

SEMI-WEEKLY ABERDEEN HERALD

VOLUME XXIII.

ABERDEEN, WASHINGTON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1908.

NUMBER 16

A COURT HOUSE CONSPIRACY

WOULD ANCHOR COUNTY SEAT

Election of Arland and Davis Means New Court House at Montesano.

Republicans on Grays Harbor Are Aroused Over a Scheme to Perpetuate County Seat at Montesano. Arland Insultingly Refuses to State His Position. Canard About A. J. Jackson Exploded.

Have the republicans on Grays Harbor been handed a lemon, or rather a couple of lemons, in their nominees for county commissioners? Have they been playing into the hands of a bunch of county seat conspirators? Those questions have agitated the minds of our republican friends deeply during the past week and most of them are now wondering why they did not see it before. That there is a scheme to anchor the county seat at Montesano by the erection of a court house, costing between \$200,000 and \$300,000, is more than suspected by all who have cared to observe recent events in republican county politics.

Chas. W. Arland and Geo. L. Davis were county commissioners two years ago when the county seat removal election was on. They both opposed its removal to Hoquiam on the ground of the expense of building a new court house, saying the present building was good for twenty years, and while they were making this plea, actually had a North Yakima architect prepare plans for a new building at Montesano to cost not less than \$200,000. They paid for those plans with the county's money, and were only restrained from binding the county in a contract for the erection of the building by Mr. Davis getting cold feet.

After the senatorial ambitions of Davis were slaughtered two years ago, it will be remembered that he sold his large land holdings in Chehalis county and invested the proceeds in Oregon timber. This left him in position to secure revenge, leave a costly court house as a monument to Geo. L. Davis at no expense to himself, and move to Oregon, where his interests were. There is no doubt that this was his frame of mind when those plans were ordered, as he made no secret of his intention to leave the county. One can readily see what the vote on county seat removal would have been, had the people who were to pay for this new court house been advised—as they should have been—of the intention to build it.

The circumstances surrounding the present candidacy of Davis has been called to the attention of the voters on Grays Harbor, and tend to strengthen the suspicion of this court house conspiracy. The circumstances are these: Mr. Davis early in the primary campaign said emphatically that he was not a candidate, and the contest apparently laid between Dr. Watkins and Mr. Thurber in the Third District. Then, suddenly, his candidacy is launched by W. H. Abel—who Davis paid \$5,000 of the county's money for thwarting the will of a large majority of its people. We have the undisputed statement of Mr. Thurber for the fact that he was offered \$500 to get out of the way of Davis; that W. H. Abel figured in this attempt to purchase the nomination—just as he did in the offer to purchase B. E. Williams out of the way of Arland in the First district. Mr. Thurber has also told of the rascally methods adopted to force Dr. Watkins off the ticket, so that the people of Grays Harbor find the following state of affairs to justify the suspicion of this conspiracy:

That the project to build the court house two years ago was only postponed—not abandoned—that the same old triumvirate, Abel, Arland and Davis, fathers of the scheme, only require to carry the elections tomorrow to be again in the saddle, and that the vote for Davis at Montesano at the primaries indicate clearly the expectations from him in that quarter. When the project was dropped two years ago, it was carefully figured out that the result could be secured without causing the political death of Arland and Davis—which its consummation at that time would have rendered sure. The triumvirate figured that no steps for removal of the county seat could be taken for four years, and that a national election intervened, at which it would be strange if Boss Abel could not so manipulate politics as to insure two friendly commissioners. It should be borne in mind that in Montesano this mat-

ter contains no partyism. It is a matter of business to secure by hook or crook a perpetual lease on the county seat, hence the readiness of the boss of that town to secure by purchase or bulldozing the nomination of proper tools to carry out the scheme, a scheme that will tie the hands of Grays Harbor when it makes an attempt in 1910 to place the seat of government somewhere near the center of its business.

When those conditions dawned upon the republicans of this locality, a number of them addressed a letter to Commissioner Arland, asking him to state his position on the subject, a subject so important to the whole Grays Harbor region. This letter was couched in unambiguous terms, and it requested a similar reply. Here is the letter:

"To C. W. Arland, Montesano, Wash." "Sir: In addressing this letter of inquiry to you, the undersigned are prompted by no wish to embarrass you in your candidacy for County Commissioner from the First district, but rather by a desire to gain from you a definite statement that will set at rest the many rumors now circulated as respects your present position on the question of a new court house at Montesano."

"Two years ago, you expressed the opinion that the present court house answered all requirements and that it would serve the County for another twenty years. Your opponents here, however, recall that later and after the election, you lent your influence and gave your vote as a member of the Board of County Commissioners to a project to build a new court house at Montesano, and that the sum of \$1,000 was appropriated for the drafting of plans for such a building."

"Now, we take it, conditions as respects the present court house are no different at this time than they have been at any time since you gave your opinion two years ago. The building still meets all requirements and is still good for twenty years. Is that your attitude today? If elected, will you again vote for plans for a new structure? If elected, will you, as a member of the Board of County Commissioners, give your vote to a project that may be hereafter promoted to build a new court house at Montesano?"

"This matter arose but lately or it would have been called to your attention earlier. Under the circumstances an immediate reply to the questions propounded seems to us imperative. This is not a time for evasion."

"Feeling certain that your answer will silence all the rumors that have gained currency to the effect that plans for a new court house are in preparation and that the proposal has your approval, we are,

Respectfully,
L. J. KOLTS,
L. H. FAULKNER,
JOHN PERRY
JAMES A. HOOD
EDWARD C. FINCH
E. B. BENN
N. G. KAUFMAN
W. B. CRAMMATTE
WILL LANNING
B. F. JOHNSON."

Arland Dodges.

There is a straightforward letter of inquiry, such as any voter or group of voters have a right to make a candidate for office, concerning a matter that may entail an expenditure of the money belonging to the people who will vote tomorrow, amounting to a quarter million dollars. The meat of the inquiry is contained in the third paragraph: "If elected, will you as a member of the Board of County Commissioners, give your vote to a project that may be hereafter promoted to build a new court house at Montesano?" If Mr. Arland was honest in his expressed opinion two years ago, this were a very easy question to answer, a word of two letters, "N-O." would do it. But, Mr. Arland does just what the inquiry requested him not to do. He resorts to evasion. He made the following reply. Read it:

SEMI-WEEKLY

ABERDEEN HERALD

LABOR VOTE BRYAN'S

TRADES BODIES PLEDGE THEM-SLEVES FOR BRYAN AND KERN.

Chicago Headquarters of the American Federation of Labor is Flooded With Letters Daily From the Various States Showing Sentiment for Bryan.

CHICAGO, October 29.—M. Grant Hamilton, who is in charge of the Chicago headquarters of the American Federation of Labor at the Victoria Hotel, believes Bryan and Kern will be elected. No man in the country is in more complete touch with the labor situation and it is his opinion that Mr. Bryan will get at least 90 per cent of the labor vote. Speaking of the attitude of labor in this campaign, he said:

"During the last four weeks our Chicago headquarters have been flooded with correspondence from all the doubtful states, New York, Ohio and Indiana predominating, while a relatively large amount of mail bearing upon the issues of the campaign has been received from the remainder of the states denominated as doubtful. In carefully going over the information conveyed by these messages which at high tide reached 300 letters per day, it is found that the sentiment among the men of labor has been rapidly crystallizing during the time mentioned, until today, a conservative statement is that 90 per cent of our city central bodies and 99 per cent of our state bodies have endorsed in strong terms the program mapped out by the American Federation of Labor and put into operation by its executive council.

To date, 7,000 letters have been received and in casting up the sentiment which prevails, in the localities from which these communications originated, it is discovered that the first three mentioned states become the center of activity. Viewing the situation from the standpoint as localized in New York, Ohio and Indiana, indications of an almost positive character show that the votes of the organized workmen to the extent of between 80 and 85 per cent will be cast for Mr. Bryan.

"The trend of sentiment in the ranks of labor has been strongly marked by its rapid advance during the last week, so much so, that I have understated the per cent which I believe to be the actual fact.

"From every point of view, taking into consideration personal correspondence, demands for labor literature, reports from men in the field, who are working in our interests, and from all the contributory sources intimately co-operative with the movement instituted by labor, no other conclusion can be drawn than that so far as the men of labor are concerned,

"All of Mr. Jackson's property is in Section 18," says Mr. Storey, "and Section 18 is in the second district. Mr. Jackson does not live within a mile of the boundary line of the first district. He is not properly a candidate from that district and could not qualify for the commissionership if elected—which, of course, he won't be. He votes in the Melbourne precinct, and presumably his home is in that precinct, which is a precinct of the second district. It seems to me that a man ought to know where he lives before he becomes a candidate for office."

"Of course, there is not a word of truth in it. If there was the conspirators would be the last people on earth to give it out. Why, if it were true the retention of Arland would be assured, and they would have smiled in silence at the fools voting for Jackson when he could not take the office, thus allowing Arland to hold for the next two years, he holding under the law 'until his successor is elected and qualified.'

"The Herald had a conversation over the phone with Mr. Jackson this morning who said the story was simply a lie manufactured at the eleventh hour in a desperate attempt to save Arland—and the new court house. Mr. Jackson has resided in the first commissioner district for many years, and votes in the Wynoochee precinct, not Melbourne, as Mr. Story says, the dividing line between the commissioner districts being that between Wynoochee and Melbourne precincts. The promulgation of this story shows the desperation of the gang, and confirms the statement of the Herald, that "A vote for Arland is a vote for the new court house."

SHERWOOD TO THE RESCUE

Former County Commissioner Vouches for Old Comrade Geo. L. Davis.

M. R. Sherwood, Former County Commissioner, and Present Manager of a Concern Which Assesses or Carter Swears Gets a Ten per Cent. Assessment, Commends Traitor to Grays Harbor of Two Years Ago.

"Noticing the continued efforts of The Aberdeen Herald to injure Geo. L. Davis, republican candidate for county commissioner," M. R. Sherwood felt constrained to rush to the defense of his former conferee to the extent of a couple of columns in several of the Harbor papers, in the long course of which he openly vouches for the ability and integrity of Mr. Davis. The least Mr. Davis can now do is to return the compliment by publicly endorsing Mr. Sherwood, and the trick will be complete. From a sentimental point of view, the performance of Mr. Sherwood is notable, in view of the fact that the language used by him two years ago, in describing the treachery of Mr. Davis to Grays Harbor was scarcely fit for public print, albeit nobly disputed its truth, so that this defense by Mr. Sherwood reveals a spirit of forgiveness hitherto totally unsuspected in that gentleman's make-up.

Although disliking to spoil the good story of Mr. Sherwood, we must say that he, in common with other defenders of this traitor to the interests of Grays Harbor starts out with the false premise, that the attack comes from The Herald. This paper has called down upon its devoted head the wrath of Geo. L. Davis and every tax dodger in the county by simply publishing what was said of Mr. Davis by his republican friend, Mr. Frank Thurber, and the sworn testimony of the county assessor, one being reproduced from a republican paper, and the other from the public records, and both public property before being printed in this paper.

But, waiving this trifling error, what is there to this defense of a man seeking to be replaced in a position where he so flagrantly violated the confidence of his district two short years ago? We are tempted to think that our reprinting the Thurber charges against Davis is not the goad that pricked Mr. Sherwood on to public utterance, but rather the exposure of the ten per cent assessments granted to concerns, one of which Mr. Sherwood is manager of, by the board of equalization—which was carried on when both Mr. Sherwood and Mr. Davis were members of that board—was the real burr under the Mr. Sherwood's saddle.

Mr. Sherwood fills most of his

A vote for C. W. Arland is a vote to anchor the court house at Montesano.

CAMPAIGN CLOSING.

Final Efforts of All Parties on Grays Harbor Saturday Night—It is Now Up to the Voters.

RATHER EMBARRASSING.

Judge Loomis is Confused by an Innocent Dog Named "Bryan" at a Political Meeting.

KRUPP, Oct. 27.—Judge J. W. Loomis, of Aberdeen, last night addressed the voters of Krupp on the issues of the day from a Republican standpoint.

A feature of the meeting, which caused the speaker some discomfort until he learned the cause of the trouble, was the appearance of F. A. Wingate's Scotch terrier, which bears the name of "Bryan." Just as the chairman was ready to introduce the speaker the terrier made his way into the hall and up to the rostrum. Cries of "Bryan!" "Bryan!" greeted the judge, who was wondering if he had run into a Tammany meeting instead of a Republican gathering, until he was told that the small dog was the cause of the outburst of enthusiasm.

their devotion to Debs and the "Cause" with their customary attention.

The democrats closed the campaign with a rally at the Hoquiam auditorium, the Aberdeen democrats going down in a special trolley car. About two hundred of the faithful were present, and, although the crowd looked small in that large building, proved the most enthusiastic political gathering on Grays Harbor this year. Whenever the name of William Jennings Bryan was mentioned, it met with vociferous applause.

Browder D. Brown, democratic nominee for congress, was the first speaker, and he left a pleasing impression upon his audience. He was followed by Senator Geo. F. Cotterill, democratic preference for United States senator. Mr. Cotterill was taken ill on the cars coming from Seattle, and was scarcely in condition to make a speech, and was compelled to speak from a chair. Notwithstanding his indisposition, Senator Cotterill gave a masterly resume of the political issues, showing the illogical and inconsistent position of the republican party in this campaign. He was listened to with marked attention for an hour and a quarter, and was frequently interrupted with applause.