

THE OBSERVER

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A COMMENDABLE COURSE.

The city council has taken the commendable course with the proposed commission charter which is now on file in the city hall, after weeks of consistent work on the part of a committee appointed by Mayor Hall to draft the document. Member of the council were unanimous in the opinion that the charter should be put up to the people without recommendation either for or against, which is the only proper way for it to be considered.

The action of council plainly says to the people of La Grande: "the new charter has been drawn, it is now up to you to study the document and determine for yourselves whether it is good or bad."

Today the brass band and the life and drum do not control legislation; neither does the rousing parade or the vigorous orator. People are not swayed one way and then the other, nor taken off their feet by sentiment as they once were.

Full and exhaustive information regarding the charter is needed. Friends of the document are invited to use the columns of the Observer in explaining it, and should there be opposition that opposition is not as welcome to the Observer's columns as to state its objections to the charter.

Always keep in mind when thinking of the charter that you are contemplating a decided change in laws under which you will probably live for many years.

CHEAP BEEF FROM AUSTRALIA.

Australian beef is being sold in San Francisco 25 per cent cheaper than domestic beef. It seems strange that charges for a haul of several thousand miles can be paid and the product put on the market for 75 per cent of what is charged for meat from cattle raised

and slaughtered in our own country. The cause does not lie altogether with the beef trust and its artificially stimulated prices. That of course, is a contributing cause, the importance of which should not be underestimated. But the main cause is the fact that cattle raised for slaughtering purposes in the United States have not increased in anything like the same degree as has population. The reason for this is the disappearance of the great grazing lands of the west. The westward advance of agriculture has put the big ranches of ten or more years ago out of existence. The land has grown too valuable to be devoted exclusively to the cowboy and his picturesque occupation. The sheep started the raid on the cattle lands. Then came the grain farmer operating over several hundreds of acres. Now the general purpose farmer has come into possession of much of the west, and in many parts the farms of 160 acres or more are being split up into smaller parcels for truck gardening and orchards.

Australia and the Argentine republic have not reached this stage. Vast grazing lands still exist in both these countries. Manufacturing has not yet reached the proportions it has attained in this country. The population is still concentrated about the seaboard instead of being scattered over the whole continent. In the interior of the great island empire of Australia there are vast tracts that so far have not been reached except by exploring and hunting parties. In the Argentine the cowpuncher still holds sway over areas as large as many European principalities.

The process of transition, however, already is under way. For years sheep have pressed the cattle hard in Australia. In the Argentine there are wheat fields stretching as far as the eye can see. Some day both these countries will raise cattle for dairying and not for slaughtering purposes. When that day comes it will not be possible for them to pay the carriage costs over thousands of miles and still undersell American meat. In the meantime we might as well take advantage of the lower prices whenever we can.

THE LOBBY INVESTIGATION.

For many decades it has been the practice of the large corporate interests of the country to maintain at Washington paid representatives. Beginning in a modest way, this custom grew until, with the development of great trusts whose profits were measured by their relations with the government and particularly its legislative branch, these paid representatives have come to exercise a profound and not infrequently controlling influence in congress and public administration at Washington. This "third house" of congress is known as the lobby. The greater number of the lobbyists are shrewd and cunning and not a few, unscrupulous lawyers. Now, the first evil of the lobby is that it gives special interests—those receiving the privileges or immunities—an undue voice in the affairs of the government. The people are without special representatives at Washington. They have no lobby to look after their particular needs and rights. To be sure there are

congressmen and senators, but they do not represent the people exclusively. They must also represent the railroads, the manufacturers, public utilities and private concerns, in the sense they represent all interests and theoretically, must be fair to each. Thus, the lobby at Washington gives those who maintain it a double representation and that, too, in legislation of which they are beneficiaries.

The second evil of the lobby is that it has been allowed to exercise its purposes and choose its methods with a free and practically unrestrained hand. It is under no restrictions whatever in approaching members of congress, or in dealing with them or anybody else with authority or influence, except those that are automatically imposed by prudence in protecting their work from discovery and publicity. With this free reign the lobby has naturally gone to extremes. It has taken chances to secure its ends. At times bribery and other forms of corruption have been resorted to. In fact in recent years and especially when the tariff was up for consideration, it has been one grand and mad scramble for favors, and the means to secure them was a matter of small consideration.

When President Wilson denounced the lobby now seeking to influence tariff revision he struck the first appreciable blow at a very grave and very real evil. Incidentally he struck at the general viciousness of the system as we have outlined it and directly at its specific activities at this moment. The senate has voted to investigate the president's charges. That it has plenty to investigate goes without saying. The results will depend largely upon how thoroughly and how sincerely it conducts the inquiry. If it does its work courageously it will expose a condition that congress cannot longer refuse to correct through legislative measures which will stamp the lobby with its true character and force it to prosecute its work in the open. At the same time it will also have a powerful effect upon the pending tariff changes. The investigation comes at the psychological moment to

be of greatest value and to serve a highly useful end to both the administration of President Wilson and the country at large.

IMPROPER PACKING AGAIN.

For many years United States consuls have been sending back word from all over the world that careless packing was causing a prejudice against American goods. The British and German exporters, it has been said, frequently beat out Americans in orders because it is their habit to pack consignments in a way to insure safe delivery. It is a notorious fact, says the monthly bulletin of the bureau of railway economics, that cotton has been the most slovenly handled of all the agricultural products in the United States. The farmers often have left it exposed to be damaged by rain and infiltrated by mud. All too often it is loosely baled and improperly marked. It has been said that frequently cotton bales look like rag-bags when received at foreign ports. Government experts have estimated that between the gin and the spinner there is an annual waste of \$50,000,000.

To the Japanese we owe the impetus for a change in conditions. They signified some time ago that they would not accept cotton that was not clean, securely packed and plainly marked. After a few heavy cotton shipments were turned back on them the steamship lines joined the railroads in the effort the latter had been making for years to have the bales properly prepared for the long voyage. Now as the result of co-operative effort by the two branches of transportation the farmers are taking care to meet the demands of foreign consignees.

The reform well might extend to all export lines. The fact that for years American goods have arrived at their destination in the worst possible shape is a reflection on national standards of efficiency that we should no longer tolerate.

A Cornell professor advises students to borrow rather than earn mon-

ey for their course, but it is noted that he did not advise anyone to lend to them.

Kansas will need 40,000 harvest hands this year, but unfortunately most of the harvest hands are in vaudeville.

Robbers blew open the safe of a Standard Oil branch, but took no money. Evidently they were looking for gasoline.

When a girl tells you she doesn't

eat more than a bird, it is well to remember that the ostrich is also a bird.

Now they claim that George Washington used to write poetry. This American habit of shattering idols should be abolished.

A good many boys who are starting out to be president of this country evidently have that annual baseball plan in mind.

Outfit Yourself for the Fourth At a Great Saving

All New Styles in Men's Clothing Reduced 25 Per Cent. BENJAMIN \$20.00 TO \$30.00 SUITS Now \$15.00 to \$22.50. SOCIETY BRAND \$20.00 to \$27.50 SUITS Now \$15.00 to \$20.65. FIDELITY \$15.00 SUITS Now \$11.25. All other styles and makes reduced in proportion.

100 Men's and Young Men's Suits NOW HALF PRICE "See the Window." Boys' Xtragood Suits ALL REDUCED 25 PER CENT. Regular prices from \$5.00 to \$10.00. Now \$3.75 to \$7.50. 50 Boys' Suits in values to \$7.00. Your Choice now \$2.39. Gordon and Stetson Hats All Reduced.

Entire Line Women's Suits and Coats at Wholesale Cost and Below

Entire Shoe Stock Going at Great Reductions. None but the best makes to be found in our shelves or bargain counters. The price is the only cheap thing about our shoes.

50 Women's Tailored Suits Regular \$25.00 Values Your choice at the Remodeling Sale \$5.90

EVERY ARTICLE IN THE STORE REDUCED DURING THIS GREAT FORCED SACRIFICE OF NEW HIGH GRADE MERCHANDISE. NOT A SALE OF ODDS AND ENDS OR CHEAP GOODS JUST HIGH QUALITY MERCHANDISE AT UNPARALLELED LOW PRICES.

West's Remodeling Sale

The Test of Time

Time determines whether the policies under which a bank is operated are safe. This bank has been in business twenty-six years. It has grown steadily until it has become one of the strongest and most prosperous financial institutions in the West. The soundness of its policies is attested by the long list of conservative business men who transact their business here; also by an earned surplus of \$1,000,000, the work of time and the result of conservative management. This bank has facilities for taking care of more high grade business and offers its services to those who appreciate the best in banking.

La Grande National Bank La Grande, Oregon

Capital, \$100,000.00 Surplus, \$130,000.00 Resources, 1,500,000.00 DESIGNATED DEPOSITORY OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. UNITED STATES POSTAL SAVINGS DEPOSITORY.

FRUIT JARS

Phone Orders for Quick Delivery

THE FRUIT SEASON IS JUST AT ITS BEST FOR BERRIES THIS WEEK. DON'T DELAY BUT SELECT YOUR JARS AND DO YOUR CANNING WHILE YOU CAN OBTAIN PERFECT BERRIES.

Mason jars

Table with 3 columns: Jar Size, Second Hand Price, New Jar Price. Pints: \$.60, \$.75; Quarts: .75, .90; Half Gallons: .90, 1.25

California, large mouth, Mason jars

Table with 3 columns: Jar Size, Second Hand Price, New Jar Price. Pints: .85, 1.10; Quarts: .95, 1.25; Half Gallons: 1.10, 1.50

Economy jars

Table with 3 columns: Jar Size, Second Hand Price, New Jar Price. Pints: .85, 1.25; Quarts: 1.10, 1.50; Half Gallons: 1.25, 1.75

F. D. HAISTEN FURNITURE ON EASY PAYMENTS