

City Business Manager Now Imperative

DRASTIC CUT IN DISTRICTS NOW REALITY

SEVEN INSTEAD OF NEARLY 30 SUPERVISORS IS PLAN OF THE COURT.

COUNTY PAPERS NAMED

General Road Situation Is Believed to Be Largely Remedied When Number of Supervisors Is Cut Down Three Fourths, Condensing Responsibility and Fixing the Blame for Bad Roads.

***** OFFICIAL PAPERS NAMED ***** The La Grande Observer and the Union Republican have been designated the county's official papers at the February term of county court now in session. The Union Republican succeeds the Elgin Recorder as the second official paper in the county.

What is believed to be a long stride toward systematizing road supervision, along both financial improvement and better working results, is being taken this afternoon by the county court. To create seven road districts instead of 29 odd that now prevail is the first step in that direction. It condenses the responsibility to seven men instead of nearly four times that number, and puts blame for inattention to roads and highways directly up to the supervisors. The method of thus improving the county roads at a minimum expense, was evolved by County Judge Henry and his commissioners and late this afternoon the men are working out the details. It is believed by men who have given the matter study that this remedies obsolete, haphazard methods of yore and instead of having everybody or about 30 anyway, attending to the roads of the county, a uniform scheme can be laid down to these seven and by them enforced; if not enforced the county court retains the right of removal of supervisors with privilege of instituting energetic system and law enforcement. Out of the scores of panaceas advanced for better and cheaper road upkeep this is generally conceded to be foremost among the best.

PEACH BRIDGE READY. Structure Over River in Peach Lane Is Complete and Under Service.

County Bridge Superintendent Joe Campbell informs the Observer that the Peach Lane bridge has been completed and that it is now open for traffic. Three other bridges are to be put in in that section during the winter and work on them will be rushed. This is the third bridge completed by Mr. Campbell during the winter and all of them have been bridges of some size.

DRUMMER WILL REFEREE Milton Team Returns From Union Today to Meet Y. M. C. A. Team.

W. L. McInerney, a well known traveling salesman, will handle the whistle in the big Y. M. C. A.-Milton college basketball game at the Y. M. C.

A. floor tonight. The game will not be played in the high school gym as generally understood. Mr. McInerney is an oldtime Wisconsin athlete and coach and is now located at Portland. He is in Elgin today but will return this evening in time for the game. The Milton team arrived this morning from Union and will play the Y. M. C. A. this evening commencing at 8 o'clock. Both teams are fit and comparative scores indicate that the game will be exciting from the start. In fact, it is doubtful if a faster team will be sent against the local quintet this year.

Union People Here. W. O. Miller and Ed Mitchel of Union are in the city doing jury duty. Also L. M. McKennon, Wm. Wigglesworth, and W. A. Farrell of Union are in La Grande attending the sessions of court.

Former Business Made Here. Chas. Binder, a former business man of La Grande, now living in Huntington, is in the city on business matters today.

LIEUT. GOVERNOR BILL UP. Despite Adverse Vote, Measure Is Put on Ticket for Next Year.

Salem, Feb. 6.—Despite adverse vote of the people in November, the legislature today ordered the question of creating a lieutenant governor placed on the ballot in 1914. The senate today passed a resolution to submit it and the house has already acted.

MAYOR HALL'S STAND FOR COMMISSION FORM.

The thing that is of greatest interest to the taxpaying public of La Grande right now is the stand Mayor M. K. Hall has taken in favor of commission form of government. In his message printed elsewhere he brings attention to the cumbersome methods now in practice in handling the city's business; shows where this city is fearfully in debt, and last but not least, impresses one with the inability of men engaged in other pursuits to care for and manage a corporation of the size La Grande has grown to be. There is but one remedy, positively, only one—the commission form of government. That Mayor or Hall should, at this early date in his administration, come out flat footed for the commission form, taking the people into the inside working of the city's affairs, as he has, is to be highly commended.

The Observer will support the mayor clear down the line on this movement, for it is the only correct way of handling the city's business. A visit to the council rooms during a session of the council, taking notice of the time consumed, the small amount of business accomplished, the lack of system, and general disorganization will convince any person who has ever met a pay roll or plowed an acre of ground that our system is ineffective.

Besides, there is a great financial problem before La Grande. The indebtedness has piled too high, and it is up to some one to get things in shape to pay these debts without working too great a hardship on property. The mayor is right in his recommendation. Now let every citizen who believes in doing business on business principles, take a stand with him.

Keep in mind this one fact—La Grande is the biggest business corporation here, therefore you need strict attention to every department of this corporation to insure economy.

HOLY CITY IS PATH OF SHELLS OF BULGAR GUNS

SHELLING CONTINUES BUT LITTLE HARM BEING DONE SAY CENSORED REPORTS.

GALLIOLI FIGHT HARD

Rise to Get Clear Path for Naval Attack on Constantinople Is Being Waged by Big Detachment—Capture of Big Turkish Detachment Reported Yesterday Is Denied Today.

London, Feb. 6.—Bombardment of Adrianople was resumed today but so far dispatches indicate that there is no serious damage wrought since the first effect. There is no confirmation of the report that General Savoff has captured thousands of Turks who made a sortie from the beleaguered city. Advice from Rome and Constantinople say fierce fighting was resumed this morning at the Gallipoli peninsula, where a force of Bulgars and Serbs, aided by the Greek fleet, were attempting the flank the Turkish forces and open the Dardanelles to a naval attack on Constantinople.

Albanians Attack Uskup.

Constantinople, Feb. 6.—Thirty thousands Albanians are advancing toward Uskup which the Servians held since the beginning of the war, according to advices here. The Constantinople correspondent to the London Standard is conducting a successful campaign.

CONDEMNATION PROCEEDINGS CITY'S NEXT RELIEF PLAN

Steps to condemn the strip of land along K street on and in which the city's main sewer rests and which was ordered cleared by ejectment by a circuit court jury verdict yesterday, have been commenced by the city through its attorney, Jerry Rusk. This step is deemed the most plausible one to take in effort to avoid the ejectment order by the jury as a consequence of the J. H. Peare suit against the city.

The condemnation would affect only that strip of land which is used by the people and would have no effect on the balance of the highway. Then it follows, that the city would be required to pay Mr. Peare a sum of money sufficient to reimburse him for the damage done to his property by leaving the pipe line where it is. This sum would necessarily have to be fixed by a fair and impartial jury, and the suit which has already been commenced has this in view. If the final condemnation is accomplished, by the process outlined by the city, the city will not be required to move the pipe but can get around such an expensive project by an outlay of cash, the amount for which must be determined by a jury. This proposition will probably come up in

E. O. TEL. CO. PETITION IS IN FOR FRANCHISE

COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO HEAR PROPOSITION FROM COMPANY HEADS.

COUNCIL BUSINESS BIG

Various Improvement Bond Ordinances and Improvement Ordinances Passed—Noted Gasoline Ordinance Killed at Final Reading—Meeting Lasts Till Midnight—Details Are Many.

Initial moves to get a foothold in La Grande thereby "connecting all cities in the valley," was made last night by the Eastern Oregon Co-operative Telephone company of Elgin, at a regular first of the month session of the city council—a session punctuated with considerable routine business but little out of the ordinary in importance. Appointment of officials to fill the vacancies now existing through the deadlock between the council and the mayor, to wit, the water and street superintendents, was not enacted because the mayor was absent from the city. The recess appointments by which Mr. Hoyt and Mr. Stoner held these two offices the past two weeks were renewed this morning and will now hold office until the next meeting of the council.

All councilmen were present, and President of the Council Campbell presided in the absence of the mayor.

Franchise Petition Heard.

Petitions asking for a franchise

permitting the use of streets and alleys for poles, wires and conduits, were presented by the officials of the Eastern Oregon Co-operative Telephone company, with headquarters in Elgin. The petition is short, asking, primarily, that a committee of the council be appointed to meet and confer with a committee of the telephone company to devise what protection the city is deemed entitled to in the letting of such a franchise. No franchise price, or anything of that sort, is discussed in the petition, this being presumably left to the informal meeting of the two committees. Some discussion arose as to which committee should handle the matter for the council, but it finally went to the street committee composed of Sargent, Halsten, Wright and Chairman Davis, and as no date was set out for the meeting a mutually understood day will no doubt be agreed upon at once. This committee can report back a week hence at a special meeting to be held then or may not be acted on until the next regular meeting, two weeks hence.

The street committee has a petition in hand from Julius Roesch, relative to payment of improvement assessments on certain blocks in Chaplin's addition, coming under conditions similar to the ones which J. H. Childs presented a few weeks ago and final action will be recommended by that committee.

The financial report of the city in considerable detail as prepared by City Auditor Mansager, was read and placed on file. It will not be published unless the council reconsiders its action of last evening. Publication of the city's monthly finances was urgently requested in the mayor's initial message.

A petition from Roy Robbs to be appointed poundmaster was read and placed on file.

A petition to obtain sale prices of the old hook and ladder wagon, was presented by Roy Clapp and placed on file.

Hoyt Declines Actions.

Charges have been made, says a lengthy communication sent to the council last night by Water Superintendent L. M. Hoyt, that the present superintendent had not made extensions when ordered to do so and had taken other steps not within his jurisdiction. To prove every order from the council had been carried out was the purpose of the communication, referring to specific extensions and to orders covering same. Among others the communication explains the running of a pipe line into the (at) grounds, an act for which Mr. Hoyt has been freely criticised. In explaining this the communication says he was ordered by Mayor Church to do so as the fair board needed water quickly and couldn't wait for a council meeting, and the mayor acted on the advice of a majority of the council. The matter was referred.

Salary Bills Held up.

For the first time in several years, the salary bills to employes of the city will not be paid until after the second meeting in the month. It has been the precedent that all bills presented at the first of the month be referred to committees and acted on at the second meeting, with the exception of salary warrants which have always been ordered drawn immediately after the first month, being scrutinized by committees informally. Councilman Fitzgerald last night moved that these bills be held over like all other bills and thereby created a stormy debate, in which Councilman Lincoln pleaded for the workmen and officials of the city who have to take "a warrant not worth 100 cents on the dollar, nearer 90 in fact, and wait 19 days in February for the January pay." A loud ripple of applause from the crowded auditorium greeted the statement. However, the first test vote came on an amendment to the

MANAGER FOR CITY AFFAIRS URGES MAYOR

SPECIAL MESSAGE TO THE COUNCIL POINTS NEED OF COMMISSION

FINANCIAL STATUS BAD

Not Only Does Finances Need Attention Says Message, but It Is Necessary That The Council Take Steps to Bring About an Improvement Over Present Municipal Government Methods.

Calling attention to what he terms urgent need of a commission form of government in this city immediately, and setting clearly before the council and the public a summarized epitome of the city's financial condition, Mayor M. K. Hall last night sent a special message to the council urging the new form of government and asking that something be done with the bonded indebtedness. The message in toto follows:

To the Members of the City Council: Inasmuch as neither the finance committee of the council, nor other officers have seen fit to prepare and publish a statement of the financial condition of the city at the beginning of the year, as required by the charter, the mayor feels that it is incumbent upon him to do so.

The condition of the different funds at the beginning of the year was as follows:

General Fund—	
Warrants outstanding	\$ 89,925.54
Cash on hand	4,045.19
Water Fund—	
Warrants outstanding	17,898.63
Cash on hand	3,680.85
Imp. Fund—	
Warrants outstanding	117,718.61
Cash on hand	5,000.00
	\$12,726.04 \$225,542.73

The floating indebtedness of the city is limited by the charter to \$50,000. It will therefore be seen that the city has exceeded the legal limit by \$162,816.71. Deducting the \$117,718.61 issued in payment of street improvements there is still an excess of floating indebtedness of \$45,098.13, being 90 per cent over and above what the charter allows, against the general and water funds alone.

It seems to me that this is a matter that should occupy the attention of not only the members of this council, but of the property owners at large in this city. There can be no doubt that it is the duty of this council to seek a remedy for this condition of things at once.

The surplus indebtedness in the general fund and in the water fund may be eliminated in two ways, viz., by an increased levy, and by the practice of economy. It is beyond the power of this council to increase the levy this year, but it is within their power to practice economy. The improvement fund is the one that presents the greatest difficulties. Under the method of letting contracts in