

THE OBSERVER

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Address all communications to THE OBSERVER, 1710 Sixth Street.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1916.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The Observer is enabled to print the President's message in full today on its city. Seldom have

presidential messages been so widely read. No one has an excuse for not reading it and finding out what the head of the nation has to say to our lawmakers.

The President first calls attention to the legislation which he asked congress for at its previous session. This was designed to prevent the railroad strike and included the following:

Enlargement and reorganization of Interstate Commerce commission. Establishment of eight-hour day for railway trainmen.

Appointment of commission to study workings of eight-hour law. Consideration by Interstate Commerce commission of an increase in freight rates if made necessary by eight-hour day.

Public investigation of merits of disputes before railroad strikes or lockouts may be attempted. Giving President power to operate railways and draft crews into military service in case of military or public necessity.

In order to avert the railroad strike congress established the eight-hour day as the legal basis for work and wages and also authorized the President to appoint a commission to study the workings of the eight-hour law.

The President does not renew his request for a recommendation by congress that the Interstate Commerce commission consider an increase in railroad freight rates, saying that the power of the commission to act and do justice is clear.

He does, however, ask that the Interstate Commerce commission be enlarged in membership and facilities to do its important and pressing work, and for laws for the public investigation and assessment of industrial disputes, and for the power to

operate the railways "in time of war or other like public necessity."

The President is anxious to avert a railroad strike. He is attacking the problem from several different angles. The eight-hour law is passed. A commission is studying its workings. Now he proposes that laws be passed which will prevent railroad strikes and industrial disputes from tying up the country in the future. He desires ample laws for "investigation and assessment" of these disputes and making impossible sudden walk-outs or lockouts before the public has had a chance to hear both sides and he wants the President to have the power to operate the railroads in times of war or grave public necessity.

If the way can be found to settle in a regular and orderly way the industrial disputes which would be of such magnitude as to paralyze the country, public necessity demands it. No doubt the President's program will be much debated and much argued.

But there is no doubt that the people want legislation which will permanently protect the interests of the public.

The President refers to other matters of not quite so grave public concern but nevertheless important. The permission of trade combinations to seek foreign trade. The bill amending the organic law of Porto Rico.

The National Corrupt Practices act. Other grave matters will be presented to congress later. The high cost of living and the proposal for a food export embargo are topics which will be debated and upon which the President may be heard.

ADDITIONAL LOCAL. Sewing machines cleaned and repaired; work guaranteed. Phone Red 3532.—Adv. 10-27-tf

Dr. A. L. Richardson has moved his offices from the Gardner building where he has been located many years, and is now in the new Sommer building. His telephone number is Main 15.—Adv. 10-31-tf

When in Portland you will find The Observer on sale at the Oregon Hotel news stand and Imperial Hotel news stand.

What has become of the young lady who used to recite Whittier's "Snow Bound"?

Everything new in leather novelties, card cases, traveling sets, and kits, tourist tables, ladies' purses and hand-bags, all in the Reed leather. Prices ranging from 50 cents to \$5.00 at Silverthorn's Family Drug store.—Adv. 12-4-tf

We pay best prices for second hand furniture. DYAL'S FURNITURE CO., 404 Fir St., Phone Black 3351.—Adv. 12-4-tf

Have you friends in the Eastern states? If so it is time to begin to get the Christmas presents ready. You may get the Christmas holly boxes of every size to fit the handkerchief, necktie, gloves and large boxes all shapes for your packages at Silverthorn's Family Drug store.—Adv. 12-4-tf

The Observer's new phone number is Main 37.

Drs. Darland, over Putman's.—Adv. 12-5-tf. Mr. Joseph Palmer leaves tonight for Portland on a short business trip.

THE FORUM

Dr. Brownton's Platform. To the Editor of the Observer:—Since my nomination for City Commissioner has been filed, I have been asked by various persons concerning my attitude on some of the questions which will come up in our city government. I am a firm believer in the

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Manager-Commission form of government. It is, in my estimation, the best manner of instilling real business in the city government. The city administration should be fair to all parties and at the same time enforce the laws. Economy is my watchword and efficiency will be my demand. The social and moral welfare of our city must be maintained and if elected, I will do my best, not only to maintain our present social and moral standards, but also to keep La Grande in the front ranks of progress. I have been asked if I am a "Lafky Man" and it has even been talked on the street that I am a "Lafky Man" and that I became a candidate merely for the purpose of putting Mr. Lafky in charge of the manager's office again. Now I want to say that I am neither a "Lafky Man" nor a "McKennon Man." Under no circumstances would I accept any office if I had to hog-tie myself to it. If elected, I will stand for a good efficient man for manager and will feel free to help choose the man who may fulfil these requirements. In regard to the Second street viaduct, I hold that the loss of one life would be a greater loss than the small expense of maintenance and property damage. I believe in "Safety First," and also in treating established industries of this town in a fair and square manner so that we will not run any danger of losing them. I respectfully solicit the support of the voters at the coming election.

Very truly yours, H. S. BROWNTON.

AS TO REGISTRATIONS La Grande, Oregon, Dec. 5.—(To the Editor)—There seems to be considerable misunderstanding on the part of many people of La Grande over the city registration law. In order to qualify and vote in the coming city election a citizen must be registered with the city recorder. County registration has nothing to do with it. However if a citizen has previously voted at the last city election he is registered and provided he has not changed his residence need not register again.

There are at least 3000 people in La Grande qualified to vote if they are registered. About 2500 are registered for county and state elections while only about half that number are now registered for city elections. The figures for the past few years since the managerial commission charter was first adopted show that there has been a deplorable lack of interest taken in the municipal affairs by the voters. The charter was voted for on October 1, 1913, at which election only 622 votes were cast and the commissioners were elected 20 days later when only 683 votes were cast. In the 1914 election the vote dropped to

Electric Stoves that you will want. Hotpoint & General Electric Disc Stoves, made of steel, finished in highly polished nickel. Some 4 in. indicating, others 6 in., operating from lamp socket. Larger sizes, twin and triple disc, require special wiring. Ask us about them. Eastern Oregon Light & Power Co.

EYES OF ALL NATIONS. America and Germany are the greatest eyeglass and spectacle wearing nations of the world. Five Americans wear glasses to one of any other nation. Deplorable were it not a fact that blindness in America has decreased over 20 per cent since the advent of glasses, while in every other country of the globe there is an actual increase. Save Your Eyes. Glasses fitted by Peare's will do this—We grind our own lenses, Factory on the Premises. J. H. PEARE & SON Registered Optometrists. We Will Tell You All About Our Christmas Flowers and Plants in a Few Days WATCH THIS SPACE La Grande Seed & Floral Co. Foley Hotel Building.

"Life's Seven Ages" Through all life's seven ages there is the need of a Bank Account, but not through life's seven ages will there be the chance to save, there is today. You can start a bank account today—and keep it alive, and feel that those dependent on you are provided for. There never was a better time to save than today, and every dollar you place in this bank is fully protected; always accessible, and acts as an ever-present inspiration to save more. COME IN TODAY Deposits \$1,040,000.00 Assets \$1,365,000.00 La Grande National Bank

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