

THE OBSERVER

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Entered in the post-office at La Grande, Oregon, as second class matter.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

Daily, single copy 5c.
 Daily, per week 15c.
 Daily, per month 65c.
 Daily, per six months in advance \$3.50.
 Daily, per year in advance \$7.00.
 Daily, by mail per year in advance \$4.00.
 Weekly Observer, per year in advance \$1.50.

Advertising rates on application. All copy for display advertising must reach the office the day before the ad appears.

Address all communications to THE OBSERVER, 1710 Sixth St., La Grande, Oregon.

SMOTHERING NEW CHARTER.

The city council stood tied on an ordinance last evening which, if it had passed, would have opened the registration books before Wednesday's election and would have given all citizens who have not registered an opportunity to register enabling them to vote for or against the charter.

Granting that four members of the council were afraid of legal complications, the effect is the same as though they were openly rebellious against the charter and doing everything possible to defeat it, for the action last evening resulted in preventing a full vote of the people on the measure.

Legal technicalities were discussed and the entire council had such able legal talent as Judge Crawford, C. H. Finn and City Attorney Rusk to assure them that the opening of the registration books was clearly within the power of the council, yet the vote on opening those books again before the election, stood: For opening—Haisten, Sargent, Jones, Campbell. Against opening the books—Fitzgerald, Lincoln Davis and Wright.

The mayor has no vote in such matters, hence the vote stood four and four and the measure was lost.

The action of the council means that La Grande people who failed to register are denied suffrage at the coming election. It means that the people as a whole cannot exercise a right given to them by the constitution of the United States. It means that the expression of Tuesday's election will not be a voice of the voting population of La Grande, no matter whether the result is for or against the charter.

THE GREATEST FAIR OF ALL.

Nothing is in the path now to hinder Union County's annual fair from being the greatest ever held east of the mountains. When the farmers of the Imbler country decided to take a very important part in the exposition, that settled the question of success, for without the full co-operation of the farmers no fair can win.

Excellent crops this year will give the choicest grain, fruit, dairy products and live stock and the pavilion at the fair grounds should be one of the grandest sights ever be held insofar as depicting what nature can and will do in this valley with the help of man.

LOOKS BAD FOR SULZER.

Developments in the impeachment proceedings of Governor Sulzer of New York shows what bad state of political affairs the great commonwealth of New York is up against.

Tammany, admittedly the most corrupt political organization in the nation, has impeached a governor who was elected by the people as a reformer. Yet evidence goes to show that Sulzer is as bad as Tammany, and in fact has been one of the bunch until after he was elected and refused to "stay put."

It is no wonder the populace of the east is crying out for relief; that they are turning their faces westward where real political freedom exists and are asking how to accomplish results.

It's the real financier who holds paid in full receipts for a new fall hat and a ton of coal at the same time.

Chicago is planning a cell-less jail for incorrigible boys. Mob rule in this place will probably necessitate a standing army.

The Netherlands have almost decided to let their women vote. Probably this concession comes as a reward for not throwing bricks through the king's window.

Nothing to worry about—the announcement that 200,000 years hence the big dipper will have disappeared. Evidently it is not going to wink out.

A Remedy Suggested.

(Written before last night's council meeting.)

La Grande, Sept. 27.—To the Editor:—No little discussion has been had over the interpretation of Chapter 323 of the Laws passed by the last legislature, as it relates to the city election to be held in La Grande on October 1st, for the passage or rejection of a new city charter.

I believe that this act is within the Oregon constitution. If it is not it is impossible to get a decision before the election. The only safe thing to do, therefore, is to follow the provisions of the act. This law repeals all registration acts heretofore existing and gives a right to vote only to those who have registered under the provisions of this act since it became operative, last June. It applies to municipal elections as well as to county and state elections and under its provisions no person can vote at our city election, unless properly registered before that time. There can be no swearing in of voters on election day. A person regularly registered must be so registered at least fifteen days before the election, and ample provision is made for every elector to register fifteen days before the election, even though he is in another state, so that the constitutional requirements are complied with, and those who have neglected to register have only themselves to blame.

The last clause of Section 5 declares "This law shall not operate to prevent any additional registration required by the charter or ordinances of any city or town." It is possible that

this provision would make valid registrations made prior to election day under the provisions of an ordinance regularly passed by the city council. It is, also, possible that the courts would hold that this provision applies only to charters or ordinances passed prior to the enactment of Chapter 323 by the Legislature. A decision by the circuit court could be obtained on this point in the manner heretofore suggested by the bar association. It seems to me that this is the only safe method to pursue, and to allow any person to vote who has not registered would invalidate the election and cause uncertainty as to the validity of the new charter, if passed. Let the city council then pass an ordinance at once opening up the registration books until the day before election. Let all register who will. Prepare a moot mandamus suit and argue the same and submit it with briefs to Judge Knowles, so that he can have his mind made up before the real case will be presented. Early on the morning of election day let one of these late registrations present himself to the election board and offer his ballot. The election officers could refuse to permit him to vote because not registered fifteen days before the election. The case could be at once submitted to the judge, who could render his decision immediately, and if he would hold that this clause in section 5 would permit the city council to pass an emergency ordinance and that those who registered under the provisions of the ordinance would have a right to vote, then all who have so registered could cast their ballots. Otherwise the balloting would be confined to those electors who took interest enough to register within the time provided by law.

There is no doubt that if the proposed charter gets a majority of the votes of electors who are properly registered, that it will take the place instead of our present defective city charter. I have not examined carefully all the provisions of the proposed new charter, but the portion I have examined is much better than the present. I do not think any mistake will be made by adopting the new charter, because anything would be better than the present one.

TURNER OLIVER.

GREAT IMPROVEMENT AT HOT LAKE.

Great work has been done at Hot Lake since Dr. Tape took charge of the institution. Day after day and week after week a force of men have been kept busy cleaning, scrubbing, painting and papering until the exterior of the Sanatorium certainly has a clean, inviting appearance now.

A representative of the Observer spent last evening at the Lake and it is decidedly a satisfaction to see the improvement made. The system adopted and the general operating scheme which has been installed.

Hot Lake Sanatorium is now a watering place. Dr. Tape has abiding faith in the hot water as a cure for many ailments and patients drink the water and take baths and very little medicine is given.

"I am convinced," said Dr. Tape, "that this is a nature cure. I have seen them come so often on a stretcher, drink this water, bathe in it and go home in a few weeks feeling fine," that there is not the least doubt as to the merits of it. Instead of giving medicine, performing surgical operations and maintaining a hospital, I prefer to let the water accomplish results, and it positively will do it."

It is a wonderful spring and is admitted by all to be the superior of all hot water watering places. To accommodate the guests the doctor has made many changes in the bath house, adding cooling rooms which are all private, nicely carpeted and very clean. The plumbing has been gone over and every feature of the bathing department has been perfected.

The room formerly used for a grill room has been changed into a room for other service and the former cafeteria has been made into a large, commodious dining room where all guests eat and enjoy each other's association. The lobby of the Sanatorium has undergone a general overhauling, renovating, repainting and retinting until one would hardly know it was the same place. Foundations have been repaired and the heating plant rebuilt.

From the dining room to the bath house everything works on a schedule and nothing is left undone.

Mike Roach, one of the best known men in the northwest, meets the guest with a smile at the desk, finds out what he wants and fits him with room and a pleasant word. Throughout the entire house there is marked cheerfulness. Whether all employees feel like smiling or not, they smile just the same, and the effect is good on anyone who is ill.

While the run of business was light when Dr. Tape took charge of the institution, it being the summer time when business there is always at low ebb, yet the register indicates a constant increase in business and now the lobby is comfortably filled with guests, many of whom come from Astoria, Spokane, some from Denver and a few from Kansas City, Mo.

"We feel well repaid for our efforts thus far," were the words of Dr. Tape, "and we know that it will not be long until this spring will have the standing it is entitled to have."

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West
THE QUALITY STORE

MANAGER A PANACEA.
(Continued from Page One.)

by centralized authority in administration is not a debatable question, except on the adoption of a commission form of government for the city of La Grande.

If those who are now opposing the commission charter are stockholders in any corporation it is quite certain their attitude as to a manager for that corporation is entirely the reverse of the position they are taking on this municipal question. Keep firmly in mind, that every citizen of La Grande is a stockholder in the municipal corporation.

A few words to the taxpayers and laboring men:

Do you taxpayers want the city warrants to go begging at from ten to 35 per cent discount, as the records show they have been in past years, besides interest being added to the principal?

We have seen La Grande warrants on the general fund sell at 35 per cent below par, and we have seen them cashed for their face value.

The deferred payment on the present issue of warrants will take about three years for redemption. When they sold at par they were paid within the year following.

Now, you laboring men, do you want your pay in warrants due in three years with about 15 per cent discount? Or, would you rather have your pay check every Saturday night?

When a corporation meets its payroll it does not give its men promises to pay in three years. Why should the city force laborers to loan it money for three years when the average laborer has no money to loan?

Besides what the creditors and laborers for the city lose by such a system see what the taxpayer has to meet.

People selling to the city add to the price charged the amount of discount on warrants, but the laboring man cannot do that. While the city pays these excessive prices and interest on warrants. Looking over the record book of warrants it would simply paralyze the ordinary taxpayers to compute the enormous amount of money that the city has lost in interest and discount in the last 15 years.

Can all this be changed under the managerial system?

The warrants have been brought to par once in the last 15 years, even under the old system, but there is no question about it being done under the proposed charter. By stopping the leaks, the waste and the lost motion.

Take the water system under the commission form of government. By applying proper methods of business and crediting this department with its entire earnings the interest on two sets of water bonds can be paid out of the proceeds without levying a special tax of \$11,000 per year, as is the custom now. Every department can be run separately on its merits with a minimum expense and maximum efficiency.

The power now going to waste in the Beaver creek pipe line can be made a great source of revenue and the enormous expense of street lighting can be reduced to the cost of operation.

Some laboring men seem to have the idea that if a manager is installed he will hire special men from the outside and cut out our own citizens. This is entirely a mistaken idea viewed from any standpoint of the fundamentals of good government; that we all agree is the end to be sought by the proposed change in our form of government.

UNION COUNTY
Booster Special

TRAIN

—TO—

WALLOWA COUNTY FAIR
Tuesday, September 30th.

LEAVE LA GRANDE AT 8 A. M., ARRIVE ENTERPRISE AT 11:45 A. M.

RETURNING
LEAVE ENTERPRISE AT 5:30 P. M., ARRIVE LA GRANDE AT 9:00 P. M.

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