

LA GRANDE EVENING OBSERVER.

WEATHER
Tonight and Tomorrow
Cooler tonight with
Warmer Thursday
THE TRAINS
No 2 East bound 9:10 on time
No 5 West 9:10 on time

VOLUME III

LAGRANDE, OREGON, WEDNESDAY EVENING, MAY 18 1904.

NUMBER 169

RELOCATION NOT "ONCONSTITUTIONAL"

It is Well Settled by Text Books and Decisions of the Courts that it is Proper and Legal to Offer Court House Free.

To the Editor:—

I occasionally hear some one say, that it is questionable whether La Grande has a right to say to the voters of this county, that they intend to erect a city hall large enough to answer for a city hall and for a county court house, and that this city hall will be furnished to the county at a nominal rent for a court house, if the people vote for the removal of the county seat to this place. Everybody knows that La Grande intend to do this and that the plan is being carried forward with all reasonable speed.

Mr Crow'ord, who seems to be the head of the opposition to a change of the county seat, it is said, claims that this action on the part of La Grande is or will be bribery, but this position is without any foundation in reason or respectable authority. It is well settled by text books and the decision of the courts of last resort in many states that it is proper and legal for towns that want a change of county seats to furnish a county courthouse and to tell the voters before election that they will do so. In more than one state there is a statute requiring towns that want county seats to make provision for rooms and offices for the county in order to obtain the relocation of county seats. What La Grande is doing and will do in this matter is not only legal, but praise worthy. There is no bribery in it. The public receives the benefit. The opponents of the change of the county seat say that the change will entail an expense on the county for courthouse accommodations and, therefore, they oppose the change. When it is said that La Grande will furnish a courthouse without cost to the county, they howl bribery. It is a little difficult to please these patriots who pose as watch dogs of the treasury. La Grande will furnish the needed courthouse and the county will not have to build or rent one.

There are people at Union who claim to think that the very idea of relocating the county seat is "unconstitutional." Did they always think so? What did they think on that question just thirty years ago when the county seat was removed from La Grande to Union? Was that "unconstitutional?" Was it

unjust? Did Union furnish the court house without expense to the county? The county seat has been at Union too long. It is inconvenient to about three-fourths of the people of the county to have the county seat at Union, and it costs the county every year many dollars in the way of increased mileage to witnesses and jurors to have it there. It is an increased expense to nearly all the people who have to go to the county seat to be compelled to go to Union instead of La Grande. This is a fact that any one can prove by a little figuring. The cutting off of the Panhandle from Union county leaves Union at one side of the county and three fourths of the people who go to the county seat would find it much more convenient and less expensive to go to La Grande than to Union.

Then it is a fact that any one can ascertain that the present court house is wholly inadequate to the needs of the county. About all the offices are too small, and the county now has to rent rooms down town for the grand jury and trial juries. The building is very small and not in good condition. I have not seen the inside of the jail but have been informed that it is much worse than the courthouse.

If the county seat is moved the court house and grounds can be sold by the county for what they are worth. They will not be rendered worthless or lost. When a man says that the county cannot sell them for much, he strikes a blow at the town of Union, as such a statement implies that property there is of little value. The courthouse can be sold and used for other purposes.

The people of the county are absolutely safe against the expense of building a courthouse at the expense of the county while the county is in debt, because the Supreme Court has held that the county cannot build a courthouse while it is in debt. I call the attention of the tax-payers to this fact. "It is settled by a decision of our highest court that a courthouse can be built at the expense of the county while the county is in debt." It is equally certain that the county will not get out of debt for many years, and, hence, the tax-payers are safe from the expense of building a courthouse for many

years. Then, it is plain sailing for the tax-payers. By removing the county seat to La Grande much will be saved to the county in the lessening of the mileage expense for witnesses and jurors, and the convenience of three fourths of the people will be promoted.

Hotel and restaurant accommodations at La Grande are much better than at Union, and farmers and others, going to the county seat, usually want to do some trading, and such persons will find a much better opportunity for purchasing at La Grande than at Union. La Grande is preferable in every way. There is not one thing in which Union excels La Grande as a location for a county seat. The advantages are all against Union. La Grande is and will continue to be the chief commercial town of the county. When the O.R. & N.R. left Union two miles and a half from its nearest station it sealed the fate of Union. That decision may have been unjust, but it will be reversed. It is a fixed fact. When the railroad on the west side of the Willamette river side tracked the town of La Fayette, the county seat of Yamhill county, and ran through McMinnville, it sealed the fate of La Fayette and the people of Yamhill county removed the county seat to McMinnville, the principal town of that county, and it will remain there. It will not be long until there will be electric railroads connecting Cove, Imbler, Elgin, Summerville, Alice, Island City, Hot Lake and Union with La Grande, and the latter will be the center of this network of railroads, because it is the chief town of this valley. It was the old saying that "all roads lead to Rome," because Rome was the chief town of the Roman Empire. On a smaller scale, all railroads in the grade Round Valley will center at La Grande because La Grande is the principal town of this valley. Let the vote for La Grande be practically unanimous.

Dioneda.

Married.

Steinback-Hod — In this city, May 18, 1904, at 9 o'clock, a. m., Mr. J. F. Steinback and Miss Clara A. Hodley. The wedding took place at the happy couple's new home, Justice Wm. Grant officiating. It was a very quiet affair, only a few of the close friends being present. The young people were the recipients of many handsome presents. Mr. and Mrs. Steinback have many friends, who wish them all possible happiness and join with the Observer in offering congratulations.

Lone Star Commencement

On Friday evening May 13, the patrons of the Lone Star school celebrated the graduating of the first class in the history of the district to take the state eighth grade examination. The house was crowded to its utmost capacity and many were unable to find admittance.

The program consisted of two parts the first being literary and musical selections by the pupils of all the grades, and instrumental numbers by a mandolin and guitar quartette the members of which are Dr. and Mrs. Monk of Summerville and the Misses Brooks of Imbler. A few of the many features of this part of the exercises were:

Dialogue... Courtship under difficulties
Song... Old Kentucky Home
Boys of the school disguised as plantation dorkies
Vocal Solo... Lily McDonald
Instrumental Solo... Fero Coarad and Anna Reasoner

The second part of the program comprising the graduating exercises was as follows:

Greeting Glee... Quartette
Recitation... The Gambler's Wife
Miss Etta Woodell
Reading... Valley Forge
Miss Claudie Woodell
Duet... Cottage by the Sea Side
Misses Etta Woodell and Nell Murray
The American Flag... Miss Mills
Valedictory... The Greater Republic
Miss Nellie Murray

Quartette... Our Fatherland
Class address and presentation of diplomas... Supt E E Bragg
Music... Mandolin Quartette
The fond young ladies whose names appear in the foregoing program formed the graduating class and each one acquitted herself very creditably and they and their teacher, Mr. S. N. Ayres were the recipients of many congratulations for the marked success of the evening's entertainment.

After the rendition of the program the ladies of the district served ice cream and cake to all present and there was a happy social of neighbors and friends.

The people of this community are among the most intelligent and progressive of the valley, and their interest in school affairs is very earnest. No doubt the impetus given to education thereby this first commencement will continue and increase in the year to come.

A LONELY DEATH

Well Known Character of the State Found Dead in Cabin on His Ranch.

(Special to Observer.)

Pleasant Valley, May 18—Sam Fulbright, a pioneer of the Burnt river country, who is about 55 years of age, was last evening found dead in his cabin on his ranch some seven miles south of here. Death evidently occurred from heart disease and no inquest was held.

Mr Fulbright was the owner of a fruit ranch and was a well known character of the State, where he had many friends.

Canaban Is Dead.

Wm Canaban, the man who cut his throat yesterday morning at the Blue Mountain house died there this morning at about two o'clock. Coroner Henry was at once notified of the fact and removed the remains to his undertaking parlors. The deceased left a few articles of clothing, some stone masons tools and a watch.

SOMMER HOUSE

R G Chamberlin Salt Lake
R H Bendlet City
G Osburn do
J F Frink Portland

METHODISTS WILL MAKE NO CHANGE

No Executive Authority to District Episcopacy—Present Itinerant of Pastoral Residency To Prevail.

Los Angeles, Cal., May, 18—Action on two important matters was taken by the general conference of the Methodist church at today's session. The report of the committee on episcopacy recommending that the conference elect eight bishops to fill the vacancies caused by death, resignation and retirement during the present quadriennium was adopted.

At the close of a heated and remarkable debate between Dr. James M. Buckley and Thomas B. Nealey two of the foremost parliamentarians of the Methodist church, the conference adopted the report of the special judiciary committee which finds the conference has no executive authority to district the episcopacy, that is, to substitute a diocesan for the present itinerant form of residency and administration of bishops.

Odd Fellows

Astoria, May 18—The grand encampment of Oregon today elected the following officers to serve for the coming year: Patriarch, W H Greens, Eugene;

High Priest, Claud Gatch, Salem; Senior Warden, W. I. Yater, Medford; Representative, Thomas F. R. M., Oregon City; Junior Warden, S. O. Beach, with, Portland; Scribe, E. E. Sharon, Portland (re-elected); Treasurer, W. W. Francis, Halsey.

New Shop

The new black and white shop just north of the Star Grocery on North Fir Street is now open and ready for work. All kinds of blacksmithing done and satisfaction guaranteed. Horseshoeing a specialty. 5-18-04

Advertised

List of unclaimed letters remaining in La Grande, Ore. Post Office for week ending May 16, 04.
Armstrong Ernest Cover Jos H
Lawrence Mrs J Rogers S A
Joe Jack White C W
Williams Miss Maggie
The above will be held 14 days and then sent to the dead letter office when called for please say advertised May 17, 1904.
J C Ardery, P M



High Class Merchandise



The Special values shown by us, are offered chiefly for educational purposes. We wish to cultivate the acquaintance and make fast friends of still greater numbers of particular women. We wish to demonstrate to them that we are carrying a line of merchandise which grade by grade, quality for quality is unsurpassed in the city. You are invited to inspect our goods.



Chicago Store
Murphy Bros. Props.



TRUST OUR SOAPS

It is difficult to judge the purity of toilet soaps and too often an agreeable odor determines the choice. If all soaps were as innocent as their fragrance is pleasing, there would be more smooth skins and clear complexions and less roughness, pimples and blotches.

We can make you safe in your soap buying. The toilet soaps we handle are those made by reputable firms. We have pure and safe soaps at whatever price you wish to pay.

NEWLIN DRUG CO.



The Fair

THE PLACE TO SAVE MONEY

Clothing - at - Much - Less.

Don't forget that we are selling all our men's suits at REDUCED PRICES this week, and that you have a few days more in which to take advantage of this exceptional opportunity. We guarantee our clothing to be STRICTLY HIGH CLASS—the best that money will buy—and don't forget that all men's suits go at Reduced Prices this week.

About 200 Boys' Suits

At a saving of 25 to 30 per cent. These are all exceptional offerings and it will pay you to see them before fitting out your boys for summer.

Silk Specials For Saturday.

- \$1 50 Silk shirt Waist Suit Patterns, the yard, 98 cents.
 - \$1 00 Silk Shirt Waist Suit Patterns, the yard, 79 cents.
 - 85 cent Colored Taffeta Silks, the yard, 69 cents.
 - \$1 95 Crystal Cord Waist Patterns, each \$1 75.
- Only one pattern of each kind.

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