

LA GRANDE MORNING OBSERVER.

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THE NEW COUNCIL

After Regular Routine of Business New Council Goes in—Mayor's Message.

The last meeting of the old city council was called to order Monday evening by Retiring Mayor Slater, Councilmen Kennedy, Fowler, Gardiner, Reavis and Coolidge being present and Councilman Scriber being absent. Mayor Slater stated to the council that he had refused to sign certain warrants drawn in favor of D. D. Near, of Portland, for architectural services, and W. W. Cotton of Portland for attorney fees, on the ground that the council was without jurisdiction in ordering the warrants issued.

Dr. N. McIvor handed in his resignation as city physician, which was

accepted. Liquor licenses were ordered issued to A. L. Morris and Julius Fischer. The report of the canvassing board on the canvass of the city election was read, showing the results as already published in this paper.

Bonds of the new treasurer, recorder and marshal were presented and placed on file. Monthly and annual reports of the retiring officers were also filed. Numerous bills were allowed after which the retiring mayor thanked the members of the council and officials for their hearty co-operation during the past year, and especially thanked the fire department for their splendid services at the Fowler warehouse fire. Mr. Slater then appointed Councilmen Kennedy and Gardiner to escort the new mayor, J. E. Foley, to the chair and the city's affairs were turned over to the new administration.

Mayor Foley then requested Recorder Miller to read his first message to the council. This document precipitated a warm discussion between Street Commissioner Jones, City Attorney Knowles and Attorney Finn in regard to the condition of the streets and sidewalks of the city. The Mayor's remarks on the manner in which the street commissioner had performed his duties were repeated by Commissioner Jones, as was also the statement by Mr. Finn that the "poor

street superintendent" and his bondsmen were liable for any damages that might result from injuries received on defective sidewalks. Mr. Slater stated that not more than two or three sidewalk grades had been established in accordance with the charter and by ordinance. This remark brought forth some warm retorts from City Attorney Knowles. Mr. Slater backed up his statement by offering to waker a new hat on its correctness, which offer was not accepted. Mr. Slater based his contention on the fact that the proposed grades were not advertised the same as a proposed street improvement, which is required by the charter.

The council room was uncomfortably filled with spectators, most of whom were compelled to stand which drew from Mr. Finn the remark that he hoped the new council would provide seats for the visitors. After instructing the marshal to rigidly enforce the stock ordinance the council adjourned.

Following is the mayor's address:

THE MAYOR'S ADDRESS.
Gentlemen of the Common Council:—Permit me to congratulate you upon the fact that each recurring year brings a Council tested by experience—composed of new blood and energy—charged with the progress and strenuous requirements of the exacting present. More than any of your predecessors

have the different vocations of life been drawn from in the composition of this one. And 'tis well, for more, and arduous duties are imposed, and greater care and better execution required of us this term than during any former one.

The charter, as well as the occasion, prescribes that I offer you my suggestions for the betterment of the municipality, and while not so much additional legislation appears to be demanded, yet a better enforcement of the existing ordinances is absolutely imperative.

First:—The stock and dog laws, seem to me, to require immediate and careful attention. Each year the marshal issues his proclamation that the rambling and uncared for stock must within a time certain, be withdrawn from the streets and public places, or suffer impoundment, but its effect is but temporary, and soon forgotten, for, at once, the property holder, who at considerable expense and effort, has beautified and improved his home with the lawn and comfortable shade tree and proper foliage, is annoyed with the pestiferous cow, which finding but little to feed upon in the streets and alleys, assumes her devilish diversion of breaking down sidewalks, destroying fences, trampling up lawns, and rendering valueless the shrubbery and trees so desirable for shade and product. The public highway, if kept in proper condition, produces but little provender for stock, then why will the owners of the same turn them at large to injure others?

A mistaken idea is prevalent that the ordinance is operative only during the spring and summer months, and the marshal and street superintendent, charged with the enforcements thereof, prefer to think the demands for the restraint of stock is but spasmodic, hence the ordinance is continually violated while for most of the year it is a dead letter. Let's enforce it, or repeal it; not make it an object lesson for contempt of law. Provide and maintain a sufficient pound, and my duty as executive will be to see that its enforcement is reasonably rigid. Again, there is an existing ordinance requiring dogs to be taxed, and collared for identification. Yet for years it has been totally ignored, and without any good reason. By its enforcement, a horde of canines, now a decided nuisance to the general public would become useful to their owners at their homes, or go to the bone yard where they belong. Provide the collar, and the executive will abate the nuisance.

Second:—The condition of the streets and sidewalks has never been worse. Broken sidewalks, a menace to life and limb, improperly constructed and neglected cross walks, and muddy streets confront us on every hand. The public is entitled to better treatment, and the visitor in our midst is entitled to a better reputation of La Grande to bear abroad to our benefit. The neglect calls for your providing a competent and strict Street Superintendent, with sufficient appropriations of means and measures for the remedy. Give me the opportunity and it will be my pleasure to execute the requirements. I suggest that the construction of the crosswalks upon our principal streets be changed so that rock, or cement, or two by six durable lumber be set edge down, to supersede the wasteful method of laying the plank flat down, thereby inviting early decay and a worthlessness after the first year. It is patent that they rot out before they wear out. Economy prompts the change. And these crossings should be scraped daily during the wet season. What use are they to the public if the user is not kept by them from a cumulating mud and filth?

Third:—Our principal streets demand scraping and well met with a substantial surface dressing of coarse gravel finished with center raising of shell rock. Hardly a lot owner would object to his rightful contribution to such improvement, if required by an ordinance providing a uniform grade, and the improvement of the entire street. The highways approaching the city again demand relief. This is a town depending upon its trade from the people of this valley. Why not make the roads passable for all seasons of the year and thus invite each trade and make travel possible and pleasant for those who use such roads? Further, I desire to call your special attention to the fact that under our present road laws the county collects all the road taxes, and that but fifty per centum of said taxes so collected are returned to the city treasury for the benefit of the highways in which we are immediately interested, while the balance goes to the roads of the county wherein we have no immediate interest. Steps should be taken to cover all the funds so contributed by our tax payers, we need better roads right at home. I recommend that the Street Committee give one day each week to co-operate with the Street Superintendent, and thus make his work the most effective possible. Both the Council and that officer will be benefited thereby.

Fourth:—I believe it would be to the best interest of the city to provide some suitable building or rooms at the public expense, for the comfort, convenience and necessities of those coming here to purchase their supplies and to patronize

the various vocations of life, in a manner economical but sufficient. A hardship is imposed upon the family, especially the little ones to stand around all day before the return to the home with no place for temporary rest. A reading room and accompanying conveniences, free, would be greatly appreciated by them, and a profitable investment on the part of the city.

Fifth:—I suggest that the Water Committee give at least six hours each week in systematic co-operation with the Water Superintendent in caring for the water supply, providing ways and means for a more efficient and economic water system and the cleansing of the reservoir and wells, at least once a month during the summer season. The public health, and decency require the Committee be held responsible for the enforcement of such a measure. To enable the Water Superintendent to better devote his time and attention to the duties of his office, I recommend that the collection of water rents be transferred from his office to that of the City Recorder, where it can receive more and efficient attention. The demand for repairs and extension of the water system is imposing greater labor on the Superintendent, requiring all of his time and efforts.

Sixth:—The matter of purchasing supplies for the city should be systematic, and the best methods adopted to provide efficiency and economy; and to this end I suggest that each committee of the council be charged with the duty of contracting for, and superintending the furnishing of all supplies needed and used in the particular department of such committee. By this method uniformity and effort will be promoted, and the council kept fully advised as to the disbursements of the public funds.

Seventh:—I suggest, also, that monthly reports containing itemized accounts be required of each municipal officer, as well as of the various committees having any duty to be performed and expenditures, and thereby economy will be promoted. And when your yearly labors are fully performed, you will merit the commendation of your constituency, and the self-satisfaction of knowing that your duties have been well and conscientiously done.

Eighth:—I tender every assistance I may be able to extend in the work of the Council; and my duties as chief executive will prompt me to take care that the laws are enforced and obeyed.

To the better enable you to perform your duties I submit to you the committees appointed for the ensuing term, as follows:

Judiciary Committee—Kennedy, Chairman; Fowler and Richardson.

Ways and Means Committee—Bohnenkamp, Chairman, Richardson and Reavis.

Health, Sewerage and Water Committee—Richardson, Chairman, Gard-

ner and Fowler.

Fire and Insurance Committee—Gardiner, Chairman; Reavis and Kennedy.

Streets and Alleys—Fowler, Chairman; Bohnenkamp and Gardiner.

Finance Committee—Reavis, Chairman; Kennedy and Bohnenkamp.

Respectfully Submitted,
J. E. FOLEY, Mayor.

A Suspicious Fire.

About one o'clock Sunday morning a fire was discovered in the interior of the office of Water Superintendent Enloe. An alarm was turned in and Officer Cotner, Chief Peare and several others responded. The door was forced open and a stream of water soon had the fire extinguished. Owing to the fact that a quantity of ore, which is almost impossible to extinguish when once ignited and is very inflammable, was under the desk among a lot of waste paper in which the fire seemed to have started, considerable damage was done before the water was turned on.

An Observer reporter called upon Mr. Enloe Monday morning to get his statement as to his theory of the origin of the fire and the loss to the city.

"I was in the office about five minutes along about 7 o'clock," said Mr. Enloe. "There was a little fire in the office stove, but I am satisfied the fire did not originate there. The fact is, I am of the opinion that the fire was of incendiary origin, started for the purpose of giving me a black eye."

The reporter suggested that Mr. Enloe was himself resting under some suspicion.

"The idea is ridiculous," said Mr. Enloe. "I had nothing to gain and everything to lose by such a course. Of course my records and books were burned up, but the office has paid four or five hundred dollars more this year than last, which speaks for itself. It is very unfortunate that the fire occurred just at this time as it places me in an awkward position. The city council is at fault, I think, in not providing a safe in which to keep the books and records of the office. As I said before, I am innocent of any wrong doing, and believe the fire was started for my undoing. I have a list of delinquent subscribers which I carry in my pocket, which is all that is left of my records. The books for last year had been inspected by the council, however, and the fact that the business has paid the city four or five hundred dollars more this year than last, shows that I had nothing to fear."

A thorough inspection of the office revealed some charred receipts and small papers, but no vestige of any books was found.

Ross & Andrews have decorated their windows in a most attractive fashion. As you pass by their store take a "rubber." It is really a pair of rubbers. Your attention is also called to their new ad in this issue.

MEETS HIS DEATH

Man Died in this City from Injuries Received While Beating a Ride on Passenger Train.

As passenger train No. 5 was leaving Kamela Sunday night, a man who was trying to beat his way west was thrown under the mercurial wheels of the cars and had both legs practically severed from the body. One leg was entirely off just hanging by a thin strip of outside.

The other was cut through the bone and could not have been saved had the man lived. He was brought to this city on an engine and Dr. Bacon & Hall rendered all possible aid but the victim died at 5 o'clock Monday morning.

He was conscious for a time after being brought to this city and gave his name as Isaac Howard. He stated that his home is in New Providence, Iowa. No word has as yet been received from his people at that place and he will probably be buried here by the county.

Increase of Pensionis

By direction of President Roosevelt a ruling was made on March 16 by the Commissioners of Pensions.

It decrees that beginning April 13 next, if there is no contrary evidence and all legal requirements have been met, claimants for a pension under the general act of June 27, 1890, who are over 62 years old shall be considered as disabled one-half, or as unable to perform manual labor, and shall be entitled to \$6 a month. Those over 65 years will be entitled to \$8 over 68 years to \$10; and over 70 years to \$12.

The usual allowances at higher rates continue for disabilities other than age.

NOTICE—is hereby given that I have given my son William Wilkie his time and from this date I will not be responsible for any debts contracted by him, or any contracts he may make. March 21, 1904.
Auguste Rothlage.

THE CHICAGO STORE

Easter Sale

COMMENCING MONDAY, MARCH 21 AND CONTINUING UNTIL MONDAY, MARCH 28

we will place on sale our entire line of Dress Goods, at a reduction of

20 Per Cent

This sale includes both Wool and Wash Goods, all of which are the latest weaves and designs. This is an opportunity to secure your Easter Gowns. REMEMBER THE DATE.

THE CHICAGO STORE

Superb

Correspondence

Papers

In the line of fine correspondence papers our superb stock has nothing to be desired. Everything in style, tint and finish that has met with the approval of the writing public will be found here. The stock embraces papers in

BOXES, BULKS and TABLETS

Box papers range in price from 15 cents to \$1.75. You cannot find a better assortment in the state. Bulk papers are growing rapidly in favor as you can get as much or as little as you want. It is an economical way of buying paper, especially when you have a large and varied assortment to choose from as we afford you. Our tablet line is large and well chosen. Have envelopes to match the better tablets. Pens, pencils, inks, mangle, paste, erasers and every thing in the stationery line. Might as well use good writing papers when they cost no more.

NEWLIN DRUG CO.
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WE ARE SOLE DISTRIBUTORS

of this well-known line of staunch, honestly-made, honestly-priced clothing. The "MILLER" brand attached to clothing is a guarantee that the garment is the best in fabric and make that can be put together at the price.—It is cut as it should be, made to fit and sewed with regard to wear. It is not the lowest priced clothing you can buy but it is absolutely THE BEST that can be bought at the cost.—UNION MADE.



\$10.00 SUITS

Which you will have trouble in matching at \$12.50.

We don't ask you to take our word. Come and see them for yourself.

Large assortment in latest patterns.

For smartness of style, perfection in fit and attention to the smallest detail which goes to make a right down-to-the-minute suit that will please the most fastidious dresser our suits from \$12.50 to \$20.00 are absolutely the best we have ever shown. We have them in patterns which find only at the exclusive tailors.

Golf Shirts in a large variety of patterns every one of them brand new. A visit to our shirt department will convince you that we can satisfy your every want—50c to 2.00.

The Pair
THE PLACE TO SAVE MONEY

Hats—Exclusive hats—not lines but such a variety in styles as we can suit what your b