

THE OBSERVER

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OFF WITH THE OLD; ON WITH THE NEW

Last evening about nine o'clock La Grande as a municipality went through a history making moment. It was when Mayor Hall officially adjourned the council sine die, thus ending councilmanic form of government and the commissioners were escorted to their stations in the city hall.

Commissioners Wood, Russell and Gardner were received with vigorous applause from the number who had assembled to witness the change and in a few brief remarks Chairman Wood assured those present that the commission would do its best.

This was the very thing that everyone who knows Mac Wood would have predicted he would say. And he meant what he said. The new commission enters upon their duties under no obligation to any person, company or corporation. They are men of character, integrity and business ability, and they will solve the city problems. Not in a day or a month or a year. Everyone should expect little at the beginning for, bear in mind, there is a great deal to learn. This city's business is no longer small. It has reached a stage where large contracts are made and the days of village dealing have passed forever.

La Grande welcomes the new commissioners to their seats. The city as a whole has no complaint of the retiring councilmen, for the complaint rested entirely with the unwieldy system for which no one was to blame. Under the new form fewer men will decide matters and therefore things will not drag. Under the new form, it is quite likely the first thing to consider will be to bring the city's business up to par—to arrange for finances that will permit La Grande to buy her gasoline and other commodities just as cheap or cheaper than the individual can buy them. And should the new commissioners advocate refunding bonds to take up the loose and cumbersome indebtedness that now prevents any economy being used in interest and discount, it is to be hoped they will live the unanimous support of all.

HILL, COOLIDGE AND M'KENNON

The large real estate deal in which A. T. Hill, Ed Coolidge and Floyd McKennon purchased the sugar company's lands near Union, and also at a recent date purchased lands from the same company near La Grande is one of the very best transactions that has ever occurred in the Grande Ronde valley.

It would be of little consequence if

these three men chose to make land barons out of themselves and farm this large area under one head, but they purpose doing nothing of the kind. They will cut the large tracts up into smaller farms and sell to settlers—the very thing the Grande Ronde valley has needed for many years. And it is the thing the Willamette valley and every other valley of the northwest needs.

We have no quarrel with the men who own large bodies of land and do not want to cut it up, for that is their personal business. Quite likely if we were fortunate enough to own a thousand acres of Sand Ridge land we would want to hold onto it, also. But when a thoroughly legitimate movement comes along that will reduce the holdings of one concern and put forty families in this valley where there were none before, the Observer cannot help but welcome that movement just as everyone else who has the valley's future at heart, welcomes it.

These men have purchased some of the choicest land between this city and Union. It is land that was picked for the culture of sugar beets, which proves that it is of excellent quality, and we believe they will have little trouble in selling small farms at a fair profit.

A few movements of the kind will equal another payroll for La Grande.

BUT WHERE IS ITS VALUE

Our old friend, O. P. Hoff, who is labor commissioner of the state of Oregon, has promulgated some more rules for those who own machinery to follow, namely, to put on a guard rail here and cover up a bolt there, put a flange on a cog in one place and protect a water glass in another.

All of which is well and good if there was any value to these precautions. But when an employe is injured in a plant that has stood inspection and done everything requested of the department, there is no difference in the result.

We never can harmonize in our mind the case in La Grande where a large concern met every request of the department still an injury followed and the company was not only stuck for the case in question, but the evidence that state laws had been complied with counted for nothing in the trial.

Let us have Uncle Hoff's commands carried out, but by so doing let the factory have a leg to stand on when it is overtaken with accident.

JOSEPHINE'S LOGS

It is a pretty compliment to Josephine county to know that she will furnish the logs for Oregon's building at the Panama exposition in San Francisco. Quite likely there are many sections of the state that could have furnished this necessary building material but the fact that Josephine jumped to the front and thus led all other counties is a tribute to her live citizenship as well as to the quality of her standing timber. It is very evident that she has some good "timber" that does not "stand" all of the time.

A WAGE INQUIRY THAT FAILED

Of 1,000 letters of inquiry addressed to working women of the state by the minimum wage commission of Minnesota only twenty answers were received. The commission wanted to know the money that the women received and how they spent it. The object was to secure material on which to base what is known as a "living wage."

Refusal on the part of so many to answer may indicate that they con-

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Capital \$100,000.00
Surplus \$130,000.00
Total Resources \$1,400,000.00

For twenty-six years, in all kinds of financial weather, we have successfully catered to the monetary wants of the people of La Grande and the Grande Ronde Valley.

We respectfully solicit your business.

La Grande National Bank

La Grande, Oregon

sider the information none of the commission's business. There still remains in the mind of the average person a suspicion of all investigations which seek to uncover what, in each individual case, is a private affair, but, taken in a big way, is a public affair. Social inquirers before now have had reason to be convinced that working people are quite as jealous of their privacy as any one else.

If the investigation could have revealed the facts it probably would have shown that what is a living wage to some is not a living wage to others. It is a self-evident truth that as the individual develops mentally the material wants increase. The savage is content with next to nothing; the feudal serf with a little better; the medieval peasant with still a little better; the nineteenth century workman with a great deal more. In the twentieth century, however, the spread of education has brought many new desires, most of them normal and wholesome. The more intelligence, use more wants.

What one woman or one man can live on, therefore, is not a fair standard for another woman or another man.

The mind rules the body in this regard. A physical environment which would stifle some would not raise the slightest protest in another. Simple pleasures which would satisfy some would be puerile to the more educated. Thus inquiries like that in Minnesota, aside from the way in which they are received, prove nothing.

The way loaded wagons are rolling into Imbler these days and the way loaded freight cars are rolling out one might believe the shipping center of the Grande Ronde valley had for the time being shifted northward.

The doctors are operating on people in Chicago to remove moral defects. If they aren't careful with their knives, they may inadvertently slice off a few virtues.

It is going to cost more than one billion dollars to run this government next year. It wouldn't cost much more if the government were run with gasoline.

A cane which Lafayette lost in this country in 1824 has been recovered. It

usually takes about that length of time to find a lost article when you don't advertise it.

If the public is tired of hearing of Thaw it might be a good plan to elect him vice president.

A Note of Thanks

La Grande, Oregon, Nov. 20.—To the Editor of the Observer: While feeling sad and depressed over the death of our daughter Donna, yet a ray of brightest sunshine has illuminated our home both before and after her death. The many flowers with expressions of love sent her while she was yet conscious gave her the greatest joy, and often she would say "I didn't know I had so many friends; send them my love." Since her death the tokens of love and esteem expressed by so many and attested by the many floral offerings sent to place on her casket makes us feel that surely love and kindness, sympathy and charity, abounds in the hearts of the people of La Grande. We thank you all for every expression of love and esteem for our beloved Donna and to all who helped in any way to make our burden less oppressive we feel most grateful, and desire to express our pleasure in living in a community so noble and true.

MR. & MRS. A. S. GEDDES.

Counties Advertising

Marysville, Cal., Nov. 20.—Representatives of California's thirty-one northern counties met here today to form an association to advertise themselves. The prospective advertisers believe they can raise \$1,000,000 to wage their campaign, which will be carried on in the eastern states and in Europe for at least five years. Its main object will be to secure good settlers. Californians are convinced that with the opening of the Panama canal there will be a tremendous rush toward the Pacific slope.

FOR RENT—New modern rooms, 1306 O ave., Phone Black 562. 11-20-6t

FOR SALE—Typewriter. Phone Red 1022. 11-20-2t

Read the advertisements too.

An Old Time Sea Serpent.

Good Bishop Pontopidan in his celebrated "Natural History of Norway" tells the story of a boat's crew of eight sailors under a certain Captain De Ferry who encountered a formidable looking sea serpent off the Norwegian coast along the middle of the eighteenth century. The animal, according to all accounts, was some 600 feet long or about the size of a modern battleship. The crew at first endeavored to entice the monster into the boat, but he wily beast responded by lashing the water so furiously with its tail that one of the seamen was carried out of the boat on a wave at least 100 feet high, which the serpent with the incessant beating of its tail kept towering rigidly in the air for nearly ten minutes. Meanwhile the seaman slid safely down the other side and back into the boat. Immediately the crew began an assault upon the monster, which they maintained with such fury that the beast turned tail and fled. According to the captain, he went so fast that he "disappeared on the horizon twenty miles away almost on the moment that he began the retreat."

His Visit From Royalty.

"Lived in the Latin quarter in Paris, eh? You say you had a prince in your rooms one day?" "Yes." "And how did you happen to receive a visit from royalty?" "He came in there to avoid his landlord."—Washington Herald.

"On Time" in Farm Work.

A good engineer brings his train into the station on time. It is the sign of a good farmer if he rounds up the day's work before dark. It is just as much to his credit if he does that, too, as if he were doing his work at the throttle of an engine.—Farm and Fireside.

Say, Teacher!

Any time you get it into your head that you know a few things just go up against some of the questions the average little schoolboy can ask you.—Florida Times-Union.

Always Out.

Miss Ginch—And were you ever out after the game, Colonel Elgher? "Yes, indeed. I have been 'out' after every big game I was ever in.—Town Topics.

Dainty Skin.

Remember that rich foods are enemies of a delicate skin. The rose in skin of the baby comes from its simple diet.

Let no one do what he pleases by what he ought to do.—Gustavus Vas.

Camp Candlesticks.

A camp candlestick can easily be made with a piece of stick. Choose a straight stick about eight inches long and one inch thick. With a good knife sharpen one end as you would a lead pencil or a stake. Then split the other end into four parts, taking care not to allow any to snap, and strengthen the point where they meet by binding with string. The candles can then be placed between the four branches and held in position with string. The pointed end is then stuck into the ground and the candlestick is ready for use.—Boston Herald.

Watered Milk.

"Farmers," said the fair city visitor "are just as dishonest as the city milk man." "How d'ye make that out?" asked the farmer's wife. "This morning," said the girl, accusingly, "with my own eyes I saw your hired man water the cows just before he milked them."—Exchange.

Joe Campbell, who last night resigned his councilman's toga to the new commissioners, went to Union today to inspect the work on the new aseptic intake which he is building for the city.

E. C. Cole of La Grande was among the passengers to Haines this noon. He will be gone a week or ten days.

COFFEE

Coffee not packed in aroma-tight cans is never quite fresh and often quite stale before you get it.

Schilling's Best is preserved in its aroma. Its rich flavor, developed by careful roasting, cannot be lost or changed; nothing can get in or out of that package.

Choose between neverfresh and everfresh; the one at your risk, the other moneyback.

1-lb, 2-lb and 2 1/2-lb cans; cleanly granulated, ready for use.—Adv.