

THE OBSERVER

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Entered at the postoffice at La Grande, Oregon, as second class matter.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

Daily, single copy ..... 5c
Daily, per week ..... 15c
Daily, per month ..... 65c

WHERE IS OUR COMMISSION FORM

Mayor Samuel C. Park, of Salt Lake City, when asked how the commission form of government worked in his city, recently remarked:

"So far as we have proceeded under the commission form of government, it appears to be satisfactory to the great majority of the citizens. Work is transacted without delay. Petitions are taken up and acted upon promptly and needed improvements are attended to forthwith. In some particulars salaries have been increased and the requirements of the service have been increased. In many departments tremendous saving has been effected. Our tax rate for the current year remains the same as for last year, but the amount of improvements for the current year is nearly quadrupled over last year.

Of course, we still feel that we are on trial, and that five months' experience is too short to base an opinion upon. Many difficult questions confronted the commission at the inception of its term, and in most instances these questions have been solved satisfactorily. We believe that

the institution of commission form of government is permanent, that it is popular and growing in favor, even with those who were its strongest opponents and that the result of the first year will demonstrate its great superiority over the previous form."

Where is La Grande's commission form?

Are the people not entitled to know what has become of the committee appointed by Dr. Richardson?

What is the matter, anyway? The department of agriculture at Washington has just issued its 1911 agricultural year book—a bound volume of several hundred pages containing much interesting and instructive information regarding agriculture, horticulture, stock raising, etc. Each senator and representative has copies of this year book for distribution and any farmer can secure a copy by sending to one of the members of the Oregon delegation.

HOW THE DESERT BLOOMS.

To one who courses the Great American Desert probably but once in two or three years the transformation in each period is almost marvelous.

When Horace Greeley made his famous trip to Oregon by stage coach in the very early days he remarked, while crossing the desert, "Surely the Creator had some purpose in making this great waste of country. It must be good for something."

If Greeley could see the same country now he would realize how well he had guessed, for immigration has brought a wonderful change. Each year in southern Idaho there is added many thousands of acres to the irrigated sections and as a result good home are established, towns are built and a prosperous people is added to Idaho citizenship.

There is no use to deny the well established truth that all land in the Inland Empire needs water. Valleys like the Grande Ronde can get along without it but if the Grande Ronde valley had water its crop yield could be increased threefold.

YOUR LEGS MADE TO USE

In England walking, forced on thousands because of the recent miners' strike with its resultant shut down of street railway power, has become a habit. The wealthy owners of carriages and motor cars have taken it up as a fad and numerous walking clubs throughout the United Kingdom are attempting to restore "the lost art of pedestrianism."

In this country convenient street cars and automobile threatened to stiffen thousands of legs into uselessness unless a realization of the joys of walking is soon restored. The craze for quick locomotion, the cause of the Titanic disaster, has spread into all forms of life. We think we must "get there," in a hurry. Time is the idol we worship. Yet time isn't worth so much, after all. It isn't worth a body grown weak and unwieldy through lack of the only exercise that uses all the muscles at the same time. It isn't worth a digestion ruined through lack of the stimulating influence of brisk bodily exertion in the open air. It isn't worth a mind

grown rusty and stale because the physical dynamo which feeds it has been neglected. But walking so many times is inconvenient, we say to ourselves. Yet those who consult their own convenience too much never will achieve anything, either physically or mentally.

The best part of walking is that one has to be patient and persevering to arrive at the goal. The worth of almost anything can be judged by the patience necessary for it. The great things in this world seldom are done in a hurry.

Our craze for rapid locomotion is but a reflection of our craze for complex, expensive forms of amusement. Half of the desire to ride in a carriage or auto is due to our foolish ostentation, foolish pride in merely material possessions, foolish craving to "cut a dash." Walking is a cheap and wholesome tonic for mind and body and gives the maximum of results for the minimum of effort. It is better for complexions than all the cosmetics in the drug stores; it is better for excessive fatness than all the anti-fat cures on the market; it is better for excessive thinness than any flesh builder ever manufactured; it is better for health and strength than all the gymnasiums of the land, packed full as they are with fussy and old-maidish apparatus.

Walk at least an hour a day. It will prove an antidote to worry and an encouragement to repose. It will keep you young and supple, and first

of all alive to the fact that the simplest pleasures are the best.

One of the effects of legislation on commerce is shown in the relations of the Philippines to the United States Trade with the islands has more than doubled since 1909, when a law was passed for the interchange of merchandise. The total for the eight months ending with February 1912, was more than \$30,000,000, compared with less than \$14,000,000 for the corresponding months of 1909.

It is said that more money is being expended in promoting the political interests of Taft and Roosevelt than has ever been spent in a similar campaign in the history of the United States. There is much interest manifested as to the mystery of the source from which such large sums of money came. The American people are entitled to know who is putting up the money for the expense but they don't know at present and it is a matter of speculation if they ever will know.

In Japan they are teaching the children to write with both hands. It must be they expect all of them to become presidential candidates.

The Oregon Short Line has named a side-track station Borah. If Oregon had such a man in the senate as Borah our people would name their children after him.

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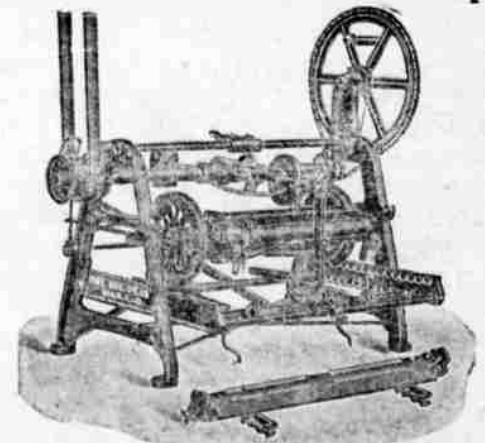
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