

LEAVENWORTH ECHO

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FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 1904

ARGUMENT FOR FOOLS AND BABES.

Under the head of "Mr. Field is no Trimmer," the Spokesman-Review of last Tuesday contained the following editorial endorsement of Mr. Field's argument for an appointive railroad commission:

There is no mistaking the attitude of Representative M. E. Field of Chelan county. Mr. Field, who is a candidate for lieutenant governor, was an unwavering advocate of a railroad commission, and his frank, admirable statement, published in Friday's Spokesman-Review, makes it entirely plain that he stands firmly by the people's rights. "I am for an appointive railroad commission," said Mr. Field, "and believe an elective commission would be worse than no commission."

In support of this conviction, Mr. Field pointed out that with an appointive commission the governor is responsible for the work of the commission, and if its members fail to perform their duty, they can be promptly removed by the governor, and their places filled with better men. On the other hand, if railroad tools slipped into the commission under the elective system, they would be there for years—six years is the usual term of a railroad commissioner—and could be removed only by impeachment before the legislature. As the Washington legislature has never tried to impeach a single one of the innumerable tools which the railroads have foisted into other public positions, there is no probability that it would deal differently with railroad creatures on a commission.

Mr. Field then pointed out the methods the railroad lobby would employ to bring about the nomination in state conventions of candidates acceptable to them, to the extent of sacrificing nominations to all other positions.

This they could do in comparative obscurity, for the reason that the people find it impossible to check up the records and beliefs of the numerous candidates for minor state offices. Candidates for governor, though, are invariably brought into the open. The searchlight is turned upon them, and long before the state conventions assemble, the voters have pretty clear knowledge of their policies and affiliations. For example, the voters know at this time that if Henry McBride should appoint a railroad commission, that body would not be weaker corrupt tools of the lobby, and they know that if Atkinson should be elected there would be little or no interference with the wishes of the railroad leaders.

Men like Mr. Field are wanted in the public service. They are frank, above board, honest, brave and incorruptible. They are the hope of the state and the nation. Were it not for them the republic would soon be overwhelmed by civic decay.

Had not the Spokesman-Review given Mr. Field's argument prominence by indorsing it, and passing it up to the voters of Eastern Washington as a sufficient reason for supporting Mr. McBride, like many other arguments that gentleman has made, it might have escaped notice. Some of the arguments he has put forth in this campaign lacked lucidity—that is, they were just about as clear as mud, but this argument lacks the indispensable quantity of common sense.

"I believe an elective commission would be worse than no commission," said Mr. Field. Does Mr. Field know of a single state that has abandoned an elective for an appointive commission? If Mr. Field doesn't know about this he might call in the Spokesman-Review to help him out. As a matter of fact by far the larger number of those states that have attempted to regulate railroads through a commission select the commission by popular vote. Can it be possible that all of these states have erred in providing for an elective rather than appointive commission? Are the conditions in Washington different from what they are in those states in which the elective commission works so satisfactorily that never a proposition has been made to change to an appointive commission? Are the people of this state less capable of making a wise and proper use of the elective franchise than are the voters of Missouri? These are questions Mr. Field should

answer before he can expect any one to be influenced by his argument.

Mr. Field says "If railroad tools slipped into the commission under the elective system they would be there for years." Will Mr. Field or the S.-R. explain how it is easier for two or three candidates for commissioner who have been touched by the railroads to run the gauntlet of a popular election, than it would be for the gentleman who happened to be the candidate for governor? Supposing the railroads were out fixing things, to use a doubtful but well understood expression, would it be any more difficult, or expensive, to fix the governor than it would be to fix two or three commissioners? The men who will be called upon to serve upon a railroad commission will compare in ability with the governor and the fixing price of each would therefore come about as high as a governor. A sophistical answer to Mr. Field's argument would be that the railroads will find it easier, and less expensive, to fix the governor, and that they would quite naturally follow the line of least resistance.

The Echo believes that the fierce light of public scrutiny will beat with equal force upon the candidate for railroad commission honors and the candidate for governor, and if there is reason for believing that either of them has been touched, the voters will discover the fact and reject them, and that it would be no more difficult for the railroads to fix one than the other. The Echo has likewise an abiding faith in the good sense of the average voter and of his ability to use wisely and well, the right to vote, and would prefer to see all public officers, including village postmasters, elected by popular vote. The people will show their good sense, and their ability to decide wisely by rejecting Mr. McBride and his appointive railroad commission.

A "brave and incorruptible" servant of the people, while in the legislature, would have done something to "impeach the innumerable tools which the railroads foisted into public positions," but there is nothing in the records to show that Mr. Field, while a member ever did anything to bring the railroads to justice. That fulsome praise which the S.-R. heaps on Mr. Field is a misfit on its face. With all that railroad corruption around him, why did not Mr. Field get busy bringing them to justice? Looking into the future by the light of his past conduct there is no likelihood of Mr. Field tearing his nether garment in trying to bring the railroads to time. He has no record along this line to point to.

Charles E. Buttles who is before the people of Chelan county for treasurer formerly lived in this town, indeed, only moving to Wenatchee after he was elected assessor. The selection of Atkinson delegates to the county convention makes the nomination of Mr. Buttles practically certain. This is very gratifying to his many friends in Leavenworth. Mr. Buttles has served two years as assessor and has made a very efficient and in every way satisfactory county officer. Mr. Buttles preferred the office of treasurer to assessor and the people have given it to him. A more worthy selection could not have been made.

Patrick Henry Winston, founder and editor of Winston's Weekly, Spokane, died of heart disease in that city last Sunday. He served a term as attorney general of Washington, being elected on the fusion ticket in 1892.

Washington barley is becoming popular in Europe. The quantity exported grows larger every year.

Eastern Oregon reports a considerable loss in cattle as a result of the unusual snow fall and the scarcity of hay this winter.

Oscar Pearson, the fourteen year-old son of well-to-do parents committed suicide last Sunday in Walla Walla by shooting himself through the head because his parents made him wear a cap to which he objected.

BLEWETT ITEMS

(From our regular correspondent.)

Miss Mary Marko was visiting the family a part of last week.

John Stout returned last Friday after an absence of several weeks.

Dr. G. W. Hoxsey made a professional visit to Blewett last week.

The snow is going pretty fast the last few days and we are glad to see it go.

Born—To the wife of W. H. Resburg March 31st, a son. Mother and babe are doing well.

Mrs. J. H. McIntyre, wife of General McIntyre arrived in Blewett last Friday to stay a few weeks.

Joseph Marko expects his new piano this week. Joe feels proud of it as it will be the first ever in Blewett.

John Burmeister says his claim is looking better and the ore is turning bluer and is getting better walls.

R. F. Brown was over from Negro creek Friday and went down to Peshatin Saturday to attend the republican caucus and at that place. Mr. Brown is a delegate to the county convention.

The roads between Leavenworth and Blewett are getting in pretty bad shape. The county ought to spend \$1000 on the hill this summer as it is the main road from Wenatchee to Ellensburg.

Mrs. Jamison came up from Ellensburg last week to stay with her husband who is cooking for the LaRica Co. Mrs. Jamison had rather a hard trip as the stage broke down about five miles from Blewett and the remainder of the distance had to be made on foot.

R.

Church Services.

CONGREGATIONAL—Morning service every Sunday at 10:45; Sunday school at 12:00; young peoples service 7:00 p. m.; evening service 8:30.

J. S. Gove, Pastor.

Prayer meeting every Thursday evening.

Ladies Guild meets every Thursday afternoon.

CATHOLIC—Services at the Catholic church every fourth Sunday in the month; mass at 7:30 a. m.; Sunday school at 3 p. m.; vesper service 1:30 p. m.; low mass following Monday.

Father H. Colin, Pastor.

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