

THE OBSERVER

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AN ALL PURPOSE GOVERNOR.

Whatever criticism may be offered on Governor West it must also be admitted that he is sort of an all purpose official. At the Pendleton Roundup he led the buckaroos on horseback; next he addressed a woman's congress on prison reform and now we find him delivering an opening speech at the Gipsy Smith revival at Portland.

Nothing like being able to participate in all kinds and all classes of gatherings. Roosevelt was probably the only national character who could do such stunts with perfect grace, and who knows but that Governor West is attempting to walk in the ex-president's shoes, excepting of course, that the governor will play the game along state lines instead of national.

And in the meantime let the present farce comedy of official life in Oregon proceed until it shall have finally spent its strength and the people reconsider many of the things now in existence.

YOKUM TALKS.

Every member of the Farmers' union, and men in other lines of business as well, will appreciate the following words from B. F. Yokum, one of the leading railroad men of this country, on the business situation:

"If I were writing a platform for my party—the democratic—I should write a constructive one. A constructive policy means freedom from unwise restriction. It means recognition of the natural law, and an effort, through a statute, to remove barriers in the way of the successful operation of that law.

"I should not repeal or amend the Sherman anti-trust act (of which, af-

ter 20 years, we now for the first time understand the meaning), but should supplement it by a commercial law designed to protect properly the consuming public and at the same time permit expansion of business both in domestic and foreign trade.

"I should have the new law declare in unmistakable terms what could be done and what could not and prescribe suitable penalties for violation. I should have it apply alike to all corporations coming under its provisions.

"There is no doubt as to the existence among politicians of a feeling that the large interests are endeavoring to become too strong a factor in the control of our commerce, manufactures, and raw materials. Neither is there any doubt that the large business and commercial interests believe that many politicians are creating prejudice in the minds of the public for political purposes, to the detriment of the progress and prosperity of the country.

"It is to the interest of business, labor and employment of every kind to find a solution for prevailing uncertainties. After all, the men elected to public office have the ear and confidence of the people. So long as the so-called business interests oppose the adoption of fair, regulative conditions or there is evidence of violation of laws, the people will continue to support radical reformers.

Careful Study Required.
To bring about a solution in a manner that will satisfy the people and establish confidence between the class comprising the demagogic politicians and the class which believes in too free a hand in the conduct of interstate business is a question demanding careful study by competent persons.

As a business proposition, I should prefer to see this all important problem worked out amicably rather than that there should be a fight, commercially disastrous, against a fair adjustment, with a resultant enactment inspired by prejudice and lacking the co-operation of the commercial and manufacturing interests in reaching final conclusions.

The leaders of the democratic and republican parties do not want business hurt labor thrown out of employment and depression supplanting prosperity. Any man or set of men big enough to stand as the leaders in either party would desire to steer the country into the greatest possible prosperity. Any statesman would be gratified to solve the problem of restraint of trade, perpetuate competition and save the jobs of millions of men by re-establishing confidence in our institutions without disturbing the business conditions of the country.

"Many of us remember the numerous disastrous pronouncements which were made when railroad regulation was first considered. Railroad men talked gloomily of the effect on the country of undue interference and federal regulation and, above all, of governmental exercise of the rate-making power. They fought the railroad law power. They worked themselves up to a pitch when they believed their own pronouncements of ruin. They fought the proposed reform bitterly, but to no avail, getting laws more regulative than would have been enacted had they helped to frame an act that would have met the requirements of the public.

At that time those requirements merely contemplated a cessation of the reprehensible practice of rebating and favoritism.

Without doubt there has been unjustifiable decisions and rate reductions. On the whole, however, the interstate commerce law has been helpful.

"I feel safe in saying there are not many railroad officials who would, if given the choice, return to old ways and practices.

Charges are still being made by people who cannot shake off the habit of attacking railroads, that railroads are still favoring certain shippers and violating the laws.

"Such charges are untrue—not that railroad men are more moral than others engaged in commercial pursuits, but because it is better and safer to be honest in their business

relations with the public and because it is a crime to violate the interstate commerce laws.

"A man who violates those laws is just as liable to criminal prosecution as a man who steals a horse.

"Another rapidly growing force in this country that the government, the political parties and commerce must consider, is the commercialization of farm products.

"The farmers hold land title to 6,000,000 farms and comprise one-third of our population. A citizen who possesses a farm does not want a socialistic government. He is just as anxious to control and enjoy what he owns and produces as anyone, engaged in another business.

"Because the farmers are widely scattered over the country there is a general opinion that they are satisfied with present conditions. But this situation, like everything else, is changing rapidly. The farmer is co-operating for the better marketing of his products. The farmers are not organizing to hurt others.

It is only human nature, and right that every man wants to sell what belongs to him for all it is worth. There is no reason why the producers should continue to feed and clothe us and receive only one-half of what we pay. Nor, on the other hand, should the consumer pay double that which the producer receives.

"The heads of our great banking houses, of our railroads and our manufacturing institutions, must know that 90 per cent of our congressmen are elected by the rural vote, and that the election of the president also is determined by this vote. Yet they do little to prevent political emissaries from working up a public sentiment, and thereby influencing the laws of the country.

They have not learned that not only the basic principle of all our wealth but the basic principle of our political policy also is shaped by the 30,000,000 occupants of the 6,000,000 farms, or do the so-called big business men appreciate that the business organization of the farmers carries with it political organization.

"It is up to the business interests to say whether they will stand aloof and permit the political policy of the nation to be shaped by politicians and based upon prejudice rather than upon business principles fair to all.

This cannot be accomplished until the great power of this country which lies with the farmers is directed into the channels of commerce beneficial to them.

"In organizing to get the greatest returns for their products the farmers are merely doing what all other trade combinations have done to increase their profits. They are adopting the methods of the steel, tobacco, sugar and other trade organizations because those methods enable them to get more money for their output through the reduction of the cost of distribution.

"Co-operation of effort is just as essential as concentration of energies.

"One Sunday issue of the Tribune uses more material and requires the services of more men than did all the newspapers of the country in an entire year 100 years ago. All the printing machinery in existence in the early part of the last century would not be sufficient for a single issue of one of our big daily newspapers. It could not be produced in its present form without organization of men in all portions of the world.

"No American publisher wants to go back to the old way of making newspapers, or even to the old way of thinking about them. What the publisher is constantly looking for is means of improvement. He is searching for better methods and better results.

The worst reactionary is the one who wants to force the country back into old grooves. Many of the so-called progressives are really reactionaries. They say they want to tear modern business organizations to pieces and restore the methods of doing business in vogue 25 years ago, without first producing a new and effective work plan under which the business of the nation will go forward.

"To carry their arguments to a logical conclusion the country blacksmith shops would be doing our ironmaking, and grist mills along streams would be grinding our wheat.

"What we really want to do is to take advantage of the best we have and use it for the best interest of all. Common business sense, more than legislation, is needed.

"More than a year in advance of the discussed on all sides the different next presidential election we hear prospective presidential candidates and what their policies toward business will be. Up to the present we have only heard them criticizing their opposing party or defending their own leaders in public utterance intended to convince the voter on immaterial questions."

WINES HEADS TICKET

(Continued from Page One.)

Grande, in convention assembled, declare our allegiance to the principles of international socialism.

In presenting our candidates for office to the voters of La Grande, we base our appeal upon the following declaration of principles:

1. Labor produces all wealth and pays all taxes.
2. The working class has hereto-

Keep Out of the Rain

if you can; but if you can't, then buy

A Kenyon Kenreign Coat

and keep dry anyhow.

An Excellent Showing of Patterns. Prices
\$12.50 to \$25.00Benjamin Overcoats
\$20 to \$30

Bergeman Hand Made Logger Shoes, \$7 and \$7.50

Wales Goodyear Rubbers
Ball Band RubbersGold Seal Heavy Rubbers
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Hull Umbrellas

Handles are detachable and interchangeable. Prices are no higher than for the old style umbrellas. In both ladies' and men's. Handles 50c to \$3.00. Covers \$1.25 to \$5.00.



N. K. West, The QUALITY STORE

Arcade Theatre

"In Switzerland"—Pathe. Beautiful and very interesting views of Lake Lucerne and of the ascent of Mt. Rigi are very fine.

"Foraging"—Vitascope. Picture.

"The Zyleas"—Are acrobats and give a very clever picture performance.

"Betty, the Moonshiner's Daughter"—Kalam.

"An Up-to-Date Elopement"—Pathe. A very lively comedy.

Mr. Sherwood Williams, our new and popular soloist, will sing: "You Dear."

Coming—"Colleen Bawn"—Kalam. Three reels. Remarkable in many ways particularly as severe scene was taken in Ireland. 10c

A Strong Modern Bank

Efficiently conducted, not only in the interests of its stock holders, but of its depositors and patrons as well. With officials well known and trusted in the community. With capital, surplus and undivided profits of \$210,000.00 and total resources of \$1,000,000.00.

The La Grande National Bank offers to firms, corporations and individuals the best banking service, and its officers ask a personal interview with those contemplating changing accounts or opening new ones.

La Grande National Bank

LA GRANDE, OREGON.
CAPITAL \$ 100,000.00
SURPLUS 105,000.00
RESOURCES 1,000,000.00

Fred J. Holmes, Pres. W. J. Church, Vice Pres.
F. L. Meyers, Cashier Earl Zundel, Ass't. Cashier

Southeastern Fire Underwriters.
Atlanta, Ga., Nov. 15.—Several scores of men prominent in fire insurance circles were on hand at the opening here today of the semi-annual convention of the Southeastern Underwriters' association.

Savoy Hotel

EUROPEAN PLAN

The rooms are good and Steam heated only one block from depot

D. C. Brichoux, Prop.



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this shop, and its ability to serve you best. Our one strongest desire is to turn out the best 'LEANING AND PRESSING and to price our services to meet your satisfaction. We believe we do this. If your garments need our attention send them to us and we will do your work promptly and guarantee not to ruin the materials.

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Main 64. H. R. Waggoner.

Union Made, Oregon Made, Hand Made

NUGGET

Mild, Sweet, and Satisfying

Complete Equipment for Resetting and Repairing
Rubber Buggy Tires.

LA GRANDE IRON WORKS

D. FITZGERALD, Proprietor

COMPLETE MACHINE SHOPS AND FOUNDRY

OUR FRESH TAFFIES

Are Excellent. We Carry Vanilla

Strawberry and Molasses

THE PALACE of SWEETS SELDERS