

COVE CHERRY EXHIBIT DUE

PLANS ON FOOT TO BRING RARE EXHIBIT TO FAIR.

Stackland Brothers Contemplate the Bringing of Cherry Exhibit Here.

ENTRY PERIOD CLOSES AT NOON.

At noon on the eighth day of October, all exhibits for the county fair must be in place. This is the final edict on the matter by the fair management, and as the period of the fair has been shortened, it behooves the exhibitors to get their goods into place before noon of the opening day. It is absolutely necessary that this be done, that the main gates may swing open on a well-organized institution at noon on that day.

The celebrated Stackland cherry exhibit from Cove, will be at the Union county fair; at least a strong request has been made of Stackland Brothers to be sure and have the processed fruit here in order that not only home folks, but the traveling public here during fair week may see just what magnificent cherries grow in Cove.

While Stacklands have not stated definitely what they will do regarding the exhibit, it is generally believed that La Grande's firm and unyielding loyalty to the Cove Cherry fair each year will cause the Cove display to be here.

A move is on foot in the town of Cove to close up all business at least one day during the fair as return courtesy for La Grande's action on the day of the Cherry fair. The same is being talked in Union and it is very likely Union will surprise everyone with the turnout made at the county exposition.

ANSWER TO MR. BLUMENSTEIN.

La Grande, Sept. 29.—(To the Editor Observer)—The opponents to the proposed charter have shown their hand through the communication of Mr. J. H. Blumenstein in the Observer. His article discloses three classes, the non-progressives, anarchists and the pork-barrel fellows. All are obstructionists and their story sounds so familiar to me that it seems but an echo of La Grande's history for the past quarter century. It is an ancient song with the refrain changed to suit the occasion. In 1891 we surveyed and proposed a sewer system and this element has been "calling a halt" with the claim that we were "going too fast"—to the effect that it took just twenty years to get what was absolutely needed for the health and sanitary requirements of this community.

While these obstructionists now put up the plea that "the man should be above the dollar," yet La Grande's want of a sewer system and unsanitary conditions has undoubtedly caused unnecessary disease and the premature deaths of scores of our citizens. The same way with our first water system, bonds voted in the eighties, but the construction of the system was delayed for over five years by the same element. In the formative period after 1885 there was as much opposition manifested in grading the streets and constructing wooden sidewalks as now in their improvement by cement and hard surface. These obstructionists are so

non-progressive that they protest more from force of habit and defective education than from any valid reason. The automobile and fast mail are such experiments of speed and expense to them that they long for the ox-team and pony express.

Any proposed change is an innovation, some other is urged, but it is all for delay. In one breath Mr. B. says the commission form of government is but a costly experiment, and that we are trying to "ape" some other town, and in almost the next breath he informs us that it is but an old system prevailing for years in Germany. Their experiments have been very successful or we would have been gladly informed of the contrary. Those Germans in their thrift, economy and success would hardly maintain any system obnoxious and a failure. We are advised by him that the system is monarchical, undemocratic and a centralization of power. "Monarchical" is a good word to scare some people, yet it is shown that the leading monarchies of Europe have progressed more rapidly than this country since the days of the revolution. The King of England does not possess half the power of the President of the United States, for we have a written constitution framed over a century ago, wherein the laws of congress may be defeated both by veto, and decree of the highest court holding them unconstitutional. The student may read with interest that there is no written constitution in England and her King cannot exercise the power of the veto, nor her highest court test the constitutionality of a statute of Parliament. "In fact we have 'aped' our ballot law from Australia and our labor laws from New Zealand, both colonies of monarchical England. That word 'aped' is a word of some import. We maintain a costly school system to educate our children, even upon the compulsory plan, to permit them to 'ape' the knowledge, experience and observation of others, found in the textbooks. We have a compulsory labor law limiting public labor to eight hour per day 'aped' from monarchical examples. The supreme court of Oregon, in the case of Mr. B. wants us to read in the Pacific Reporter, wherein the commission form of municipal government adopted in Portland, the five commissioners and mayor exercise both the powers of making the local laws and executing them, was tested, decided that the system is in perfect accord with the constitution of Oregon, and therefore legal. Now that constitution of Oregon certainly is democratic because adopted by the people of the state upon universal suffrage with amendments also direct from the people. And this is what Judge Burnett says in the case of Schubel vs. Olcott in the 60 Oregon Report at page 519, when socialist Schubel was trying to pipe the same stuff that Blumenstein has 'aped' with such vehemence in his communication: "The essence of the argument for the petitioner is that the general purpose of the whole system was to restore political power to the people. This argument is fallacious and misleading. Political power in this state has always resided in the people. Whatever of constitution we have, as the supreme law of the land in this commonwealth, has been ordained and promulgated by a direct vote of the people. Nay, more. Every legislature that has ever convened in the state has been the creature of the people by their direct vote. In the constitution under which Oregon was admitted into the Union, the people, by a statelike preamble, declared that—We the people of the State of Oregon, to the end that justice be established, order maintained and liberty perpetuated, do ordain this constitution. It is not a question of restoring power to the people. They have always had it. In the beginning of the state government, it was declared and has ever since been recognized throughout the state, 'that

all power is inherent in the people and all free governments are founded on their authority, and instituted for their peace, safety and happiness, and they have at all times a right to alter, reform or abolish the government in such manner as they may see proper."

This class, whenever any more successful system is proposed for La Grande, raises the cry that the city is trying to make itself "a second New York or Chicago," and therefore they would keep it in the village class.

But that cry is not new. It was in the beginning, and it seems out the better plan for the voters to struggle for improvement that is susceptible and in the spirit of progress, without regard for the obstructionists. The contention that the business methods of the successful business man or companies do not apply to municipal government, hence the old gag that the latter is for the people while the former is for "greed and personal benefits," is raised for sentiment to defeat the proposed system, and it is further said and that "governments are established for the promotion of human happiness," and that "only a small portion of a government's functions are based on business principles; the rest come under the heads of education, philanthropy, justice, etc." whatever that means. I submit if it is not one of the elements of human happiness to the citizen that he be not taxed to death for funds to be extravagantly dissipated in attempting to maintain such government. Even if the municipal government should be for "education, philanthropy, justice, etc." which seems to occur only in Germany or some other monarchical country, would it not be a wise system to practice business methods in the collection and disbursement of the means for such purposes? Under these business and economical methods could not more funds be saved for such grand purposes? And would not such business methods apply in the dispensation of such "education, philanthropy, justice, etc.?"

Again, we are informed that "all true reform must ever come through the individual; it cannot be legislated into him." This old system of rot is daily ignored in every governmental system. We force by law the child to attend school whether he be bad or good, with the purpose of educating and bettering both his condition, disposition and moral tendencies, just as the "twig is bent in the tree inclined." Millions are spent to reform the vicious, restrain the criminal, prevent harm, and protect property by the strong arm of the law, yet "reform cannot be legislated into any one" according to our philosopher genius of the obstructionists. Then we are told of concentration of power and its liability of harm, although no reasons are advanced wherein it could prove baneful. The converse of concentration is dissipation. If power is not concentrated it is either a "standpatter" or dissipated. In the new charter the object is to concentrate the energies of the people in accomplishing that power and

the same or better results. In other words we are proposing a system that will accomplish with three commissioners and their subordinates what is sought with the present government with a council of eight, a mayor and police force adverse and independent, the former system harmonious and with business methods which are successful, and the latter where the energies and power are dissipated in the various departments at a greater cost than necessary. Union is strength; in discord, there is weakness. The powerful locomotive moving its sixty cars is concentration of power and methods. The idle lightnings of the heavens are concentrated by man by electrical processes into light, heat and power. The idle waters of our rivers running to waste on the way to the sea, are concentrated by collection and machinery to furnish power in the turning of the spindle, the operation of the mills and the functions of the many requirements of the people. Inventive genius is exhausted in seeking greater power for the benefit of man's desires and happiness, for the accumulation of wealth brings comforts as well as for his necessities. As one of the illustrations of why many should be engaged rather than the few, the jury system of twelve men, is invoked, yet no reason assigned wherein it has any advantage over that of the six prevailing in justice's courts, the three selected in all boards of arbitration, so much clamored for by the socialist, or the one judge trying all cases in equity. It is a matter of common knowledge that more lawsuits are tried in the courts before one man than before a jury of twelve.

If the many inquired for the jury, why not raise the number to twenty rather than twelve? It is true, also, that the criminal class prefer the large jury, because in it is found the hope that among the many there may exist a diversity of opinions, and thereby he may escape punishment for crime by the "hanging of the jury"—one discordant member having all that power. The small number of three has been found the most efficient and harmonious body that can exercise governmental functions. The railroad commission which so completely controls the various questions governing that great system of power and efficiency; the State Water Board having control of the public streams of the state, the Board of Control, being the governor, secretary and treasurer—in fact nearly all commissions of the state consist of three members each. Further, it is contended by Mr. B. that the large number in the council may be more efficient and useful, if "better men are elected"—and it seems that he has not been duly appreciated by his ward in such selection, although his article shows "he is open for a bid." There are not better citizens in La Grande than may be found in the council and other departments of our city government, but the fault is rather with the system than with the material. Of course Mr. B. informs us that war and discord are necessary in human affairs and especially in the council,

and that their wrangles are entertaining and his invites more people to attend and witness them. Of course such a cheerful disposition as he manifests, would greatly enjoy a bull fight or the association with inmates of an insane asylum, but all are not so constituted.

This contention for more officials and employees to administer the city affairs is in the interests chiefly of the pork-barrel class, and they fear that in the change of municipal government there may be a change in the pay rolls and that the "chronic pap sucker" may be wholly eliminated, greatly to their sorrow. So that the proposed change and system, then, is in the interest of the people and taxpayer rather than of classes or special interests and therefore offensive to the interests now interposing such violent opposition. The trouble with Mr. B. and his claquers is they want office, want no progress in human affairs, want more money distributed among the people, want easy jobs, and the further fact that they were born a generation too late.

C. H. FINN.

ESCAPE MADE EASY.

More Than Two Score Beneficiaries Have Secured Freedom.

Salem, Ore., Sept. 25.—That Governor West's "honor system" furnishes a convenient avenue of escape for convicts was proved today when Superintendent Lawson, bared the records of the state penitentiary. Since April, 1911, 44 beneficiaries of the system have escaped, according to the records. Fifteen trustees, not designated as "honor men," but virtually of the same class, have escaped in that time. "Honor men" and trustees are defined as follows by the prison authorities:

"Honor men—Convicts sent away from the prison without guard to work on roads and in other capacities. They do not return to the prison at night." "Trustees—Men given liberties in the prison and outside, not given the ordinary prisoner, and who are locked up in the prison at night."

More Than Score at Large. Of the "honor men" who have escaped, 11 have been captured and 31 are still at large. There have been more trustees during the administration of Governor West than ever before. Mr. Lawson explained an increase was necessary because of additional work at the Asylum farm. He says that since the inauguration of the system there have been about 500 "honor men," the number daily being between 50 and 60. The average number of convicts daily in 1910 and 1911 is 422.

The records show that many of the "honor men" who escape have served a large part of their terms, there being instances where men would have been freed in 30 days. Frank Murphy, who escaped three days ago, had only 90 days to serve. If captured he will have to serve his full term of five years. Opponents of the system declare that this is an argument against it, for the men not only disregard and violate their "honor," but do not show

appreciation of the kindness that has been shown them. "Honor men" are usually those with families and convicts who have comparatively short periods to serve, according to the authorities, and hence, it is argued if men with little motive to run away do so, the system is a failure. Men with long terms to serve are often made trustees, but the percentage of escapes under this system is not any larger, if as large, as that under the "honor system."

Mr. Lawson says 78 per cent of the paroled men "make good," whereas in California, which has the best record of any state having the parole system, 90 per cent "make good."

W. R. Jack of Summerville, who has been working at the Bach-Robinson lumber camp up Ladd canyon, suffered a painful accident last week when his leg was broken by a falling log. A log had fallen and struck another log, which snapped into one of the pieces striking Mr. Jack and breaking the bones in the leg. Dr. Hall attended the sick man and yesterday made a trip up the canyon to dress the wound.

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