

THE OBSERVER

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GRANGE OFFERS CHANGES IN

LAW.

Amending of laws that have hardly been in force long enough for a fair trial, is stepping upon cautious ground, yet the state grange may be right in its desire to offer a few changes to the primary laws. The following was offered at the Roseburg meeting and every reader should carefully study the offered changes:

It is our belief that few things created of human minds and human hands are perfect. This applies to laws as well as to things material.

Eight years ago the people of Oregon adopted the direct primary law.

It has performed a great service for the people in defeating the bosses and in restoring to the people a large measure of the power usurped by political machines. But good as it is, it is not perfect. Time has shown that some amendments should be proposed by the friends of the primary, and we grangers have always been loyal advocates of this law.

Your legislative committee has given consideration to the subject of amending the primary law, and we

would respectfully recommend the amendments following:

The greatest objection now found to the primary is the fact that a small minority does often nominate, and so gives a person of poor qualifications too great a chance for nomination. Thus in the last gubernatorial election, the standpat element of the republican party lined up solidly for Bowerman, while the progressive republican vote was divided amongst Dimick, Hofer and Abraham.

We believe that the remedy to this objection is to provide a method of second choice voting. This is used in Idaho and Washington with great success. Your committee recommends the enactment of a law providing second choice voting similar to that provided in Idaho.

We recommend the amendment of section 3362 Lord's Oregon Laws, to provide that a candidate for public office may secure the signatures required to nominating petitions where convenient to do so.

We recommend the amendment of section 3364 Lord's Oregon Laws to change the time of filing nominating petitions to not less than thirty (30) days before the primary, and to authorize the county clerk to mail a sample ballot to each registered voter with a copy of instructions how to vote the ticket, not less than ten (10) days prior to any election.

We recommend the amendment of section 3371 Lord's Oregon Laws to provide for determining candidates' position upon the ballot by lot and to repeal chapter 252, Session Laws 1911 providing rotation of ballots.

We recommend the amendment of section 3486 to provide that no candidate for public office, or any other persons in behalf of such candidacy shall expend in excess of 15 per cent of one year's salary of such office, but no candidate shall be limited to less than \$100 expenditure.

We recommend that the registration law be amended so that no voter shall be sworn in and so that a person shall not be required to register but once while he remains a resident of a certain precinct, and that each voter be given a certificate of registration.

We recommend the amendment of section 6320 L. O. L. to provide that all money raised in a road district for road purposes shall be expended in the district where the money is raised, and that a special fund be created for bridges and bridge repairs.

We recommend that road supervisors be authorized to forbid heavy hauling upon public roads when the weather conditions are such that the traffic would destroy the usefulness of the roads for months.

We believe that we are nearer a parcels post law today than ever before, and we earnestly urge all friends of the measure to urge upon our congressman the passage of this measure at this session of congress.

We suggest that the state grange request the state grange legislative committee to work for the passage of a resolution by the next legislature requesting the congressmen for Oregon to support a parcels post law.

TIME TO PROTECT MEN.

For years this government has protected the manufacturers and food products of this country by barring out competition from the old world; never, however, has it protected men.

The doors have been left wide open for any and all kinds of immigrants willing to compete with our workmen. The influx naturally has reduced the wages. The Lawrence mill workers, for instance, are mostly foreigners from southern Europe. Their standard of living is not high and they will work for a sum that an American workman would find totally inadequate. Illiteracy, destitution, disease crime, these are the by-products of our loose immigration policy.

The beginning of a better and saner era was marked when the senate adopted the Dillingham bill with the Simmons amendment. This provides for a simple educational test at the ports of entry. So great, however, is the illiteracy among the immigrants who now, on the urging of the great trans-Atlantic steamship companies, are flocking to this country that it is believed that this primitive examination will bar out one-third of the arrivals.

When the evil brought about in our social, economic and political life by the herding together in our cities of vast numbers of illiterates who do not understand American traditions and who are not equipped to respond to the spirit of liberty and equality is considered, the good effect of such a wise restriction is apparent. For years we have boasted that we could assimilate all that Europe could send up, but present problems, like the high cost of living and industrial unrest, directly traceable to immigration that is practically unrestricted proves that sooner or later we are going to have a bad case of indigestion.

An educational test is the fairest and best way of distinguishing between immigrants. The chances are that the man who can read and write will prove more responsive to our laws and customs than the illiterate.

TO REVISE POSTAL LAWS.

Acting on the information recently obtained through certain congressional investigations, which showed the necessity for a real revision of the postal laws "and regulations" that will mean something in a tangible way of genuine congressional enactments, and not those spurious ones composed for special purposes by postal officials, Congressman Stephens, of Texas, has introduced and will press to as speedy a passage as practicable a bill providing for the appointment of a commission to revise and codify the postal laws and regulations of the United States.

According to the provisions of this measure, the commission is to consist of three representatives and three senators, not more than four of whom shall belong to the same political party, and its task is to make a thorough revision and codification of our postal laws and regulations, with such changes as seem to be required to extend and improve the postal service, "according to modern methods and business principles," and to make thereby "the postoffice a highly efficient instrument for transportation purposes."

The commission is empowered to hold sittings wherever and whenever it pleases, and is clothed with ample authority to summon witnesses, to examine all records, documents and accounts of the postoffice, treasury, or other departments of the government transporting or hauling its mails which may facilitate its work, "and to use any other legitimate means of securing the necessary information."

It is to be hoped that this commission will be appointed and that it will report some real reform plans.

Now it is proposed to have a national fathers' day. Why not make it a fathers' night?

The only thing wrong with some of those crisp and original epigrams used by present day stump speakers, is that Abraham Lincoln used all of them first.

A man who donates a pair of rubbers to the Mississippi flood sufferers has no sense of humor, but one western man has done it.

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Southern Commercial Secretaries.
Houston, Texas, May 17.—Nearly 1,000 men bonded together by their common interest in the welfare and development of the south faced President J. S. Warren of Memphis this morning when he called to order the fifth annual meeting of the Southern Commercial Secretaries' association. The convention met in the new municipal auditorium, which was handsomely decorated for the occasion. The roll call showed delegates present from the commercial organizations of nearly every southern city of importance. Governor Colquitt, Mayor Rice and

President Peden of the Houston chamber of commerce gave cordial welcome to the visitors. President Warren responded and delivered his annual address, which dealt with the science of city building. Other speakers of the forenoon and their topics included the following: Harry Wise, of Chattanooga, on "Cooperation Between Trade Journals and Commercial Secretaries"; L. D. Sampson, of Chicago, "Financing a Commercial Organization", and E. O. Dunlap, of Waxahachie, Texas, on "Monetary Reform." The afternoon was given over to the reports of the various standing committees of the

organization. The convention will conclude tomorrow.

Missouri Valley High School Meet.
Kansas City, Mo., May 17.—High school athletes from far and near streamed into Kansas City today to compete in the annual Missouri valley interscholastic track and field championships. High school starts from cities and towns throughout Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri and Kansas are entered in the various events and in the number and high class of the entries the meet this year surpasses all of its predecessors.

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