

The Evening Statesman

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CITY OFFICIAL PAPER



NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.
..Copy of change of advertisement must be delivered to the business office by the hour of 10 o'clock a. m. to insure insertion in the issue of even date.

WEATHER.

Tonight and Thursday showers and thunder storms, cooler.

BOARD ADMITS WARRANTS ARE ILLEGAL.

The board of education of School District No. 1 has confessed that it has issued illegal warrants to the amount of \$63,729.69 by calling a special election for June 30th for the purpose of validating said legal indebtedness and authorizing the issuance of bonds in lieu thereof. This is a complete vindication of the position taken by the Statesman in its contention that the Washington school was illegally built and that the directors were exceeding their authority in attempting to pay for the site of a high school building and to erect a building thereon by the issuance of warrants without a vote of the people.

If the people shall vote for the validation of the outstanding warrant indebtedness it will not be an endorsement of the board's course in going ahead with the construction of the high school without a vote of the people. The board had no right to purchase the site for the building without authority from two-thirds of the voters expressed at a special election, and they will have no right to issue warrants for the completion of the high school without express authority from the people. The validation of illegal indebtedness incurred in the building of the Washington school and in other ways will not give the board any authority to issue more illegal warrants, trusting to the people to validate them also some time in the future.

The bonding of old warrant indebtedness does not take it out of the one and a half per cent constitutional limit. This point was decided by the supreme court of the state in the case of Hunt vs. Fawcett et al, 36 Pacific, 318.

The \$25,000 bond issue of 1891 was authorized to refund outstanding warrant indebtedness and the bond issue of 1898 was issued for the same purpose; therefore the total of \$55,000 must be taken into account as coming under the one and a half per cent limit. The \$63,000 issue which the board now asks authority to float will also come under this constitutional limit, and we shall then have a total of \$115,000.

One and a half per cent of the assessed valuation of the property in School District No. 1 is a little less than \$60,000.

Making due allowance for all assets, the indebtedness of the district will be far above the limit beyond which the board is forbidden to go without a vote of the people.

It would be well, therefore, for the directors while they are about it to include in their call for a special election authority to issue bonds for the building of the high school. Otherwise they will not escape from the legal complications that have threatened them.

As the First National Bank seems to be very much concerned in the outcome of the high school question, and as it has induced some of its patrons to agree to take specified amounts of the warrants to be issued if they should be declared illegal by the

courts, it might be well for the board to make an appeal to the bank to withdraw its contention made in Judge Hanford's court that the five-mill school tax was illegally assessed and that it is therefore null and void. If this contention be upheld it would seriously affect the validity of the warrants to be issued and would cause the directors serious embarrassment.

Other taxpayers might follow the example of the bank in refusing to pay a cent of school tax and, if the courts should decide in their favor, the district would be left in a most deplorable financial condition. The board should lay the case before Senator Ankeny as president of the bank and endeavor to induce him to waive the question of the legality of the school tax even if it does cost him a few hundred dollars. His patriotic impulses should lead him to make this sacrifice for the sake of upholding the public school system of his home city. The maintenance of our public schools is even more important than the retention of the rural delivery routes, but they cannot survive if all taxpayers follow the example of Mr. Ankeny's bank in refusing to pay their share of the five-mill school tax. The directors should call upon Mr. Ankeny and present the case to him in all its aspects, and the Statesman is confident that he will agree to withdraw his bank's suit to enjoin the county treasurer from collecting any taxes on its stock.

THE NORTH NO BETTER.

Altogether too little regard is paid by many persons in the South for the life of the negroes. One can hardly pick up a newspaper these days but there is an account of a hanging, burning or shooting of a negro criminal. It is disregard of law to inflict punishment without first giving the courts an opportunity to pass upon the case.—Union.

What the Union says is true, but it should not confine its censure for disregard of the law to the people of the South. The only reason there are not more negro lynchings in the North is because there are comparatively few negroes. In Kansas and Colorado negroes have been burned at the stake, and horrible lynchings of negro murderers or ravishers have occurred in other Northern states. At Belleville, Illinois, last Saturday, W. T. Wyatt, a negro school teacher, was burned by a frenzied mob for shooting and mortally wounding County School Superintendent Charles Hertel.

Wyatt had been arrested and taken to jail. What occurred afterwards was thus told in the dispatches: "Two hours later a mob stormed the jail, secured the negro and despite the appeals of the mayor and other officials he was hanged. Hertel was removed to the hospital, where the physician probed for the bullet, but he state there is no hope for his recovery. A young man named Fielder was in the office when the shooting occurred. He grappled with Wyatt, but the negro beat him off with the butt of his revolver, inflicting a severe wound. Before he was hanged Wyatt asserted the shooting was the result of a political grudge.

"The mob hanged Wyatt to a telephone pole in the public square. Even while his body was in the throes of strangulation, members of the mob began building a fire at the foot of the pole. The flames flared up and licked at the feet of the victim, but this did not satisfy the mob, and another and larger fire was started. When it had been burning briskly the negro, still half alive, was cut down and after being covered with coal oil he was thrust into the fire. Moans of pain were heard from the half dead victim of the mob, and these served to further infuriate his torturers. They fell upon him with clubs and knives and cut and beat the burning body almost to pieces, and not until every sign of life had departed did they desist and permit the flames to devour the body. As the fire lighted up the scene the members of the mob stood around the fire hurling fagots into the flames and denouncing the negro for the shooting."

And yet we talk of Russian cruelty to the Jews.

RISE ABOVE PARTY.

When the democratic mayor of Dwight, Ill., said in introducing President Roosevelt to a local audience the other day that he regarded the president as the ideal American citizen and intended to support him for the presidency next year, Mr. Roosevelt was much pleased.

In responding to this enthusiastic introduction, however, the president committed himself to an endorsement of nonpartisanship, which was rather an amenity than his sincere conviction. "Perhaps I prize your kind words especially, Mr. Mayor," he said, "coming from one who is not of my

party. But the whole thing is, my friends, that if we are all good Americans that is enough platform for all of us to stand on."

Now it is safe to say that only in the case of democrats who purpose to vote the republican ticket is Mr. Roosevelt thus partial to the idea of a man abandoning his party. Should he hear of a republican who has made up his mind to vote the democratic ticket next year, the president's scorn and indignation would be very much in evidence. For Mr. Roosevelt is essentially and temperamentally a partisan. One cannot conceive of his supporting a democrat against a republican, or as condoning the act on the part of any other member of his party.

In his warm appreciation of the support of the democratic mayor of Dwight, however, the president amusingly illustrates the worldly wisdom of the old saying to the effect that it makes a lot of difference whose ox is gored. It's a case of "Come one, come all!" with the strenuous Mr. Roosevelt, in the event of alleged democrats desiring to vote for him for president. But what a shout of rage would issue from his stentorian lungs should a republican prefer to vote the democratic ticket! That would be terrible—and the president would doubtless openly express his contempt for turncoats, diplomatic as he was in concealing this contempt in the case of the mayor of Dwight who intends to vote for him next year.

Gamblers and macquerons are placed under the ban at midnight tonight. It remains to be seen whether or not any attention will be paid to the new laws in Walla Walla or whether there will simply be a vacation until after the city election. It is rumored that gambling will be resumed in certain pseudo-residences near Main street in a short time.

LINCOLN AND BEECHER.

Outlook.

We may be very sure that neither Mr. Beecher nor Mr. Lincoln would, if they could, impose universal suffrage in the southern states today. Mr. Lincoln would not, because he did not believe in universal suffrage. Mr. Beecher would not, because he did not believe in imposing his own beliefs on a community which did not accept them. In 1863, though the war was not ended, Mr. Lincoln would have trusted the people in the southern states to deal justly with the race problem. In 1865, when the war was at an end, Mr. Beecher would have trusted the people of the southern states to deal justly with the race problem. In 1885, when experiment had shown the evil results of placing southern states under negro domination, Mr. Beecher would have trusted the southern states to deal justly with the race problem. It is certain that in 1903, when the southern states have shown their desire for the education and the welfare of the colored people by the money which they have paid in taxes for a public school system providing alike for negroes and for whites, by selling them thousands of acres of land, by encouraging them in industry, by maintaining with them friendly personal relations, in spite of political complications, both Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Beecher would be found with those who advocate a policy of mutual confidence and respect between south and north, and of mutual confidence and respect between black and white, as the only possible method of putting an end to the race war in the south and sectional war in the nation.

DEMOCRACY'S TEST.

In the eye of the world the democratic party must inevitably suffer if it fails of response to the demands which are laid upon it. It is the party of capacity, the repository of strength; potentially it is supreme, suited by organic principle to the development of all those principles which are distinctly American. A great occasion lies before it. The time is ripe for an exercise of its power.

The sins and errors of the republican stewardship are written with a pen of iron and the point of a diamond; graven upon the people's tablets beside the people's altars. And louder than any jeremiad are the threats of the republican party in its announced trust-tariff policy; a policy to be executed unless that party is dethroned. The people fear the continued rule of privileged interests and look to democracy for deliverance—not to a democracy which is an aggregate jarring of factions, but to a democracy solidly united upon the deeper purposes of the nation. A revolt from republican rule will promise nothing unless there is a democracy to which the nation may turn with understanding.

Necessity, which, as the bards define it, is the best peacemaker and the surest prompter of invention, unites with opportunity to inspire peace and union and strength and force. Eventually the democratic party must either prove itself the great instrumentality of the people or resign that title before the world. It must eventually either secure a restoration of the people's principles to government, or relinquish its claim upon the people's allegiance. To live and endure, a party must demonstrate its usefulness. As merely symbolic of

principles, however virtuous, it has no permanent guaranty of life; its principles can survive only by application and test.

The body of voters which represents political potency stands ready and waiting to employ a democracy conformed and adapted to the country's demands. The demands are plain, determinable, measureable.

REPLY OF TULLOCH TO THE DEFENSE

Made by Postmaster Merrill and Other Postoffice Officials Under Suspicion.

Washington, D. C.—Seymour W. Tulloch, formerly cashier of the Washington City postoffice, under date of June 3 has written a letter to Postmaster-General Payne in response to replies received from Postmaster Merrill of the Washington postoffice and others to the charges of maladministration made by Mr. Tulloch against the management of the Washington postoffice.

A large part of Mr. Tulloch's letter is in defense of counter charges made by Mr. Merrill against Mr. Tulloch. Mr. Tulloch says that the charge that under his regime as cashier of the Washington postoffice quarterly payrolls were required to be signed in blank, even if true, would only "produce a smile in Washington, where probably the greater portion of governmental employees sign payrolls in blank."

The charge that "a false voucher" had been put in while Mr. Tulloch was cashier, he says, was only an attempt to discredit him, and even Mr. Merrill admits that the transaction was directed by the postmaster, recognized by the assistant postmaster and the money retained was paid to persons duly designated.

Served Without Pay.

The facts, he says, are that substitutes named by the civil service commission served the postoffice without pay except when they filled temporarily the places of clerks and received their pay. As some clerks failed to pay their substitutes, the postmaster directed that previously to payment of clerks who had been absent the signed receipts in full of the substitute should be put in the clerk's pay envelope and paid to the substitute by his division superintendent.

The particular instance cited by Postmaster Merrill, he says, was where an employee, after a drunken spree, was fined rather than dismissed, and the money divided by his superintendent among subs for services rendered the postmaster by written order directing the cashier to do this. Mr. Tulloch declares that while in office he did report regularly to his immediate superiors and the inspectors.

He denies the charge that he was mercenary with the late Postmaster Willett, and says Mr. Willett himself suggested payment to the writer for settling his accounts, and that Tulloch offered to do it for Mr. Willett personally for nothing, but later it was arranged that some of the clerks should do the work, which related chiefly to Puerto Rico. Mr. Tulloch's letter then continues:

Irregular Payments.

"In closing I may state that it has not been shown to the contrary in any of the replies you have published that irregular payments were made from local funds instead of by the proper disbursing officer of the department, that an attempt was made to cause all employees to bond under a single blank a bond with some of the favored companies; that the regulations of the department were violated in forcing a letter box in which prominent officials were said to be interested upon the public even to the unauthorized use of the postmaster's authority and against his protest; that payments were directed for articles not delivered; that persons were paid two or three salaries and performed little or no service; that a physician was illegally appointed whose position was a sinecure. I have been told that a \$300 operating table was purchased for private use and charged to the department as postal supplies; that promotions were suggested upon the proviso of division with high officials in the department; that persons were appointed from whom no service was required upon a complimentary roll; that arrears in Puerto Rico were not fully discovered; that useless junkets were frequent to Puerto Rico and Cuba; that persons paid from the military postal service had their salaries continued for months after ceasing all service, and that salaries were also continued after service had ceased to take up irregular expenses."

As to the reply of former First Assistant Postmaster-General Heath, Mr. Tulloch says:

"All that is necessary is to compare my specific charges with his general denial."

He then reaffirms that his representations remain in all essential particulars true and not disapproved, and closes with a denial that there is any office within the gift of the postoffice department that he would accept, or that he ever authorized his friends to seek his reinstatement.

CUMMINS IS SUITED.

Revisionists Were Not Hard Hit, He Says, By Ohio Platform.

Des Moines, Iowa.—Governor Cummins is not dissatisfied with the Ohio platform and he regards the declarations in regard to the tariff as sufficiently two-sided to indicate the "stand-patters" had to give way in a considerable measure to the demands of the revisionists.

The expression "Changing conditions and the possible benefits of reciprocity may call for timely readjustment of schedules," the governor regards as a clear indication that a straddle was attempted. When asked for an interview on the subject, he merely said: "I prefer not to be interviewed on the Ohio platform. My views on this subject are so well known and I have expressed them so often that it is hardly necessary for me to indicate them now. I have not changed them."

This statement of the governor is a sufficient indication in the minds of his friends here that he has in no sense abandoned his adherence to the "Iowa idea," and that while he may consent to a compromise in so far as "the shelter to monopoly" plank of the platform is concerned, he will still declare for tariff revision and reciprocity on the stump in this year's campaign.

Hearst's Man in Iowa.

Charles E. Russell of Chicago, publisher of the American and right hand man for Hearst in a political way, has been in Des Moines and other parts of the state this week promoting the Hearst boom for the presidency. Mr. Russell is keeping a close eye on the coming democratic state convention and is looking to Iowa to send a delegation to the democratic national convention next year that will be for Hearst. He said in an interview here that if nominated, Hearst could carry New York, New Jersey, California and some of the mountain states, in addition to the solid south. He said Hearst would also stand a good show in Indiana.

Mr. Russell expects the nomination of Van Wagoner for governor in this state, but was not prepared to say the Iowa democrats would take up with government ownership. He declared the time was ripe in Illinois for government ownership to be engrafted into the democratic state platform.

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