

FANS CALLED THIS EVENING

BASEBALL IS ABSORBING TOPIC
THIS WEEK.

North Yakima, Baker, Walla Walla
and Pendleton Are Ready.

Baseball is the absorbing topic from North Yakima to Boise, so far as the Western Tri-State league is concerned, this week. In La Grande the issues locally so far as launching or staying out of the business is concerned, will be threshed out at a meeting at the Commercial club beginning at 7:30 tonight. It is absolutely necessary that action be taken tonight; to either come in or stay out is the question that will be before the house. The Pendleton, North Yakima and Walla Walla crowd, headed by Secretary L. M. Brown of Walla Walla will come through La Grande tomorrow night bound for Boise where the final arrangements will be perfected and where the \$700 must be posted in cash or certified checks presented. Those who have baseball at heart are urged to be present tonight to discuss the situation as it now stands. At present La Grande has the following players in reserve:

Lomond, Luttrell, Naughton, Pugaley, Mountain, Harstead, Jamison, Menser, King.

Joe Cohen has promised that La Grande will get first pick of all Indians that are released regardless of Walla Walla's sisterly disposition for Cohen is angry at Walla Walla. Van Horst, who was a bangup player in the old Class D league in which La Grande won the pennant, and who has been playing in the Tri-I league for four years, is anxious to come back to La Grande. Others of good caliber are on the string if the city decides to enter the league.

Pendleton Remains In.

Pendleton, Feb. 6.—(Special)—Pendleton will not withdraw from the Western Tri-State, though, until last night the outlook for Pendleton re-

maining in the league seemed decidedly gloomy. The re-election of Sweet as president of the league cast a damper over local fans for that official is in sad disfavor with those who followed the fortunes of the Buckaroos last year. However, it is more than probable that a change will be made in the presidency and it is admitted by all that such a proceeding would lighten immensely the job of financing a Pendleton team.

But even if the Boise man should stay at the head of the league there are many who favor remaining in the league and annexing first place regardless of all handicaps. So enthusiastic is Leon Cohen that last night he declared his readiness to double the subscription given last year if necessary to do so. There are others who are talking in the same spirit and in baseball circles there is rejoicing today over the election of J. V. Tallman as president of the Commercial club. It is pointed out that Mr. Tallman is a fan and that his election means the Commercial club will give all the moral support possible to a team.

At the season tonight representatives for the Boise meeting will be chosen provided the sentiment in favor of remaining in the league seems to justify such action.

Baker Well Healed.

The Baker Democrat says: It was settled yesterday that the city would be represented, the minimum limit necessary to start the ball rolling having been passed by the soliciting committees, over \$1500 being subscribed yesterday afternoon, and others who have promised and still others who have yet to be seen will put the sum close to the \$2000 mark, which is estimated will be the expense over and above receipts for the first year.

The solicitors found some few business men and others who refused outright to give and knocked the proposition. However, such as these were few and for the most part those called on "came through" more or less as they felt able, and indicated that the boosters are still in the majority and desire to keep the town on the map.

MANAGER FOR CITY.
(Continued from Page 1.)

the past, the city as a whole has assumed the cost of improvement for a certain time, by issuing warrants in payment thereof. Until the bonds are sold the city is required to pay the interest on these warrants. The time that such interest runs is dependent on the time elapsing between the payment for the improvement and the sale of the bonds.

As an example of how this has worked out in the past, let us choose as an example, First street. This street was improved last summer by bitulithic pavement. The contractors were paid by warrants issued on the improvement fund created for that particular district, and in which there never has been any money.

No bonding ordinance has yet been placed before the council for First street. In the meantime, interest on the warrants is accumulating and it must be paid by the city as a whole. I have been informed that no assessments have been made for certain sidewalks laid in the first ward three years ago. It is not my intention to attach blame to any individuals, nor to the different councils of the past as a whole, for this state of affairs. I believe the fault lies with our system of government.

When a business assumes the proportions that the business of the city of La Grande has within the past few years, its successful management requires the continuous and careful attention of a competent manager or of an executive board, as does any other business if it would succeed.

Our system of municipal government is too cumbersome—there is too much work—detail work of great importance, to be accomplished by men in other pursuits.

In my opinion the remedy lies in the adoption of a new system of city government, viz., the system provided in a proposed charter prepared by a committee of men with knowledge of our municipal affairs appointed for the purpose a couple of years ago.

These men have completed their work, and it would seem to me only fair to the submit it to the people for adoption or rejection.

Of one thing there is not the slightest doubt: The city is in a muddle financially. It has assumed an indebtedness of at least \$45,000 more

than the charter allows.

It seems that the council of last year was not able to find a solution to the question, and with all deference to the new members of this council, I cannot see much improvement as compared to the last one.

All are men whose time is fully occupied with their own private business and although I have every reason to think that every councilman here has the best interests of the city at heart, I am convinced that no one of them has the time to give the weeks or months of continuous work that the success of the city's affairs demands.

Respectfully submitted,
M. K. HALL, Mayor.

KAISTER SELLS BANK SHARES

UNION BANKER WILL SEEK LARG-
ER TOWN

W. R. Hutchinson, Wealthy Union
Man, Is New President.

Union, Feb. 6.—(Special)—Union's National bank is to have a new organization. This will come about through the sale of stock now held by Mr. Kaister, the president for a number of years, to W. R. Hutchinson one of the prominent land owners of the county, S. A. Purcell, and J. W. Ethington. Mr. Hutchinson will be the new president of the bank and Mr. Ethington will act in the capacity of cashier and manager. The change will take place as soon as Mr. Ethington returns from Kentucky.

The retiring president of the bank is leaving Union for some coast city of greater dimensions. He has made the bank one of the soundest institutions of the state and the residents of Union will regret to see him leave.

NON-SUPPORT CASE HEARD

JURY HEARS CASE PRESENTED
BY THE STATE.

Case Against Wilson and Kivette Is
Settled by Jury Verdict.

Because he is accused of not supporting his wife and children, Henry Stroeber is on trial today in circuit court. The state is prosecuting the case against him and it is likely that the case will occupy the attention of the court and jury all day.

Thatcher Wins Suit.

Finding for Claude Thatcher in the sum of \$425, a sum intended to reimburse him for damages done to an automobile which W. K. Kivette, Jr., and William Wilson, Jr., had leased from Mr. Thatcher several months ago, the jury in the Thatcher case brought in a verdict last night. It seems that the two defendants had hired the machine at Union and started for La Grande and it will be remembered, ran into the Mackey feed store with a terrific crash sometime during the night. R. J. Greene was attorney for Thatcher.

E. O. TEL. CO.

(Continued from Page 1.)

Fitzgerald resolution which if passed would have given the workmen and officials their pay now, and on this the council deadlocked the vote standing: To hold up salaries until the next meeting, Wright, Davis, Fitzgerald, Halsten; to pay salaries now, Campbell, Jones, Lincoln and Sargent. The humorous side of the debate cropped out when, having deadlocked on the payment of the salaries now, the council passed the original motion—delaying payment, without a dissenting vote.

It developed during the discussion of the bill situation that the requisition order will be strictly enforced and absolutely no attention will be paid to un-requisitioned bills.

Bids for two cement sidewalks hanging fire since last year will be issued early that contractors may obtain their gravel now at a low rate.

During the discussion of this situation later, the council came to the understanding that hereafter certified

checks to 25 per cent of the contract price, must be filed with the recorder by all persons who, living within an improvement district where certain improvements have been ordered and are about to be advertised for, wish to construct their own improvements. This has been found absolutely necessary as it protects the city, the contractors and everyone concerned. There are several cases before the council right now that will demand this early deposit.

Home Company Plans Filed.

The Home Construction company, through its manager, John Mars, has filed specifications for a new asphalt pavement, which the company claims to Councilman Davis who presented it, will hold up and be satisfactory. Briefly discussed, the pavement is made up of four inches of crushed rock and two inches of asphalt covering. The total cost for this is guaranteed to be \$1.25 or less.

The famous gasoline ordinance which was drafted for a city of New York's size and which has been a thorn in the side of the councilmen who have heard it read three times, met its Waterloo last night, after considerable debate on the insurance question. Another less drastic will be framed and put up for reading.

When the council adjourned, it adjourned to meet next week, in accordance with a motion passed early in the evening.

Mayor Hall's special message was read under the head of good of the city, and was placed on file without discussion.

Councilman Fitzgerald demanded that Councilman Sargent explain his position as councilman and at the same time acting as counsel for a client bringing action against the city, the mover of the resolution aiming a blow at City Attorney Rusk for losing the case. Before Mr. Sargent and Mr. Rusk had finished speaking everyone concerned was more clearly posted on the entire situation. Mr. Sargent briefly explained that he was attorney for Mr. Peare in this matter long before he became councilman, and that the council he was dealing with then was inclined to treat it as a joke, and he pointed out that he case was in the circuit court before the people of his ward clothed him with the duties of councilman. He had no apologies to offer he said, but felt that he had saved the city from future grief in this respect by being instrumental in having it punished now for its wrongdoings. City Attorney Rusk explained his case in the layman's terms to the council, and regretted that condemnation had not

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been commenced earlier.

The reading of two long bonding ordinances, the reading of Y and North Fir improvement ordinances, the reading of the 20-page gas line ordinance and various other communication and bills occupied, along with the debate and horseplay cropping out occasionally, the council's attention until 11:35 and the auditorium was crowded to the last minute with interested spectators.

picture program is all good, featuring a fine Thanhouser, "The Mounted Police," There are two good comedies on the bill and the program closes with a picture of more than ordinary interest dealing as it does with the child labor question.

The management announces for next week Helen Gardner, a six reel production of "Cleopatra," a masterpiece in motion photography.

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today for a three days' engagement
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mended. The act consists of sing-
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