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LA GRANDE EVENING OBSERVER, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1912.

THE OBSERVER

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

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TONIGHT

This evening the city council will again consider the proposed charter for commission form of government for La Grande. Last Wednesday night the petition was referred to the judiciary committee composed of F. L. Lilly, Joe Campbell and Mr. Finley. The report of that committee on the legality of the signatures will occur and then action may be taken by the council.

Some objections have been raised as to the contents of the new charter. One objection is that the new form provides that the commission composed of three men elected by the people shall employ a manager but that the commission shall employ all heads of departments. The argument made against this is that the main reason for having a new form of government is to place responsibility, and under the proposed plan the manager will have to be responsible for men he does not employ but who are employed by a higher power.

This point may be of importance, but just at present we have considerable faith in the committee of 11 men appointed by Dr. Richardson to draft the new charter and this same question was discussed thoroughly by this committee which finally adopted the plan as outlined.

But the important thing this evening is the action of the council on the petition. It is, as we understand it, a correct and regular petition of electors of La Grande who pray for the right to hold an election for the purpose of adopting a new charter for this city.

After carefully considering every phase that presents itself to us, it would seem these petitioners have a right under the law to have recognition. Then if the new charter proposed is defective the fight may come before the voters on those defects and the charter defeated.

At the present time, however, the question is on the right to hold such an election. There is no doubt that several members of the present council want a commission form of government in La Grande, yet there is a likelihood that technicalities may be considered in too strong a light at this time.

Let the electors who signed the petition be granted their request; then, if the charter is a bad one, let all discuss it freely and either elect or defeat, according to the wisdom of a majority of the voters of La Grande.

THE DISEASE CALLED VAGRANCY.

New York state is planning to provide a farm for the education and reformation of tramps and vagrants. Already Gov. Dix has approved a site of

821 acres near Poughkeepsie for the proposed farm, authorized by the legislation of 1911.

This is the first adoption in the United States of the plan which has proved successful in Great Britain, Switzerland, Belgium and Germany. The colony is to be placed under the control of an unsalaried board of seven managers to be appointed by the governor. This board appoints a superintendent and a general staff of employees and establishes the rules and regulations. It is planned to use the labor of the inmates as far as possible for the construction and improvement of the colony. Sentences will be for eighteen months for the first offense and two years for the other offenses. It is provided that no person shall be committed who shall satisfy the court that he supports himself through lawful employment. This is to prevent the detention of vagrants of workmen temporarily out of employment.

While no other state has an institution of this kind, Wisconsin has a law by which the state industrial commission is empowered to provide industrial or agricultural training for vagrants. As this statute has been in force only a short time it is too early to judge of its effects. Both the New York and the Wisconsin experiments, however, point the way to a new and better method of dealing with the social disease called vagrancy.

The commission appointed in Michigan by the legislature of 1909 to investigate minor offenses in Michigan suggested a farm colony, not specifically for tramps, but for tramps, drunkards and minor offenders generally.

It was brought out in the report that the herding of all kinds of prisoners in the atmosphere of moral miasma which is present too often in the average jail could be prevented by placing the less hardened on a state farm. The idea of providing healthful, outdoor work for prisoners already is being worked out in Jackson and Iona, two of the prisons in Michigan. There is no reason why the plan should not be extended to include vagrants and drunkards, a class that more than any other needs the invigorating influence of fresh air and steady work.

STEALING NATURE'S CREDIT.

There will be two big harvests this year. One will be of votes and political jobs; the other, of vastly more importance, will be of the kindly fruits of the earth.

But the fall is always trying to wag the dog, and the vote harvesters will doubtless claim most of the credit. There is a huge crop of farm products in sight—so big that it will bring prosperity in spite of everything the politicians are likely to do. That is why nobody in the business world is worried. The financiers, who are always so nervous, are quite cool, for they know that we are going to have prosperity in spite of ourselves.

But just watch the political oracles. If Taft should be elected the Taft oracles will tell you that our prosperity is due to the serene confidence inspired by the people's wise choice. If it is Roosevelt, then the Progressive oracles will point out how reform and general righteousness are the harbingers of prosperity. If Wilson is the winner, the Democratic spell

Nature is doing her best to make you Realize

that it is time to purchase your

Fall Clothes

Crisp mornings that put elasticity in your limbs also suggest the discarding of Summer Wearing Apparel.

Where is the profit in putting off your purchase! The late buyer always has to take the "leavings" and beside if you buy early you get the benefit of a full season's wear.

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CLOTHING LINES

that represent the best art in tailoring and the last word in style from America's best garment houses are here for you to select from.

Sole La Grande agents for

Society "Brand" Suits

Designed especially for young men.
\$20.00 to \$35.00

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For Conservative Men.
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Made in New York.
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Fidelity Fifteens

Guaranteed pure wool.
One price—\$15.00—none higher.WE SELL THE FAMOUS KENYON RAIN COATS—ALL STYLES; ALL WEIGHTS; ALL PRICES.
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binders will say that the prospect of ments in legislation. With labor well work of reform can proceed without On the one hand we shall not be stam- economy and honest tariff revision is employed and money easy, the great being either overdone or underdone. ped into rash experiments boosting our prosperity.

And so they will steal the credit that belongs to nature. Of course man might spoil nature's good work. He does so sometimes. We might pass such stupid and vicious laws as to undo all the prosperity that is in store for us. But we are not going to. The difference between the parties is not nearly so great as party leaders try to make it appear. Nobody is going to wreck the country, and the most radical political program is always very much toned down before it gets into the form of legislation. The politician uses the loud pedal on the stump, but he puts on the soft pedal when it comes to action. And thank goodness for that; otherwise the nation would be turned inside out every four years.

This fall's crop prospect is wonderful. The crop of corn, oats and spring wheat will be the largest in the country's history.

The total wheat crop, in spite of bad luck in the central states, will be close to the maximum. The cotton crop will be 16 per cent above the previous maximum. Tobacco is well ahead of last year, while hay and potatoes are almost 50 per cent greater. Altogether the value of the 1912 crops is estimated at the staggering sum of ten billions of dollars.

This vast amount of real wealth production cannot help but bring prosperity, and its effects will be all the more apparent because of the curtailed production of the last few years. During the last three or four years our wheat exports were the smallest for thirty years, while our cotton crop was not enough even to keep our mills fully supplied. Now we have an abundance of all products, and all at once. No wonder the steel mills are behind on orders and the west is worrying for fear it will not have enough of either cars or money to move its crops.

With such a prospect we can take the results of the election with equanimity. Prosperity is the greatest force for political unrest and the great-

La Grande must grow--it's location and resources give assurance that within a short time it will be the Spokane of Oregon. At its present rate of increase and growth it will soon double its population and its payroll. When it reaches that stage in its career Connordale will be practically the center of town for this city must grow down Washington Avenue and cut into the valley. Values will then be out of sight. They are low now. Go down and see for yourself.

The Strength
Of A Bank

is based on the character of its assets, and of the men behind it.

This bank, for twenty-five years a pillar of strength in this community, keeps its resources absolutely clean and dependable.

Its officers will always see that its assets are of such a character that its strength can never be questioned.

Upon this basis we invite your confidence and your account.

La Grande National Bank

LA GRANDE, OREGON.
CAPITAL . . . \$ 100,000.00
SURPLUS . . . 120,000.00
RESOURCES . . . 1,000,000.00

FRED J. HOLMES,
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F. L. MEYERS,
Cashier.

W. J. CHURCH,
Vice Pres.
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