

THE OBSERVER

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THOSE POTATOES.

Mayor Frank Smith and a bunch of Elgin citizens were here attending Elks lodge Thursday night and incidentally the prospective potato crop and market were mentioned. Mayor Smith in reply said: "Elgin people can always be counted upon to do the right thing. Last year when potatoes were worth more than nothing and Elgin had hundreds of carloads to sell, you would have thought the people there would have become discouraged. Not so; they buckled up their suspenders and went right after the same game this season. As a result we have more potatoes than anybody and prospects are really good for a fair price. If things should shift around and potatoes hit the dollar-a-sack mark Elgin people will actually have to come to La Grande to spend their money—they will have so much of it."

Let us inwardly hope for that dollar-a-sack price this fall.

VISIONARY PHILOSOPHY.

According to "Vorwaerts" the central organ of the German Social Democratic party, in an article which is quoted at length in the Milwaukee Leader, Prussian Socialists are earnestly debating a proposal to engage in a "mass strike" for suffrage reform similar to that which was successfully waged in Berlin recently. Whether or not the step is to be taken will be decided at a national convention of the party within a few weeks. "Vorwaerts" points out the difference between the situation in Belgium and that in Prussia, and suggests the probability that the convention will decide that the time is not yet ripe for such a critical test of power. It is shown that two widely differing elements in the party are favorable to the strike proposal, one hoping merely for the abolition of plural voting, which would be the ostensible purpose of the strike, while the other, influenced by syndicalists, dramas of a show of power which would rapidly augment the ranks of the militant proletariat and effect a direct blow at capitalism. This latter visionary philosophy has not made much headway in Germany, and its employment in the present agitation seems more likely to give pause to the rank and file of the Socialist voters than to hurry them on. News dispatches from Berlin contain

statements that might be looked upon as a sufficient reason for the impatience of the syndicalists. One of these is to the effect that the official annual report of the executive committee of the Social Democratic party recently published shows the smallest increase in membership in the history of the party—so small in fact that it verges on stagnation. This confirms reports current for some time that the Socialist movement reached the crest of the wave a year ago, when 110 socialists were elected to the reichstag, and indicates that the party is threatened with disintegration. In the fact of this it is to be expected that the radical element would seek to take radical steps to turn the tide.

The falling off in socialistic interest is attributed to internecine warfare, between the radicals and the conservatives in the party, and dissatisfaction over the lack of practical results. According to the official report the increase in membership during the year was only 12,748, of which 10,744 were women. There is also a decided falling off in the number of subscribers to socialist newspapers, which on March 31 last were 1,465,212 compared with 1,478,042 on June 30, 1912. "Vorwaerts" with a circulation of 165,000 lost 8,000 subscribers.

The question of plural voting is one that involves England as well as Germany. It is a system that gives a man with property spread over several election districts, the right to cast a vote in each of them. It is an injustice inasmuch as it gives the wealthy man a decided advantage over his poor neighbor, providing him with a greater voice in the elections. The English house of commons passed a bill to abolish it but the house of lords, true to its Tory traditions, rejected the measure overwhelmingly. But it is a reform that will come, both in England and in Germany, and it will not be necessary to resort to the socialist and socialistic proposal of the "mass strike."

It is to be hoped that the newspapers will soon get Thaw off of the front page.

Some of the fruit men of this section will surprise themselves on the returns from their orchards this year just as the cherry grower was happily surprised.

The police force is ordered not to spare anyone under the speeding ordinance and in that same ordinance there was nothing said about raising the speed limit. Have you run a machine over Fourth street yet? When you do, note the temptation it is to step on its tail and kick open the cut-out. However, law is law and it must be respected, so do away with the speeders. Slow moving automobiles seldom do damage.

There will be some mighty interesting subjects discussed by those Methodist ministers who are soon to come, so arrange to give a few evenings to their meetings.

It seems to be a concrete fact that La Grande is to have concrete paving. And the price seems to be right. By the way, the price of paving is really an essential factor in town development.

The bitulithic people claim to have the best top for paving and there is good ground for their claim. The concrete people claim to have the best base, and there seemingly is

abundant ground for their claim from a common sense standpoint. Yet, it is claimed a patent prevents the using of a bitulithic top on a concrete base. One instance where the patent laws are working a hardship on the vox populi. If the matter were put to the United States supreme court when it is in the frame of mind to do a little boss busting there might be an adverse ruling on such a condition.

The Dollarway paving people went home happy although they did not get even expense money out of the La Grande paving scrap. But one of them said: "We helped kill the king, anyway." Just what was meant he did not explain.

A few years ago hard working people were supposed to look at the rich with envy and resentment. Now they merely deride the occupants for not having a more up-to-date car.

There is a demand that the Washington lobbyists wear badges. The congressmen would then know where to go for advice.

It is said that frequently President Wilson is not recognized on the street. This would be serious if he were an alderman.

The merchant who don't advertise at this season at least won't have to bother to buy much new stock next spring.

Boy Scouts to Camp.

The Boy Scouts are going on a week's camping trip and will start Tuesday, August 26, to Beaver creek. All scouts desiring to go should notify the assistant scout master if they have not already done so. The boys will go a-foot.

TESTING POLICE DOGS.

New York, Aug. 23.—A taxicab containing four gunmen dashed up to a bench on which two men were sitting in Van Cortlandt park today. One of the bandits, brandishing an automatic revolver was proceeding to "stick up" the two men on the bench when a policeman a hundred yards away came into sight. He sounded his police whistle and, drawing his revolver, he started on a run toward the scene of the hold-up, firing as he advanced. The three gunmen in the taxicab answered the policeman's fire as did the driver also.

As the policeman came up with the taxicab six policemen leading a half dozen rangy police dogs entered the park and made for the scene of the shooting. When the police reserves were within a few yards of the bandits they loosed the dogs which made for the would-be robbers. Two of the dogs leaped to the front seat of the cab and pulled the driver to the ground while the others made for the man who had been sticking up the victims. He was soon thrown to the ground. The three robbers in the cab threw their guns out and surrendered. After some difficulty the police pulled the dogs away from the bandits and the taxicab driver. Some 20,000 spectators cheered lustily.

This was but one of the exciting numbers on the program at Van Cortlandt park today when the New York public was invited to witness the police dog trials and competitions. Many high police and city officials attended. Entered in the competitions were a number of dogs trained by the famous German police dog instructors, Boetger and Oshurtz, brought over espe-

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WEST'S REMODELING SALE

INDUSTRIAL RELIEF SLOW

COMMISSION CREATED OVER A YEAR AGO INACTIVE.

Fearful That Hughes-Borah Bill Will Not Become Effective.

Washington, Aug. 23.—Economists who hailed with delight the enactment of the law creating an industrial commission just about one year ago, today are besieging congress for some action in the matter.

The measure, which was passed with considerable eclat, has not yet become effective, simply because no commissioners have yet been able to undertake the work. President Taft nominated nine commissioners but they "died" with the last congress. More than a month ago President Wilson sent in the names of nine persons, but so far the senate has failed to act on them. The fear is now expressed that unless the commission is soon able to get down to work, it cannot complete the task assigned to it in the time specified in the creative law. The Hughes-Borah bill establishing the body specified that it must report to congress within three years after passage of the measure. One year already has passed without any action at all.

If the commission lived up strictly to the scope of the work outlined for it, it is expected to be one of the most important steps ever taken toward solutions growing out of the age-old war between capital and labor. It originated with some of the ablest thinkers and best known industrial students in the country, about the time that the nation was shocked by the McNamara dynamiting confessions. It was designed to ascertain exactly the relations between the employers and their employes in every field of labor.

The law provides for a commission of nine members, three representing the employers three representing the employes and three representing the public. The members are to be paid their expenses and \$10 a day while actually working. The commission is given broad inquisitorial powers. Its specific duty is to inquire into the general condition of labor in the United States in all the principal industries including agricultural, and especially into the industries controlled by corporations; to study the effect of industrial conditions on public welfare; to study conditions of sanitation and safety; of employes; to investigate labor unions and associations and organizations of employes; to investigate disputes between capital and labor and formulate some plan of settlement to be suggested to congress.

Just why the nominations have been held up in the senate this session has not been made clear except that certain southern senators are said to be dissatisfied that there is not enough representation from that section in the membership. Those named by President Wilson are:

Representing the employers: Frederick A. Delano, president of the Wabash railroad; Harris Weinstock, merchant, of California; S. Thurston Ballard, manufacturer, of Kentucky.

Representing labor: James O'Connell, president of the metal trades department of the American Federation

of Labor; John B. Lennon, treasurer of the American Federation of Labor; A. B. Garretson, chief of the Order of Railroad conductors.

Representing the public: Mrs. J. Borden Harriman, of New York; Frank P. Walsh, Kansas City; John R. Commons, of the University of Wisconsin.

Elgin Band on Tour. The Elgin band today went to Wal-lowa lake for an over-Sunday outing. An extra coach was needed on the Joseph train to accommodate the extra traffic from Elgin on. The tourists will return tomorrow evening.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED STREET IMPROVEMENTS.

To whom it may concern: You are hereby notified that the commissioners appointed by the common council, of the city of La Grande, Oregon, to make an examination of the property, upon which assessments are to be levied to pay the costs and expenses of the street improvement hereinafter described, as to the valuation and extent, if any of the benefits to be derived by said property by reason of said improvement, have made their report in writing to said council, which report has been received by said council, and is on file in the office of the recorder of said city, and is open for your inspection. That it is the intention of said council to levy a special assessment against all the property hereinafter described for the purpose of paying the costs and expenses of improving Fourth street from the south line of "O" avenue to the north line of "C" avenue, by laying thereon Gravel Bitulithic pavement, according to the plans and specifications therefor heretofore adopted by said council and on file in the office of the recorder of said city.

That the real property included in and the boundaries of the district benefited and affected by said proposed

improvements are as follows: Commencing at the northeast corner of block No. 59, Chaplin's addition to the city of La Grande, Oregon; running thence west to a point 10 feet west of the northwest corner of lot 4, block No. 74 of said addition; running thence due south to the north line of "C" avenue; thence running east to the southeast corner of block No. 10, Chaplin's addition to the city of La Grande; thence north to the place of beginning, the same consisting of and including the following described real property: Blocks 10, 11, 20, 21, 30, 31, 40, 41, 50, 51, 58 and 59 of Chaplin's addition to the city of La Grande; the east half of blocks 74, 75, 88, 89 and 96 of Chaplin's addition to the city of La Grande, and blocks 11, 10 and 1 of Arnold & Dray's addition to the town of La Grande (now the city of La Grande) and the east half of blocks 4 and 5 of Arnold's addition to the town of La Grande (now the city of La Grande), and the east half of block 4 D street, of the original town site of La Grande (now the city of La Grande), and the east half of that certain tract of land lying and being between Third and Fourth streets, and "K" avenue, known as the school house property, all in the city of La Grande, Oregon, and the estimated cost of said proposed improvement is \$40,000.00. You will further take notice that said city council will meet at the council chamber in the city building of said city on the 3rd day of September, 1913, at eight o'clock p. m. of said day to consider making said proposed levy and will then and there grant a hearing to any and all persons feeling aggrieved against, or on account of, said proposed assessment.

Dated at La Grande, Oregon this 16th day of August, 1913.

CITY COUNCIL OF LA GRANDE, OREGON,

By LEE WARNICK, Recorder of the City of La Grande, Oregon. Daily, Aug. 23 to Sept. 3 10 t.

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 \$130,000.00, 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

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