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THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS, Editor and Owner

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HUMORING THEIR CUSTOMS.

George Kennan, staff writer for the Outlook, has in a recent issue an article on our trade with China which is of interest to all concerned exporting their goods beyond the national boundaries. The point made in this article is that American business men in the far east are being beaten by the Germans and the Japanese simply because the latter take the trouble to humor the whims and notions of their oriental customers.

The point is illustrated by a story from which the title of the article—"Crews in Blue Paper and Our Trade with China"—is taken. It seems that some time ago a Chinese wholesale dealer went to an American commercial agent in one of the treaty ports of China and announced that he was about to place an order for a large quantity of assorted screws. He was shown samples, given prices and seemed to be satisfied with both. He objected, however, to the color of the paper in which the screws were wrapped. This paper was brown. He wanted blue.

Instead of humoring him in the

whim and telling him that he would make the change desired the American agent attempted to argue. The result was that the Chinese merchant went to a German who told him that while he could not deliver screws in blue paper immediately he would if given a little time. He secured the order and the man's steady custom.

The preference of the customer for blue paper is of course, hard to understand. After all he was buying screws, not paper, as the American pointed out. At the same time, those asking for trade cannot make over the peculiar orientals to suit themselves. The Germans and Japs do not try. They pleasantly adjust themselves to the most mysterious and nonsensical requests.

All over the world consular agents report that American exporters show a pronounced unwillingness to respect local prejudices and whimsicalities in the little things that make for friendship and good will. If this country is to have a large foreign trade it must change its tactics or be outstripped by those willing to take their customers as they find them.

Baltimore woman chased a thief who stole her husband's trousers the other night. Every wife should have the first chance to go through her husband's trousers.

A skunk farm has been started near Utica, N. Y., which only goes to show that not all of the skunks are in New York politics.

But it will be a pretty nifty exposition at San Francisco if no nation takes part in it excepting the United States.

Occasionally the poor workman gets his. Texas is raising a fund of \$50,000 to present to Secretary Bryan.

Wonder if the increase in the price of silk will have any effect on race suicide.

A JUST KICK.

La Grande, Aug. 19.—(To the Editor)—Ladd Canyon taxpayers are ap-

pealing to the auto club to help get the road leading from the Geocler lane to Ladd Canyon passable. There has not been one dollar spent on the road this year and it has been impossible much of the year, and at the present time the road is in bad shape. This is something unusual as this road has been kept up and dragged by the taxpayers. For two months it was not in shape to travel on account of the water from Ladd creek filling up the ditches which are higher than the road. The parties say that the coming winter the road will be impassable all winter if something is not done to it. At the new ditch made last year, the bridge is in bad shape, sinking, and a few months ago the ditch broke and washed part of the road out and they hauled a few loads of dirt and dumped it without leveling. It is impossible to get through with a big load. This is a disgrace to any community; they want the road dragged and rounded up so it can be used in the fall and winter. They claim there has been no bridge building in this district and there should be some money to spend on this road and request the general public to help them get their just dues. This road must be fixed up for traffic, at once or there will be something doing.

A. V. ANDREWS, Secretary Auto Club.

HARRY THAW PRISONER.

(Continued from Page 1.)

Bordeau thinks that he has the slayer of Stanford White. No decision has been made as to what action will be taken, if any will be taken against Thaw or whether he will be deported as an undesirable person. Later he admitted his identity, but at first he denied his name was Thaw. No one here can identify the stranger.

Arrested on Train.

Coaticook, Quebec, Aug. 19.—Officers today arrested a train on the suspicion that it carried as a passenger, Harry K. Thaw. The man suspected denied such as his identity. He refuses to disclose his identity and is held pending an investigation.

Thaw's Mother in Ignorance.

New York, Aug. 19.—Mrs. William Thaw, before leaving this morning for Elmhurst, her summer home, denied any knowledge of the whereabouts of her son Harry. She declared that she had had no news from him except the letter of yesterday in which he promised to come to Elmhurst when he was rested. Before leaving she was served with a summons for a \$53,000 suit by J. D. Gleason, who was Thaw's lawyer in the first trial.

WANTED—A cook, man preferred, for special occasion from August 26 to August 30. Phone Red 712. Adv. 8-19

PROPOSED CHARTER PRESENTED TO LEGAL VOTERS

For the benefit of legal voters who may not have time to devote careful study to the proposed charter, the Observer will from time to time present sections of the proposed commission form of government. In this way the

voters can absorb portions of the charter each day and probably become additionally acquainted with the provisions of the document. Today presents the fifth installment.

(Continued from Monday's Daily.)

shade and other ornamental trees; to regrade, repave, replank, regravell, recurb and otherwise reimprove the highways, streets, avenues, lanes, alleys and sidewalks of the City; to provide for the payment of the expense thereof and to levy special assessments in the manner provided in Section 10 of Chapter VI of this Charter, upon the property which is specially benefited by such improvement.

Sprinkling Streets.

Section 39. To provide for the sprinkling, flushing, cleaning and repair of any or all streets in the city and to pay for the same out of the general fund, or levy special assessments upon the property benefited thereby in the manner provided in Section 10, Chapter VI of this Charter, hereinbefore stated.

House Moving; Dangerous Buildings.

Section 40. To prevent the erection or moving of buildings within the city limits, which shall be dangerous to the passersby or to the adjacent property, or an obstruction to public travel, and in case any building or any public street shall become dangerous to passersby, the Commission shall have power to cause the same to be removed or made safe at the expense of the property, upon five days' notice to the owner thereof or agent thereof; and to determine by resolution when the same is dangerous. Such expense shall be made a lien upon the property and shall be levied, assessed and collected in the same manner as assessments for street improvements and the Commission may regulate the time and manner of, and prohibit the removal of buildings through the streets of the City, and may designate the character of building which may or may not be moved.

Regulating Poles; Wires; Cables and Underground Conduits.

Section 41. To allow, authorize, provide for and regulate the erection, maintenance and removal of telegraph, telephone, electric light, electric railway and other poles, wires and cables, and the laying and use of underground conduits or subways for the same, in, under, upon and over the streets, alleys or public parks, and public grounds of the said city, and in, under, over, and upon any lands, owned, or under the control of the city, whether they be inside the limits of said city or not; and to require all such wires and cables to be laid in said conduits or subways.

Appropriating Money.

Section 42. To appropriate money and pay debts, liabilities and expenditures of the City, or any part or item thereof.

Taking Census; Deaths and Births; Sextons and Physicians.

Section 43. To provide for a census of the inhabitants of the City; to regulate the burial of the dead and require registration of all births and deaths; to provide suitable penalties for the violation of ordinances enacted under this power; to create a Department of Health and the office of City Physician and prescribe his duties.

Regulating Storage of Gun Powder; Dynamite.

Section 44. To regulate and restrict the storage of gun powder, dynamite, giant powder, nitro-glycerine, oil and other combustible material, and to prevent their manufacture in the city, and to prevent by all proper means, danger or risks or injury or damage by fire, arising from carelessness, negligence or otherwise.

Duties of Officers.

Section 45. To prescribe the duties of all officers of the City, other than the Commissioners, either elective or appointive and to require each to give a surety bond for the faithful performance of his duties in such sums as the Commission shall designate, the premiums on said bonds to be paid from the general fund of the City Treasury.

To Exercise Power.

Section 46. To exercise such power and authority as may be given to the Commission in this Charter, subject, however, to the initiative, referendum and recall, (as now, or may hereafter, be provided by the general laws of the State of Oregon.)

Powers, How Exercised.

Section 47. The power and authority given to the Commission by this Charter, wherein the same when exercised is municipal legislation, can only be exercised or enforced by ordinance, unless otherwise expressly provided, but all powers and authority given to the Commission by this Charter not amounting to municipal legislation may be exercised either by ordinance or resolution, in the discretion of the Commission, except as otherwise herein provided. And the Commission, upon concurrence of any two Commissioners may pass any ordinance or resolution not repugnant to the Constitution and laws of the United States and of the State of Oregon, necessary or convenient for carrying into effect any power or authority granted by this Charter, except wherein limited by the provisions of this Charter.

Limitations of Power.

Section 48. The Commission shall not have power:
1. To authorize or make any contract for continuous service for a longer period than five (5) years, but the payment of a debt may be limited in time not to exceed twenty (20) years.
2. To grant a franchise, even after a referendum, for a longer period than twenty-five (25) years.

CHAPTER VII.

PUBLIC UTILITIES AND FRANCHISES.

Public Utilities.

Section 1. The City of La Grande shall have the power to construct, condemn, purchase, add to, acquire, maintain, operate and own all or any part of any public utility or any plant or enterprise, for the purpose of serving the city and the people thereof for uses public and private. Such power may be exercised in any lawful manner and shall include the power to purchase, condemn or otherwise acquire any franchise heretofore granted to operate a public utility.

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construct, condemn, purchase, add to, acquire, maintain, operate and own all or any part of any public utility or any plant or enterprise, for the purpose of serving the city and the people thereof for uses public and private. Such power may be exercised in any lawful manner and shall include the power to purchase, condemn or otherwise acquire any franchise heretofore granted to operate a public utility.

Power of City to Construct or Acquire.

Section 2. The City shall have the power to construct and acquire in any legal way and to maintain and operate works, plants and facilities for the purpose of doing any and all municipal work by direct employment of labor under the supervision of the City and may use such works, plants and facilities and the product thereof, for the purpose of doing municipal work of all kinds, and shall have the power to sell such product for use in the construction of municipal improvements of the City. It shall have power to provide payment for the whole or any part of local improvements constructed or done by the City directly under the provisions of this section as may be provided by issuing bonds as provided by Chapter VI, Section 4, of this Charter or by the use of any moneys in the general fund at the end of the fiscal year.

Public Utility Defined.

Section 3. The term "public utility" as used in this Charter shall be deemed to include every plant, property or system engaged in the public service within the City or operated as a public utility as such terms are commonly understood.

Regulation of Utilities.

Section 4. The Commission shall have general supervision and power of regulation of all public utilities within the City of La Grande, and of all persons and corporations engaged in the operation thereof, subject to the provisions of this Charter.

Public Utility Certificates.

Section 5. The Commission is hereby granted power to issue and sell interest bearing public utility certificates for the construction or acquisition by purchase, condemnation or otherwise of any public utility to be operated within the City. The certificates shall be secured by a mortgage or mortgages upon such public utility plant, and the revenues thereof, but the same shall not be a general liability of the City and shall be paid solely from the revenues derived from the plant or from the sale thereof. Such power shall be exercised only by ordinances which shall be subject to referendum in like manner and upon like terms and conditions as ordinances granting franchises.

Investigation of Public Utilities.

Section 6. The Commission shall have the power to investigate from time to time, and whenever they shall deem that the public service, health or welfare require it, the affairs, business and property of any public utility within the City. For that purpose they have the right to compel attendance of witnesses and the production of books, papers and records, and of entry in person or by authorized agent upon any premises or places of any person or corporation engaged in the operation of a public utility. They shall have the power to control, regulate and order such changes, improvements, extensions, additional facilities, appliances or equipment in or upon the plant and property of any person or corporation operating public utilities within the City as may be deemed necessary to promote the public interest, convenience or safety, and to protect its employees in the construction, maintenance or operation of any such public utilities. Every charge, rate, fee or compensation made, charged or demanded by any person or corporation engaged in the operation of a public utility within the City of La Grande for any service rendered or to be rendered shall be just, fair and reasonable. The Commission shall have power to hear and determine what is just, fair and reasonable rates, fees and charges and to fix and limit such rates, fees and charges and for that purpose may make valuations of the property of any person or corporation engaged in the operation of a public utility within the City.

To that end they may make and enforce regulations providing that at any time of construction or acquisition of any plant or property rendering a public service and of any improvement or additions thereto the person or corporation having charge thereof shall record with the City Recorder a description of all property which such person or corporation shall intend to present for such valuation and all later improvements when made, together with full information as to the cost thereof and vouchers supporting the same, to the end that a complete record of all property to be valued under this section shall be at all times available.

Public Utility Shall File Report.

Section 7. Every person or corporation operating a public utility within the City rendering service to be paid for wholly or in part by the users of such service shall keep full and correct books and accounts and make quarterly reports in writing to the Commission verified by such person or an officer of the corporation, which shall contain an accurate statement in summarized form as well as in detail of all receipts from all sources and all expenditures for all purposes, together with a full statement of all assets and debts including stock and bond issues as well as such other information as to the cost and profits of such service, and the financial condition of such grantee as the Commission may require. Such reports shall be public and a summary thereof shall be printed as a part of the annual report of the Recorder, and the Commission may inspect or examine, or cause to be inspected or examined, at all reasonable hours, any and all books of account and vouchers of such grantee.

(b) Reports shall be made in accordance with forms and methods prescribed by the Commissioners and so far as practicable shall be uniform for all grantees and holders of franchises, and shall, except for important and necessary changes, conform to such reports as are required by state or federal public utility commissions.

(c) Every failure or neglect on the part of the grantee or holder of a franchise to keep books of account or to make reports under this section shall be deemed an offense and the Commission may by ordinance provide for the punishment of every such violation, failure or neglect by fine or imprisonment, or both, of the person or persons whose duty it shall be to keep such books of account and make such reports.

(d) The enumeration in this chapter of any particular or special power or duty shall be construed as additional and supplemental to any and all other powers residing in or otherwise conferred upon the City of La Grande by law.

Power of Commission to Make Rules.

Section 8. The Commissioners shall have power to make all orders, rules and regulations necessary or appropriate to carry into effect the powers granted and to make the same effective by penalties and forfeitures, and upon failure by any franchise holder to comply with any of the requirements of the provisions of this Charter for a period of thirty (30) days after notice, the Commission shall have power to declare by ordinance a forfeiture of the franchise under which any person or corporation so failing to comply is operating a public utility within the City of La Grande.

(2) Every such order, rule or regulation of the Commission shall

(To Be Continued.)

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 \$1,100,000.00, 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, 1,100,000.00

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UNITED STATES POSTAL SAVINGS DEPOSITORY.