

# West's Annual Sale Attracts Large Crowds

Half Price Sale of Waists, Childrens' Dresses, Jackets, Union Suits and Wash Dresses

Hundreds of economical purchasers have visited this store since our Great 13th Annual Sale began and all our previous January sale records have been broken. They know the reputation of West's sales for the past 13 years, also the High Quality Merchandise sold by this store

## Bonafide Reductions in Every Department

Entire Line of Men's Clothing Reduced 25 to 50 Per Cent

Annual Sale of Fine Embroideries	Annual Sale of Muslin Underwear	Annual Sale of Ladies' and Misses' Shoes	Annual Sale of Blankets and Comforters	Annual Sale of Men's Shoes all grades	Annual Sale of Staley Brand Underwear	Annual Sale of Men's Dress Shirts
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DO YOUR SHOPPING IN THE MORNING and AVOID THE DELAY OF THE AFTERNOON, when the STORE IS ALWAYS CROWDED

# N. K. WEST The Quality Store

## THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS

Editor and Owner.

Entered at the postoffice at La Grande as second-class matter.

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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Daily, per month..... 65c

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.

### FIFTY YEARS SUPPLY.

It is common report and we have never heard it questioned that the Palmer Lumber company has sufficient standing timber in this territory to last them fifty years.

Stop for one moment and think what that means to La Grande. It means a pay roll from that lumber manufacturing plant indefinitely. It

means the present generation of children will grow in La Grande accustomed to hear the Palmer mill whistle and it will become a part of their daily lives. It means work and daily bread for an army of men, all of which centers in La Grande and a great portion of the money paid to that help will be spent here. This one industry alone is sufficient to build a good sized community upon. Think it over, every reader, for you will be surprised at what a fifty year supply of timber actually means.

### THE LEGISLATURE.

Every citizen who can should visit the legislature at least once during the session. You will enjoy it, for you will find that legislators as a rule are just folks. That they make mistakes and go at things awkwardly very much the same as commercial clubs, church organizations and occasionally a school board.

Salem will soon be alive with statesmen who have been called to serve their respective districts and each of them will probably have some

bill to introduce and push through. Baker county wants a bridge across Snake river so that cattlemen will not have to drive their herds around Ontario to get into Eagle and Pine valleys when coming over from Idaho. Umatilla county will want heavy appropriations for the new asylum, and so on down the line. It will be a case of nine tenths of the representatives and senators "wanting something", and on top of the whole menagerie of events comes Judge Webster with a pet bill wanting the state to take on a debt for our children to pay in order that the state may have a highway twenty years in advance of her development.

There is only one state treasury. Just one place where money can be gotten to pay for all these things; the legislators want, and the people of Oregon, through taxation, replenish that store house each year.

It is no wonder that the state Grange invokes referendums on the acts of a legislature, for in many cases they not only should use some kind of a brake on the legislature but they should provide some means of preventing the starting of wild eyed schemes whose ultimate aim is to obtain money, money, money.

### THE SPIRIT OF PETTY GRAFT.

Oregon is cursed worse with petty grafters than any state in the Union. By that we do not mean men who will get out in the open and graft enough to be caught, but there is a worse form of graft than that. It is the little things. Men who knock the country when they cannot get in on a deal that is pending; men who will get some scheme and go back east and bump their old time friends and acquaintances. These men represent the quintessence of graft, and Oregon has a bountiful supply.

The get-rich-quick lad who is trying to use his brain instead of his hands came to the state looking for easy money. If it was necessary to shade a transaction and sing in the church choir or shout amen at the same time, he did not hesitate to do it.

Now what Oregon needs and needs badly is the man who will actually

follow the plow. Who will work as men work in the east and middle states. Then this state will begin to develop. But frankly, there are not enough producers in this commonwealth.

Every community can spare some of her "smart boys" who are here working a game of some kind and will gladly spare them for the hardy men who conquer sage brush, who build homes and produce something.

We believe the grafter has seen his best days in this state, although occasionally one of them pulls off a big deal and gets some easy coin. Things are settling down to a better condition year by year.

There was a time when Oregon's delegation in congress was either in jail or on the threshold, but that seems to have passed also, and we can all hope for better and bigger men in office. This state needs men above the trader and trafficker; it needs men who think higher than some political appointment.

Why not send a few men direct from the farms to office?

Portland may see an automobile road in the dim future, but here's betting it will never be with the approval of the ranchers who first want a road they can use in hauling their products to market. It would be a piece of the greatest folly for Union county to build a direct line from one corner of the county to the other in order to connect with the proposed Portland highway when roads from La Grande to Elgin, Union and Cove would directly benefit eighty per cent of her citizens.

Phillip S. Bates' paper, the Pacific Northwest, issued a holiday number that is a gem for neatness and first class matter. The cover is a wheat design and every page has something of interest. He devoted considerable space to the state meeting of the threshermen at La Grande early last month and said some very pretty things about the Grande Ronde valley.

Will R. King is to return to eastern Oregon to practice law, according to the Salem dispatches. We al-

ways thought Will R. needed more elbow room for he always seemed hemmed in while in the Willamette valley.

No doubt Governor West is very much worried over the damage suit that has been brought against him. But quite likely he will take his office even though he does tremble a little.

Everyone in La Grande was good to Senator Barret yesterday. Don't believe anyone mentioned the branch insane asylum to him.

### Whitman Reopens Today.

Whitman College, Walla Walla, Wash, Jan. 4 (Special)—College reopened on Wednesday morning, January 4th at 10 a. m. with the usual Wednesday morning musical services. Practically all the students were back on time owing to the rule of the faculty which requires that any student who is late in returning after a holiday shall be required to take an extra examination of one hour in each study he has missed.

### Fire on Van Ness Avenue.

San Francisco, Jan. 4 One woman was probably fatally injured and one escaped from a fire early today which destroyed the Commercial rooming house on Stark street, at the corner of Van Ness avenue. Mrs. Schwarthy, aged 61 was rescued but almost suffocated in a room on the third floor. She was taken to the hospital.

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L. C. Smith-La Grande

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