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EXPERTS PROVE NOTHING.

We are assured that it is well worth while to have the records of the county correct; and, that the Van Deusen audit can be justified on the grounds that the records are now correct. Without question the records should be correct and if they are now correct, the money was well spent. Are the records correct and exact now that the audit has been made?

When Will Monk was succeeded in office by the present county treasurer there was a considerable sum of money that Mr. Monk could not account for. This money was turned in to the "Will Monk Trust Fund," to be diverted to other funds as these funds were shown to be entitled to it. The audit has been made, the accounts have been checked up and there still remains the residue of the "Will Monk Trust Fund." Is that getting the records cleaned up and cleared up? Be it remembered that the expert felt called upon to commend Mr. Monk in his report for the excellency of his books. So far as this fund is concerned the expert found that certain moneys could not be accounted for and were to be found in a special fund. The people knew this months before Van Deusen was employed.

In the case of Geisler a trust fund was created ten days before the publication of the report. In this fund are \$50.66. The report charges Geisler with a shortage of \$10.09. What is to be done with the balance of nearly \$40.00? Where did it come from and why? Are these records correct?

Former county officials who have taken the trouble to check up the Van Deusen report have noted numerous errors in the document. The board of county commissioners is not satisfied with the report of its expert. They are going to give former officials an opportunity to check up and expert the report of the experts employed by the county.

The Van Deusen audit was made for political purposes. The desire was to discredit Republican officials. The purpose failed miserably. Now the argument is advanced that the object was to straighten out the records. The report itself and the subsequent actions of the board of county commissioners show conclusively that the records were not straightened up. What was really accomplished? What good did the experts do? How can the waste of \$2,600.00 more or less be justified? If the audit had done anything in the world it would have been worth while. The experts did nothing of value, proved nothing and cleared up nothing.

FRANKLIN ON WAR AND PEACE.

Benj. Franklin is credited with the aphorism—"There never was a good war or a bad peace." There seems to be no question of the authenticity of the saying. Franklin had a habit of saying things, some wise and some foolish. He did not always live up to his words. He found in his experience that glittering generalities could not govern him in specific instances.

Franklin was one of the commissioners appointed to negotiate the treaty of peace with Great Britain. There evidently arose some criticism of the appointment of Franklin to this commission on account of the saying above quoted. Writing to David Hartley, an English friend, under date of February 2, 1780, according to Bigelow's Franklin, vol. 11, page 498, Franklin wrote:

"If the Congress have intrusted to others, rather than to me, the negotiations for peace, when such shall be set on foot, as has been reported, it is perhaps because they may have heard of a very singular opinion of mine that there hardly ever existed such a thing as a bad peace or a good war, and that I might therefore be easily induced to make improper concessions. But at the same time they and you may be assured, that I should think the destruction of our whole country, and the extirpation of our whole people, preferable to the infamy of abandoning our allies."

INFLUENCE OF JOHN HART.

Strange as it may seem, we are convinced that Hon. John Hart exercises a greater influence in gentle Idaho than he does in Mormon Idaho. By virtue of the influence he is supposed to have among the Mormons he has no trouble in bending the non-Mormons to his will. In turn Mr. Hart is able to direct the attention of the Mormon people to his influence among the non-Mormons which in turn strengthens him at home. By thus working both ends against the middle Mr. Hart is a man of real influence in the state of Idaho. He plays one against the other and with the greatest success. The leading politicians of Idaho use John Hart whenever they can and are used by him willy nilly.

The Mormon people have always had men among them who pretended to carry with them the voice and vote of the "southeast." Such a one, for many years was George C. Parkinson. Another one was Sam Rich. A third, and the most astute and straightest of the three is John Hart. The influence of Hart is due a great deal more to the credulity and cupidity of the non-Mormons than it is to the subserviency of the Mormons.

So long as gentle Idaho goes to Salt Lake to barter for support that long will men like Mr. Hart exert a great interest in political affairs. We do not blame the Mormons for taking advantage of the opportunity, and least of all we blame John Hart.

MORE GOVERNMENTAL MEDDLING.

A bill to create a national board of censors to pass on all foreign and domestic moving picture films shown in this country and to prevent the importation and interstate shipment of pictures that do not meet with the approval of the censors, was reported to the House of Representatives this week. The bill should be killed without ceremony. There is ample law already against the display of immoral, obscene and detrimental pictures.

The creation of a board of censorship in this line is the first step. Experience with governmental agencies teaches us all how those agencies grow and how their powers expand. If for motion pictures why not for the drama? If the theatre is to be subjected to censorship why not the press? public speech? or, private communication?

The people of the country must call a halt one of these days or else their liberty of thought, speech and action will be only a torn and tattered remnant of what was once a real liberty. Whenever the government attempts to establish a censorship then is the time for the public to

act. We want no busy, meddlesome bureaucrats at Washington censoring the speech of the people whether that speech is made in newspapers or upon the films; from the lecture platform, the pulpit or the stage.

OREGON SHORT LINE MEN OF AFFAIRS.

The Oregon Short Line has had, and still has, some splendid men at the head. Among the good men were Bancroft and Burley and Calvin. We note that Mr. Burley has been succeeded by D. S. Spencer as general passenger agent. Mr. Bancroft was succeeded by Mr. Calvin as vice president and general manager. Bancroft was a splendid man. His successor is a splendid man. Burley was a splendid man. His successor is also a splendid man.

Mr. Burley came in very close contact with the people of Idaho. He was interested in the development of the state and naturally the advertisement and promotion of the state came to his department and was under his management so far as the Short Line was concerned. The people of Idaho owe a great deal to the public spirit and warm interest Mr. Burley always took in the development of the state.

Mr. Spencer has been connected with the Short Line for a great many years. He has been promoted. The promotion was earned honestly. The friends and patrons of the railroad will be well pleased to know that Mr. Burley is succeeded by such a man as Mr. Spencer.

There is only one man connected with the Oregon Short Line, or perhaps two, counting Mr. R. Farrar, who is indispensable to the success and prosperity of the road, and that man is Col. Joel L. Priest. If anything should happen to Col. Priest we do not know what would become of the Short Line, or of the people of southern Idaho. That statement is made seriously. Col. Priest is the greatest factor in maintaining good relations between the railroad and the public. Such relations must be maintained and the man who can maintain them is indispensable. He is also a genius. Col. Priest is worth hundreds of thousands of dollars a year to the Oregon Short Line and there are no more like him in stock. Thank heaven, Col. Priest is in the best of health and has before him 50 or 75 years of great usefulness.

THREATENED RAILROAD STRIKE.

Owing to the war in Europe, the Mexican situation, the controversy with Germany, the impending presidential campaign, the threatened strike of the railway engineers, firemen, conductors and other trainmen, has not attracted the attention it merits. Such a strike would have a greater and more immediate effect upon every individual in the country than any other impending event not excluding a break in the diplomatic relations with Germany. There is not a city or village in the country that has more than a week's supply of all the necessities of life on hand. The strike would paralyze the transportation facilities of the country; tie up industry; shut down factories and mines; cripple agriculture; in short stop all industry and commerce.

The strike would be a national calamity and neither side to the controversy should by arbitrary action produce this calamity. The controversy must be settled by arbitration.

Both sides to the controversy have been flooding the mails for weeks past with argument for themselves and against the other. The purpose of all this literature is to create public sentiment, and especially press sentiment. Public sentiment refuses to be aroused except to the necessity of the trouble being settled without a strike. In this controversy the rights of the public should be safeguarded above everything else.

MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG.

Instead of turning in a fire alarm Nero fiddled while Rome burned. Nero's fame rests more securely on this one thing than upon all the other events of his interesting career.

Nero hasn't much on those in authority in this country today. They too are fiddling while the world is on fire. The President has started a war in Mexico; delivered an ultimatum to Germany; and has considerable unfinished business with other countries which may eventually lead us into war. Notwithstanding the precarious condition the administration and Congress are fiddling away their time without doing anything to prepare the country.

We have a pacifist President, a pacifist Secretary of War, a pacifist Secretary of the Navy, a pacifist Congress, all of them dealing in redomontade supremely happy in their impotency. As a nation of mollycoddle braggarts this country takes the prize. Merrily we roll along trusting to luck and hot air.

ANYTHING TO BEAT WORK.

The hardest work in the world is to beat work. Even when successful you work harder than when you go about your business and attend to it. It takes some people a long time to realize the truth here set forth. Some of them never realize it. They go through life frittering away their time working hard and doing nothing. The effort to beat work is another manifestation of the eternal struggle of man to get something for nothing. Very few men have ever gotten anything for nothing, and very few ever will.

The highest satisfaction in the world comes from the realization of a hard task well done. There is an exaltation derived from accomplishment that cannot be compared with any other pleasure. The exaltation is both immediate and lasting. It is instant gratification and a pleasant memory to be cherished through the years. We presume that in a measure this exaltation is experienced by the person who successfully beats work.

We are all gamblers by nature and the game of beating work unquestionably appeals to a great many of us, perhaps to the great majority. It is a will-o'-the-whisp, nevertheless, and ninety and nine who follow it will land in a bog.

A COUPLE OF OBSERVATIONS.

A little while ago the writer observed a citizen leveling off the street immediately in front of his residence. When asked the purpose of the work he said: "You can see that wagons, carriages and autos cannot come within 20 feet of the curb. I don't like to have the delivery boys or visitors stop in the middle of the road and especially when it is as narrow as this one. This little driveway to the curb will help them." Last year the city of Caldwell spent several hundred dollars on this street. These little spurs are necessary and are likely to become quite common.

A few days ago the writer observed a property owner building a dyke around his lot. When asked the purpose he said: "I have been trying to start a lawn this year. Once or twice a day I am flooded out by waste water coming from above. I have notified the street commissioner and the water master. Neither of them will do a thing. I am going to fence my lots in with an earthen dyke."

It is a great system that prevails in Caldwell. Great judgment is used every once in a while by some servant of the people. The balance of the time the property owners shift as best they can. Spurs from the center of the street to the curb and dykes around the lawns are splendid manifestations of slack attention to public business.

During the past six weeks the writer has talked with each of the four candidates for the Republican nomination for governor. Each was hopeful, yes, enthusiastically confident of being the nominee. Each cited support that was for him which will surely be sufficient. The conclusion is forced upon us that at least three of the four are being deceived. The conclusion is also about to come upon us that already there has been more or less lying, or at least deception, practiced by those who carry around the influence.

The Philippine Islands will not be scuttled within four years. The House of Representatives defeated the Clarke amendment to the Philippine bill. It is gratifying to note that 30 Democratic members of the House joined with the Republicans in defeating the dishonorable resolution. There are some members of Congress who have a high regard for the obligations and honor of the country.

The punitive expedition against Villa has about come up to expectations and that is as much as it has accom-

plished. Villa was not captured or destroyed; raids across the American boundary line have not ceased; the prestige of this country has not been increased. What has been accomplished?

Col. Harvey of the North American Review states that Chicago will witness a marriage in June and St. Louis a funeral. The former city will be the scene of the conventions of the Republicans and Progressives. The latter city will be the scene of the Democratic convention.

Michigan will be in line for Justice Hughes for the nomination for president after Henry Ford has been given first vote of the delegation. Hughes will be the nominee of the convention on the first vote after the preliminary skirmishes.

"Masterful inactivity" was the watchword of the Polk administration, according to those who dig deep into the past. Polk and Buchanan were the ancestors, in direct lineal ascent, of the present administration.

Comment On Political Affairs

By THE EDITOR

Compromise—The Democrats of Idaho will hold their state convention at Pocatello in about ten days. The indications are that this will be the liveliest convention since that historic one held at Twin Falls by the same party in 1906 when the Supreme Court of the state was called upon to designate which of two tickets was the Democratic ticket. There is a chance that the anti-Elder faction, feeling that the fight is already lost, will make no effort to control the Pocatello convention. We are inclined to believe that something of a fight will be put up against Elder.

It is noted that a compromise national committee in the person of Hon. D. L. Evans of Oneida county has been suggested. Mr. Evans is a splendid man and would make a good committee man. He is a representative Democrat and not closely identified with either faction of the party. Naturally he would belong to the Hawley clique. At the meeting of the state central committee in Boise recently he was found in training with the Nugent wing. He probably hobbles with both factions to more or less extent. From a party standpoint we believe that the election of D. L. Evans would be a ten strike. Notwithstanding our belief that Mr. Evans is the available man, we are convinced that there will be no compromise of this kind. Messrs. Pence, Elder and Nugent have control of the machinery. They wish to retain control and the safest way is to re-elect Mr. Elder, and that is the very thing that will happen at Pocatello. You cannot expect men to put up the fight that Pence, Elder and Nugent have put up, and win in that fight, and then turn the spoils of victory over to a neutral. Politics are not played that way in the state of Idaho, or anywhere else for that matter.

Messrs. Nugent, Pence and Elder are in this fight for the purpose of retaining the machinery of the party. They have won the fight and they will handle the machine. The anti-Elder forces are licked to a frazzle right now and all because the Hon. Jeremiah Day was a little shy on sand. He didn't have the nerve. He couldn't stand the gaff.

A month ago a little intelligent effort in behalf of any man would have stripped Elder, Nugent and Pence of their power. Today they are entrenched and will stick for two years more. What will happen at the expiration of two years is of no great importance to any one at the present writing.

Alexander—Governor Alexander is still a source of worry, hope and irritation to the Democrats. Not one of them knows what the Governor intends to do. Some think he will be a candidate for re-election. Others think that he is ready to scuttle the ship. Still others think that he should be compelled to run again, and are willing to assist in his murder at the general election.

Governor Alexander is a man who will be a candidate if he wants to be a candidate. He will not be a candidate if he does not want to be. He does not wish to be beaten at the general election. He would much prefer to decline to run. He also enjoys the limelight. He is not so modest that a little of the calcium is painful or even displeasing. Being such a man as he is, and circumstances being exactly as they are, Governor Alexander will abide until after the Chicago convention. In case the Republicans and Progressives fail to amalgamate you will find the governor hot on the trail of the nomination. If they do amalgamate he will wander off. We guess that harmony will prevail at Chicago, and that, in consequence, Hon. Moses Alexander will not be a candidate for the nomination this year.

Governor Alexander is not popular with those men who have arrogated to themselves the leadership of the party. The trouble with Governor Alexander is that he has little respect for any one in the Democratic party except Alexander. The party is simply an instrument to further the ambitions of Alexander. As long as it does that it is serving a useful purpose. The leaders naturally do not care about maintaining a party organization for the sole purpose of pushing Governor Alexander up and onward. They feel that there are other things to be considered beside the ambitions of one man. It so happens that Mr. Alexander is in office and can be the nominee of his party if he desires to be. This makes it a little hard on those Democratic patriots who have no love for the Governor. All they can do is to abide their time. This they will do and when the abiding time comes there is going to be an abiding that one gentleman will remember for the rest of his life.

Non-Partisanship—The judiciary is non-partisan in Idaho. Candidates for judgeships are supposed to have forgotten the brand of politics they affected a few years ago. We believe that such candidates do this very thing and especially when the record shows that they were Democrats. Idaho is

still a Republican state by some several thousand votes. It is well for non-partisan candidates for judicial positions of the Democratic persuasion to soft pedal on the facts, not of course because it makes any difference but simply because it is just as well.

Rumor has it that Mr. John C. Rice of this city will be a candidate for justice of the Supreme Court. Mr. Rice has long had an ambition to sit upon the bench of the Supreme Court, according to the statement of friends. He has concluded that this is an opportune time for realizing on that ambition.

Mr. Rice is a leading lawyer of this section of the state. He is also a banker and business man. He would make a good run and probably as good a justice as the state is in the habit of getting. Mr. Rice is a Democrat in politics but has rarely taken a very active part in political affairs. He is a very good citizen in every respect, and we would not emphasize the fact that he is a Democrat. In fact Mr. Rice will not emphasize that fact during the campaign except here and there where it will do the most good.

The non-partisan judiciary system is a great help to deserving Democrats who desire office.

Dunn—Robert N. Dunn, one of the most capable district judges in the state, a lawyer of eminence before he came to the district court, a fine type of citizen, and a most excellent man in every respect, has announced that he will be a candidate for justice of the Supreme Court. Judge Dunn has been mentioned time and again as a most suitable man for the office. He has also been spoken of on more than one occasion as good gubernatorial timber. In fact Judge Dunn is one of the leading and most influential men of north Idaho. His candidacy for any position from United States senator down is to be given the most earnest consideration.

There are two candidates in the field Judge Sullivan and Judge Dunn. Judge Sullivan has been mentioned in these columns in previous issues. Judge Dunn has not been mentioned owing to the fact that he had not reached a conclusion until the latter part of last week.

Judge Dunn will have the hearty support of the people of his section of the state. He will have the support of the men who are acquainted with him in other sections of the state. These facts are the strongest recommendations that any man can have. If there are other candidates for the justiceship they will come from south Idaho. This fact augurs well for the success of the candidacy of Judge Dunn.

Of course it is too early to prophecy. It is too early to pick favorites. Without disparagement of any other man or any other candidate we can say that Judge Dunn is one of the best men who ever appeared as a candidate for justice of the state Supreme Court, and there have been some very good men as candidates. In fact some of the best men never got beyond the candidate stage. However we do not take that as an ill omen. It was purely an accident and should not happen again.

French—The fact is apparent that more or less enmity toward Burton L. French exists in north Idaho. Some of these people state that Mr. French butted into the senatorial fight two and four years ago, and deprived north Idaho of representation in the United States senate by making it impossible to elect a man from that section. They expect to get their revenge at the coming primary election.

It may be said with the same degree of truth that Judge Ailshie deprived north Idaho of representation in the United States senate. He too helped to make the election of a north Idaho man impossible. At the primary election Mr. French polled more votes than Judge Ailshie and a great many more north Idaho votes. Judging by the results of the election Mr. French was the choice of the people of his section for United States senator, and if any one is to be censured for interference with the just deserts of north Idaho it was Judge Ailshie. The Tribune takes little stock in the claim that Mr. French is to be blamed for being a candidate. He had the right to stand for election to the senate. His vote showed beyond a doubt that the people of the state looked kindly upon his candidacy, and we venture the retrospective guess that had he been at liberty to gumbout the state according to his custom, that today he would have been a senator of the United

States. The Tribune does not pretend to account for Mr. French's popularity. He has had it for many years. He will be nominated for representative at the coming primary election, unless there has been a wonderful change in public sentiment. No such change is apparent on the surface.

North Idaho will do well to forget about the senatorship. That section wants the governor, a representative or two in congress, a secretary of state, a superintendent of public instruction, and a justice of the supreme court. Landing these offices will keep the north fairly busy without fighting over again the senatorial fights of two and four years ago.

SCHEDULE OF BASE BALL GAMES IS MADE OUT

Four Team League Organized and Will Open May 21st.

Caldwell is one member of a four-team league recently organized. The other members of the league are Nampa, Boise, and Payette. It is possible that Ontario and Weiser may come in later.

The first game of the league will be Sunday, May 21, when Caldwell will play at Boise and Payette at Nampa.

The league season is to open on May 21 and close on July 30. The schedule follows:

- May 21—Payette at Nampa; Caldwell at Boise.
- May 28—Boise at Payette; Nampa at Caldwell.
- May 30—Payette at Caldwell; Nampa at Boise.
- June 4—Caldwell at Payette; Boise at Nampa.
- June 11—Nampa at Payette; Boise at Caldwell.
- June 18—Caldwell at Nampa; Payette at Boise.
- June 25—Payette at Caldwell; Nampa at Boise.
- July 2—Boise at Payette; Nampa at Caldwell.
- July 4—Caldwell at Payette; Nampa at Boise.
- July 9—Payette at Nampa; Caldwell at Boise.
- July 16—Payette at Boise; Caldwell at Nampa.
- July 23—Payette at Caldwell; Boise at Nampa.
- July 30—Nampa at Payette; Boise at Caldwell.

Wanted Rest.

An old farmer who had been henpecked all his life was about to die. His wife felt it her duty to offer him such consolation as she might, and said: "John, you are about to go, but I will follow you."

"I suppose so, Maria," said the old man weakly, "but as far as I am concerned, you needn't be in any blamed hurry about it."

DR. C. D. PONS

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