

LA GRANDE EVENING OBSERVER

VOLUME IV

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NUMBER 21

FIRST MEETING OF NEW CITY COUNCIL

All the members of the city council were present last evening with the exception of Mayor Slater who did not arrive until the 9 o'clock train arrived. Councilman J W Kennedy was chosen chairman and the council proceeded to clear up the work of the year before the new officers took their seats.

A petition signed by R L Lincoln and others asking for two arc lights on Main street was referred to the street committee.

The monthly and annual reports of the officers were referred to the Finance committee.

After the routine work had been disposed of, the council declared a recess for five minutes and then Mayor Slater called the new council to order the only change being that Recorder I N Snook assumed the duties of the office, Mayor Slater councilmen Gardiner, Kennedy and Reavis succeeded themselves as did also Marshall Rayburn.

The new council then proceeded to elect officers. In each instance there was but one nomination and the recorder was instructed to cast the ballot for the council with the following results.

Water Superintendent—H C Gilman
Street Superintendent—Fred Synhorst
Engineer—W Van Fleet
Deputy Marshal—F P Childers
City Attorney—F S Ivanhoe

POUND MASTER

There is not much in this report beyond the fact that he had turned the position over to a friend and that he had secured another job and that he had killed 14 dogs at the request of the owners and then at the present time there were five head of horses in the city pound advertised for sale.

STREET SUPERINTENDENT

Street Superintendent Fred Synhorst filed a list of the city property now on hand in his department and his report showed that during the year the city had purchased 89,59 feet of lumber of which 13,038 feet is still on hand and that he had received monies from several sources amounting to \$750.

MARSHALL'S REPORT

Marshall Rayburn's report showed

that during the year there were 112 arrests made that 181 head of stock were impounded which brought into the treasury \$181. That during the year there were twenty eight cases of contagious diseases twenty three being diphtheria, three small pox, and two scarlet fever. The city being free at the present time.

RECORDER'S REPORT

Recorder Newlin by his report showed that he had received from fines and licenses (not saloon) \$2238. From water rents \$7795.70.

Just prior to adjournment, councilman Bohnenkamp arose and stated "I very much dislike to have to make a reply to a lot of malicious accusations such as appeared in the Chronicle of March 17th., and while I do not believe the statements will have any weight with the people who know me, I would like to state the facts as they are. Regarding Mr Southerland I will say I had several lengthy interviews with the gentleman regarding the heating plant in question. At the time the City Hall had the walls laid, I think to the second floor, I told him that we were not ready to receive bids on the proposition because we did not know for certain whether the county court wanted to use steam, or heat with stoves. I told him he could submit his bid with a set of specifications of the plant he proposed to install and I would take it to the committee in charge of the matter.

ALLEGED BRIBERY

Mr Southerland did not seem to be satisfied with the arrangement and said he was anxious to have the matter settled at once and wanted to know if \$125 would be any inducement to close the deal then, so he could order the apparatus for the Foley job and the City Hall at once. I plainly told him it was not necessary to add any bribery money to his bid and that there would be no action taken until it was definitely settled that a steam outfit would be wanted. Mr Southerland fumbled among a lot of papers he had in his pocket and finally said he thought the job could be done for about \$2,500. He said he did not know about the

warrants but thought he might be able to dispose of them in Walla Walla. He did not say that he would accept them at par, and I did not for a moment suppose that he would pay more than market price for them and I don't believe he would have done so. In fact he did not at any time make what would be called a bona fide bid.

He states that I said that I would not figure against him, and I will say that this assertion is either a slip in his memory or a deliberate lie, and he can take his choice between the two. He did ask me not to disclose his figures to anyone else who might figure on the job, which I promised not to do and I never did. As far as figuring against him is concerned, I will say that I have figured against every contractor who has had anything to do with the City Hall from beginning to end, and I venture to remark that the city has not lost a cent by my so doing. I am further going to say that the heating plant in question is the cheapest heating plant ever installed in La Grande, size, capacity and quality in proportion. Of course a smaller outfit might have done the work and would have cost less, but considering the exposed position of the City Hall, I deemed it poor economy to take any chances. When it was finally settled that a steam heating apparatus would be required, I with the assistance of a competent heating engineer, went over the City Hall thoroughly, drew a set of plans, took the building's exposed condition to the cold winds that blow up there, all into consideration and decided it would require a larger plant to heat this building than it would for a building less exposed. I submitted the amount the plans would cost to the other members of the Ways and Means committee, and asked them to have both Mrs T N Murphy, and John Melville to submit bids on the job with specifications of the plans they intended to install. I told both members of the committee that if either party would offer to do the job one dollar less than I quoted, to give them the job and I would superintend the work and see that it was put in right just the same. This statement will be verified by both members of the committee. That the job was offered to Melville will be verified by S A Gardiner, besides the two committees mentioned. At this time Mr. Southland was not in this part of the country, and as he had never taken the pains to send a bid on the job or the specifications of what he intended

to install, I did not think it necessary to send for him and I have not changed my mind since then.

In fact I think that when ever a transient outsider comes into the city of La Grande, to take a contract of any kind, or comes in here to sell manufactured goods, whether it be patent medicines, steel ranges or a stock of millinery, he should be made to contribute to the city's revenue by special license, to put them on an even basis with the people here who pay taxes, and I can not see why an outsider must be called in to do this work because I happen to be a council man and have pledged myself to spend my time looking after the city's interest; and I can honestly say that if I had devoted the time to my own business that I have spent in the city's service during the last year, it would easily have netted me an amount twice as large as even these would be blackmailers accuse me of beating the city out of. It is a matter of pride with me to show the people that such work can be done here at home as well as it can be done by people of Walla Walla, and I will defy these would be destroyers of my reputation to show that this plant is not installed in a first class manner and doing its work properly, and that my guarantee is not as thoroughly backed up and as good as the Southerland Company. I will frankly admit that Mr Southerland stood no show whatever of getting the job, if I could help it after making the offer of the bribe, as I consider that a man who would do crooked work to get the job would not be beyond doing crooked work in installing the plant. And I haven't changed my mind on that score since then.

I can see that Mr Southerland has been up against some crooked propositions in his time, and also notice that it is catching. I have during the last year had quite a large amount of bills allowed to me, the greater part paid to me as chairman of the Ways and Means committee, quite a lot of them have included money I have paid for freight which takes cash and for which I received city warrants in return. I have also sold the city goods and will say that all my bills are open for inspection and if any one can find where I have charged the city more than the lowest market price for any article furnished, I will cheerfully refund the difference and add to the difference an equal amount to go to the city as interest for that use of the money. I would like however to limit the amount of fault finders to the people who are tax payers and are actually interested.

MAYOR SLATER

Mayor Slater at the conclusion of Mr Bohnenkamp's remarks stated that he was very glad that Mr Bohnenkamp had brought the matter up and that, until the Chronicle had come out in attack upon the council that on every hand he had heard nothing but praise from all at home and abroad with reference to the elegant building and its small cost and he knew there was a motive behind this attack which grew out of his vetoing of the ordinance providing for an alarm system, chemical engine team of horses, and paid fireman. That this paper had never dared to open its voice heretofore during the past fifteen years and that at the next meeting of the council he would present in writing a demand that the council make a thorough investigation and ask Mr Southerland to be present and answer to the charge that he had offered to pay a bribe of \$125. He recalled the fact that Judge Ellis of Pendleton while in the city recently, had visited the city hall as did also Jefferson Meyers of Portland and that unqualifiedly remarked there was not another building in the state equal to ours for the money.

Mining Swindler Trial

[Scripps News Association]
Seattle Wash March 21—Mrs Loyd Smith, charged with having swindled many women in the western states by selling bogus mining stock, was pinned on trial this morning. The original charge against her was dismissed but immediately she was re-arrested in the court room on new information. The alleged victims are supposed to have lost thousands of dollars.

RUSSIAN SOLDIERS DESERT THE ARMY

Scripps News Association

Glasgow March 21—A news correspondent wires that the decision of the Russian Government to raise an internal loan of one hundred million dollars has caused a panic on the stock exchange. It is reported at St Petersburg that the Russian soldiers are deserting to the Japanese by the thousands.

JAPANESE LOSS 100,000

St. Petersburg, March 21.—General Linovitch reports, of yesterday's date, that the troops continued their retreat northward on the 19th, and that he allowed the men to rest on the 20th. The Japanese losses in the recent fighting, he states, is estimated at one hundred thousand.

St Petersburg, March 21.—A dispatch from General Linevitch states that he has established headquarters for the present at Chen Chia Watzu, at a crossing on the Sungari river from which place he is directing the retreat of the three armies, and disposing of the fresh troops of the fourth corps, now arriving from Russia.

WILL BE SAFE FROM PURSUIT

With the passage of the Sungari bridge, the bridge will be blown up, and retreating army will be safe from pursuit. The second army is falling back along the line of railroads, and the first and third are retreating along the Mandaria road to Kirin. Both are destroying bridges and roads as they pass along, and are denuding the country.

FLEEING RUSSIANS

See Fan Tse (Via Tien Tsin) March 21.—A Norwegian trader with a Russian army on retreat from Tieling says that the demoralized troops are casting away their equipments, and in many instances even their boots. They abandoned the transports and left guns and cartridges, using horses to save as many as possible at Tie Pass. The Cossacks looted the booths of the traders, but the guilty ones were shot later.

Mr R M Young of this city returned today from a short visit to Walla Walla.

BASE BALL ALTERCATIONS

By Scripps News Association

San Francisco, March 21.—President Burt of the Pacific Coast League, today unqualifiedly denied that war was being made on the major organizations as implied in the signing of Chase by Los Angeles, as Chase had been drafted by New York. He says that the Chase matter rests with the National commission, and, if that body decides that Chase belongs to New York, Los Angeles must give him up.

WILL MAKE CHANGE

By Scripps News Association

Washington March 21.—The President has written to Secretary Taft, approving the letters recommending a change in the personnel of the Panama Canal Commission and a re-arrangement of the duties of the members. The purpose is to avoid further delay, in getting supplies to the canal zone and for facilitating the work of construction. The commission will be reduced to one, or at least not more than three members. Secretary Taft will present the President with a plan of reorganization within a few days.

Made A Felony

(By Scripps News Association)
Jefferson City Mo. March 21—Governor Folk today signed the bill making pool selling a felony in the state of Missouri.

BEEF TRUST JURY

[By Scripps News Association]

Chicago, March 21.—Four additional veniremen were this morning temporarily passed by Judge Humphreys, in order to fill out the Federal Grand Jury summoned to investigate the alleged beef trust. The panel now contains seventeen men, and four more will be selected this afternoon. Upon the acceptance of twenty one, the court will instruct the jury. Eight witnesses have been summoned for tomorrow. The utmost secrecy is being observed and extraordinary care and precautions taken to prevent the names of the witnesses being learned prior to their appearance for testimony.

JUMPS INTO OCEAN'S ARMS

By Scripps News Association

New York March 21.—Andrew Guscom, of Philadelphia, the son of a millionaire and nephew of Clement A Guscom, committed suicide by jumping overboard from the liner Munnelonka during a trip from London. He apparently changed his mind after jumping overboard and seized the log line, but his body was torn in pieces when he came in contact with the patent log. Guscom disappeared for two months while a student at the Pennsylvania University.

The Nurse and the Doctor

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La Grande, Or.

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In silk and luster
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Ladies' Covert and Cravenette Coats
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In the new blouse effects also coat and skirt
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\$600,000 represents the purchases made by our Cash Buyers' Union, of which we are a member. Do you wonder that we can sell you the best hats on the market at the most economical prices. A visit to our millinery department will convince you that you can do better here.

The Fair
THE PLACE TO SAVE MONEY

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