

THE OBSERVER

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Editor and Owner.

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This paper will not publish an article appearing over a nom de plume. Signed articles will be revised subject to the discretion of the editor. Please sign your articles and save disappointment.

THE STATE HOUSE ITCH.

Of all the ailments which man is liable to meet up with we believe the state house itch is one of the worst, and is harder to get rid of. Visit the capital of Oregon and note the hangers on. It is much worse when a legislature is in session, but it is had enough any time of the year.

You may find some men possessed of more than ordinary talent—men who could have made good in many lines of work, had they not acquired that fearful itch which seldom heals and leaves the patient sallow and well. You may find them in line by securing an appointment to a clerkship. They get their pay check regularly and learn to depend wholly upon that. When a campaign is on they live in mortal fear lest their chief shall lose and they will be thrust out of the steam heated capital building to earn a living like other men. A sort of civil service has been established in most states which lets satisfactory clerical help continue on the old job regardless of political party. This has been a boon to the weakling and has made those who would have been saved from the itch more susceptible to it.

Politics should interest everyone. No young man should grow up without taking part in the affairs of his country, but if you would help a bright young man to battle the struggles of life do not under any consideration help him to an appointive office. It is the porous plaster that sucks out his energy, that destroys his self-reliance and makes of him a subservient tool to a state officer or to a corporation, permitting him to die with neither prominence or wealth and looked upon as a poor fellow who had to have a job.

A SHORT SESSION? SURE.

It is really pleasant to note already there is a sentiment over the state for a short session of the legislature this winter. In these days of modern politics there is little use for a legislature, except to allow the necessary appropriation bills. With this in mind why should a legislative body in Oregon exceed its time limit.

One thing should be observed, however, and that is not to be so hasty as to cause the legislative work to be done in a loose manner causing reconvening of the law making bodies

in order to patch up the holes which slipped through with the first effort. The instances have been many where legislators found it impossible to finish their work in the allotted time and spent many days overtime. For this they receive no pay, but it would seem this year there is positively no reason for extra time whatever for an extraordinary session.

Very likely the third house will be small at this session for there is not a great deal any lobby can accomplish. The day of the lobbyist is about over, thanks to the advancement in political matters, and the day of the long legislative session should also be a matter of history.

In C. M. Humphrey La Grande will have a recorder who is both capable and earnest. This is an office that many people fail to understand the true meaning, the actual work and the importance of accuracy. Mr. Humphrey is one of those capable men who keeps constantly at things until they are accomplished. Especially during this improvement era, and it has only begun, is the city recorder a busy man and frequently is required to put in over time. Humphrey is the kind of a man who will see that things are kept up.

Is it not about time for an annual agitation of moving the state capital from Salem to Portland? Just before Christmas is the time it is due.

TARIFFS AND PARTISANS.

(From Desert News)

Will the great political parties now unite in revising the tariff schedule?

A local contemporary states that the prospects of a downward revision of the American tariff are regarded with satisfaction in the commercial centers of Europe and proceeds to argue from this basis that a lowering of the American tariff, while a good thing for foreign manufacturers, will mean disaster to American industry.

But our contemporary seems to forget that if America trades with Europe, both sides may and no doubt will be benefited. And even if Berlin, Glasgow, and Manchester are pleased at the prospect of lower tariff rates, that is no indication that America should be displeased.

The recent election undoubtedly signifies tariff reduction; but that this means injury to American industry, is a conclusion of partisanship that finds little support in the facts of the case.

Downward revision was the real platform upon which President Taft was elected, and was no doubt regarded by most of those who voted for him as the promise contained in the party platform.

In explaining how he himself regarded this platform pledge, President Taft, in his letter of Aug. 29th to Chairman McKinley, said this:

"The truth is that under the old protective idea the only purpose was to make the tariff high enough to protect the home industry. The excess of the tariff over the difference in the cost of production here and abroad was not regarded as objectionable because it was supposed that competition between those who enjoyed the higher protection would keep the price for the consumer down

since as the tariff adopted by the Indiana Democratic convention

"Tariff taxation, like other taxation should be for public purposes only and not for private profit, and should be so levied as not to be discriminatory against any section, class, industry or occupation."

This only re-enforces President Taft's statement; and similar abundant proof can be adduced to show that Republicans and Democrats alike regard the present tariff rates as too high.

Mr. Foss, Governor-Elect of Massachusetts, is thought to owe his remarkable success at the polls to such presentations of the tariff issue as he made, for example, on Oct. 22nd:

"It is an unwise economic policy that forces the manufacturers of the United States to cross the border and erect in Canada mills and factories that up to the present time have involved an outlay of \$300,000,000 and then to deprive our own people of the opportunity to produce the goods manufactured in those American establishments in Canada."

Moreover, the method by which it is proposed to effect this downward revision of the tariff was clearly stated by Woodrow Wilson, Governor-Elect of New Jersey, in his closing speech of his unprecedented campaign:

"Certainly not by rapid and radical changes as will bring about an adoption of the fiscal policy of the government to the real needs and circumstances of our manufacturing and laboring classes, with a view ultimately to get upon this basis: the taxation for the support of the government of those things for which it will be a real hardship to pay high prices; if taxes upon those do not suffice, the taxation of those things which it will least burden the people to pay for, things which they can do without, without suffering or privation, and throughout the whole process an honest seeking for the things which will yield the most revenue with the least burden to the people."

In all this, we fail to find the veiled threats of which our contemporary complains, against any kind of enterprise of any sort of manufacturing industry in America. There is nothing alarming about the present outlook, nothing that should tend to bring about the business depression or panic against which our contemporary so earnestly warns the people of the country. In fact, to admit the mere truth, business is not now and has not been for some time past, in a satisfactory condition in this country.

The question of partisanship may, or it may not figure very greatly in the tariff revision that may now be regarded as certain. On the one hand, eminent members of the Republican party are urging President Taft to begin at once the work of revising the tariff downward, without waiting for the next Democratic house to take up this work. At Washington, various Republicans express the hope that the president will summon the Sixty-second congress early in the spring in order to deprive the Democrats of the credit for taking the initiative in the matter of tax reduction."

We do not think, however, that the President, if he does call on extra session to deal with the tariff, will act from such a motive. His own stand on these matters, as quoted above, would be a sufficient reason for such action on his part; and he will no doubt do what he can to make the popular will, as expressed in the recent elections, fully effective, especially since this mandate from the people coincides so well with his own views.

It is unnecessary now, because it is too early to inject unnecessary politics into this issue. Many Democrats and Republicans are agreed that certain tariff schedules should be materially reduced. If, therefore, a Republican President should convene in special session a congress Democratic in one branch and Republican in the other, and proceed with downward revision on the present tariff the action would be accepted as an attempt to conform to the expressed desires of the people. This action might go far to remove present complaints, and to what was reasonable for the manufacturer. The evil of excessive tariff rates, however, showed itself in the temptation of manufacturers to combine and suppress competition, and then to maintain the prices so as to take advantage of the excess of the tariff over the difference between the cost of production abroad and here."

These words are generally taken to mean just what they say; but only extremists for high tariffs can discover in them that the president is in



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Much of the joy of giving is lost when your GIFT LIST is hastily compiled and hurriedly filled. By beginning TODAY there is ample time for the consideration of each one's individual preference.

N. K. WEST, THE QUALITY STORE

favor of injuring American industries.

Consider now the platform utter- would tend to take the tariff out of politics.

In taking a stand against any reduction, Republican politicians seem to us to be unwise; they are simply putting into the hands of their opponents a similar partisan weapon. Thus, Congressman Clark, who expects to be Speaker of the new Democratic House of Representatives, is already on record against the extra session. He desires his party to have all the credit for the downward revision.

The platform adopted by the Ohio Democrats reads:

"The gradual reductions in tariff taxations to make it a means of raising revenue, instead of an instrument of extortion, cannot be safely left to the party of broken promises, but should be intrusted to the Democratic party."

And Governor Harmon said in his speech of acceptance:

"The Republican leaders were forced to promise relief by reducing the tariff taxes. A special session of congress was called to make the promise good. How they did it has been told by many Republican members of high standing and authority.

The New York Democratic platform declares:

"We declare our belief that only by an honest revision downward of the tariff, with proper regard for the welfare of the American workingman, a reform which will be effected only by the Democratic party, can this excessive cost of living again be brought within reasonable reach of the people."

These pre-election documents have naturally more of a partisan ring—they sound like the statements of our partisan contemporary from the other side of the question.

We think the movement to take the tariff out of politics will be advanced more at present by united action than by party action. We therefore conclude that partisans on each side would do well to waive their differences and to unite in doing a piece of work that it seems must be done—a further revision of the tariff with a substantial reduction in many of its taxation rates.

Notice of Street Improvement.

To whom it may Concern:

Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of a resolution adopted by the Common Council of the City of La Grande, Oregon, on the 15th day of December, 1909, creating Improve-

ment district No. 13, and designating N. Fir street, as such district, and in

pursuance of a resolution adopted by said Common Council on the 2nd day of November, 1910, whereby said Council determined and declared its intention to improve all that portion of N. Fir street, in said improvement district as hereinafter described, by laying thereon Bithulthic Pavement, the Council will, ten days after the service of this notice upon the owners of the property affected and benefitted by such improvement, order that said above described improvement be made; that boundaries of said district to be so improved are as follows:

All that portion of N. Fir street, from the South Curb Line of Monroe Avenue to the North Line of S. avenue. Notice is hereby further given that the Council will levy a special assessment on all the property affected and benefitted by such improvement for the purpose of paying for such improvement. That the estimated cost of such improvement is the sum of \$2529.40. That the Council will on the 7th day of December, 1910, meet at the Council chamber at the hour of 8 o'clock P. M., to consider said estimated cost, and the levy of said assessment, when a hearing will be granted to any person feeling aggrieved by such assessment.

La Grande, Oregon, November 23, 1910.

City Council of La Grande, Oregon.

By D. E. COX,

Recorder of the City of La Grande.

Nov. 26th 1910.

KEEP THE KIDNEYS WELL.

Health is Worth Saving, and Some La Grande People Know How to Save it.

Many La Grande people take their lives in their hands by neglecting the kidneys when they know these organs need help. Sick kidneys are responsible for a vast amount of suffering and ill health, but there is no need to suffer nor to remain in danger when all diseases and aches and pains due to weak kidneys can be quickly and permanently cured by the use of Doan's Kidney Pills. The following statement leaves no ground for doubt.

T. F. Felton, 807 Vincent St., Pennington, Ore., says: "I can recommend Doan's Kidney Pills highly, having used them with excellent results. The secretions from my kidneys were too frequent in passage and I was obliged to get up several times at night. I also had backache and I was very desirous of getting rid of my trouble. Doan's Kidney Pills relieved me and

after taking them, I enjoyed much better health."

For sale by all dealers. Price 50 cents, Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, New York, sole agents for the United States.

Remember the name—Doan's—and take no other. Dec. 5-7-9.

Notice to Stockholders.

Notice is hereby given to the Stockholders of the United States National Bank of La Grande, Oregon, that the annual meeting of the stockholders of the said bank, will be held at their banking house in La Grande, Oregon, on Tuesday, January 10th, between the hours of 10 a. m. and 4 p. m. for the purpose of transacting any other business that may come before the meeting.

Dated at La Grande, Oregon, this sixth day of December, 1910.

T. J. SCROGGIN, Cashier.

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That mild, soothing liquid, D. D. D. Prescription stops the awful itch with the first drops. A prescription of acknowledged value.

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E. L. MEYERS, Cashier.

La Grande National Bank of La Grande, Oregon

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