THE OBSERVER BRUCE DENNIS

Editor and Owner. Entered at the postoffice at La Grande

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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 FARMER AND MERCHANT.

Tomorrow evening the Farmers Union and the merchants of La Grande are to have a meeting. It is the best chance that has presented itself for years to La Grande for a better understanding on business matters. There is absolutely no reason why the farmer and the merchant should not work to a common end. Their interare the same. A retail merchant is not the man to blame for the manipulation of commodity prices, neither is the farmer, The man "higher up" who sits around the board of trade, who gives champagne dinners, who rides in

thousand in a night on chorus girls is the enemy that all should fight. Combined efforts to overcome this unnatural manipulation; combined effort to eradicate the present system of capital combination; combined effort to see that the Sherman law is enforced. These are things that both farmer and retail merchant demand. But the man "Higher up" smiles as long as he can keep the farmer and retail merchant apart. His game is to spread seed of discontent so there will be no harmonious action among these two classes of business men, and he has succeeded remarkably well

The Farmers' Union is not a polltical organization. At least, it does not want to be. But the time will come when it cannot get away from taking a hand in politics. Why? Because the politics of the country have direct bearing on the business. The only way to correct the present business ills is through political channels. Many merchants feel the same as do the farmers-no desire to get into politics, but they must in time, and form a coalition along political lines and demand reformation the sooner something will happen to the chap money that he never earned.

We hope the meeting tomorrow evening will go on record on these matters. We hope the retailer will openly state his side of the case and the farmers will do the same thing, for all that is needed is a fair honest understanding with each side and the Grande Ronde valley will show a unwill show a citizenship that stands go and get the money. for a reformation of affairs that will count.

WILL IT BE REMEDIED?

to the legislature that it should be county cour shall have full power

man who wrote the message. Claiming there are entirely too many commissions the retiring governor has the right idea. In a state with the population of Oregon the expense of the worst feature is that it increases by leans and bounds each year.

Union county is paying almost three times as much state tax now as was demanded of this county six years this increased expense? What material benefit is the citizen of this county getting from the state now that he did not get six years ago?

Oh yes, there are a few such as these: There is a dairy inspection department that is a huge joke. There is our old Hoff busy most of the time. There is a railroad commission that acts after other states have shown them how. There is a water department and goodness knows how many other things which are grossly incomwill abolish a number of subsidiary organizations with clerks and office purchasing and disbursing under one

the matter be remedied-

Unless the people speak legislatures as a rule fail to recognize a sentiment toward economy. Instead of econ- the management and control of such omy there is usually a disposition to swell the pay roll and create new of- charge of the convicts in the penifices. We believe that many citizens should write their representatives and senators and give them their views of state matters. It will do good, whereas if things are let drift there will be little if any improvement.

There is general approval of the bill passed by the house of representatives increasing the pension rolls and providing more pay for the old boys in blue who spent their very best days in the country's service. While the added cost is \$45,000,000 it is a cost that is met with cheerfulness because it is in a small way recognizing the ones who fought the fight and carried the load when the nation's future depended wholly on the efforts

held last evening when installation the sooner the farmer and the retailer of new officers occurred makes life worth the living. The members gathered at the lodge room and not only performed the obligation laid down by who is giving champagne suppers on the ritual but also enjoyed the social side of life. Meetings like these brighten the pathway, of everyone connectward off old age, for age is no longer measured by years.

The steel trust has elected a new head, which does not mean that there will be any change in the policy of ited front to the outside world, and it that organization. It will continue to

CONVICT LABOR. City and County Prisoners. Section 1.

All convicts sentenced by any court Two messages have been sent to the or legal authority, whether in default Oregon legislature—one from the re- of the payment of a fine, or committed tiring governor, Bowerman, and the for a defining number of da s to serve other from the in-coming governor, sentence in a county jail, during the Mr. West. Both are worth reading and period of such sentence for the pureach has something of importance to pose of this Act, shall be under the exsay to the people. Bowerman, like clusive and absolute control of the most retiring officials, is free to call county court of the county in which attention to needed reform, but there the crime for which any convict was is so much truth in his final appeal sentenced was committed, and said

weighed carefully by every taxpayer to place such convicts under the conregardless of their feeling toward the troi of any road supervisor or other person or persons regularly appointed to take charge of such convicts, and to cause such convicts to work upon the public roads of such county or in the preparation of material for state government is enormous, and the the construction or repair of such roads, or such other work of a public nature as such court may direct. All such convicts shall be delivered to such supervisor or other person appointed to take charge of them, upon ago. Is there anything to show for the written request of the court. The hseriff shall take receipt from the person to whom such convicts are delivered for each of such convicts and thereupon all liability of said sheriff for such convict, and all responsibility on his account shall cease. The county court may at any a labor bureau that suffices to keep time return any convict taken under the provisions of this section to the sheriff, who shall thereupon take charge of him the same as though he had not been taken by the county court. Any such convicts so returned shall be entitled to all credits then petent. Bowerman calls attention to due him. The county ocurt shall have these things. He also recommends a the power to provide rules for grantests are identical and their enemies board of control to handle all insti- ing credits of time for good behavior tutions in the state and by so doing to any such convict so employed, not to exceed five days for each month, which may be deducted from the forces and put the whole of the state term of service, and the time of such credits, when so granted, shall be deemed t ohave been served and the convict discharged accordingly. The officers and guards having charge of such convicts under order of the county court as herein provided shall have the same rights and powers in

Section 2.

convicts as the officers and guards in

All convicts sentenced by any court of legal authority in any incorporated city or town, whether in default of the payment of a fine or committed for a definite number of days to serve sentence in a county fall, or city jail, or town jail, or prison, during the period of such sentence shall with the consent of such city or town council, and for the purposes of this Act, be under the absolute and exclusive control of the county court of the county in which such city or town is located, and sail county court shall have the power to place such convicts under the control of any road supervisor, or other person or persons regularly appointed to take charge of said convicts, and to cause said convicts to work upon the public roads of such county or in the preparation of material for the construction or repair of such roads, or such other work of a public nature as such court may direct. All such convicts shall be delivered to such Supervisors or other persons appointed to take days, the person so sentenced shall ed with the organization and tend to charge of them, upon the written re- be held to labor for the full period of quest of the county court. The sher- such sentence, and in all cases of iff, jailer or other official shall take fines imposed, in default of the payreceipt from the person to whom such convicts are so delivered for be made to labor at the rate of two each of such convicts and thereupon dollars per day until such fine is fulall liability of such sheriff, jailer or ly paid, and in all cases not less than other officer for such convict, and all eight hours shall be considered a responsibility on his account shall day's labor; provided, however, that cease. The county court may at any time return any convict taken under shortened by the granting of credits the provisions of this section, to the as provided in Section two (2) of this officer from whom he was received, Act. who shall thereupon again take charge of such convict. Any such convict, so returned, shall be entitled to all credits then due him. The county court shall have the power to provide rules for granting credits of time for good behavior to any such convict so employed, not to exceed five days for each month, which may be deducted from the term of service, and the time of such credits, when so granted, heall be deemed to have been served and the convict discharged accordingly. The officers and guards having charge of such convicts under order of the county court as herein provided shall have the same rights and powers in the management as the officers and guards in charge of the convicts in the pen-

Section 3.

itentiary.

Any county court may transfer to the county court of any other county any of the convicts committed to its control, by the provisions of this Act, and the county court to which such convicts are so transferred shall have the same power and authority respecting such convicts as if they had been sentenced to serve in that county. The transfer of convicts ions of this Act are hereby repealed. from one county to another shall be made upon such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon by the county courts concerned in the transfer.

In all cases where senctences of the court is for a definite number of

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ment of such fine, such person shall the time of all sentences may be

Section 5.

Any convict held to labor under the provisions of this Act who, being physically able, shall refuse to perform the labor required of him, may be denied all food except bread and water until he signifies his willingness to perform such labor, and the time of such refusal to labor shall not be counted as service of his sentence, but he shall be held to labor until all such time shall have been made up and the sentence of the court shall have been fulry complied

Section 6.

If, in any county, there shall be created a board o fcounty commissioners or other board or tribunal which shall have charge and management of the public roads of such county, such county commissioners. board or other tribunal shall have the same power and authority under this Act as is herein conferred upon the county court.

Section 7.

This Act shall apply to every county in this state irrespective of its population, and all laws and parts of laws inconsistent with the provis-

> CONVICT LABOR Penitentiary Prisoners. Section 1.

1: is the purpose of this Act that

(Continued on Page 5.)

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