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La Grande Oregon

County Judgeship

To the Editor of the Observer—

It will soon be time to consider names for candidates for county offices to be voted for next June. In fact already names are being discussed to some extent. I desire to call attention to but one office,—that of county judge. This is the most important of all county offices. The county judge has jurisdiction of law cases involving not to exceed \$500.00 in amount, and has exclusive jurisdiction of all probate matters arising in the county, and he is one of the three officers holding what is usually called commissioners court. It will be seen at a glance that it is an important office, and it should be filled by a competent man. There has been a very foolish custom in some of our counties to fill this office with men who would hardly consider themselves fit to be justices of the peace in country precinct. This is wrong and unreasonable. It is an important judicial position, and none but a good lawyer is competent to fill it properly. No one would think of employing a lawyer to build a house or diagnose a disease or set a broken limb. No one would think it proper to employ a physician to conduct a large farm or a banking business or navigate a ship, because such things are not in his line of business. To put a carpenter or a stock-raiser in the office of county judge is to do a very stupid thing. I am told that our county court within the last year reduced the assessment of the O R & N Co, or rather its taxes to the amount of more than \$500.00 or the year 1904, or in other words, gave that company \$500.00. This, that court had no right to do, but they did not know just what their duties were. A competent and honest lawyer in the office of county judge would have saved that money to the county. Judge Harrison and the two commissioners were not greatly to blame for thus giving away the rights of the county, because they did not know what those rights were. But the county has lost the money, and who knows when another blunder of that sort will occur? The probate jurisdiction of the county court is very important and no one but a good lawyer is competent to exercise it properly. Will contests, involving large estates occur in the county courts, and involve intricate legal questions, which one but a good lawyer is qualified to determine properly. Hence, I contend that no one but a good lawyer is qualified to be county judge. His duties are not merely to audit bills and consider road matters. There are plenty of attorneys who are not possessed of the proper qualities for this position. My contention is that the county judge should be a good lawyer, a man of legal ability and of good character,—not a mere attorney. I have in mind a man well qualified for this position, a good lawyer and an honest man. I refer to mayor J D Slater. I have no reason to believe that he is an aspirant for this position. I hold no brief for him or any other person for this office. But I feel sure that his fitness in every way will be recognized. Let us turn over a new leaf, and put up and elect a man well qualified for this office. One member of the county court should be a good lawyer. The other two can properly be taken from other occupations, as they have little to do with legal questions.

CITIZEN.

Base Ball

M T Clark, manager of the Sioux Indian Base Ball Club, is expected to arrive here this week and arrange for two games of ball with the La Grande team. This club has a splendid record out of 137 games played they have only lost 27. If they play here, our boys will be busy. But they have met good teams before.

Third Crop Ready

J B Saylor, a prominent rancher of Echo, is in the city on a short business trip. Mr Saylor who has over a section of land on his place, most of which is in alfalfa, says the third crop is about ready to harvest.—Tribune.

Fever Record

Up till 6 p. m. September 1, there had developed in New Orleans 1,919 cases of yellow fever, of which 277 had resulted fatally.

Earthquake

Los Angeles Sept 4—An unusually heavy earthquake shock was experienced here at 9:40 o'clock tonight. The disturbance was of about six seconds' duration.

Coming

The Mack Swain Theatre company which will shortly open a weeks engagement at Steward's opera house, comes to us with the cleanest and best record of any repertoire company touring the west. The proof of this is that the "standing room only" sign has been displayed at nearly every performance given by them.

The Boise paper says: "The Mack Swain company opened a weeks engagement at the Columbia theatre last night to a packed house. The opening play was "The Silver Dagger". The clever construction and abundance of refreshing humor combined with capital acting made a very enjoyable evenings entertainment. The company gave a very finished performance, and had the audience keyed up to the top notch from the first to the last. It is a well balanced company; each one fitting into the role assigned. This is one of the best repertoire companies that has ever visited Boise. A feature much enjoyed was the specialties given between the acts, relieving the waits of their customary tiresomeness. A better pleased audience has not left the Columbia for a long time.—Boise Evening News.

G. A. R. In Denver

Denver, Sept. 4—The vanguard of the Grand Army of the Republic has arrived in the city for the thirty-ninth annual encampment. It is predicted by General George W. Cook, chairman of the reception committee that 100,000 veterans will be in the city when the convention opens its executive session September 7.

Between 35,000 and 40,000 visitors are now in the city and every train is loaded to the platforms with the old soldiers.

Every schoolhouse and church in the city has been thrown open for sleeping quarters, and 6,000 free beds have been placed in the schools for old soldiers who have not the money to engage lodgings. Over 50 large tents have been erected on vacant lots throughout the city for sleeping quarters, and thousands are being taken into the homes of friends. An immense tent for the old colored soldiers has been provided close to the center of the city.

Already the interest of the veterans center in the fight for the office of commander in chief. Corporal Tanner, of Washington, today seems in the lead. Other prominent candidates are General Stone of California, Robert V. Brown, of Ohio, and General O. Barrows of New Jersey.

A controversy between the local G. A. R. committee and Buckley Wells, adjutant colonel of the national guards, has brought forth a sharp reprimand from Governor McDonald to the latter. Wells refused to permit the local militia to participate in the big parade next Wednesday unless the committee paid a portion of the expense of some of the companies outside of the city. The governor has ordered the militia to take part in the parade despite Wells.

Third Trial

Tomorrow the third trial of congressman Williamson and his co-defendants will commence in Portland before Judge Hunt of Montana who will hear the balance of the land fraud cases or until the vacancy caused by the death of Judge Bellenger.

Must Answer Charge

Springfield Sept 4—Governor Dineen today issued a requisition upon Gov. Chamberlain of Oregon for the return to Peoria of Albert Glassford, who is under arrest at Baker City, Oregon, upon the charge of murder. It is alleged that on April 26, 1904, Glassford shot and killed his wife.

Good Plan

"Itinerant" merchant, will be required to pay \$400 license at Aberdeen Wash., for the first six months they do business. If they overstay that period they will be regarded as permanent residents.

Schools Close

Landsburg Prussia Sept 4—The schools are here closed on account of cholera.

Money In It

The gate receipts for the Britt-Nelson fight of September 9, at Colima, San Francisco, are confidently expected to exceed \$70,000.

Government Order

Seven thousand tons of feed for mules and horses will be shipped soon from Seattle to Manila to fill a government order.

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Catering to the wants of our worthy patrons, we have at last satisfied the constant demand made upon us for high grade tailor made suits for gentlemen. In making our selection we have been content with nothing short of the "best" and now invite all "swell dressers" of La Grande and vicinity to call and inspect our magnificent line of woollens for fall and winter trade. Stop a moment, when passing, and read our guarantee. It will certainly interest you. Remember we are located in the Haworth building, 1316 Adams Ave. Don't forget we are the only people in the northwest who can "make" your underwear. It is superior to anything on the market.

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