

# NOW COMES THE BIG MONEY SAVING EVENT

## Begins January 18 **N.W. West & Co.** Ends January 27 THE QUALITY STORE

TEN-DAY CLEAN-UP SALE—WHERE ALL COST PRICES ARE FORGOTTEN—WHERE YOU HAVE A CHANCE TO BUY THE FINEST FALL AND WINTER MERCHANDISE AT LESS THAN FACTORY COST. A CLEAN-UP SALE OF BROKEN SIZES—ODDS AND ENDS AND DISCONTINUED LINES.

### ITEMS BELOW ONLY GIVE YOU A HINT OF THE MANY BARGAINS THROUGHOUT THE STORE

- Clean-Up Prices on all Ladies' Suits. The newest styles, latest fabrics, most all sizes. Values to \$40.00. Your Choice \$6.49
- The Greatest Coat Bargains ever offered, values to \$37.50. Your Choice \$6.49
- All kinds of Dresses—Stunning styles for dancing, street and afternoon wear. Reduced 33 1-3 per cent.
- One lot of Coats, Suits, Dresses. Your Choice \$1.98
- Clean-up Prices on Sweaters, Kimonos, Housedresses.
- One lot Ladies' Shoes—Button and lace, all sizes, values to \$4.50. Your Choice \$1.95
- Entire Stock Ladies' Shoes at Clean-up Prices.
- Clean-up and January Sale Prices in every Department.
- One lot Children's Wool Underwear 33c

- Clean-up Sale of Entire Men's Clothing Stock.
- Regular \$15.00 Suits, Clean-up Price \$10.00
- Regular \$20.00 Suits, Clean-up Price \$13.35
- Regular \$22.50 Suits, Clean-up Price \$15.00
- Regular \$25.00 Suits, Clean-up Price \$16.65
- Regular \$30.00 Suits, Clean-up Price \$20.00
- Entire Stock Boys' Clothing Reduced 33 1-3 per cent.
- One lot Men's Suits, values to \$22.50. Your Choice \$6.90
- One lot Men's Overcoats, values to \$20.00. Your Choice \$6.90
- Stetson Hats \$2.49 Gordon Hats \$1.98
- Money Saving Prices on all Dress Goods, Silks, Velvets, Towels, Blankets, Muslin Underwear—
- Bates and Carsonia Gingham, 1st quality, yard 11c
- 36-in. Dress Linen, heavy weight, yard 35c
- One lot Ladies' Cashmere Hose 19c

## THE OBSERVER

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### THE LA GRANDE PLAN

Some of our neighbors are thinking of taking up the managerial form of city government. Among them are Aberdeen and North Yakima, Wash., and Pendleton, Oregon. This shows some thought and some foresight. But a word to our neighbors in advance of their changing their form of municipal government might not be amiss. The history of municipal government in the United States has been: Flying from one form of government to another. Municipal government is bad in a certain city. The citizens are vexed and discouraged. They talk things over.

"We can't do anything or accomplish anything under this charter. We must amend the charter," they say.

"It is the old moth-eaten charter that is holding us back, and which prevents us from having good and efficient government."

So the citizens get together with a bunch of lawyers, and the usual procedure is to meet in a back office and frame up a city charter under which the Angel Gabriel or the Apostle Paul could not manage a city successfully. There is this provision here designed to protect a certain interest, there is this provision designed to protect "Mr. So and So," and before the citizens get through, there is a patched up charter that prevents the main idea—successful municipal government.

The La Grande plan theoretically is this, and our citizens at least should master the theory of our city government as it would be if ideally ex-

ecuted:

The city commissioners are chosen by the citizens at large, as men competent and qualified to pass the laws, to select a city manager, and to supervise his work. Their function is legislative and supervisory and not executive. Bear that in mind.

They select a city manager. He hires and fires all employees. In that power lies his strength. He is either city manager or he is not. Unless he has absolute authority over the city employes, unless he can hire and fire, how in the world can anyone expect results from him?

If the city commissioners are politicians and not business men, if they insist upon dabbling into matters of petty patronage, if one commissioner wants to reward this faithful worker in Ward 1, and the second commissioner is grateful to this worker in Ward 2 and wants him put upon the payroll, and if commissioner No. 3 has a very intimate friend who helped him in the city election and would like to see him attached to the municipal mammals as a reward, don't you see that you have knocked the theory of the managerial form of government into a cocked hat?

In other words our advice to Aberdeen, and North Yakima and Pendleton is not to adopt the commission or managerial form of government unless they are willing to go the whole hog, that is, divorce municipal business from politics; elect business men and choose the city manager for a city manager, and let the city employes take orders from him and him alone. If the city commissioners go mixing with the city employes, giving them orders, listening to their underground gossip, and tale-carrying, and spying and reporting on each other, the whole system will go overboard, and the city manager will soon walk the plank.

The game is worth while. We advise Aberdeen, and Pendleton, and North Yakima to adopt the commission form of government and especially the La Grande form.

It is working well here. But it might not work well in the other cities unless politics were absolutely eliminated from the system as it has been here in La Grande, and unless the commissioners are big enough as they are here in La Grande absolutely to forget politics in city affairs and run them as they would their own, insisting upon the city getting dollar for every dollar expended and relegating the spoils system to the back ground, and refusing to reward party and personal workers with positions at public expense. Here nothing but efficiency counts. The city manager is IT.

Things have not yet reached the millennium in La Grande. The city

commission has a serious subject to study in the question of restoring the city's credit and financial standing. A business man would make short work of that by refunding the city's debt at a low rate of interest and starting in on a cash basis. But that will come in time. No doubt there are reasons why the city's credit should be left to lag as it is. But on the whole the La Grande plan is satisfactory, and we recommend it heartily to all patients with only this admonition:

"Shake well before taking."

**PROTECT THE PUBLIC**  
Stoves used to heat theatres are too dangerous. The city authorities of Union should learn a lesson from their opera house fire. A few dollars are too small to be considered before the safety of the public. It was fortunate that the fire occurred when the opera house was not filled with people.

**THE NEW JUDGE**  
Wallace McCamant, the new supreme justice of the state of Oregon, is an able lawyer and the banquet given him by the members of the legal fraternity was his due. Politically the appointment may not have been expedient, but high tributes were paid to him by W. W. Cotton and others as to his ability as a lawyer. Judge McCamant is a lawyer and Republican of the old school, and in his new position of trust and honor should have the good wishes of all.

**FORM A RURAL CREDITS ASSOCIATION**  
Union county should not be the last to organize a rural credits association. This is properly a matter for the agricultural council to handle, which has the matter in hand, and it is to be hoped that this public matter will be taken up promptly and expedited.

National Thrift Day is February 3. Start in now and save your money and make a start toward independence.

**EDITORIAL COMMENT**

**THY NEIGHBOR'S BUSINESS**

One of the most peculiar traits of human nature is the fascination of attending to someone else's business. It started away back in the cave men times when one fellow was anxious to know what was going on in the other fellow's den. There being no windows to peep into or to eavesdrop under, it was no little task to get this information, and in spite

of the difficulties encountered and the culture and breeding the race has had from then until now, that trait has not only been preserved, but has been improved upon until it is now one of the exact sciences.

A few years ago two young men were engaged as competitors in the show business in a small town. Their houses were located on opposite sides of the street, but in almost plain view of each other.

Now these fellows were exceedingly industrious and also exceedingly meddlesome toward each other, which resulted in bitter feelings and enough personal enmity to start another European war.

They went to all kinds of trouble to keep tab on each other's business. One fellow got a small hand register and his cashier, in addition to selling tickets and slighting the public, kept count of every person that went in across the street.

The other fellow had certain people purchase the first ticket sold and the last one from his busy antagonist and got almost absolutely correct records every day, and then they both would flatter themselves by thinking how they were putting it over each other.

The idea is to be gained from this is that, had they spent all this misplaced energy and ingenuity upon the creative end of their business and got out and boosted the game in general they both might have been successful instead of inviting failure as they did. It's a pretty safe rule that, "he who runs his neighbors' business has none to run of his own".

Stick to your guns and keep firing—Let the other fellow do the worrying.—The Pilot, Seattle.

**THE MENTALLY SICK**

Here is something that may cause you to open your eyes.

"Every year society is unjustly sending to prison hundreds of insane and feeble-minded persons who, in the course of their mental disturbance, have violated the penal laws. This culpable practice of punishing the mentally sick should in the course of justice cease.

"Society is being poorly protected when it sends insane and mentally defective individuals to penal institution and then releases them from custody unscared merely because their sentences have expired. Yet this irrational procedure is being continuously practiced by our courts and boards of parole in all states of the Union.

These two paragraphs are taken from a paper read at the last Illinois conference of charities and corrections by Dr. P. Bowers, medical su-

perintendent of the Indiana hospital for insane criminals at Michigan City Medical examination of prisoners at the time of their trial was the method proposed by Dr. Bowers to prevent the injustice the people practice against themselves and these unfortunates.

"When a defective delinquent has been discharged or paroled from custody merely because he has spent a certain time in prison, he returns to society a more defective and vicious-

ly inclined individual than he was previous to his incarceration." Dr. Bowers declared. "It is almost certain that he will return to prison on a new charge, and the same foolish experiment with all its attendant expenses will be repeated."—Baker Democrat.

Wedding invitations, announcements and calling cards printed at the Observer Job Printing Department. 18-22-ct.

## The La Grande National Bank Issues Booklet

# "BANKING MADE PLAIN"

Educating the public in a practical knowledge of the simple methods of banking is a mission to which enterprising banks all over the country are more and more devoting themselves, and as a means of service to the community, one of the latest booklets along this line entitled "Banking Made Plain" is now being distributed by the La Grande National Bank.

The booklet is noteworthy because of condensing into a small space a really remarkable amount of practical information, concisely yet readably stated, and typographically attractive.

The forepart of this booklet gives in a concise manner the preliminary requirements of banking in relation to deposits, checks, and accounts. There are fifteen sub-heads under the heading "Accounts", thirty sub-heads under the heading of "Checks", fifteen sub-heads under the heading of "Deposits" and other main headings followed by various sub-titles are "Identification", "Overdrafts", "Banking by Mail" and how a "Clearing House" operates.

A few of the Sub-heads will serve to indicate the nature and scope of the booklet, as follows:

"How to Open an Account", "Forms of Accounts which can be Opened", "How to Balance Your Account", "Bank Statement", "Deposits for Collection", "Deposits by Mail", "Deposits of Husband and Wife", "Death of Depositor", etc.

We find more good information under "Checks" such as "How to Draw a Check", "Altered Check", "Lost Check", "Undated", "Post Dated", "To Stop Payment", etc.

The latter part of the booklet deals with what every borrower should know and gives a similar wealth of information and includes brief and adequate treatment of such subjects as "Notes", "Collateral", "Discounts", "Note Made by Minor", "Note Made by Married Woman", "Negotiability" and many others.

Under the head of "Drafts" and "Bills of Exchange" are "Acceptance", "Acceptance for Honor", "Due Date", "Joint Drawee", "Notice", etc.

Then follows "Indorsements", giving an explanation of many kinds and liability of indorsers, following this up with the important subjects of "Protest", "Collections", "Lost Paper", and some very useful "Bank Don'ts".

Any one who wishes a copy need only apply at the bank where they will be distributed free.