

# MANY TIMBER OWNERS COMING

Indications are that a number of timber owners will attend the meeting tomorrow afternoon in the club rooms of the La Grande Commercial club, which has been called for the purpose of organizing in Union and Wallawa counties in order to fight the forest fires during the dry and dangerous months which are now upon us.

The permanent committee composed of George Palmer, Aug. J. Stange and John T. Williams, has been at work on plans for the work and these plans will be submitted to the entire body of owners subject to revision and change in every detail after free discussion on the subject. State Forester Elliott will be present and

have some interesting data to present, which will assist materially in aiding the local people to arrive at a proper conclusion as to how to effectually organize the fire patrol.

The great importance of this work is at once apparent when it is known that one campfire carelessly left in the forests can do thousands of dollars in damage in a very short time. Every camper and every traveler through the forests will be admonished of the danger of fire to Oregon's standing timber and it is believed the loyalty of the people to the state will prompt every citizen to be in the lookout for fires endangering the timber supply.

## CITIZENS SUBMIT CHARTER.

(Continued from Page One.)

they have been meeting twice a week or more, studying the problem until far in the night frequently, and by voluminous correspondence and study have compiled what is said to be the best form of commission government yet devised. There are similar charters in use throughout the Southeastern part of the country especially, and all are found satisfactory there. The charter differs slightly from those in use at Walla Walla and Baker or Portland.

The entire council was present when Mayor Hall called the session to order and considerable routine matter came up for consideration during the evening session, apart

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from that of the commission form petition.

Final steps looking toward the year's chief improvement work were taken. This includes sidewalks, sewers and paving and July 16 was set as the time for filing remonstrances against the main bulk of the improvement work, but effort to lump as much as possible of this work was taken on Mr. Sargent's motion in order to obtain better prices. Reading of commissioners' reports occupied considerable time, as a vast amount of work in various sections of the city is about to be undertaken.

The reports of committees brought the first deathblow to two prominent proposed ordinances. The fire marshal ordinance met defeat in committee and the council finally decapitated the instrument. The same was true of the ordinance forbidding card tables in all pool halls, the committee calling the matter class legislation and the council after refused to pass it.

A recommendation for cells in the new rear corridor of the county jail came from the police committee following a letter to the council by Mayor Hall recently, in which the unsanitary condition and inefficiencies of the present jail were set out. The committee recommended that the chief's office be moved to the water department, but urged above all that more cells be built.

Preliminary estimates for the subway proposed for North Second street were filed by City Engineer Neill, and the council will take the matter up at once with the officials, as per their request. The plans prepared call for the outlay of either \$28,370.40 or \$400 less, depending on the disposition of the macadam assessments at the north approach. The macadam must be taken out and bitulithic put in, and Mayor Hall opined that the abutting property should pay macadam assessments as the city must pay for the better grade. This difference means \$400 and will probably be deducted leaving \$2,400, instead of the \$20,000, approximately, that the railroad plans called for the city to expend.

The sewer pipe line came in for a burst of satire and criticism when bills were presented for "covering

sewer ditch." Councilman Sargent arose to learn on what authority the pipe had been covered and was informed by the mayor that in view of the suit against J. H. Peare for condemnation, it might look better to the jury if the pipe were covered and furthermore, the pipe had been exposed too long already to teams that might break it in hauling over it. Mr. Sargent again wanted to know if it wasn't queer that after two years of exposure, he pipe should be covered right now. Mr. Hall retorted with the remark that he had gone to church last Sunday for the first time in four years which was also queer, but that it was not queer that the city officials should try to protect the city's interests.

The matter was finally brought to a focus without further passing of caustic remarks when a vote was taken to pay the bills. An amendment was introduced by Sargent that the bills be referred to committees, which went to a tie vote, the mayor opposing. The original question came to a tie, and the mayor again voted, paying the bills to the workmen, who had done their part in good faith, said. The flareup was one of two diplomatic but ironical lambastings that members of the council got from the mayor.

An amendment to the street traffic ordinance was brought up which requires that all teams hauling gravel, crushed rock and other similar loads must have a tight box to haul it in.

An amendment governing the placing of pins in pavement whereby to hitch apparatus to move houses came up, some objecting to the ordinance because it called for cement refilling rather than bitumen. The ordinance passed however.

Various bills were ordered paid and other routine matter gone into, but the council will meet a week hence to go over the unfinished business.

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