

THE OBSERVER

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EDITOR AND OWNER.

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TRYING TO JUSTIFY A WRONG.

Just now there are many pens busy in Oregon attempting to justify the wrong committed at Chicago and the editor of this paper is coming in for his share of the harsh language and abuse. Such men as Charles B. Moores, Thomas McCusker and others are using a great deal of space in an attempt to justify the course of the delegates who failed to carry out their instructions.

But, what does it all mean? The answer is plain. These men not only condone the fraud but endorse it. They not only put their stamp of approval upon dirty politics but they would force such politics down the throats of the sovereign people of Oregon if they are able.

As we have stated before, the whole question at Chicago hinged upon right and wrong. The people's choice for president was beaten out of the nomination, and when such states as Oregon whose delegates had been chosen directly by the people, aided in this movement, we say it is time for all men who believe in political honesty to take a stand against such work.

Mr. Moores and Mr. McCusker will have much to say, no doubt. And so will many others. They will give advice freely, but when it is all boiled down it will be found that their ultimate object is to defeat popular government and perpetuate a system of politics that every day is forcing the nation closer and closer to socialistic supremacy.

We are content to let the great rank and file of Oregon voters pass judgment upon the Chicago transaction rather than take an opinion from even such learned men as Mr. Moores.

A RATIONAL CALENDAR.

The calendar and the hours of the day seem to most of us almost like part of the natural and immutable order of things, and however much trouble the present indefensible system caused, men have generally felt that it would be rash to even suggest a change in it. "Give us back our eleven days," cried the mob when the Gregorian calendar was introduced into Great Britain. From the days of Julius Caesar to our own, he has been a bold reformer indeed who would suggest changes in the disorderly procession of the months.

Now enters Moses B. Cotsworth of Victoria, B. C., with a proposal for a rational calendar. He would divide the year into 13 months, each of 28 days which would leave one extra day

in the year, and this he beautifully plans as a free day for everyone—free from interest charges on money, the necessity to work, the wage scale, etc. Then each month would commence on Sunday and the first, eighth, 15th and 22nd days of each month would be Sundays. President Hadley of Yale is quoted as saying that the month of four weeks "will come as a commercial necessity."

The adjustment to the change would be very small compared to that necessitated when standard time was introduced on transcontinental railroads. Mr. Cotsworth has literature to distribute, poking fun at the present system. After all, why not improve it if we can.

"LICENSES TOO VALUABLE"—

DAVIS.

Replying to the Evening Observer's question as to what the city council meant by granting two more saloon licenses in La Grande, I wish as a councilman to answer that question by stating that the value of licenses had reached entirely too high a figure in this city. With eight saloons licenses were valued so high that a bonus of \$1,500 was offered to owners, which to my mind, is not right and I favored more saloons to bring down that valuation and to provide more revenue for the city.

E. C. DAVIS.

The above explanation by Councilman Davis will hardly be sufficient to warrant the action of the lawmaking body. In the first place, the council is custodian of the welfare of the city and her people. The saloon business, as La Grande people have adopted it, is not a cold blooded money making proposition for the municipality and must not be treated as such else the people will rebel and La Grande will be forced through another period when the bootlegger and the "soft hard drink" prevails.

Would it not be very easy to squeeze the fictitious value out of liquor licenses by sticking strictly to the "not transferable" clause? Would it not be better for the council as a representative body of the people to use its right in saying if a man quits business for any cause that his license reverts to the city regardless of the fixtures, stock or anything else he may own. Once thoroughly understood, men who embark in this industry would know they had no value on their license except as they used that license individually and so long as they lived up to the rigid restrictions.

On the theory of Councilman Davis the city of La Grande might continue to issue licenses so long as anyone had the money to pay, and we have no doubt but what half a dozen more men would take a chance on running saloons at \$1250 a year in La Grande. This would mean more money for the city, would it not? But it would also mean a reaction that would cut out all revenue from the sale of liquor. So, figuring from a business standpoint, is such must be done, the granting of more licenses is certainly short-sighted business judgment.

RICH RETURNS FROM CELERY.

The use of celery is obviously on the increase, but the demand is for a first-class article. The cash results average \$250 per acre. The expenses for fertilizer, labor, boards, packing, etc., are quite heavy, being nearly \$100 an acre. The net profits may be set at \$150 an acre, which well repays us for our trouble.

Celery delights in a low, rich, and heavy moist soil, and is usually grown upon the same land year after year. An early crop, such as peas, beans, turnips, or extra early sweet corn, generally precedes it, must be loose and mellow.

Sod land will not do, as the earth at least one ton of a high-grade fertilizer to the acre is necessary to produce a fine crop of brittle, tender stalks. The favorite varieties are Improved White Plume and Golden Self-Blanching. The plants are set in narrow, shallow trenches four feet apart and six inches in the rows, requiring nearly 22,000 to the acre. The crop is cultivated frequently and the earth is gradually worked up to the plants. Care is taken not to fill the heart of the plant with earth. The celery is blanched by setting 12-inch boards up against the rows. They are set on edge on either side of the row and close to the plants so they are only two or three inches apart, in which position they are held with wire hooks or cleats nailed across. Boarding is done when the plants are

large enough to show a few leaves above the boards. The foliage then soon fills the space, excluding the light. About three weeks are required to complete the process. None of our celery is stored, says Daniel T. Hendrickson in Farm and Home, but it is sold in the New York market before the holidays, and before there is any danger of its being ruined by the cold weather.

ADDITIONAL LOCAL AND PERSONAL.

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DON'T PRUNE TOO SOON.

Prof. Lewis of Oregon Agricultural College Gives Advice on Pruning.

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, Ore., July 10—"At this season of the year there is a great deal of interest in summer pruning," says Prof. C. I. Lewis of the division of horticulture of the Oregon Agricultural college, who is receiving many inquiries on this subject.

"We are experimenting at the present time at the college and in various orchards throughout the state, but we need to carry on such investigations over a period of several years before publishing our results. From what work we have done, however we feel that where summer pruning is being conducted with the idea of getting fruit to form it is better not to prune until after the terminal buds have formed. The grower can determine when these buds have formed by looking at the ends of the twigs. He will note a plump bud, and will also notice that the leaves near the ends of the shoots, where heretofore have been rather small, are now assuming normal size.

"I believe that it is the best time to summer prune after these buds have formed and been allowed to harden slightly, allowing a week or ten days. This time will vary all the way from the middle of June to September.

"We have had a great deal of rain the past season, and one would naturally expect as the result that the terminal buds would form later than ever. This is not true in all cases. On some trees the terminal buds are already formed and on the large fruiting trees the lateral fruit buds are forming this year earlier than we had noticed heretofore.

"In pruning for the fruit I would suggest that the grower does not cut down lower than this year's wood. We feel that better results are secured by moderate pruning, cutting back from one-third to one-half of this year's growth, but not cutting back into a previous season's growth. This cutting back in the way indicated seems to have a tendency to thicken the branches materially and cause an accumulation of shoots which lead to the formation of fruit spurs. While the results may not be noticed this year, in all probability it will have some bearing on succeeding crops.

"Pruning can be done at this time of the year if desired, even though the terminal buds have not formed, but in doing this it is the principal aim to take out undesirable branches or to control the formation of the tree, not to produce fruit. It is merely done to take out certain branches that interfere with the proper heading of the tree.

"Where systematic pruning is being carried on for fruit, I would suggest that it be delayed until these buds have formed and are somewhat

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hardened. We have found that where this is done we get better results and the growth is not as vigorous as it is when the pruning is done earlier. "Some people felt that they could prune at any time during the summer, and that they do not get the reactive growth that they do when the trees are pruned when dormant, in the winter or spring. This is not true. If heavy pruning is done while the trees are still in a vigorous, ac-

tive condition, reaction will take place and many of the buds will be forced into shoots, and more injury than good can be done in influencing the fruitfulness as this pruning might force out into shoots what would otherwise be fruit spurs."

tion for the United States senate, former Governors Benton McMillan and James B. Frazier are numbered among those who are striving for the governorship, and another former governor, John I. Cox, is a candidate for a seat in the legislature. David J. Lewis, who represents the Sixth Maryland district in congress, was at work in a coal mine when he was only nine years of age.

The present year may be aptly termed "Governors' year" in Tennessee politics. Ex-Governor Malcolm R. Patterson is seeking the nomina-

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