

MOTTO—The Missouri Herald believing those at the TOP well able to take care of themselves, has taken its stand in the barricades of the COMMON PEOPLE, and its fight will be made for the BETTERMENT of those at the BOTTOM.

The Missouri Herald

WANTED—Correspondents. It shall be the purpose of The Missouri Herald to print the news from all parts of the county, and correspondents are wanted from every neighborhood. Good writers are furnished material, postage and copy of paper.

VOL. 14

HAYTI, MISSOURI, FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1922

No. 28

Rottenness of Politics and Wastefulness of the County Funds

Nothing is politically right which is morally wrong.—Daniel O'Connell

The Board of Equalization, alias the County Court, last Monday made another political letting of the county advertising. This court has tried the same on at least three other occasions, and this being the fourth attempt it may be their last for awhile. It is the worst of all, and if they were attempting to reach the very depth of political madness, their last effort has certainly crowned the attempt with success.

If the conspirators, for it was of such, vs. honest county officiating, had any inspiration for their act, it came otherwise than from heaven. Such moral blindness is a serious matter and the people, at whose expense the dirty game was played, are entitled to have the facts. It is an unpleasant duty for this newspaper to perform, but nevertheless a duty, and we shall not shrink it.

As stated, this last caper is the fourth effort of the County Court to make a political award of the county printing. The dates of these occasions being, as the records will show, April 22 and 29, and May 1 and 15. On three of these occasions bids were called for and received, and as promptly refused when disclosed that the lowest came from a Democratic newspaper. A brief story of the whole affair up to May 1 was told in the May 5 issue of this paper.

We come now to the fourth and last act, that of May 15. This was merely a repetition of former stunts, the only variation being that the County Court converted itself into a Board of Equalization and deliberated under what its members assumed to be the authority of that functionary. There was also added emphasis to the political hoopoes by the addition of two more Republican county officials, Assessor Holland and Surveyor Huntley. These two latter officials, with the County Court, constitute the Board of Equalization. All were tarred with the same stick—politics. All, with the exception of the Presiding Judge, favored doing the same thing—turning down the bid of The Missouri Herald at 50 cents per square for publishing the proceedings of the Board of Equalization and giving the work to the Republican at 95 cents, or just 5 cents less than full legal rates, with the belief that this small discount would bear upon its face the appearance of a bid.

Let it be told as it happened. Otis Popham, business manager of The Missouri Herald, was informed by the County Court Clerk that the Board of Equalization would convene Monday, May 15, and proceed to call for and accept bids for publishing the proceedings of the Board. Having twice before, at the request of the County Court, submitted bids on this and other work, Mr. Popham hesitated to subject himself to being made the victim of another wanton joke by a body of men whose duties are supposed to be to serve the interest of the county. In other words, he objected to being made a cat's paw of to pull the Republican chestnuts out of the fire, while forbidden any of the chestnuts. But the business manager of The Missouri Herald was there in order that the records might be complete. He asked the Board of Equalization, alias the County Court, if the body was now in earnest and really intended to accept the bids this time. Assured that they were, The Missouri Herald's bid was submitted. It was for 50 cents for 250 ems, half legal price. For the third time The Missouri Herald's bid was rejected, and for no other reason than that it came from a Democratic paper.

Shade, as always, from first to last, favoring giving the work to the Republican at full legal rate, bid or no bid, again made a motion to give the work to the Republican. That motion was seconded by Cole, and voted for by Assessor Holland and Surveyor Huntley, all Republicans.

Presiding Judge S. E. Juden voted "No."

That is exactly what the records

of the County Court Clerk's office will show. And it cannot be erased or washed out. It is there to stay. It is the record of the first Republican majority the county ever had. It is the record of a party that has always said politics should not be played in county affairs. They have had their day, but have sinned it away.

A feature of great significance and importance is the fact that the Republican was not represented, and submitted no bid, except through Shade, one of the members of the County Court. Here, for the first time in the history of the county, we have a member of the County Court representing a newspaper—placing a bid for that paper, if such a thing as it was could be called a bid, before a court of which he was a part. Talk about malfeasance of office! Was anything ever heard of to equal this in the way of brazen political arrogance? That act descends to the very bottom of the political pit of infamy.

After the farcical receiving of The Missouri Herald's bid, Shade made a motion to give the work to the Republican, saying nothing about the price it was to have. When asked by The Missouri Herald's man what the Republican would be allowed, Shade said, "95 cents," though he submitted no written offer or gave any guarantee. Yet that body of politicians had no hesitancy in turning down with all the contempt at their command a bid for half the amount that lay before them, in writing.

May the records of Pemiscot county never again show the stain of such political rascality! May there never again be elected to office men who do not hesitate to play politics at the expense of the public purse!

Connected with this affair is a matter that will not be understood unless explained, which is why the County Court, after having on May 1 awarded the Republican the advertising of the Board of Equalization, should again transfigure its officiating into that board, and make a second awarding of the same work to the same paper, in the same way and manner. It is amusing, or would be, if not so serious and costly to the county. The fact is, they double-crossed until they got themselves so badly crossed they didn't know the way out, and they are not out yet, by a long shot. After having committed their deed of May 1, as told above, the Republican members of the court got tenderfooted. They had put it over so strong that they, themselves, became suspicious of their own acts. Some pee-wee lawyer, too, may have put a bug in their ear that frightened them into renewed gymnastics. At least, in some manner, somehow or somehow else, they discovered that the law required the Board of Equalization to have their proceedings published. Of course this great landslide of legal intelligence could never have sifted into their brilliant minds unless some Solomon had put them next. The main fear was that if the job was not done up properly, according to Hoyle, the Republican might be jeopardized in collecting its big, fat hand-out fee. No chances of that sort could afford to be left unscotched. Hence their last action.

It all goes to show the profound ignorance and disrespect of the law on the part of the gentlemen into whose hands the most important part of the county's affairs has happened to fall. And it's a bad combination, that is. Last year, when this paper held the contract for doing the county advertising, we published the proceedings of the Board of Equalization, which was given us under our contract with the County Court. It was legal then. It is legal now. It is the same thing that is being done in all the other counties of the State. The law requires of the Board of Equalization to have its proceedings published, just in the same way that the County Clerk is required to have certain publications made. There is no difference in the application of this law. But if the County Court had done its duty and made a contract at the "most advantageous rate," as the law requires,

FARMERS' MASS MEETING.

The county agents of the United Farmers Association will meet in Hayti at the High School auditorium Saturday, May 20, at 2 p. m. Several matters of special importance will come before the meeting. It is the purpose to organize a council here on that occasion. Also the new county executive committee will meet for the purpose of electing a county agent.

The question of constructing a cotton warehouse at Hayti will be fully gone into, in which the business men of the town will be expected to participate.

A joint committee will be appointed to arrange a rally between Dunklin and Pemiscot counties. This promises to be a very important matter, and all persons interested should be present to lend aid.

—Good Kitchen Cabinet for Sale
—Cheap. Apply at this office. 281s

EDUCATION

*** But it was in making education not only common to all, but in some cases, compulsory on all, that the destiny of the free Republics of America was practically settled.—Lowell.

Another school year come to a close.

Another set of graduates pass on their way.

Other classes take the place of other classes.

All move onward and upward as they go.

It has been a great year, one of the best the Hayti schools have ever had.

Now, after the long months of scholastic work, the closing days of the schools come like a full blown flower of sweetest fragrance to be gathered by those who have cultivated with care their gardens of knowledge. It is a time for pupils and teachers and parents to be happy, and the several well executed functions of class entertainments shows that the hearts of all concerned were in the work, which now is to be followed by a brief period of vacation and rest.

Never has Hayti experienced a more brilliant and successful school "commencement" than the present one. Never have classes and faculty shown more progress and fraternity of action. Never have parents and community shown more appreciation.

The Missouri Herald regrets that it is unable to give full details from inside vantage and close-up contact with the work, but such relationship can hardly be expected of a newspaper. In other words, it has been the custom of local papers to rely upon those in close touch with the schools for reports for publicity, but for some reason no one has seen fit to supply this paper with such details. The fault may be ours. Whether it is or not, need not matter. If it will relieve the situation, we shall be pleased to bear the blame, though we feel that we have done about the best we could. We expected such report to be furnished us, for we have given publicity to all school information that has been furnished us in the past. There is no part of our news service that we value more. And we are fully aware there should have been in today's paper a detailed write-up of all that has been done, and we are disappointed that the same has not been supplied.

Had we known that such a report would not have been furnished, as has been the custom, we might have tried to have done better. But lay all the blame on us. That is one thing a newspaper is good for—to lay blame on. Next year, and next time, if that ever comes, we promise—to do better. Ah, it is easy to promise.

In a general way, we can speak. We are long on generalities, and these, if they hit right, we suppose will be as good as any. So, under cover of such a wide range of liber-

DITCH IN A DITCH.

Drainage ditch No 12 appears to be very badly in the ditch. This seemingly impossible condition is an actual fact, made so by the objections registered against the proposal by the property owners whose property was to be taxed to do the construction. Last Tuesday a large number of Hayti citizens appeared before the County Court and their heard. It appears the project had progressed almost to the point of the beginning of removing dirt, and all at once, the parties affected, became alarmed and began a vigorous protest, both on the part of the people in the country and in the town. Among those who attended the hearing before the County Court from Hayti were: B. F. Allen, Ed Gotcher, L. L. Laffer, E. M. Perkins, James Johnson, B. L. Guffy, Bill Foley, Bill Handspire, Bill Helm, Fred Morgan, C. P. Wells, Sid Oates and C. S. Reynolds.

ties we have no hesitancy in saying that the schools of Hayti have closed a successful year, and that this success is due to the faithful work of the entire faculty, co-operated with by the board of education. That much is in evidence on the face of results which, after all, speak louder than words.

The address of Rev. Elmer Peat of Caruthersville to the Eighth Grade, last evening at the High School auditorium was one of the best ever heard in Hayti. The eloquent minister was at his best and entertained his large audience from first to last. His theme was fittingly chosen, and its delivery made an impression upon the minds of the young that will be as a guiding star to lead them through the years in the path of right.

The baccalaureate sermon was delivered by Rev. J. Murray Taylor of Memphis, Tenn., at the High School auditorium last Sunday morning. A large crowd was present and the address they heard was one of brilliant finish, poetical and dazzling with gems of knowledge, and was delivered in such flowery eloquence as to grasp the listeners in a spell of intellectual rapture. Rev. Taylor is one of the noted orators of the Southland, and has more calls for his service than he can fill, hence Hayti was fortunate to be on his preferred list, an honor to be recognized and appreciated, as it was.

To the young who are so gallantly climbing the golden stairway of knowledge The Missouri Herald has a word: By gaining your education you shall have your reward in the rich stores of knowledge you have thus collected, and which shall ever be at your command. More valuable than earthly treasure—while fleets may sink, and storehouses consume, and banks may totter, and riches flee, the intellectual investments you have thus made will be permanent and enduring, unailing as the constant flow of the Niagara or the Amazon—a bank whose dividends are perpetual, whose wealth is undiminished however frequent the drafts upon it; which, though moth of time impair, yet thieves cannot break through and steal. So the gain is worth the toil. Press on. Like our brave boys on Flanders field, let "over the top" be your goal.

LIGHT PLANT SOLD

The Caruthersville and Kennett Light and Power Company plant that has been in the hands of a receiver for a long time, was sold last Tuesday in St. Louis, the purchasers being the bondholders' protective committee, representing the owners prior to going into receivership, who were known as the Arkansas Light and Power Company, with headquarters in New York City. The price paid, covering the property owned in three towns, Kennett, Caruthersville and Hayti, was \$50,000. It is said the plant will be improved. It needs it.

Hans E. Doerner of Steele, paid this office a call today and announced for representative. More will be said next week.

ALUMNI BANQUET.

Wednesday evening, May 17, 1922, the Masonic Hall in this city was the scene of much festivity.

The occasion was the second annual Alumni Banquet of the Hayti High School.

The room was attractively decorated in blue and gray, (the colors of this year's class.) Two long, snowy-white tables, gleaming with silver and glass, beautiful hand-painted menu cards and roses tastefully arranged; an Edison giving forth strains of sweet music, presented indeed a picture of much cheer and good fellowship.

The following menu was served:
Shrub
Chicken Vol-Au-Vent
Salmon Loaf with Frozen Horse
Radish Sauce
Maitre-d'Hotel Potatoes
Baked Green Peas
Pickles Radishes Rolls
Colorado Salad
Bread and Butter Sandwiches
Ice Cream with Crushed Strawberries
Pastry Nut Sticks
Salted Pecans Bonbons
Cafe Noir

Mr. O. E. Hooker, superintendent of schools, acted ably as toastmaster.

The ladies of the Christian church served the banquet and deserve much credit and praise for the good looks and good taste of the things to eat. The Sophomore girls, dressed in white, acted as waitresses.

The following was the program of the evening:

Welcome by Alumni President, Joe Kohn.

Invocation, K. V. Propst.

First Course:

Introduction of Toastmaster, by President.

Toastmaster's address, O. E. Hooker

Representative of High School, Mary E. Wells.

Second Course:

Representatives of Board of Education, J. T. Buckley and P. S. Ravenstein.

Principal of Grade School, K. V. Propst.

Third Course:

Representative of Class of '16, Bonnie Hart Buckley.

Representative of Class of '17, Joe Kohn.

Representative of Class of '18, Ellis Kohn.

Fourth Course:

Representative of Class of '19, Houston Buckley.

Representative of Class of '20, Earl Hudgens.

Representative of the Class of '21, Edith Davis.

Representative of Junior Class, Sadie Mitchell.

Representative of Class of '22, Pearl Cameron.

Fifth Course:

Business meeting.

Benediction, K. V. Propst.

At the business meeting the following officers were elected for the coming year:

President, Blair Buckley; vice-president, Earl Raybuck; secretary, Bonnie Hart Buckley; treasurer, Ellis Kohn.

It is occasions such as this that cement good fellowship and keep up pride in our school. To meet and think of the past school friends, as they are mentioned; to laugh at good jokes and bygone pranks; to think of the past efforts of our school and to plan for the future, cannot but result in a better school.

If you are eligible to attend the Alumni Banquet and did not do so, you missed a very pleasant evening, indeed.

Come next year!

—CONTRIBUTED.

—Genuine oak lawn swings, well bolted and re-infused; the kind that will stand hard use. We put them up for you. Laffer Hardware Co., Hayti.

Senator Von Mayes was over from Caruthersville Wednesday afternoon trying to console some of his disconsolate clients.

SUBSCRIBE FOR

The Missouri Herald

And get the best. It gives all the news fit to print, and prints it while it is fresh, not after it becomes soured and stale. The Missouri Herald is not published by a "ring of office-seekers." It doesn't try to carry "water on both shoulders." It says what it thinks, and tries to always think right. It is loyal to the man who earns his bread by honest labor, but an unrelenting foe to crooks and cheats. If you like this kind of a paper why not join our army of readers? We are human and like to be encouraged and the more readers we have the more good we can accomplish.

SUBSCRIBE FOR

The Missouri Herald