

THE OBSERVER

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Editor and Owner.

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LA GRANDE'S HONORED GUESTS.

Friday of this week members of the Farmers Union from Union, Baker and Wallowa counties will meet in La Grande for the purpose of outlining further plans for their organization and to enjoy the social feature, which is no small part of the Union.

On that occasion La Grande will be host to those whom the Evening Observer unhesitatingly claims, comprise the most important part of civilization and national organization—the producing class. Without the farmers railroads would go out of business, beef trusts would become paralyzed, the steel trust would have no place to market its output.

For this and many other reasons we believe the meeting in La Grande is one of the most important ever held in Eastern Oregon. This city is delighted to have the privilege of being host to such men. They are more welcome than a trainload of Roosevelts, a train load of Morgans or Rockefeller.

We sincerely hope that the merchant and the farmer will get together at this meeting, if the occasion permits, and talk things over. There is a decidedly erroneous impression with many that the merchant and the farmer have no common interests. The truth is, every question of commerce is a common one to the merchant and the farmer.

Instead of the feeling that there should be antagonism between the merchant and the farmer there should be a feeling of fighting the common enemy—the trust and large capitalized enterprise which gives no quarter and knows nothing but the Shakespearean pound of flesh nearest the heart.

There never has been such a time in Eastern Oregon for the merchant and the farmer to get together as this week in La Grande. See that you do your part in this matter.

And Allen Eaton's generosity to Ben Selling cost him the speakership according to Salem reports. Watch and see if that generosity is appreciated. If so, it will be one of the few cases in politics when there is such a word as gratitude.

favors he may be able to do and the favors he has done. Eaton's case may prove differently but we doubt it very much.

It is amusing to see the Oregonian stoutly claim that the election of Rusk and Selling were not victories over Senator Bourne. The Oregonian cannot make its readers believe this statement, for no matter whether one admires the senator's statesmanship qualifications or not the open fact remains that he is doing things in Oregon and every political encounter lately has carried the stamp of the pink carnation without exception.

OBSERVE THESE BILLS.

As a further insight to what Judge Webster is trying to do in the way of good roads legislation read the bills that follow this article. They are softly encoched, inoffensive in appearance and without close scrutiny one might be moved to endorse them. But think a moment. Who paid Judge Webster's expenses in agitating these measures? Who expects to reap a reward for money thus expended? Are machinery houses in any way interested in this movement? Could not individual counties pay for and build their own roads cheaper and with less worry than to have a state commission and an imperative demand that each county contribute heavily to the state aid fund?

Read these bills which will be introduced and do a little thinking:

Bonding Act.

Section 1.

Bonds may be issued by any county in this state for the purpose of raising money to be used for the construction of permanent roads in this as hereinafter provided.

Section 2.

Whenever a number of the registered voters of a county equal to one-fourth the greatest number of votes cast in that county at the next preceding general election, for any person for Judge of the Supreme Court, shall petition the county court as hereinafter provided asking that a special election shall be called for the purpose of submitting to the voters of that county the question of issuing bonds for the purpose mentioned in Section one (1) of this Act, such county court shall call such special election and submit such question to the legal voters of such county as hereinafter provided.

Section 3.

The petition mentioned in Section two (2) shall set out the amount of bonds proposed to be issued, the length of time they shall run, and maximum rate of interest they shall bear. Each petitioner must sign his own name to the petition and his postoffice address must be noted opposite his name. The petition shall be in substantially the following form:

To the County Court of _____ County.

Those whose names are signed below respectfully petition that you call a special election for the purpose of submitting to the voters of this county the question of issuing bonds to provide for the construction of permanent roads in this county to the amount of _____ Dollars, which bonds shall mature in _____ years and shall bear interest at _____

per cent per annum. Name Postoffice Address.

Section 4.

The petition mentioned in Section three (3) shall be filed with the county clerk and thereafter presented to the county court at a regular session thereof. The county court shall examine the petition as soon as it is so presented and if the court is satisfied that the petition substantially conforms to the requirements of Section three (3) of this act and contains the names and postoffice addresses of the requisite number of voters as required by Section two (2) of this Act, the county court shall then make an order directing that a special election shall be called and held in that county for the purpose as specified in the petition at a time to be then fixed by the court, which shall not be more than forty days after the date of making the order. There shall be no appeal from that order. If the county court shall determine either that the petition does not substantially conform to the requirements of Section three (3), or that it does not contain names and postoffice addresses of the requisite number of voters as required by Section two (2) it shall make an order declaring that fact and particularly designating the defects and refusing to order a special election. Within ten days after the entry of such order any one or more of the petitioners may appeal to the circuit court in the same manner as appeals are taken from the county court in action at law, except that the notice of appeal if not entered in the journal of the county the order is made shall be served on the county judge and no appeal bond shall be required if the circuit court upon such appeal shall be satisfied that the county court proceeded as if it had declared the proceedings sufficient. If upon such an appeal the circuit court shall decide that the judgment of the county court was correct it shall make an order affirming the judgment of that court. There shall be no appeal from the judgment of the circuit court.

Section 5.

Whenever a number of registered voters of a county equal to one-twentieth (1-20) of the greatest number of votes cast in that county at the next preceding general election for any person for Judge of the Supreme Court shall petition the county court as provided in Sections two and three of this Act the county court shall take the same proceedings respecting such petition as is provided for in Section four (4) of this Act except that if the court is satisfied that the petition is insufficient as provided in Section four (4) it shall so adjudge and there shall be no appeal from such judgment. The county court, however, is not required to call a special election upon the petition provided for in this Section, and the difference between the proceedings provided for in this Section and that provided for in Section four (4) is that this Section is intended to authorize but not require the county court to call a special election, whereas, Section four (4) is intended to be mandatory upon the county court.

Section 6.

Whenever a special election shall be ordered as provided in this Act the county court shall cause printed notices thereof signed by the county clerk to be posted in like manner as notices of a general election are now posted, which notices shall particularly specify the amount of bonds proposed to be issued, the length of time they shall run, and the maximum rate of interest they shall bear. These notices shall be posted at least twenty (20) days before the date of the election and shall be in substantially the following form:

Notice of special election for issuing road bonds for _____ County:

Notice is hereby given that on the _____ day of _____, 19____ a special election will be held in _____ County to determine whether the county court shall issue bonds of said county to provide for permanent road construction to the amount of _____ dollars, to mature in _____ years, and to bear interest at the rate of _____ per cent per annum.

County Clerk for _____ County.

Section 7.

The county court shall have printed for use at such special election the same number of ballots, both official ballots and sample ballots as would be required by the election laws at a general election. The elec-

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