

THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS, Editor and Owner.

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TO BAR TRIVIAL LAW SUITS.

Probably no better law could be passed than is now being considered by several states to the effect that trivial law suits be barred. It is an ancient custom for a quarrel to result in a law suit. The old adage that justice is cheap seems to still be in the minds of some, and for wounded feelings, value of a common dog or the price of a fence rail men rush into court and fight a legal battle that proves to be older than the litigants when it is finally settled.

It is now proposed that each county have a board to determine when a lawsuit shall be a lawsuit. This was brought forcefully to the minds of Kansas people recently when Governor George Hodges was prosecuted by a woman. The woman claimed she had been mistreated by the governor in an alleged scuffle over some papers.

The case was so silly that no one had any confidence in it, and besides, everyone who knows Governor Hodges knows full well that he is a gentleman at all times and would not be guilty of the conduct with which he was charged.

Nevertheless, the chief executive of the state was hailed into court and suffered the humiliation of being the defendant while an adventuress and a shyster lawyer assailed him.

It took the jury three minutes to acquit him. But the fact that he had been hailed into court was humiliating and at once the people of Kansas, regardless of political feeling, began to demand that something be done to prevent a recurrence of such matter. As a result, there is now being worked out a plan whereby the trivial, nonsensical and foolish lawsuits will be barred.

THE AUTO LICENSE.

Is there any equity in the present automobile license?

Are the people getting results from the money expended?

Is the cost of collecting license fees abnormal?

These questions are being turned over in the mind of every man in Union and Wallowa counties who drives a machine.

From the figures of the Secretary of State, any business man can see at a glance that there is lost motion in the organization, else the cost of collecting license fees would not be so great. Every auto owner believes the money he pays for the privilege of running his car on the highways of the state should go direct to his community for the purpose of building roads, and every owner resents the plan of having the state pay a bunch of clerks salaries to the extent that the aggregate sum derived from license is materially reduced.

Along these lines the Union County Automobile club is earnestly considering the advisability of beginning a campaign to change the law. It is quite probable that every candidate for legislative office in Eastern Oregon will be asked to state his position on the license matter and that support of auto owners will largely drift to the man who believes that money should be collected in counties by county officers, and be expended on the roads of the county in which it is collected.

There is nothing wrong with this idea. It sounds good and according to sane reasoning, gets the whole matter down to a local point where there will be interest felt in the movement and money paid for license will be paid with a feeling that it is doing some good, whereas now it is paid with the full belief that most of it goes to keep up a useless department in the state house.

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"BOB" CAPLES REBELS.

Where once perched the dove of peace with the olive branch firmly gripped in its beak, now struggle leaders who have reached the point of swatting each other on the jaw.

Where once Oregon Democracy listened with bated breath for the word to come down the line now there are so many words and commands being issued that it sounds like a Chinese picnic in full blast.

Where once Sam Jackson of the Oregon Journal whispered to the boys the best way to do things to get results, now comes the sonorous voice of Bob Caples who charges that Sam is a boss of the bossiest type known; that Chamberlain is selfish and never helped elect any one but Chamberlain.

Here is an extract from a communication written by Bob Caples regarding the "harmonious" Democratic situation at the present time in Oregon:

Although it is charged the Journal has no evidence that I am opposing the election of Dr. Smith and Mr. Chamberlain, neither has it any evidence that the Iroquois Club, as a body, is opposing either of these two candidates, as the club has not yet determined, and until a ballot is taken will not determine. Personally I will have only one vote, but I will support the club's choice as I believe a majority of the members are as capable of choosing the best men as any individual or any newspaper.

It is charged that I am a "turn-coat" because I do not support all the Democratic nominees. Personally I have no ill-feeling for or resentment

towards any of the candidates, but I resent the continued dictation of one man and his newspaper ally in continually naming the Democratic candidates for office. A majority of the Iroquois Club have just as much right to decide whom they will support as the Journal has, and I cannot remember an election when the Journal supported "all" the Democratic nominees, or when Mr. Chamberlain spoke from the stump words calculated to help elect "all" the nominees on the ticket. In a published interview before the primary Governor West is reported as saying that he would support the Democratic nominees if they suited him. The Journal only supports those who suits one man, the controlling owner, even if they have been nominated by the Democratic party, and neither Mr. West nor the Journal will support all the nominees at this election, and, unless Mr. Chamberlain breaks precedent, he will not say one word publicly in behalf of "all" the Democratic candidates.

Because we are humble workers in the ranks are we to be held up to ridicule and scorn in the columns of the Journal if we follow the Journal's example and do not support "all" the candidates, most especially those dictated to the party by the Journal?

Has the primary form of choosing nominees eliminated the "boss" in Democratic politics or simply transferred the dictatorship?

Is it worth while for any Democrat in Oregon to aspire to a high office unless he has the consent and indorsement of Mr. Chamberlain and the Journal?

The article stated that four years ago I bolted the nomination of Oswald West. I did, because I resented the dictatorship which effected his nomination. Then I was practically alone, but this year there are several thousand Democrats in the state who have awakened.

If the press and the "high-brows" in the Democratic party can be non-partisan, Roosevelt-Democrats, La Follette-Democrats, Wilson-Democrats or any other kind of a Democrat when "policy" dictates, why not permit the individual who simply goes out and works, hustles, if you please, for the votes, to follow suit as conscience or "policy" directs?

PERSONALS

Alice Graham of Enterprise was a guest at the Savoy last night.

C. J. Margaret of Pendleton, was a Foley guest last night.

Mrs. Lessie Irwin of Enterprise was registered at the Foley this morning.

Attorney George T. Coebran transacted business at Minam today, going out on the morning train.

Chas Rose of Weston, is in the city transacting business and visiting with relatives.

Mrs. Turner Oliver went to Wallowa county today to spend the weekend with relatives and friends.

Jno. A. Hadaller left this morning for Los Angeles where he will remain indefinitely.

William McMurray, general passenger agent for the O.-W., passed through the city this morning on his way home from Chicago.

Mrs. W. H. Durham of Elgin transacted business in the city this morning and was a guest at the Foley while here.

Fred B. Currey arrived last evening to join his family which preceded him to this city from San Leandro, Cal., a few days.

Miss Flora M. Koch a popular high school teacher left last evening for Seattle where she will spend the summer months enjoying the sea breezes.

L. R. Moore and S. D. Lilly of Chanute, Kan., were in La Grande last night, staying at the Savoy last night.

Miss Lucy Cullen leaves on No. 5 tonight for Toledo, Washington, where she will spend about four months with her niece and nephew.

Geo. W. Boner, formerly a resident of Joseph, now a resident of Southern California, was here last evening on his way to Wallowa and Enterprise to visit relatives.

Mrs. Mitchell of Joseph was in La Grande last night, returning this morning to her home in Joseph with

Shop Comfortably in our Cool Store

For your inspection; displays of prettiest of Summer garments everywhere at West's Store. Dozens of new Wash Frocks, Pretty Waists, Dainty Undermuslins, Latest Collars and Girdles—all here in large arrays of the Newest Styles and Unquestioned Quality.

Warm Weather Specials in Summer Wash Goods

Velour Cord Crepes, special 19c
Fancy Ratines, with large, extremely new Plaide effects, special 39c
Striped Crepes, special 19c
Snowflake Oxfords, special 25c
36-inch Dress Linens, special 37 1-2c

Oriental Lace Flouncings

Marked Special for Warm Weather. Beautiful conventional and foral designs
18-inch Lace Flouncing, special 40c
27-inch Lace Flouncing, special 65c
45-inch Lace Flouncing, special \$1.00

Just in, another lot of the popular rosebud and small flowered designs in dainty lawns, priced at 15c yard



the remains of her son who met a tragic death yesterday morning.

Mrs. G. L. Larrison and son returned today from Portland, where they have been visiting relatives.

Mrs. John Orvis leaves tomorrow for Seattle to visit her mother for several weeks.

S. S. Boothe, J. M. Boothe of Union, Flossie Osbourn and Violet Osbourn of Wallawa, Jesse Crum of Elgin and Mrs. Polk of Joseph, were among the Sommer hotel guests last night.

Harold Grady, for the past year doing "Big Time" with the Orpheum and Keith vaudeville circuits arrived this morning from New York to spend the summer with his parents Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Grady.

Miss Lillian McDonald who recently returned from St. Helen's hall in Portland, returned to her home in Alice this morning after attending a social function in the city last evening.

Ray Williams arrived last evening from Eugene where he was graduated from the University of Oregon a few days ago. Mr. Williams made an enviable record in academic and glee club circles while in the university.

Mrs. J. Q. A. Richardson of Lower Cove who has been ill at the home of her daughter Mrs. Dora Keenan, is slightly better today after a severe attack of heart trouble. She will not be able to go to the pioneer meeting tomorrow at Imbler.

H. B. Haisten Hurt.

H. B. Haisten suffered a painful accident Saturday while engaged in a friendly wrestling match with Fred Rich. His left knee was wrenched and thrown out of joint, making it necessary to place the injured men-

ber in a plaster cast. Mr. Haisten can get around this week only with the use of crutches, and says it will be three or four weeks before the knee is completely well.—Wallow Sun.

Read the advertisements, too.

Complete Equipment for Resetting and Repairing Rubber Buggy Tires

LA GRANDE IRON WORKS

D. FITZGERALD, Proprietor

Complete Machine Shops and Foundry

MAKE A NOTE

of the fact that an abstract is an absolute necessity when you purchase real estate.

No matter how well posted you might be—you don't have a full history of the parcel, as you do when we make an abstract of it. Accuracy guaranteed.

THE ABSTRACT & TITLE CO. Foley Hotel Building

MONUMENTS

Latest Designs, Made in La Grande. We have our own quarry. Rubble and Dimension Stone always on hand CONCRETE BLOCKS

E. C. DAVIS

Cor. Greenwood and S. Ave., La Grande, Ore.

Here is for the Bargain Seeker and Home Makers

For Sale—House of 7 rooms—Modern—Just Built—complete with Cement Basement. Lot 60x110 only one block east of the Court House. Only \$2500.00. \$300.00 down; balance to suit buyer.

Centennial Hotel in Union—Modern—34 rooms. Lot 76x100. \$9,000.00. Brick house in rear, of 8 rooms. Lot 75x100—Chicken yard 70x50—\$7,000.00. Will trade for something of equal value in or near La Grande.

5 room house—Lights—City Water—Built last year. Lot 50x175 — \$1,200.00 — \$200.00 down.

6 room house—Barn 12x18—Lot 2 Acres—City Water outside—Bath—Good Cellar—Chicken house—Wood Shed—Fruit Trees—Berries and small Fruits. \$2500.00 \$700.00 down.

6 Room House—Full Basement with Laundry Tubs. Lot 70x100—\$2,500.00 4 room House on same lot with water outside—\$1,100.00—\$100.00 down.

The above are excellent properties and well worth your consideration, Mr. Buyer. For now is your time to get what you want at very reasonable terms.

C. J. Black & Co.

111 Depot Street

Phone Main 754

La Grande, Ore.

La Grande National Bank

Organized in 1887.

DESIGNATED DEPOSITORY OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. UNITED STATES POSTAL SAVINGS DEPOSITORY.

Capital \$100,000.00
Surplus \$140,000.00
Total Resources \$1,000,000.00

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

We respectfully solicit your business.

La Grande National Bank

La Grande, Oregon