

THE OBSERVER

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Calendar for January 1911 showing days of the week and dates from 1 to 31.

INTEREST.

When attorneys for the O. R. & N. railway company try to make it appear that either La Grande, Baker or Pendleton is trying to create a distinct and separate zone for distributive freight rates, they know better. It is but a smooth lawyer's trick to evade the real issue and attempt to influence the railroad commission. Here is a news item sent out from Salem:

The Oregon Railroad & Navigation Company, defendant in a complaint brought against it by business men of La Grande, Baker and Pendleton for the purpose of securing lower merchandise and commodity rates on the company's lines to the respective cities filed an answer today with the Railroad Commission, in which

each city is charged with attempting to demand absolute commercial control for jobbing purposes of as large an area of territory in Eastern Oregon as possible, regardless of whether or not the same shall be reasonable to the railroad company or may constitute a discrimination against defendant company. The O. R. & N. R. R. answers a similar complaint recently filed by the Portland Chamber of Commerce against it, but does not claim in this case that plaintiff is seeking to control commercial business. The answer alleges that the rates complained of by the Chamber of Commerce are unreasonable and unjust insofar as the railroad is concerned, in that they are unreasonably low and do not permit the defendant to secure a reasonable return for its investment.

Each of these cases has been taken up and argued before the Railroad Commission, but neither has been decided. Immediately following the first complaint filed by the Chamber of Commerce, Baker, La Grande and Pendleton intervened and demanded a like reduction.

At the hearing in Baker railroad attorneys tried to inject this same kind of argument, but it was resented by the three Eastern Oregon cities for each realizes whatever rate one gets all will get.

It is such work as this that causes the people to take up the cudgel against a railroad company. In Oregon there has been little antagonism displayed by the people toward the common carriers, but such misrepresentation as this will have a tendency to start it.

WHERE WILL WALLOWA BENEFIT?

Just how the newspaper at Enterprise can figure that the Webster good roads bill will benefit Wallowa county is more than we can understand. Of all Oregon counties it seems to us that the good roads bill now before the legislature will be of least benefit to Wallowa county.

Yet the Enterprise paper swallows the sugar coated pill with the following complimentary remarks:

Five highway bills are before the legislature, endorsed by the Good Roads association and by the County Judges and Commissioners association. They are modeled on the most effective and equitable measures adopted by other states. They are vital to the progress of the state and we hope they will be adopted.

The one appropriating state aid to the counties in building roads is to the counties in building roads is based upon \$10,000 from the state to every \$20,000 raised by the county during the years 1911 and 1912 or a total appropriation by the state of \$680,000 for the two years.

As we understand it, each county that raised \$20,000 a year for road purposes for those two years would receive \$10,000 a year from the state—no more, no less.

Wallowa's share of the state tax required to raise the \$680,000 based on present valuation, would be \$8,454, and we would receive \$20,000 in return.

Multnomah's share of the state tax would be \$252,740 and it would receive but \$20,000 in return.

If the foregoing is correct it would certainly seem good business for the smaller counties. Portland favors it on the ground that what helps the state helps the state's market place—Portland.

LET THE INVESTIGATION PROCEED.

The confab between Bowerman and Robert E. Lee Steiner, superintendent of the state insane asylum is bearing good fruit and it is to the taxpayers interest for a thorough investigation to follow. Commenting upon the matter the Portland Telegram remarks as follows:

Whatever there is that is personal in the asylum controversy between Senator Bowerman and Dr. Robert E. Lee Steiner, superintendent of the State Insane Asylum, should be settled privately between those two worthy gentlemen themselves. Whatever there is of a private nature, if there is anything, has no concern to anybody, but themselves.

But what the public has a great deal of concern in is the management of one of our greatest public institutions to which is committed the care of the most pitiable and helpless element in our population. Taking at their face value the vouchers filed by the management of the asylum in the Secretary of State's office, and there is such manifest freedom, not to say profligacy, in the expenditure of the public funds that public attention is arrested and public investigation invited. It is no new thing to bear the charge of extravagance whispered against the State Insane Asylum; it will cause no profound public sensation on the ground of its novelty, for it has been whispered may a time and oft before. But the issue has never been squarely faced and presented until now, and for the sake of all concerned it should be followed with rigid determination to find the facts and to get to the very bottom of the existing conditions.

Public officials speedily get into shiftless ways if they have at their command vast sums of money to expend and are not made to feel that there is some supervision and accountability. There has been nothing but perfunctory supervision and the same sort of accountability in insane asylum affairs for years. Under the bipartisan arrangement that has long existed, the governor has controlled the penitentiary and the other members of the board of the insane asylum. But all have worked in concert, as seems to be the present intention, and everybody proposes to maintain the existing status if that is possible. The existing status is precisely what is now being it will get worse instead of better. If allowed to continue, one of these days there will be a scandal that will stir up the state.

There has been entirely too much perfunctoriness in the examination of the books and accounts as well as the methods of the big state institutions, and there has been too little genuine official supervision over them. That there are things going on that will not look well in print nor read good to the average tax payer, there seems to be little reason to doubt; that there is more than appears on the surface seems to be quite likely. Therefore, there should be probing to the bottom, so that the public, which is entitled to know, learns precisely what is going on and gets this whole institutional question in its true perspective.

LOSTINE SHOULD HAVE IT.

The following editorial from the Lostine Reporter convinces one that the citizens of the valley queen city should have a water system:

We wonder if the resolution which will be voted on at the special election to be held here Monday, January 30, will carry and if Lostine will really get an up-to-date municipal water system, or will there be enough of the voters who persist in being moss backs, to vote it down. It is the first essential step which we, as a town will have to take if we wish to progress and grow into the thriving town which is our due. It needs only a thought

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F. L. Meyers, Cashier Earl Zundel, Ass't. Cashier

back to the harrowing times during the dry season of last summer, when every property holder was carrying every cent of insurance he could get, to convince us that we need a water system and need it bad. We can pay for a water system which will amply meet our requirements with what we will save on our insurance. Besides the necessity of it, the convenience of a good water supply to a town is as computing in dollars and cents. It is to the interest of every property holder in the incorporate limits to have adequate fire protection and ample water supply.

Of course, since we recall unwritten history of the Grande Ronde, Col. Eckley, of the Star, and John Predmore, deceased, used to play marbles together and why shouldn't the Colonel know Predmore's age. With this let all dismiss an argument that must be anything but pleasant to friends of the one who has passed away.

Notice to Creditors.

Notice is hereby given that letters of administration have been issued by the County Court of Union county Oregon, to Angus Shaw upon the estate of Isabella Shaw, deceased, and all persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same with proper vouchers to the said administrator at his residence at Summerville, Oregon, within six months from the date of this notice. Dated this December 30th, A. D. 1910.

ANGUS SHAW, Administrator of the estate of Isabella Shaw, deceased. Dec. 30, Jan 5, 13, 20, 27.

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PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY.

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Depot street. Office, Main 68; Residence 69.

C. H. UPTON, Ph. G. M. D.—Physician and surgeon. Special attention to Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat. Office in La Grande National Bank Building. Phones: Office Main 2, Residence Main 32.

A. L. RICHARDSON, M. D. J. W. LOUGHLIN, M. D. Drs. Richardson & Loughlin, Physicians and Surgeons, Office Hours—9 to 11; 2 to 5; 7 to 8, Phones—Office Black 1362; Ind. 353, Dr. Richardson's Res.—Main 55; Ind. 312.

JEO. W. ZIMMERMAN—Osteopath Physician. Sommer Bldg., Rooms 7, 8, 9 and 10. Phones: Home 1332, Pacific, Main 63, Residence phone, Black 951. Successor to Dr. C. E. Moore.

DR. M. P. MENDELSON—Doctor of Optics. Spectacles and Eye Glasses Fitted and made to order. All errors of Refraction Corrected. 1105 Adams Ave. Foley Hotel Bldg. La Grande, Oregon.

DR. H. L. UNDERWOOD and DR. DORA J. UNDERWOOD—Office over Wright Drug store. Special attention paid to diseases and surgery of the eye. Phones—Office—Main 22; residence, Main 728.

J. C. PRICE, D. M. D.—Dentist. Room 23, La Grande National Bank Building. Phone Black 399.

DR. R. L. LINCOLN, DENTIST—First class services given. Office over Lilly's Hdw. store. Phone Black-451.

DR. F. A. CHARLTON, Veterinary Surgeon. Office at Hill's Drug Store La Grande. Residence phone, Red 701; Office phone, Black 1361; Independent phone 53; both phones at residence.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW.

COCHRAN & COCHRAN—Attorneys: Chas. E. Cochran and Geo. T. Cochran. La Grande National Bank Bldg., La Grande, Oregon.

T. H. CRAWFORD—Attorney at Law Practices in all the courts of the State and United States. Office in La Grande National Bank Bldg., La Grande, Oregon.

D. W. C. NELSON—Mining Engineer Baker City, Oregon.

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