

FRENCH COMIC PLEASES WELL

GRACE DREW WINS AUDIENCE AT STEWARD.

Comic Opera Sans Chorus Makes a Tremendous Hit Here Last Night

Bring on your comic opera, sans chorus! If all such "French" comic opera is of the standard that per-

formed for a La Grande audience last night, then there is little more to be said about the success of the new French comic opera. Grace Drew and Carlton King are about the greatest duo that have hit La Grande in years. Grace Drew is pretty much the whole show but she is equal to the occasion, and a prettier, saucier, suttier, cleverer "sussel haant" has never, for, as said, these several years. She is backed up by good support in Carlton King and the balance of the company, and the well-defined farce plot running through the show makes the night seem to be sharpened with frequent, clever, catchy song hits. Furthermore, the company is able to sing, in-

the principals being all there was in the troupe, and they being high class it follows that there was nothing but satisfaction. A winner from the start Miss Drew kept the audience fascinated to the finale.

URGES COMMISSION FORM.

Geo. Carrey, Jr., After Study of Question, Gives Some Good Ideas.

La Grande, Feb. 27.—To the Editor: What is La Grande going to do about the commission form of government? Present conditions are unsatisfactory; yet if the people do not keep the movement for a betterment under discussion, nothing will be done.

Our present municipal government is inefficient, insufficient, and insincere. We are in debt even past the constitutional limit. The administration officers are practically responsible to no one. The actual activity of the city is unknown, their being no regular nor intelligent reports.

A good system will not be managed by insincere men, and neither can a bad system be made a good one by honest men. In the last twenty years the principle at the basis of all city government has changed from that "boodle politics" to "business science." Of the thousand objections raised against the present form of government the fundamental fault is that it fails to center responsibility. It fails to obtain efficiency, and it fails to give the people any intelligence as to its workings.

A system that will assure responsibility, secure efficiency, and keep the people informed of all its actions will go far toward creating the desired reform.

Outside of the fact that the present system is very cumbersome and expensive, it is urged that the fact that people do not take an interest in public affairs is the chief reason why graft or efficiency creeps into any system. This is true in a way. The public is responsible for the effects of any system for it is the people who authorize it. Perhaps the most dangerous effect of the old system is its silencing of public interest. Everything under the present system is complicated and confusing. Where there is no regularity of action it is hard to find any order in the results. Even if the people recognize some evil they know not where to complain, and

for an explanation, say of the police department, the matter will be juggled from the chief to the mayor to the council and round and round again.

As said, the one basic principle of the commission form of government is business. There are many forms and various phases; but the only consistent test for any problem under commission government is "is it good business?" Under the proposed form the people are the stockholders the council if there is any, is the board of directors; and the mayor or commissioners are the managers. The council or the people recommend the general policy, and the commissioners are absolutely responsible for carrying out the administration of this policy in all its details.

There are three provisions necessary for the successful operation of commission government, three business policies employed by all successful corporations. First: a civil service system for appointments and promotion to assure a capable administration. Second, centralized and definite responsibility backed by a provision for recall as well as forfeiture of sufficient bonds to reimburse the city to secure efficiency. Third, an intelligent complete and regular system of reports to provide necessary publicity to keep the public interest awakened.

In the face of present conditions some action should be taken, but great care must be used to secure a correct start on the new lines. Efficiency and "systemization" will of course cost something, but does it not pay to have the plumber repair the leak in the water pipe rather than trying to stop that leak with a wooden plug? Commission government may cost more than the present system in regular salaries, but the net expenses of the city it may be safely said, will be reduced 25 to 50 per cent less than at present.

Efficiency, centralized responsibility, and public interest aroused through publicity, are the principle advantages of the commission form of government that is proposed to better the municipal affairs of La Grande.

GEORGE H. CURREY, JR.

LOST BY AN EYELASH.

When James R. Keene Laid For Him a Big Bet on Besom.

Although James R. Keene was known as the nerviest of Wall street operators, he was anything but a betting man on the race tracks. He dearly loved to win valuable stakes, and he won nearly everything in this line except the classic English Derby. His horses rarely carried anything but an infinitesimal wager. Big wagers were few and far between with him.

One day when his Ben Brush colt Besom was making his racing debut at Sheepshead Mr. Keene visited the paddock in company with his trainer, Jimmy Rowe, and inspected the colt minutely. Keene was very fond of Noonday, the colt's dam, and he talked proudly of his expectations of Besom. The colt had worked exceptionally fast, and the race looked as sure as sure things can be regarded on a race track.

The result of the conference with Rowe was that Mr. Keene decided to make one of his rare large bets on Besom to win. The news of the Keene wager created almost a sensation in the ring, and the price against the colt went tumbling.

The race was run, and Besom lost by an eyelash. He went out with Berry Maid, and the two raced stride for stride like a team. When it was Besom's turn to stride his nose showed in front, and when it was Berry Maid's turn she showed a scant advantage. So it was all the way, Mr. Keene watching the contest through his field-glasses without a murmur. The crowd was on its toes. As they passed the judges it was Berry Maid's turn to stride. Then the apple of Mr. Keene's eye at the time lost the verdict, and the vice chairman of the Jockey club lost one of his few wagers on the turf.—New York World.

What Ailed Him. Housewife (to tramp) — I don't approve of people begging. Any man can find work if he looks hard enough. Tramp—Ains, mum, dat's just de trouble. I'm such a hard looker dat no one will give me a job.—Boston Transcript.

Irresistible Attraction. Briggs—I understand that Bulger fell in love with the girl he married at first sight. Griggs—Yes; when he first saw her she was making a fat deposit in the savings bank.—Spokane Review.

Classified Directory

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