and Commissioners José Longoria and Manuel Hinojosa, whereupon among other proceedings, the following orders were made:

"It is ordered by the court that the sum of five hundred dollars be and is hereby appropriated out of the road and bridge fund and other funds on hand, after paying the interest on outstanding county bonds, to be spent under the supervision of the county judge, he to see that none but those actually in need of employment, and that not more than fifty cents Mexican coin be allowed for the day's work, Commissioner Longoria voting against the above appropriation.

"It is ordered by the court that the work done on the court house and the sum of one hundred and twenty-five dollars for the trees planted around the court house, under a former order of this court, it is ordered that the above money, hereby appropriated to be paid over to the county judge by the treasurer, immediately, and a copy of this order to be sufficient authority for the treasurer to pay over the same to the said county judge."

"On this day the bill and receipts of Benigno Leal for the sum of one hundred and twenty-five dollars, for ninety-one trees of the ash, atagua, elm, ebony, willow, hackberry and jaborillo, planted around the court house yard be allowed and ordered paid."

These orders are neither attested by the county clerk nor approved by the judge, yet, it is needless to say, were at once carried into effect by the collection of the money by his honor. Our people are somewhat surprised at this and are wondering why it is that the commissioners' court, or a part of them, should make this appropriation of five hundred dollars, when a registered indebtedness of many thousands of dollars remains unpaid, when the law require them to be paid in the order of registration.

They are also inquiring why it is necessary to appropriate money for this purpose at all since the law in regard to working the roads by

those subject to road duty is not enforced, and said roads have not worked said roads for a day this year!

And again they ask why the supervision of this whole matter, as well as the expenditure of the money, should have been given Judge Dougherty, when we already have a county road supervisor (Peter Champion) who is able, efficient and honest, and who is already paid a salary by the county for the supervision of such matters?

They wonder why it is that this minority of a commissioners' court exacted no bond of Judge Dougherty for the faithful performance of this duty, and the honest expenditure of his money!

They (the people) want to know why it is that the sum of one hundred and twenty-five dollars for planting ninety-one trees is paid to Judge Dougherty immediately, and why it is a preferred claim, and if Judge Dougherty is a court house contractor or a tree planter, and why, at the same time, Benigno Leal files receipted bills for said work?

Why is it that Judge Dougherty, when the object of said order is to employ only the needy, should pay parties who have lands, stock and other property, one dollar a day to stand around and boss the job and give employment to two or three of their families who are amply able to live without such help, to the utter exclusion of those who are actually in need?

And they also ask why it is that the money paid to these people was not paid to them in cash as drawn from the treasury, but was paid to them in orders to country dealers, who paid them in goods at their own prices, and if Judge Dougherty includes the aforesaid merchants among the needy?

Some are inquiring, too, why certain school checks due teachers for the months of September and October, 1893, are yet unpaid, when it is understood that money for that purpose has long since been paid the county by the state?

These, it is asserted, are facts, and it seems that explanations by county officials are now in order. The feeling among the people of all classes here seems to be that a strict inquiry be made into these matters, and if injustice has been done, that steps be taken to right the wrong.

Much has been expected of the finance committee appointed by Judge Russell on the recommendation of the last grand jury, but your reporter is informed that the clerk of the court has been "too busy" to notify the committee of their appointment.

To the credit of José Longoria, his vote is recorded "No" in this matter. Commissioners Jackson and Miller were not present.

There is another query that troubles us to answer. Who moved it is appropriation? Who seconded the motion? And if Judge Dougherty and one commissioner (two out of the five comprising the court) voted this sum into the hands of Judge Dougherty without requiring him by any order of the court to account for it in any way? From the order on the minutes it seems this way. We await further developments.

The house has finally adopted Ex-Speaker Reed's method of counting a quorum, and business can now go ahead, despite absenteeism. The democrats have themselves forced their party to adopt the arch enemy's method of fighting.

Mr. Fernandez is still making assays of his gold mine at Laredo. If there is anything in faith, Mr. Fernandez' mine ought to pan out a bonanza.

Waller Barron criticizes Judge Reagan's recent letter, and thereby brings down on his devoted head the wrath of the ultra-Hogg Reagan organs. Perhaps Waller were wiser should he play sphinx in Texas politics this year.

Another big railroad strike is on in the north. Coxey's army of unemployed fares so well, the railroad employes probably think it nicer to be a Coxeyite than to toil unceasingly for their daily bread.

The Dallas Times-Herald lifts its discordant voice against the apostles of harmony in the democratic ranks. The Times-Herald evidently thinks there is more fun in a fight than in a sociable.

GEORGE WASHINGTON LAFAYETTE FLY of Victoria still labors under the delusion that his country requires his services in congress. The major evidently believes there is something in a name.

W. H. GETZENDANER, of Ellis county, whoever he may be, has announced as a candidate for the office of governor. If Mr. Getzendaner gets the nomination he will surprise Texas.

TOMORROW, San Jacinto Day, will be celebrated with great eclat in the cities of Houston and San Antonio.

Our good neighbors of Hidalgo county seem to have contracted the investigating fever.

It will now be in order to say Czar Crisp.

MONETARY CONFERENCE.

Washington, April 17.—Another international monetary conference, this time, perhaps, to be held in the City of Mexico is among the probabilities. The Mexican government through its diplomatic representatives is quietly pressing up on the attention of the powers the feasibility of again undertaking, an adjustment of the monetary question, and the time is believed to be ripe for further effort in that direction. Minister Romero has already suggested the matter to our government in a way that does not at the moment require a direct answer, and the president is considering it carefully, for undoubtedly the success of the undertaking will depend in a large measure upon the support of the United States. The adhesion of Great Britain, too, is of the first importance, and the report that she will limit her co-operation to the representation of India alone hardly realizes the hopes of the projectors of the conference, though it may not operate to defeat the meeting.

HILL AND GEARY CONDEMNED.

San Francisco, Cal., April 17.—Three thousand democrats met in mass meeting last night and passed resolutions as follows:

Resolved, that the utterances of Senator Hill are traitorous in their purpose, false in their assumption, absurd in their logic and execrable in the indignation and derision of the the democracy of California.

Resolved that the undemocratic course of Thomas Geary in reference to the Wilson bill is hereby condemned and repudiated.

The resolutions are to be laid before the senate by Senator White

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