

## THE OBSERVER

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EDITOR AND OWNER.

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LA GRANDE COMMITTEE DID NOT  
KNOW IT.

The committee of citizens appointed by Dr. Richardson while he was mayor, to draft a commission form of government charter did not realize that there was one city working under almost the identical plan that the La Grande committee finally worked out.

We quote from a folder recently issued by Sumter, South Carolina:

"Why not run a city just like a private business corporation with a board of directors to lay out policies and an expert manager to look after the details?"

"This was the question put up to the people of Sumter, S. C. on June 12th. By an act of the last legislature they had an option between the stereotyped commission plan, with three distinct heads, and the City Manager plan, which had been discussed and approved over the length and breadth of the land but never adopted by any city. Sumter took the bit in her teeth and by a three to one vote adopted the one which applies the tried-out principle of organization which no private corporation would think of abandoning.

"There had been no question about the success of the Galveston plan. It had done away with bosses and put the people in power. It had succeeded in cutting out graft by fixing responsibility for everything which was done or left undone. It had saved the people's money.

"At the same time there was no reason to suppose that the exact Galveston or Des Moines types were the last word on simplified government. They had unquestionably succeeded because of certain sound principles which lay beneath the form.

The new Sumter law conserves these principles. Responsibility is settled upon three men, who can do anything that the city can do. They

are not to be hampered by having to work through elective clerks. There is a short ballot in other words. There are to be no ward lines and petty local jealousies. For emergencies the initiative, referendum and recall are in readiness.

"So far the well known Des Moines type was followed. When it came to the matter of organization it was found to be ill-adapted to the local needs. The regular commission plan would necessitate three paid managers, as head of departments. Few men, who were really competent, could be found who would undertake public service under the inadequate salaries which the city could offer (\$1200 and \$1000 per annum.) and spend the necessary amount of time to details of the city business.

"Furthermore, it was regarded as folly to try to secure good administrative supervisors by popular election.

"With the same amount of money it is thought possible to secure one good man who will take over the management of the city's affairs. He need not be a local resident. The whole country may be taken as a field for selection. He will have an opportunity to introduce modern accounting and efficiency methods, and generally to impress his personality on the city and will be in line for promotion later on to similar work in larger cities.

"Under the Sumter plan, however, the elective commissioners will be responsible for all the acts of the city manager, for he will hold office at their pleasure. There is, therefore, no danger that he will build up a patronage through the appointing power because every incentive to appoint efficient subordinates who will uphold his hands, and not political hacks who will "queer" his record by loafing on their jobs and inflating his budget. On the other hand, the government will be unified. There will be one government, not three.

"By relieving the commissioners of administrative detail, it will be possible to get the ablest citizens to devote the small portion of time which will be required to direct the city's business. The salaries of these men will be nominal (\$300 for the mayor and \$200 for the others.)

"Thus, for the first time, is introduced in an American city government the principles of concentrated responsibility, a short ballot and expert administration.

"The population of Sumter is 10,000 people."

## BOURNE'S PRIZE PACKAGE.

Still imbued with apparent disposition to gamble Jonathan Bourne Jr. has, through his "club", sent out an offer of gold to the youth of this state if they will enter a contest, wherein he will benefit.

Did not this wayward son of the idle rich do enough to debauch the manhood of Oregon when he held up a legislature? Has he not set a bad enough example before the young when he posed as the poker-playing statesman?

His "club" sent an advertisement to this paper asking that it be printed and the bill forwarded to \$16 Journal building, Portland, Oregon, but we refuse to be a party to exciting the young mind of Oregon over a contest with gold as a prize when that contest is only inspired by a politician to get votes in other than the ordinary way of standing on merit.

The children of Oregon should not be a tool in Bourne's hands, tempted by gold from Bourne's friends who call themselves a "club."

If our politics has sunk to such a low mark; if the home is not to be sacredly exempt from the politician's gold, where in Heaven's name are we drifting?

And all of this, too, under the guise of "popular government."

## SCENES HAVE SHIFTED.

A representative of Governor West claims La Grande is a poorly governed, vice ridden community. Compared with absolute perfection perhaps La Grande is, but in obtaining perfection we wonder where these moral crusaders would go?

Surely not to Salem, the capital city; not to Portland, the metropolis of the state; not to the interior; not to the coast. In vain people who seek perfection would strive in Oregon, as elsewhere to find it.

La Grande is by no means the worst town in the state, and such a statement is but idle talk of those seeking notoriety. This city is not angelic, to be sure, but taking it as cities of its size go, it is much better than the average run. Murders are very few in Eastern Oregon, and La Grande has not registered one for a long, long time. The general conduct of the people of La Grande is good and the nights are not marked by carousal and dissipation.

The most vital thing in La Grande is the discipline of the young, which the Observer has mentioned before. The Governor with all of his staff, including the state militia, will find it a hard matter to reform the adult who has chosen the wicked life. But just a little effort will prevent the ranks of the wicked from filling with the young, which is by far of greater importance.

RANDOM THOUGHTS ON THE  
COLONEL.

By George Ade.

They say the Colonel wants to be King. Nonsense! Why should he want to be King when his followers already regard him as an Ace.

A good many old-line Republicans sincerely believe that every man who refrains from voting for the ticket forced through by the bosses is indirectly voting against Abraham Lincoln and Oliver P. Morton. We have looked over the list of those who worked the old machine in June and we cannot find one who helped to preserve the Union or anything else, except his private interests. Thousands of ex-Republicans decline to vote for Barnes and Penrose and Guggenheim because they believe an endorsement of these persons would be a national calamity.

We are now being shown a bewildering confusion of figures to prove that Taft was really the choice of a majority of Republican voters during the third week of June, 1912. The explainers are perspiring freely. It will take many a sheet of paper and many a lead pencil to convince the unbiased spectator on the side lines that the Colonel had no claim on ANY of those delegates.

After the Payne-Aldrich tariff bill was passed and the Winona speech was made it became a mortal cinch that Mr. Taft could not be re-elected in 1912. This fact was emphasized at the Congressional elections of 1910. Wherever the voters had a fair chance at primaries last spring it became evident that the weakness of Mr.

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KLINGMADE SLIPONS

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FAMOUS KLINGMADE  
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Regulation weight with plaid lining and velvet collar, Raglan shoulders. Our Price ..... \$22.50  
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Every express adds new merchandise for some department of this big store.

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This fashion favored material in all colors of the rainbow beautifully blended into harmonious shades.

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An assortment of patterns that are desirable for either trimming, waistings, or complete dresses.

ON DISPLAY TODAY

WEST'S THE  
QUALITY  
STORE

Taft was almost spectacular. All the straw votes and newspaper pools and non-partisan canvasses up to this moment prove that the temper of the voters has not changed. When we get up in the morning after election and survey the blasted remnants of what was once the Republican party organization, let no one blame the Bull Moosers. The downfall was foreordained while the Colonel was still banging away at the hippopotami. Mr. Taft was defeated third party or no third party, when the returns came in two years ago. The men really responsible for the disruption of the party are those who will be found buried in the ruins. They will be in control of the premises according to their desires. The Progressives will be on the hill-top, about two miles distant, still singing and giving out ammunition for 1914.

They distrust the Colonel because he won't come to their little shop up the alley and be measured for a suit of livery. Somehow, it gives them more confidence in a public official if they see him wearing one of their uniforms.



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## Dr. HARRY LANE

Democratic Candidate for United  
States Senator, will be in

La Grande, Wed. Oct. 16

and speak at Steward Theatre  
at 8 o'clock p. m.

ALL ARE INVITED, The Ladies Included.

paid advertisement.