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I. O. O. F.—La Grande Lodge No. 16. Meets in their hall every Saturday night. Visiting brothers cordially invited to attend. Cemetery plot may be seen at Model Restaurant.
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STAR ENCAMPMENT, No. 31, I. O. O. F.—Meets every first and third Thursdays in the month in Odd Fellows hall. Visiting patriachs always welcome.
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M. W. A.—La Grande Camp No. 7205 meets every first and third Wednesday of the month at I. O. O. F. hall. Visiting neighbors are cordially invited to attend.
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FORESTERS OF AMERICA—Court Maid Marion No. 22 meets each Thursday night in Redman hall. Brothers are invited to attend.
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 Board of Trustees—Dr. G. L. BIGGERS JOHN HALL and C. S. WILLIAMS

FRIENDSHIP TENT No. 51, K. O. T. U.—Meets second and fourth Wednesdays each month in I. O. O. F. hall. Visiting nights welcome.
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L. O. T. M. HIVE No. 27—Meets every first and third Thursdays in the afternoon at the Redman hall. All visiting ladies are welcome.
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B. P. O. E. LA GRANDE LODGE No. 435—Meets each Thursday evening at eight o'clock in Elks' hall, on Adams Avenue. Visiting Brothers are cordially invited to attend.
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LA GRANDE LODGE No. 169. WOODMEN OF THE WORLD—Meets every Friday of each month in the K. of P. hall in the Corpe building. All visiting members welcome.
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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.
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RATHBONE-SISTERS Rowena Temple No. 9 meets every Wednesday evening at 8 p. m. in the K. of P. Hall in the Corpe building. Visiting members cordially invited.
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FRATERNAL TRIBUNES NO. 119—Meets first and third Friday evening of each month in I. O. O. F. hall. Visiting members cordially invited.
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SUPREME COURT IS BEHIND IN ITS WORK

The Legislature May Provide Relief in Shape of a Commission Similar to California

For some reason or other the Oregon Supreme Court has, since Judge Wolverton retired therefrom, got behind with its business. Some years ago the court was behind, but it caught up. However, during the last year or so, it has again fallen behind.

It is rumored over the state that a bill will be before the approaching session of the legislature providing for the election of two additional Supreme Judges, so that our highest court will, like the supreme court of the state of Washington, have five justices. It may be that this should be done, if it can be accomplished constitutionally. But it is doubtful whether our constitution will permit such legislation. Originally, the circuit judges performed double duty, and constituted our supreme court. Our constitution, section 10, Art. VII, authorized the legislature, when the white population reached two hundred thousand, to provide for the election of supreme court and circuit court judges in distinct classes. Said section is as follows: "When the white population shall amount to two hundred thousand, the legislative assembly may provide for the election of supreme and circuit court judges in distinct classes, one of which classes shall consist of three justices of the supreme court, who shall not perform circuit duty, and the other class shall consist of the necessary number of circuit judges," etc.

It will be noticed that, by the terms of the section just quoted, the class of justices of the supreme court is to consist of three justices. This is the only section of the constitution that authorizes the election of any supreme court justices, and it seems to limit the number to three. We already have three justices of the supreme court, and it can be argued with reason and fairness, that when the legislature provided for electing three justices, it exhausted its power, and now has no power whatever to provide for the election of two more. There is much force in this argument, and it is probable that the framers of the constitution did not intend that the legislature should have power, without an amendment to the constitution, to provide for electing more than three justices of the supreme court. It will, however, be argued that the court needs relief. This may be true, but the legislature should not violate the constitution, which every member takes an oath to support and defend.

There is another method of relieving supreme courts, which has been adopted in California, Colorado, Ohio, New York, and perhaps other states in the past. We refer to the supreme court commission method. It is competent for the legislature to provide for a supreme court commission consisting of three members, possessing the qualifications necessary for justices of the supreme court, and authorizing that court to assign to the commission each term the hearing of any number of cases. The commission sits and exercises the powers of the court in all cases referred to it as referees, do in the circuit courts, and hears arguments and renders opinions and recommends that the cases be decided in a stated way. Then the court reads these opinions, and, if the reasons given for the conclusions of the commission, be considered sound, the court renders its judgments or decrees in accordance therewith. California has had a commission for many years, and it seems to work well there. There is no reason why a commission would not work well in Oregon and render the relief that the court needs. The legislature could vest the appointment of the commissioners in the supreme court, and this would probably secure better material for the commission than to vest the appointment in the governor. If the legislature authorizes the appointment of two additional judges, their appointment will have to be vested in the governor, as section 4, Art. VII of the constitution seems to contemplate that all vacancies on the supreme bench shall be filled by the appointment of the governor until the next election. Our supreme court has in several cases held that the legislature has constitutional power to create a railroad commission and vest the election of the members thereof in the legislature. Doubtless, a bill authorizing the supreme court to appoint a supreme court commission would be held constitutional.

There will be a difference of opinion as to the best method of relieving the supreme court, and it is impossible at this time to predict what will be done, or whether anything will be really effected in that matter.

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