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BOISE POLITICAL NEWS AND GOSSIP OF INTEREST

GOVERNOR ALEXANDER HAS WONDERFUL CHANGE OF HEART TOWARD STATE OFFICIALS.

Those Men Are Earning Their Salaries—Governor is Long on Psychology—Short on Respect for Press—Very Good Politician in Spite of all Denials.

(Special to The Tribune.)
Boise, Dec. 1.—That Governor Alexander will make an entirely different campaign next fall from the one that he made a year ago is very evident from his recent public utterances. It is not unfair to the governor to say that when he took over the reins of the governor's office he anticipated being able to show that all the Republican office holders have been grafters and dishonest men in office. It is pretty well established that the Grand Jury which met in Boise last winter was one of his political assets although such a statement of course has to be made with care owing to the privilege of the courts to hold in contempt those who might go too far in statements of this kind. The governor at that time was imbued with the idea of cleaning out the gang and Attorney General Peterson and State Auditor Huston were among those who were under the ban. However, before the grand jury had adjourned its sessions, Governor Alexander began to see that there were honest men in the state house besides himself and he now takes pride in the assistance which is being rendered him by Mr. Peterson and Mr. Huston in the businesslike and economical administration of the state's affairs.

Governor Praises Republican Associates.

Before the University Club at the Boise Commercial club room Saturday evening, Governor Alexander delivered a most important address, important from the point of view indicating his change of attitude from what he thought last winter and what he knows now. He explained the system of state government in its administrative departments. Among other things he said: "The real business of the state is done by three men—the Governor, the Attorney General and the Secretary of State. They handle more business than any corporation within the state. As a majority of the land board they are responsible for more loans than are made by any three banks in the state. They do more actual business in dollars and cents than any other three men in Idaho and they do it for an aggregate of \$12,000 a year."

Governor Alexander went into detail to explain how the board of examiners consisting of the Governor, Attorney General and Secretary of State looks over all the claims filed against the state from its various departments and institutions; how these bills came before the board after being signed by the head of the department or institution, signed by the State Auditor, as correct in their totals, and how they are then looked over and signed by the three members of the board of examiners. He showed that every check was placed upon the state's moneys in the payment of its accounts. He also showed how the state board of examiners had a "hospital" where all bills over which any question arose were placed and how the board met after the regular meeting and discussed these bills until they were either paid in full, cut down or disallowed. He said: "It is the final arbitrator of all accounts brought against the state unless the claimant thus turned down makes appeal for a special legislative appropriation to cover his case, and such action is very uncommon except in cases where the board has to turn down claims for lack of appropriation to cover the same."

Governor Alexander then sketched through all the duties of the different boards, showing how loans are made by the land board, showing how the Carey Act segregations were created and the problems which confronted the present land board in connection therewith; he showed how the Governor, Attorney General and Secretary of State were members of the pardon and parole boards and the method of bringing applications of prisoners to the attention of these two boards and the large amount of work involved in reaching conclusions which would protect the state and at the same time give a square deal to the prisoners. He showed how these three officials composed the soldiers' home board; how the Governor, Secretary of State and State Treasurer were members of the capital commission having authority over the capital building and its grounds; how the Governor, Secretary of State and Attorney General were members of the depository board and had charge of the banking system of the state in relation to the daily balances of the treasurer's office.

"I used to think with others, before I was Governor, that all those guys had to do up at the state house to sit with their feet upon the mahogany furniture and smoke fine cigars given them by those anxious to hold some of the small-fry jobs, but I want to tell you that the state officials work often over their eight

hours and are at work all day and are doing work which in any walk of life is paid for much better than the state pays for it," he said.

Governor Alexander stated that he could say with all honesty that the elective public officials at the state house, while of different political affiliation from himself, were sincere, honest men who were giving their best endeavor to their various duties. **Governor Does Not Like the Press.** During the course of his remarks the governor could not conceal his animosity toward the press. "Notwithstanding what the opposition press may say about me and what the opposition press may say about my Republican colleagues at the state house, I am here to say that you do not want to believe everything you see in the newspapers of either side," he said. In this connection it may be said that Governor Alexander is very sensitive to press comment. He often says that he does not read the newspapers, especially the Boise Statesman, which is his pet aversion. However, it is very noticeable that there are few reflections that he does not see. The making of the editor of the Capital News his private secretary, whereby he receives publicity through the Capital News in exchange for Mr. Broxon's salary as a state official, never set very well with Calvin Cobb, the editor of the Statesman, between whom the Statesman and the Capital News there has been a long standing newspaper feud.

The Governor cannot see any violation of the ethics either of journalism or state politics in securing publicity services from an organ through paying for it out of state funds. Mr. Cobb evidently does. Mr. Cobb is strong on ethics, especially newspaper ethics, so the Statesman takes every opportunity to belabor the Governor and the Governor takes every opportunity to express his aversion to Boise's morning newspaper.

Alexander is an all-day worker in politics and has the psychology of the game down pat. As an illustration: Ada county gave him a very big vote at the election over Haines and when the governor's probe failed to locate any warrant for the very strong accusations made by him and his cohorts in his campaign, there was a feeling of disgust and his political fortunes ebbed away. They resented his failure to make good upon his promises relative to cutting down taxes and to find a mare's nest in the state house.

Alexander Long on Psychology. Last spring under the Black Law, Jerry Robinson, a prominent Boise Democrat, was elected Mayor under the non-partisan guise which the Republicans have so kindly placed at the disposal of our Democratic friends. This fall, an evangelist by the name of Bulglin came along and held a series of evangelistic meetings and of course "fought the devil" and professed to find a condition of civic righteousness which sadly needed cleaning up. Mayor Robinson identified himself more or less with these meetings and Bulglin was quite effusive in his praise of the mayor as "a fearless official." With Bulglin's departure the moral wave took form in a series of raids and seizures under the direction of the mayor. Two events were evolved from these raids which aroused a great deal of local excitement. In one case a citizen who was employed as a spotter testified in police court "that in the seizure of liquor he had endeavored to meet a woman for immoral purposes and that he had been told by the mayor to go as far as he found it necessary to secure his evidence." The other case was where a raid was made by two special officers whereby the persons raided proved to be a man and a woman, and the man a prominent member of a leading church. No returns were made upon these warrants and the name of the prominent church member was not made of police record. It was then charged that Mayor Robinson has shielded a friend.

The result has been that a great local political tempest has been raging and the referendum feature of the Black Law has been put in operation to recall Mayor Robinson. Mayor Robinson's friends have rallied to his standard and on Sunday afternoon a meeting was held at the Pinney theatre at which it was urged that the moral people of the city were upon one side and the immoral people were upon the other, the latter seeking the mayor's downfall. Governor Alexander at once offered to deliver an address at this meeting and took advantage of the situation to arraign himself, as he termed, on the side of the moral influences of the city. The opposition to Mayor Robinson ascribed to themselves the moral issue also, claiming that the Mayor had given his deputy to understand that he could commit an immoral offense for the purpose of securing evidence of immorality in another and that the series of raids were holding Boise up to the outside world as a bad place to live in, whereas it is above the average as a clean and wholesome place to reside.

But the Governor gets in at this public meeting and arraigns the opposition as immoral, thus placing himself in the good graces of the church people who would be lead to believe that the local fight is between the good and the bad men of Boise. The Governor was quick to appreciate this as an opportunity to play upon the prejudices of well intentioned church people and by making a strong appeal for the moral issue, carried from the meeting a more or less personal following because of "his stand for righteousness."

One has to be quick on the trigger to follow our Governor through the various mazes of his political life. He understands the psychology of the public mind and no situation gets entirely away from his dexterity in

FORMER CALDWELL MAN IS GREAT RAILROAD PROMOTER NOW

ROBERT E. STRAHORN IS PROMOTING GREAT WESTERN RAILROAD SYSTEM IN OREGON.

Lines are Independent of Harriman and Hill Interests—Tonnage—Inducements of Winnemucca Line is Not Sufficient in Strahorn's Judgment.

Robert E. Strahorn, one of the founders of Caldwell, later a resident of Spokane, and now located at Portland, has been in Caldwell and Boise for several days past. While Mr. Strahorn has been well known in Idaho for a great many years, he first attracted widespread attention by securing terminal facilities for the North Bank railroad in Spokane. At the time he and his road were a great railroad mystery as no one could figure out who he represented or what he was doing.

Mr. Strahorn has been identified with the upbuilding and development of the west for 30 years or more. He came to Caldwell ahead of the Oregon Short Line railroad. For a few years he lived in this city and there is an addition to Caldwell known as the Strahorn addition.

At the present time Mr. Strahorn is engaged in promoting the Oregon, California & Eastern railway company for the purpose of building some 400 miles of railroad in Oregon, California and Nevada, connecting the Harriman and Hill lines in those states. These include a connection between the Oregon Short Line extension from Vale through the Harney valley and the O. W. R. & N. at Bend, this line to be connected with the Southern Pacific at Klamath Falls, and another connection made with the Nevada, California & Oregon line at Lakeview, 150 miles from Bend.

Independent Lines. The construction contemplated by Mr. Strahorn is entirely independent of the Harriman and Hill interests. It is intended to open up a piece of country as large as the state of Ohio and which is not served by railroads at present. It would also materially shorten the distance by rail between Caldwell and San Francisco. Mr. Strahorn simply takes up the blind ends of the O. W. R. & N. at Bend, the Nevada, California & Oregon and the Nevada, California & Oregon at Lakeview and connects them through a vast, rich stretch of country. He stated that Oregon business men are strong in their desire to have this country opened up, and have asked him to formulate plans.

Mr. Strahorn said he was not favorably impressed with the feasibility of the proposed railway link between Boise and Winnemucca, which he thought, did not offer sufficient tonnage inducement.

Finds Wonderful Change.

Speaking at the Boise Commercial club luncheon Tuesday, Mr. Strahorn gave some interesting reminiscences of his experiences in southern Idaho 37 years ago. At that time the country between Granger and Huntington was a vast, rich stretch of country. The transformation since then, he said, was marvelous, and it was only beginning. He dwelt upon the natural wealth of Central Oregon, stating that the territory he proposed to supply with railway transportation was much more inviting than southern Idaho was when the Short Line was built.

"giving the people what they want" and accompanying the giving with the necessary blare of trumpets and the beating of the tomtoms.

When Moses tells you that he is not a politician, look him in the eye and tell him he is a liar.

DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN IS CONSIDERING RESIGNATION

A rumor is current to the effect that Mr. Thos. E. Buckner is thinking of resigning as chairman of the Democratic County Central committee. It is stated that Mr. Buckner, having elected the county ticket does not feel like giving the position the time and attention it demands. It is stated by others that he does not feel that the organization's recommendations have been treated with the respect they merit.

FORMER CANYON COUNTY MAN SHOES LEWIS IN BOISE

Harvey W. Sutton, formerly a resident of Middleton, shot and seriously wounded W. A. Lewis at Boise last Monday. The shooting was the result of a quarrel over a real estate settlement which the two men had undertaken.

JURORS IN FIELDS CASE ABLE TO RESUME WORK AGAIN

STATE CLOSED ITS CASE SATURDAY AFTER INTRODUCING TESTIMONY OF 11 WITNESSES.

Trial resumed by Defendants Yesterday—Estill Still Witness for Prosecution—Testimony Unshaken in Court—Wife of Ward an Interesting Witness.

Jurors E. G. Dickerson and George L. McCormick have been sick all week and the trial of Shad Fields was necessarily interrupted. The sick men, who are in a local hospital, are slowly recovering under the care of Dr. T. S. Farrer, and the trial of the case was resumed yesterday afternoon. Mr. Dickerson was taken sick Sunday and Mr. McCormick on Monday.

The state closed its case against Shad Fields Saturday evening. The star witness for the prosecution was Henry Estill whose testimony the defense tried to shake several times without result. Estill was an eye witness of the tragedy in which the Ward brothers were killed.

The evidence on which the state seeks to convict Fields of first degree murder for the killing of Edward Ward was put before the jury by 11 witnesses. An equal number are to appear for the state in rebuttal. Seven of the 11 witnesses took the stand for the first time on Saturday. As both Henry Estill and Lillian Ward, who testified on previous days, appeared briefly in the witness chair Saturday, the court frequently on this day had the opportunity of seeing the entire array of state's witnesses with the exception of two people.

Widow a Witness.

Curious interest was evinced in the appearance of Mrs. Edward Ward as a witness Saturday morning. The widow showed signs of the sorrow she has endured, and at times was obliged to struggle rather bravely to keep back the tears. This was particularly true when she was asked to help arrange County Prosecutor Rhodes on the floor in the exact position in which her husband lay when she came to the scene of the tragedy. In her answers she was inclined to allow her voice to drop in diminuendo in ending the sentences, and it was necessary for the judge two or three times to ask her to make every effort to speak louder. Mrs. Ward's testimony brought out little new evidence, being largely corroborative of the facts testified to by her 12-year-old daughter, Lillian, on Friday.

Pine Club Exhibit.

Mystery surrounds the possible importance that may be attached to state's exhibit No. 9, a piece of pine club about an inch and a quarter in diameter and a short two feet long. Curiosity over the possible facts which may be associated with this piece of club has been whetted to keen edge through the fact that every witness who visited the scene of the killing has been examined and cross-examined carefully and at length with regard to the position of this stick with reference to the bodies of the dead men or the places where they had lain.

When originally introduced this stick was claimed by the state to be one or a part of one with which Palmer, the shepherd, hit Ed Ward over the head during their altercation across the fence. When introduced, there was pointed out on the jagged broken end of the stick a small spot said to be blood. If this was blood from a wound on Ed. Ward's head not a shred of evidence to that effect has been produced. Dr. G. E. Noggle of VanWyck, who was called to examine the slain men, was on the stand for the state during the afternoon. He was questioned about the condition in which he found the body of Ed Ward but nothing whatever was said about a bruise or wound on the top of his head. The position of the stick at the time the bodies were found has been fixed by two of the state's witnesses at points rather widely separated, the defense getting those points marked on the plat prepared by Witness Varner after the tragedy.

Sheriff's Story.

W. H. Hiatt, sheriff of Boise county, took the stand and testified at some length regarding his search for Fields after the crime. He detailed his journeys from Boise, where he chanced to be on the day of the shooting, to Weiser and thence into the Crane Creek country. On objection by counsel for the defense he was not allowed to state what was told him at the Gillenwater ranch in that country which he visited and searched. His searches in that section extended over more than two days and he was usually accompanied by Sheriff Walker of Washington county and one or two of Walker's deputies.

Surrender of Fields.

Sheriff Hiatt brought out in his testimony his version of the surrender of Fields in Boise on the evening of Wednesday, September 2. He said he saw Fields riding in an automobile with Karl Paine, J. E. Clinton and the latter's driver and turned his own machine, in which he was driving and followed them to Mr. Paine's office. There, he said, the prisoner surrendered to him and allowed himself

to be placed in the Ada county jail.

His examination brought out several conversations with Fields since his surrender in which the prisoner told of his whereabouts after leaving the Lingenfelter ranch immediately after the shooting. Witness said that Fields acknowledged having seen Paul Goshen, deputy sheriff of Washington county, known to him as a deputy, while in the Crane Creek country, but said he did not surrender to Goshen because he did not "know him well enough."

Cross-examining Hiatt, Attorney Paine brought out that a message had been received by the officer telling him that Fields would surrender on Wednesday afternoon. He was questioned briefly on re-direct examination.

A. J. Mitchell, hotel keeper at Donnelly, was called and told of conversations with Fields and with a Mr. Atwood regarding having met Fields when he was fleeing. He was not cross-examined.

Henry Estill was recalled for a few questions directed at him by Attorney Nugent. The first questions pertained to conversations which defense tried to show as having occurred between Estill and a group of men at the Wayman Ward home the evening of September 17. Estill was asked if he did not there state that Ed. Ward had said, "Come on, Wayman, let's finish him," and that Fields told them to "stop."

Witness and examiner fenced for a moment then the latter asked, "Then I understand you do not deny you said it?"

Estill answered, "No, I do not deny that I said it."

Witness was asked if he did not say that Ed. Ward threatened Palmer with a club. "No, I did not mean to say he did, unless you mean in the quarrel the two had the beginning of the fight," Estill responded.

A long involved question as to what he had said in the presence of Mr. Knutson and Mr. Moore about details of the fight and threats by Ed. Ward was propounded to the witness. Estill asked to have the question read a part at a time. When this was done he answered negatively for the most part, but once or twice said, "If I said it that way I didn't intend to." In one or two instances he said he would neither deny or admit that he had made the statement which the defense presumably will try to corroborate through the testimony of its witnesses.

ST. ANTHONY REFORMATORY STUDENTS IN NEW CRIME

Roy Welch and Walter Alberts Assault Idaho Falls Man

J. C. Clay, manager of the Clay garage of Idaho Falls, was assaulted Monday evening by two young men who hired the car to make a trip out into the country. When a few miles from town one of the men, who was on the back seat, struck Clay over the head with an iron bar. The driver of the car was partially paralyzed by the blow and did not know what had happened and could not account for the fact that he had lost control of the car. He mentioned the fact to the passengers, stopped the car and attempted to alight to make an examination, when he was again assaulted, being struck several times on the head with the heavy iron.

Clay still didn't realize that he had been struck, though complained of being struck and told one of the men to go to a nearby house for help, which he did.

Comes to Himself.

During his absence Clay realized what had happened and noted the iron bar, and forced the remaining man to get into the car with him drove back to Idaho Falls, where he was turned over to the police and a posse sent out for the other man. The entire country was notified by telephone, and when the other man appeared for a night's lodging it was given him and the word sent to the officers, who came and got him.

Both men confessed, saying that they had been inmates of the reform school at St. Anthony and were out on parole and hoped to get away with the car, sell it, and leave the country. They gave their names as Roy Welch, 19 years old, of Coeur d'Alene, and Walter Alberts, 20 years old, of Caldwell. Clay attributes his life to the fact that he was wearing a heavy woolen cap.

UP TO DATE OPTICAL PLANT INSTALLED IN CALDWELL

The passerby cannot but notice the recent improvement in Mr. A. E. Laughlin's optical and jewelry store. He has on account of increased demands upon him in his line, been compelled to install a new machine that is not surpassed in the State of Idaho. He is enabled, by the use of this machine, to take an uncut lens and prepare a perfect lens for any eye.

It will grind, drill the holes, and with the automatic edger he can completely finish a lens to suit the finest taste. His apparatus must have cost quite a sum, and yet he felt that the best was none too good for a man who wishes to really serve his customers.

He has treated some very difficult cases recently with a marvelous degree of success. We are glad that our city has a man so thoroughly equipped for the delicate work of treating that most valuable organ. No one need leave Caldwell to have optometric treatment in the most up-to-date way.

In case you have any difficulty in seeing let him persuade you that you need him.—Adv.

DISTRICT COURT TAKES UP CONSIDERATION CIVIL CASES

JUDGE DUNN IS SITTING IN DISTRICT COURT IN PLACE OF JUDGE BRYAN WHO IS IN THE NORTH.

Civil Cases Are Under Consideration—Dates for Hearing Fixed—Barton vs. Woodward Case Promises to be Long and Hard Fought Battle—Two Criminal Cases Listed.

The attention of Judge Dunn's section of the Canyon county district court was occupied Wednesday with the hearing of the suit of Johnson vs. Payette Valley Orchard company. This civil action was heard before a jury. The case comes from New Plymouth, where the plaintiff entered into a contract to purchase a 10-acre orchard tract from the defendant company. It is claimed that when he demanded title to the land he was unable to get a satisfactory deed. He at first sued for damages, but in the present trial asks to recover about \$2000 which he had paid down on the contract.

The jury in the case of Badger vs. Morgan, heard before Judge Dunn on Tuesday, awarded the plaintiff the sum of \$50. This seems to have been in the nature of a compromise verdict as Mr. Badger sought to recover something more than \$100 claimed due him as interest on an installment sale of furniture.

Two Criminal Cases.

Two criminal cases remain to be heard by the district court at this term, but it is probable that before either of them come up for hearing Judge Bryan will have concluded the Kerl divorce trial at Coeur d'Alene and will be back on the bench here. The more important of the criminal actions to come up will be that of the State vs. Custer Young, the Nampa young man charged with stealing a couple of horses. This is set for December 16. On December 13 E. M. Small of Wilder, accused of maiming galley twenty-nine Earl Linebaugh of the same place on Hallowe'en night with a bullet from a 22-calibre rifle, will be given his trial.

Hearings Scheduled.

The schedule of cases now set for hearing in the district court follows: December 2—Hoffman vs. Nampa Lumber company. December 3—Macombe vs. Oregon Short Line Railway company. December 4—Stalker vs. Fuss. December 6—Herman vs. McMullan. December 7—Barton vs. Woodward. December 10—9 a. m., Gonzales vs. McPherson; 1:30 p. m., Pollard vs. Hall. December 11—State vs. Small. December 13—Matter of Shaw estate. December 16—State vs. Young.

Big Damage Suit.

Of the civil actions on the schedule the damage suit of Dr. C. A. Barton against Drs. J. C. and I. R. Woodward promises to be the hardest fought and most important. All of the interested parties are physicians at Payette. The plaintiff, at seems, was at one time arrested at the instance of the defendant and charged with practicing the profession without a license in Idaho. As a result of this arrest Dr. Barton sues for thirty thousand dollars' damages. Some of the best legal talent in Boise, Caldwell and Payette is lined up on the two sides of the litigation, each listing five attorneys.

DEMANDS INVESTIGATION BY THE WATER USERS

C. J. Humphrey Asks That Water Users Probe Charges of Rankin.

Asserting that he has been made the victim of unfounded charges, C. J. Humphrey asks that the directors of the Water Users' association investigate charges against him by C. M. Rankin, which account for the fact Mr. Humphrey is no longer assistant watermaster. Mr. Humphrey says Mr. Rankin is a power in the reclamation service here and with the water users and that it has been impossible for justice to be obtained. He exhibits the following petition to the directors of the Water Users' association:

"We, the water users of the Boise project, demand an investigation of the charges, and full proof of same, made against Assistant Watermaster C. J. Humphrey by C. M. Rankin. This is to be done at the next regular meeting on September 7.—Signed) —D. E. Dorsey, T. D. Finn, A. R. Aitchison, A. C. Johnson, Charles S. Taylor, R. E. Bayless, S. Allen Mower, Warner N. Harris, George C. Peninger, Thomas N. Harris, Harry Armstrong, Charles E. Harris, F. M. Conroy, G. O. Lear, Albert Mutch, E. E. Perry, D. L. Bradley, E. J. Swan, M. Rowan, George Davidson, E. H. Fisher, W. H. Rogers, C. B. Anderson, W. A. Couger, W. E. Kerrick, A. P. Mungel, W. E. Coman, E. E. Harris, E. L. Rose, Carrie N. Snyder, Wm. Aitchison, J. A. Reed, F. O. Wheeler, G. Stevenson, G. N. McCall, J. H. Jones."

Mr. Humphrey says so far this petition has been ignored. He also exhibits commendatory letters from the watermaster and others.