

THE OBSERVER

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Editor and Owner.

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NEED MORE OF IT.

No criticism can follow the acts of the city council last evening when refusal was made to settle with a contractor because the contract had not been lived up to. Of course threats of suit and heavy costs are to be expected, but be not afraid. The city of La Grande has too long, yes, very much too long permitted things to pass without proper scrutiny and as a result extensive repairs and changes must be made on different public works.

The council is custodian of the people's money and when the members refuse to pay for a job of work it is up to the contractor to prove that he has fulfilled every obligation of the contract.

Verbal permission from city officials after a contract has been made must be stopped. There is no such a thing in a straightforward business transaction as changing a contract unless the same be done in writing with both parties present. Heretofore the Observer has been informed, occasionally an official might say "that will be good enough." Nothing is good enough except what is stipulated in a contract when the city is involved. Lack of efficiency and criminal negligence are what has caused many cities to grope in the dark for commission forms of government in an endeavor to get rid of the old form of "what is everybody's business is nobody's business."

Commission government in smaller cities is yet an experiment and in some cases it may prove a costly one. If La Grande will continue to be critical of all contracts as at present, this city will get better work and the people will receive more for the money they invest in improvements.

THAT EASTERN OREGON LETTER

According to a Portland paper someone has written a letter from Eastern Oregon to Salem charging that Ben Olcott used Senator Bourne's money in his support of the governor before election. This grows, it is alleged, out of the failure of Senator Oliver of La Grande getting the appointment

to fill Benson's office. The story is a little far-fetched and does not smack with a true ring, although there are many democrats and republicans also in Eastern Oregon who believe that the governor violated all political precedent and ethics when he did not appoint the senator to the office.

It is one of those instances where personal friendship arose above public matters, we presume just as Roosevelt's action when he named Paul Morton to an appointive office once upon a time. But do you recall how the most ardent supporters of Roosevelt always held that appointment against him? Do you remember how easy it was for an anti-Roosevelt man to take the wind out of the sails of a Roosevelt man by mentioning the Paul Morton appointment?

The same may hold good with Governor West and the Olcott appointment. Whether the letter from Eastern Oregon was ever written or not, the agitation would indicate that Olcott's appointment is lodging itself as a permanent stumbling block to the governor's popularity both within and without his own party.

La Grande is at present infested with a bad bunch of yeggmen. They are to be seen on all sides. The robbery of N. K. West's store indicates to what extremes some are willing to resort and the time to stop such depredations is right now. It would not be a bad idea for officials to throw out a dragnet and either start yeggmen on their way or see that they go to work. This city has no use for the non-producer whether he be promoter wearing diamonds or the Weary Willie type.

Baker announces May first as the date for a Commercial club banquet at which time there will be speechmaking and booster proceedings. At present the sister city is without a Commercial club manager and an effort will be made to work along different lines in the future than in the past.

The man who tried to hold up a pedestrian near the Elgin tracks today certainly got the worst of the deal. His face was pounded into a jelly and he is now in jail. Justice like this will have a tendency to put a stop to a whole lot of petty crime.

Union business men intend making a tour of the Grande Ronde valley on horseback to advertise the horse show. That sounds first rate and probably sounds better than most of the men will feel the day after.

JUDICIAL WISDOM.

(Boston Traveler.)

If all judges should take such advanced ground in their treatment of legal technicalities as Judge Frank Gorman of Cincinnati, there would doubtless be less criticism of the judiciary.

Recently, when a lawyer sought to have an indictment quashed because of some merely technical defect in the wording of the bill, Judge Gorman ruled against his plea, and explained his ruling in the following clean-cut statement:

"In this enlightened age of progress, the court and counsel must keep pace with the modern advancement of the science of law. It was ever intended as a shield to protect the innocent and

a flaming sword to strike down the guilty.

"No quibbling or caviling should be tolerated by the court. The ancient practice of evading the toils of the law because the 'r's were not crossed or the 't's not dotted can have no place in practice that should be applied to a modern criminal trial.

"Certainty, celerity and simplicity of practice and procedure should be the handmaids of the criminal trials, to the end that speedy justice should be meted out to all offenders, and that no guilty one shall escape nor any innocent one suffer."

It is worthy of note that the judge who said this is the only common pleas judge in Cincinnati not nominated and elected by the Cox machine, and also that he has been behind the grand jury which brought several indictments against Boss Cox charging him with perjury.

There's a treat for you. Triunfo coffee this week. City grocery. 4-25-28

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY.

PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS.

N. MOLITOR, M. D.—Physician and Surgeon. Corner Adams Ave. and Depot street. Office, Main 68; Residence 69.

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

Dr. Richardson's Res.—Main 55; Ind. 312.

Dr. Loughlin's res.—Main 757; Ind. 1297.

C. H. UPTON, Ph. G. M. L.—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.

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GEO. 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.

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

DR. P. 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.

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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. NEILSON—Mining Engineer Baker City, Oregon.

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## of Great Bankrupt Sale

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FINAL SAVINGS ON MEN'S SPRING SUITS Benjamin, Society, Sincerity and Eiderheimer-Stein Suits for Men and Young Men  
Reduced Prices Just THREE MORE DAYS

Final Sale Shirtwaists, Final Sale Hosiery,  
Final Sale Muslin Und'w'r. Final Sale Wash Goods,  
Final Sale Silk Gloves, Final Sale Shoes.

Hundreds of Bankrupt Bargains Throughout the Entire Stock .... THREE DAYS ONLY to Take Advantage of These Prices.

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J. H. PEARE,

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Complete Equipment for Resetting and Repairing Rubber Buggy Tires

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COMPLETE MACHINE SHOPS AND FOUNDRY

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Our friends have helped to make this one of the largest and strongest banks in the West. We have helped in their making, too.

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La Grande National Bank

LA GRANDE, OREGON.

CAPITAL \$ 100,000.00  
SURPLUS 100,000.00  
RESOURCES 1,100,000.00

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