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PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON

Office over Hill's Drug Store. Um e Phone 1362 Residence Main 55

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G. E. Fowler, C. P.

D. E. Cox, Scribe.

M. W. A.—La Grande Camp No. 7703 meets every first and third Wednesday of the month at I. O. O. F. hall. An visiting neighbors are cordially invited to attend. C. S. Williams, V. C. JOHN HALL, Clerk.

FORESTERS OF AMERICA—Court Maid Marion No. 22 meets each Thurs-day night in Redman hall. Brothers are invited to attend.

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FRIENDSHIP TENT No. 31, K. O. T M.--Meets second and fourth Wednesdays each month in I. O. O. F. hall. Visiting

H. C. Ball, Com. Mox Block, Record Keeper

L. O. T. M. HIVE No. 27 .- Meets every first and third Thursdays in the after-noon at the Redmen hall. All visiting ladies are welcome.

MAUDE LONG Lady Commander.

M. C. VESSEY, Record Keeper.

B. P. O. E., La GRANDE LODGE No. 433-Meets each Thursday evening at eight o'clock in Elks' hall, on Adams Avenue. Visiting Brothers are cordially invited to attend.

E. W. Davis, Exalted Ruler G. E. McCully, Recording Secretary

LA GRANDE LODGE No. 169, WOODMEN OF THE WORLD—Mouts every Friday of each month in the K, of P, hall in the Corp building. All visiting members welcome.
FRED JACOBS Consul Commander

J. H. KEENEY. Clork. RED CROSS LODGE, No. 27-Meets every Monday evening in Castle Hall. Corpe building. A Pythian welcome to all visiting Knights,

N. L. ACKLES, C. C. R. PATTISON, K. R. & S.

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EAGLES - La Grande Aerie 295F. O . ANOTHER FITTER FROM right in Elk riali, at 8 . m. Visiting brhren nylted to att. MAYOR J. B. STODDARD

In conformity with the proposition to to the public weltare, as published a few our present charter and ordinances and under the initiative law passed at the election in June, this year, and to have the ordinances of the city revised and codified and together with the newly adopted charter, published in book form,

This question is taken up first because these laws are the basis of all the other matters relating to the city's business, and the securing of an efficient service, and capable administration of municipal affairs depends upon the powers granted, the kind of ordinances enacted, and the manner of selecting and handling, the officers and employees of the city.

The present charter was first enacted in the year 1885 and part of the ordinances have been handed down from the 'Old Town" of La Grande and some of them are of such peculiar form and substance that they would make fair curiosities in a museum.

The charter of 1885 was amende 1891 and again in the year 1905. These amendments instead of eliminating the objectionable features tend only to confuse and cause conflicting sections and phrases.

It cannot be expected that all the conflicting and objectionable parts may be pointed out but a few of them may, enough to prove my contention for the necessity of a new charter.

I have been legally advised not to monkey with the law because it is more dangerous than monkeying with a "buzz saw," that I am familiar with, but I have decided to take a chance at it with the people as the judges.

You are supposed to vote on this question when the time comes and it is very important that every voter takes it under advisement and renders a decision according to the law and the evidence.

In the amendment of 189:, when trying to patch matters up for that time and place in the manner of providing representation for the wards, the terms of councilmen, the time of election and of drawing lots for the long and the short phrase, "and thereafter the council snall have but six members." We have eight now, no matter what the charter says.

in section 8 the majority to elect an officer is a majority of the whole council but in section 34 it is provided that if an election is deferred till the next regular meeting after its introduction a majority of a quorum is sufficient to elect.

In section 8 the officers of the mayor and members of the council and says that a concilman may be removed without referring to council. by a two third vote of the council no There are all manners of conflicts as majority vote.

days or he is deemed to have declined nances.

against city property for road and street head of our municipal institutions. inprovement within the city which conto levy a special road tax.

A wager of \$20,00 was made as to what the charter said regarding the term and of his ability to control the adminisof office. The winner proved his contention by charter but the looser could not were clothed with dignity, and real aubut it is there.

same meaning in different words. There superfluous and many that are obsolete to him apply for remedy, or upon whom or outlawed by reasons of new systems to fix the blame. of taxation in the state Omissions are fundamental law on municipal governthe charter and amendments

The mayor's term of office is repeated in exactly the same words in section 7 and 8

take up and discuss questions pertaining deciding vote is stated in three places sections 8 and 32 and in rule 3 The days ago. I deem it advisable to review term of all officers both elective and appointie could be stated in one conadvocate the adoption of a new charter nection in a single paragraph or section but in this charters of the city of La Grande the term of mayor is in section 7 and 8, those of councilmen in section 6, the term of the regulary elected officers in sect. 22, appointing officers in 8 and 22. In sect. 22 it states the term as ending when successors are elected qualified and in sect. 8 for one year an-

less removed by council. The commencement of term is named in sections 22, 33, and 130.

The parts of charter outlawed or obsolete are subdivision 2 sect. 35 as the power given council in this subdivision is now exercised by county court, section 56 makes recorder assesor and section 57 makes marshall collector while section 61 makes treasurer tax collector for the city Sections from 107 to 132 inclusive pertains to collection of taxes all of which duties have been turned over to county official except taxes on abutting property for the improvement of streets.

Among the omissions in the charter that are important we find that there is no provision regarding contested elections other than mayor and council, that it does not state as to the residence of councilman except at tha time of his election section 9.

There are no provisions for impeachment, compelling attendance of witnesses or administering oaths by the council, nor any system of checking accounts between Recorder and Treasurer. There is no limit fixed for the indebtedness of the city and the power of the council is too restricted in buying and selling real estate for the city, only section 88 appears between section 67 and 100.

CONFLICT OF CHARTER AND RULES

Sec. 28 charter says mayor must call special meetings, rule 5 says mayor or any four councilmen.

Charter says mayor protem has all the powers of the mayor except vetoing an ordinance, the rule says he votes only term this section 6 winds up with the as a member of the council and not on a tie vote.

Rule 28 conflicts with charter, sect. 128 and 138 on the letting and signing of contracts and a councilman being interested in a contract, the expenses of which are to be paid out of the city treasury.

The ordinances conflict with the charter in many places too numerous to mention one special instance is in contracting for street work. The charter provides for city as defined includes the the mayor and recorder to sign contracts and the ordinance delegates to street it is stated that any officer may be committee not only the right to let and sign removed by a majority vote of the all contracts but the sole authority to whole council, while in section 31 it advertize for bids and pass upon the same

special provision is made for removed to the duties of the mayor and committees of mayor only as other officers on a and of different officers of the city. It will take too long to go into details as a In section 22 it is provided that an matter of proof but enough has been said officer elected py the council must qualify to justify the proposition we started out the day after his election, while sec 27 with that the city needs a new charter says an officer must qualify within 5 and a revision and codification of ordi-

In section 35 the council is given Dillons Municipal Corporations Vol. 1 Power to levy an annual tax of 20 mills Sec. 13 says as follows, as to the authoron the dollar and sec I 50 limits the power lity of the executive: "Experience with us of taxation to 15 mills. The county now has demonstrated the necessity of more has the power to levy a special tax power and responsibility in the executive

Too often omit the duties of the mayor fiects with the power granted the council or execuive officer are only nominal, and to these he gives but little attention, a natural result of his want of importance tration of municipal affairs. If the officers find the section to prove what he claimed thority; if the mayor had sole right to app int and unrestricted power to suspend Besides the direct conflicts in sections or remove subordinate officials or heads and paragraphs numerated there are of departments, then the citizens could repetition of the same word, phrases justly demand of that he should be indiand sentences and expressions of the vidually responsible for the proper conduct of the concerns of the municipality. is section after section that are and if grievances exist, they would

been left out entirely in the drafting of ment and most all charters are drawn and enacted according to the principles and down in these books.

We should have a new charter paterned (Continued on Page 4)

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