

THE OBSERVER

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THE MEETING TONIGHT.

Yes, the largest gathering of men and women who ever dined together in La Grande will be that of the Commercial club tonight. Three hundred plates will be laid in Elks auditorium and a splendid dinner will be served. Why? Ostensibly it is to hear the story of Western and Southern Oregon as seen by the party of 25 who journeyed to that section a couple of weeks ago, but in reality it means the erection of a pillar in La Grande in the form of a commercial organization around which the people as a whole can rally and render assistance to this community, the providing of a vehicle in which to attain community advancement; in which to push forward the city of our choice and make it the big town, the home town, the school town of Eastern Oregon.

With three hundred men and women united on one single purpose do you think there is such a word as failure? No. Do you think there

is such a word as lethargy? No.

Three hundred men and women—the kind who live in La Grande—positively could change the map of the state if they work with strong enough desire. This being true, what could not they do for a town the size of La Grande? Nothing within reason is out of the question.

Be sure and attend this evening for it is going to be one of those old time love feasts where people who love their home community come out squarely in the open and say so.

A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER.

The time was when either baseball, football or basketball teams from Baker and La Grande met it meant a free-for-all fight, and instead of such games being a demonstration of high grade, dignified sport it meant a brawl, ill feeling and a feud.

Thanks to constant effort on the part of each city that day has passed, we hope forever. A few weeks ago Baker came to La Grande and played a tie football game and during that event the best of spirit prevailed, the most dignified and gentlemanly language was used. Last night the Baker basketball team met La Grande in this city and another high class, decent game was pulled off. Not a harsh word was spoken. Each side played to win but they played an honorable game throughout.

This advancement and enlightenment can have no measure in dollars and cents. It is only measured in excellent manhood among the boys of Baker and La Grande. Let the present condition continue, for it is refreshing and delightful and will leave its impress on the young men who are now having their character moulded as citizens.

BEN SELLING.

It is now very apparent that Mr. Bourne is not going to grab the republican senatorial nomination in this state without some opposition, for there is a man in Portland called Ben Selling who has raised his lightning rod and is now feeling out the different parts of the state to see what chances he will have. Of the many letters sent out it is understood that replies have been numerous and very encouraging among the Bourne former supporters. Selling will split Bourne's vote more than in the center. He will cause the golf-playing senator who never visits Oregon except when almost compulsory to draw upon his resourceful mind for new political movements.

Ben Selling is a very good man and represents something. He is a lover of his state, and all that. So far as the Observer is concerned, our choice for United States senator is Charles Fulton, but there is no certainty that he will run. In case he does not and the fight wages between Selling, Bourne and Lowell, we feel now like we would support Mr. Selling, believing him to be the best, most reliable and most able of the three.

However, if Mr. Fulton enters this race we reserve the right at all times to espouse his cause.

The congressional race in the new Second district seems hard to get started. As yet all the horses have

not shown themselves and riders have not been weighed in. Better look out, boys, or with all this jockeying, the "people" may fine some of you, and send you to the stables.

Eugene announces she is coming to La Grande before long to return the visit of the La Grande people. Good. Here's our hand, Miss Eugene, you look mighty good to we people who live in the "largest rich valley of the state."

Oh, you groundhog. Shadows, etc. But really does the groundhog stunt hold good in the Grande Ronde valley?

THAT UNCONSTITUTIONAL (1)
ELECTION LAW.

Editor Observer—Considerable has been said about the law passed at the last general election for electing delegates to the national conventions and expressing preferences for president and vice president being in violation of the constitution, and I am constrained to make a few remarks on the law. I do not agree with the contention of my brother lawyer, Judge Crawford, on this subject. A national convention delegate is not an officer provided for by our state constitution. Heretofore such delegates have been selected by a few citizens assembled in state conventions. The body of the voters was not consulted. The convention usually called for volunteers who could afford to go and pay their own way, and usually one or two men carried the proxies for the rest. The men who went were under no special obligations to, or instructions from, anybody. The candidate who had a machine behind him got the delegates, whether this candidate was the popular choice or not. Indeed, the representative of the candidate in the convention elected the delegates who went fore-ordained to do the will of the boss of the convention. These delegates never were considered public officers, and if the representative of some "big interest" paid the expenses of the delegates who went and carried the proxies of the rest, the "delegate" naturally felt under some obligation to his rich and generous friend (?). The delegate seldom felt any great public obligation, and never regarded himself as a public officer. The public did not pay him any fees or expenses, and his going was strictly a private enterprise. If the great transportation companies had any interest at stake in the convention they would "pass" such delegates as they regarded safe and reliable, and these could carry the proxies of their less fortunate fellows who could not afford to make the trip.

Our law changes all this and places upon the delegates obligations of officers whose expenses are paid out of the public treasury. All who are elected can afford to go and there will be no proxies. There could be no "packed convention" for any candidate or "interest" if all the states had our law.

Moreover, they go instructed by the voters as to first choice, and every delegate will feel bound by the law to register the vote of his state according to the choice of the people who elect him, and by their votes instruct him how to vote. The popular will of the state is thus carried out.

Further, the law is not only constitutional, but it conserves the highest public good. The number of delegates to which each state is entitled is not fixed by law, but by the national party committees. Just how both great parties have from each state twice as many delegates as the state has senators and representatives in the national congress. Ten delegates will represent Oregon in each convention, though there are twice as many registered republicans as democrats in this state. The republican national convention will have as many delegates from Texas at Chicago as the democrats will have at Baltimore, while Vermont will have as many democrats at Baltimore as republicans at Chicago. In other words, representation in the national party conventions is based on the population of the states and not on the party strength in the states. In most of the states party conventions will be held and delegates will be so placed as to represent the various parts of the state, but no convention will be held in Oregon! It is not possible to divide the state up into districts and let each district select a delegate. If ten citizens of Portland would become candidates from each party and ten to twenty in the rest of the state, and

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PHONE MAIN 64

each voter voted for ten the whole delegation from both parties would go from that city. Portland has more than a third of the population, wealth and votes of the state. The rest of the population is scattered and enough votes would be received by the Portland candidates to elect them all. But when each voter casts his ballot for one candidate not more than one tenth of the great Portland vote would go to each of her ten candidates, if divided equally and she has that number, or possibly all her vote to one candidate, and the ten receiving the high-

FACTS ABOUT REGISTRATIONS
IN 1912.

- General election will be held on November 5.
- Primary election will be held on April 19.
- At the general election will be elected president, vice president, one United States senator, congressman for new Eastern Oregon district, secretary of state, sheriff, clerk, assessor, treasurer, coroner, surveyor, commissioner, justices of the peace and constables, recorder, superintendent of schools, dairy and food commissioner, railroad commissioner (2nd district) state representative, Union and Wallawa counties senator from Union and Wallawa counties, representative from Union County, joint senator including Union, Malheur and Morrow counties.
- At the primary election parties will nominate for same offices and in addition will express their choice for president and vice president and will elect delegates to their national conventions.
- Registration closes on April 5.
- Last day for candidates to file nominating petitions, April 4.
- Registration reopens April 29.
- Closes for last time May 15.



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