

THE OBSERVER

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TRUST YOUR COMMITTEE.

When a mass meeting is called it means that every citizen is wanted. It means that some form of action is to be centered upon for a public purpose. Yesterday's mass meeting was very well attended, although there were many absent who could have lent valuable assistance had they been present. However, those in attendance did what they believe is for the best: Not wishing to nominate candidates for commissioner, they elected a committee of 50 men and women which represent different lines of business and different interests, including labor in all forms and that committee will go over the situation and recommend candidates to fill the three offices of great importance to every taxpayer.

It was the only fair way to start the proceedings. It was absolutely fair and there was not an ax to grind, not a friend to reward nor any enemy to punish.

That committee of 50 will do the very best it can to get good men for these offices. It will weigh every feature of a man's record and grade it accordingly. It will not attain perfection, for no one anticipates that, but it will have the welfare of La Grande and not the welfare of any individual constantly in mind.

Doubtless this committee will meet daily. It has a big task, so the Evening Observer urges everyone to be patient and fair with the committee, just as the committee expects to be patient and fair with every aspirant for the office of commissioner.

WHY NOT WALKING CLUBS?

Organization of a "wanderlust" society for walking tours is suggested by the Baltimore Sun. The movement already has gained considerable impetus and it is probable that a society for taking foot journeys through the Maryland city and its environs soon will be formed. As the Sun says, however, it is not necessary to have an organized body to secure the wholesome benefits of walking. "Just as much pleasure will be found," it reminds us, "in a half dozen or a score of friends

walking together over the hills and through the forests and fields to some of the many points of natural or historic interest. Or you can start it yourself without waiting for anyone else, setting off like David Grayson in search of adventure along country roads."

One can enjoy such walks, however, more in company than when alone. Besides, human nature is likely to get lazy and indifferent. What can be done any time alone is certain to be put off. If, on the other hand, one has an appointment to walk a certain number of miles on a certain day with certain friends, one is not likely to fail to keep it. The fact that we are expected acts as a spur to our lazy good intentions.

Throughout the west "walking clubs" are common. These clubs gather at some central point at stated intervals and cover stretches of territory that no member walking alone would think of traveling. The organization officers make it their business to plan these trips in advance, selecting the best roads that reach to the most interesting points. Those who take part in such jaunts consider that the outings contribute in no small degree toward mental and physical health, enlarging the viewpoint, hardening the muscles and bringing the pedestrians in contact with their fellows in the easy comradeship of the road, something quite different, by the way, from the comradeship of club or office.

Walking is one exercise that cannot be overdone. When one has walked enough the legs simply decline to carry the body farther. No harm comes to the constitution. This alone should give walking a popularity over the more confining as well as more dangerous forms of sport.

With the present prices of food, it seems improvident for the bride not to save the rice she brushes out of her darling's hair.

The size of a man's discontent is sometimes determined by the size of his pay check.

The Americans who refuse to come home from Mexico may be in grave danger, but they do not have to listen to any world's series arguments.

It might be as well to abolish the house and the senate and the cabinet and let Wilson take care of the whole business.

The impossible often happens. An asbestos factory has just burned down at New Orleans.

CONSULTATION HELD.

(Continued from Page 1)

recommending 10 or more men or women for the office of commissioners of La Grande under the new charter. Each person present presented the name of some one he deemed suitable for committee man and the list printed above shows those who were elected. The remainder of the 50 will be chosen by the committee at its meeting this afternoon.

Object Was, Get Close to the People. President August J. Stange, called the meeting to order merely to get



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things started and asked who the mass meeting would have for its permanent chairman. By unanimous vote it was decided to have Mr. Stange act as chairman.

Mr. Stange thanked the meeting for the honor conferred upon him and reviewed the purpose of the meeting, the necessity of being very careful as to what was done to the end that the best timber possible might be chosen for the work to follow in this city.

Erice Dennis was elected secretary. Judge Thomas Crawford talked on the problem confronting the city. He was a member of the committee that framed the new charter and he delineated on many of the paragraphs throwing considerable light on the document. "We have tried to make it possible," said Judge Crawford, "to draft a charter that will permit La Grande to be run as any other big corporation is run—along economic lines. We do not claim perfection for this charter for it was written and framed by imperfect men. But we do claim it is a step in the right direction and the objectionable features of it from time to time can be remedied. But to carry this charter to success we need the best men we can find for commissioners, and that is why we are here today. Men should be elected who have no ax to grind; personal matters must be laid aside. Because we like a man does not mean we should support him if he has not the qualifications for commissioner. Neither should we oppose a capable man because we dislike him personally. I favor this meeting centering on three good men for commissioners and recommending them to the people."

William Miller agreed with Judge Crawford in many ways and insisted that the meeting was no convention but a mass meeting of men interested in the municipal affairs of the city.

O. E. Silverthorn favored putting all phases of the situation up to the people in a positive manner, so that no voter could not be equipped with all information bearing upon candidates on election day.

Fred Geibel seemed to voice a popular idea when he suggested and afterwards made a motion to the effect that a committee of fifty men and women be elected by the mass meeting and that it would be the committee's duty to go over the possible candidates and center on 10 or more who would be fit for the office of commissioner and then recommend that number up to the people. "This," said Mr. Geibel, "will not exclude anyone from the race. It will still be an open field for all who want to run but this committee of 50 can be of service in stating its opinion of those best qualified for the places."

J. H. Peare, who was a member of the first committee on commission charter, stated that the present charter is broader than any adopted in any other city of the west and he renewed his allegiance to the commission form of government. He favored the Geibel idea of handling nominations.

John Collier spoke regarding the

character, stating that he believed La Grande now had the proper form and it is only a question of getting the proper men. He also favored the large committee plan.

Dr. A. G. Lane was present and congratulated the city on having taken a step in the right direction by adopting a charter that has the advanced and modern form of commission government.

C. H. Finn, a framer of the present charter, admonished all present that the day of the convention and assembly had passed and urged that all matters be taken closely to the people, insisting that petitions be circulated as the final step before nomination and that those petitions be widely circulated.

Mac Wood also was convinced that the idea of the large committee would be better because of getting representation in that way from many lines of business and citizenship.

George Currey shared the same opinion but he thought possibly the meeting might start by electing a committee of five and that committee could choose the remainder of the 50 or whatever number would be decided upon.

Senator Turner Oliver thought it well to be guided by Portland's experience in the last campaign.

F. D. Haisten caused considerable fun when he offered the suggestion that to have held office in the city during the past five years in any capacity from mayor to street superintendent should act as a bar against a man to be elected as commissioner. Mr. Haisten took the stand that the people had by decisive vote stated they wanted a change from the aldermanic form of government and he was anxious that the change be granted in its entirety.

The Geibel idea seemed to have the almost unanimous support, and Chairman Stange asked that it be embodied into a motion, which was done and the same passed unanimously.

During the entire meeting when reference to possible candidates were made they were always mentioned as "men," to which Judge Crawford finally objected insisting that the women also had a voice in affairs. He was immediately responded to by Judge Finn, who quoted a minister to the effect that "Men embrace the women anyway."

It was a harmonious gathering, with one idea uppermost—the good of La Grande. This afternoon the committee of 50 is in session for the purpose of centering on candidates to be recommended.

According to the new charter the people have 10 days after its passage to file petitions of candidates and that date expires on October 10th. Then the election follows in 10 days. It will readily be seen that the committee must work fast and it is probably a daily meeting will be held.

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