

THE OBSERVER

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Editor and Owner.

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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.

The Farmers' Union is not a political 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.

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.

WILL IT BE REMEDIED?

Two messages have been sent to the Oregon legislature—one from the retiring governor, Bowerman, and the other from the in-coming governor, Mr. West.

weighed carefully by every taxpayer regardless of their feeling toward the man who wrote the message. Claiming there are entirely too many commissions the retiring governor has the right idea.

Union county is paying almost three times as much state tax now as was demanded of this county six years ago. Is there anything to show for this increased expense?

Oh yes, there are a few such as these: There is a dairy inspection department that is a huge joke. There is a labor bureau that suffices to keep our old Hoff busy most of the time.

Unless the people speak legislatures as a rule fail to recognize a sentiment toward economy. Instead of economy there is usually a disposition to swell the pay roll and create new offices.

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.

Such meetings as the Eastern Star held last evening when installation 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 the ritual but also enjoyed the social side of life.

The steel trust has elected a new head, which does not mean that there will be any change in the policy of that organization. It will continue to go and get the money.

CONVICT LABOR

City and County Prisoners.

Section 1.

All convicts sentenced by any court or legal authority, whether in default of the payment of a fine, or committed for a definite number of days to serve sentence in a county jail, during the period of such sentence for the purpose of this Act, shall be under the exclusive and absolute control of the county court of the county in which the crime for which any convict was sentenced was committed, and said county court shall have full power

to place such convicts under the control 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 the construction or repair of such roads, or such other work of a public nature as such court may direct.

Section 2.

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 jail, 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 said 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.

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 fully complied with.

Section 6.

If, in any county, there shall be created a board of county 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 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed.

CONVICT LABOR Penitentiary Prisoners.

Section 1.

It is the purpose of this Act that

Sale of Party Dresses

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JUST ARRIVED And Now on Display at this Store. The largest and most attractive showing of party and evening gowns ever seen in La Grande. This Entire Line will be included in Our Annual Sale at Surprisingly Low Prices.

- SALE of Muslin Underwear.
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F. L. METERS, Cashier.

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With our ample resources and facilities we can render you efficient service and handle your business to your entire satisfaction.

Section 3.

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.

Section 4.

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

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