

THE OBSERVER

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SOMETHING WILL BE DONE.

The movement to appoint a committee of citizens by the present city administration, which has just started, will meet the most popular accord from all sides.

Present methods of municipal government are very unsatisfactory. So much so that in La Grande today there is question with the taxpaying public wide dissatisfaction and the great is, "What can be done?"

All over the country there is a disposition to get away from the ancient form of a mayor and council and many cities no larger than La Grande are successfully breaking.

But it should be understood that the

Arcade THEATRE

"Italian Coast Scenes"—(Gaiety)—Like all of this company's out-door pictures this leaves nothing to be desired. The view points selected could not be improved upon and the photography is beyond criticism.

most profound deliberation is due such an undertaking. Do not make the mistake of getting something that is worse than the old form, but be sure there is to be an improvement before the step is taken.

Whether the commonly called commission form is practical for La Grande is a question unsolved. Baker City is now under commission form of government, but the dissatisfaction is intense. There are other forms of government, however, that might fit this locality and it will be the duty of the committee named to sift all of the merits of each form now in use throughout the country with a view to obtaining the best and most economical.

But one fact remains permanent and unyielding—La Grande is dissatisfied with the old form; the people are bound to have a change and the sane thing to do is to go slowly and surely. Let everyone give the matter thought and study. The columns of the Observer are open to everyone who wishes to make himself heard.

AN INTERVIEW THAT SOUNDS GOOD.

To those who have begun to think hard times and close money are approaching the following news story from the Salt Lake Tribune of recent date may be of interest. It is important from the fact that it emanates from the head of the large railroad system that permeates the entire west and instead of it being a wall of depression it is decidedly the reverse.

Here is what the Tribune contained: Julius Kruttschnitt, director of maintenance and operation of the Harriman system, "the man who spends the money," arrived in this city late last night, in his private car Guadalupe, from an inspection trip over the lines of the Utah Light & Railway company, one of the Harriman holdings; conference with the officers of that company and those of the Oregon Short Line. Later he will leave for Ogden, where he will spend two or three hours and then proceed east.

When asked in his private car this morning if the Harriman line from Omaha to San Francisco would be double tracked in time for the opening of the Panama-Pacific exposition, Mr. Kruttschnitt said:

"It is our intention to push the work with all possible speed and we expect to have it all completed before the exposition opens.

"Work is already under way for the completion of the double tracking between this city and Ogden, and this will be pushed as rapidly as possible. Work will commence within a few days on the double tracking of a part of the Southern Pacific west of Ogden, and work is already under way on a number of extensions in Idaho.

"I expect to make an inspection of the local street car system today, as well as to pay a visit to the car barns and the shops. That the people of this city approve of the many improvements that have been made in the system in the last few years is evident by their constantly increasing patronage. This shows that no mistake was made when millions were spent in improving the system, and this work of improvement will continue just as fast as the public needs it."

Speaking of the crop conditions he said:

"They are excellent in every section

that I have visited. True, there has been some little loss from frost in California and other places, but they are not nearly as bad as was first reported. The farmers feel jubilant over the outlook for bumper crops, and I believe that this year will be one of the greatest in the history of the west. "I find on every hand a feeling of optimism in the west. The people have faith in their section of the country and are showing their faith by their work.

As far as the sections of the country which are touched by our lines are concerned, I feel confident that we will have the best year in the history of railroading in the west. There is a constant increasing of acreage, and to meet this we must build more lines of railroads, put in more spurs, more double track and add extra equipment. This will be done as fast as possible."

THIS DATE IN HISTORY.

June 6.

1755—Nathan Hale, American revolutionary hero, born in Coventry, Conn. Executed by the British Sept. 22, 1876.

1799—Patrick Henry, statesman and orator, died. Born in Studley, Va., May 29, 1736.

1803—The Jesuits' college, church and many other buildings were burned in Montreal.

1812—British defeated the Americans at Burlington Heights.

1862—Memphis taken by the federals.

1872—Construction of the St. Gothard tunnel through the Alps begun.

1891—Sir John Macdonald, Canadian premier, died. Born January 11, 1815.

1907—King Oscar and Queen Sophie of Sweden celebrated their golden wedding.

POLITICS AND POLITICIANS.

Wyoming, Vermont and Nebraska pay their governors but \$2,500 a year. William S. Reayburn, the new representative from the Second Pennsylvania district, is the youngest member of congress.

Congressman Benjamin G. Humphreys of Mississippi is the son of Brig. Gen. Benjamin G. Humphreys, a distinguished soldier of the confederacy.

Congressman John A. Martin of the Second Colorado district is mentioned for the democratic nomination for governor of his state at the next election.

It is a fact not generally known that there are more confederate veterans in the present congress than there are survivors of the northern armies.

William E. Chandler, who represented New Hampshire in the United States senate for many years, is out for President Taft to succeed himself in 1913.

George Konig, who represents one of the Baltimore districts in congress, began his career as a ship caulker and for some years was president of the Ship Caulkers' union.

The first official convention utterance favoring protection to American industries was contained in the platform on which Andrew Jackson ran for president in 1822.

William S. Greene, who represents the Thirteenth Massachusetts district in the house of representatives, was an auctioneer in Fall River before he came to congress.

A political campaign involving a United States senatorship, the governorship and other important state offices will soon be on in full blast in Kentucky.

Governor John Burke of North Dakota has accepted an invitation to speak at the annual meeting of the Iowa State Bar Association to be held in Oskaloosa at the end of June.

Andrew Jackson was the first presidential candidate to stand upon a platform of principles put forth by a national political convention.

Senator Cullom of Illinois, the dean of the United States senate, is engaged in the preparation of a volume of memoirs, which will cover the last fifty years of American history, with which Senator Cullom has been identified in an active capacity.

Four men now in congress are wearers of the congressional medal of honor, awarded for distinguished bravery during the civil war. They are Senators Du Pont of Delaware and Warren of Wyoming and Representatives Bradley of New York and Bingham of Pennsylvania.

An interesting contest is in prospect for the seat of United States senator Simmons of North Carolina, whose term will expire March 4, 1913. Senator Simmons will be a candidate

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for re-election. Among those already announced as opposition candidates are former Governor Charles B. Aycock, Governor W. W. Kitchin and Chief Justice Walter Clark, acknowledged to be three of the ablest men in public life in North Carolina. It is probable that the senatorial nomination will be made in state-wide primaries.

"THIS IS MY 50TH BIRTHDAY." Joseph M. Terrell. Joseph M. Terrell, United States senator from Georgia, was born in Greenville, Ga., June 6, 1861, and received a common school education. He was elected to the bar in 1882 and began his career two years later as a member of the lower house of the Georgia legislature. After serving in the legislature for six years he was elected attorney-general, in which office he served five consecutive terms, resigning in 1902 to become a candidate for the democratic nomination for governor. He was elected to the governorship by a large majority and at the end of his two years' term he was re-elected without opposition. Upon the death of Senator Clay last year Governor Brown of Georgia named ex-Governor Terrell to serve as United States senator until the legislature meets.

TRADE COMPETITIONS. It would not be the part of wisdom to lose sight of the fact that both the United States and Japan must continue to grow in national strength and to expand in enterprise and that meanwhile, owing to improved communications, the world is becoming smaller. As a result the two nations must inevitably be thrown in future into closer contact and often find themselves competing side by side in the markets of the world. It is unwise for a nation not to recognize that changing conditions may call for difference in form and manner of expression without change in principle or spirit, that the friendship of the child is not the friendship of the man and that the keenest competitors in business may yet be the firmest friends. Surely there is ample room on the broad Pacific and abundant opportunities in the regions that border its shores for the peaceful enterprise of all the nations for all time to come.—Secretary Knox.

THE GOLDEN RULE. Do as you would be done by.—Persian. Do not that to a neighbor which you would take ill from him.—Grecian. What you would not wish done to yourself do not unto others.—Chinese. One should seek for others the happiness one desires for oneself.—Buddhist. He sought for others the good he desired for himself. Let him pass on.—Egyptian. All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you do ye even so to them. Let none of you treat his brother in a way he himself would dislike to be treated.—Mohammedan.

CIVILIZATION. Is a city civilized in which there is more than an Egyptian worship of Anubis, pampering dogs with silly infatuation, while utterly indifferent to the helplessness and sufferings of tens of thousands of children? I cannot call New York a civilized city, with its rage of avarice and worship of Mammon, its God defying extravagance, oppression and extortion, its deceit and fraud, which the law cannot restrain. I deny that those who live and spend for themselves alone—soulless men and thoughtless, selfish women—are worthy of either the name civilized or Christian.—Rev. Madison C. Peters.

PRAISE AND CENSURE. We should not be too hasty in bestowing either our praise or censure on mankind since we shall often find such a mixture of good and evil in the same character that it may require a very accurate judgment and a very elaborate inquiry to determine on which side the balance turns.—Fielding.



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