

EDITORIAL PAGE OF THE LA GRANDE EVENING OBSERVER

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THE JUNE ELECTION.

A special state election will be held on June 4. The following proposals will be submitted to the people for their approval or rejection:

State issue of \$6,000,000 in bonds to begin construction of a comprehensive system of roads and highways embracing entire state.

Direct expenditure of \$100,000 a year for four years to build a new penitentiary at Salem.

To raise pay of legislators from \$3 a day to \$6 a day, extend legislative session to 50 days and limit number of bills that can be introduced by each member and each committee.

To authorize assessors of Western Oregon counties to restore Oregon & California grant lands to tax rolls.

Requiring municipalities to hold their primary and general elections on same day state primaries and general elections are held.

To provide for classified assessment of property with graduated rate of taxation on property of different classes.

To enable Port of Portland to build or to subsidize steamships and operate line of steamers to foreign and domestic ports.

To prevent repeal of any parts of state constitution by implication.

All acts of the legislature against which the referendum is invoked also will be on the ballot.

These proposals are all important and merit thorough study.

It is to be hoped that the people will take a progressive stand upon the good roads legislation and make a start toward building up a comprehensive state highway system.

Otherwise Oregon will lag behind its sister states, California and Washington, and lose business which should come to us.

HE WAS RIGHT, TOO.

Now and then there comes into a newspaper office a man or woman, boy or girl, who teaches more in a minute or two than his hearers had learned in a corresponding number of years.

For instance; today a man paid a bill at The Observer office and incidentally he said he was moving away. "I lost my wife four weeks ago and it was a hard blow," he said.

If inflection and other subtle voice shading could be translated into print and a master of prose or verse were present the world would have a lesson today. In a few words this man condemned the divorce courts with their full calendars and the domestic tragedies all round with

"Where There's a Will, There's a Way."

There's no task too great to undertake—if you have the will. If you will to save money, you can do it. You don't necessarily have to be "short" to save—just bank a part of your earnings at this bank, each week or month—you will be surprised at the rapidity of its increase.

MAKE OUR BANK YOUR BANK

La Grande National Bank

Summerville Postmaster Examination.

The United States Civil Service commission announces that on March 10, 1917, an examination will be held at La Grande, Ore., as a result of which it is expected to make certification to fill a contemplated vacancy in the position of fourth class postmaster at Summerville, Oregon, and other vacancies as they may occur at that office, unless it shall be decided in the interests of the service to fill the vacancy by reinstatement.

Age limit, 21 years and over on the date of the examination, with the exception that in a state where women are declared by statute to be of full age for all purposes at 18 years, women 18 years of age on the date of examination will be admitted.

Applicants must reside within the territory supplied by the postoffice for which the examination is announced.

The examination is open to all citizens of the United States who can comply with the requirements.

Application forms and full information concerning the requirements of the examination can be secured from the postmaster at Summerville, Ore., or from the U. S. Civil Service commission, Washington, D. C.

Applications should be properly executed and filed with the commission at Washington at least seven days before the date of the examination, otherwise it may be impracticable to examine the applicants.

Our Want Ads get replies.

Are You Completely Satisfied With The Corset You Are Wearing?



Have you convinced yourself that it gives you the utmost style, comfort and wear possible to any corset? Are you free from all pains and aches for which corsets are frequently responsible? Is the corset you are wearing accomplishing some good effect either of style or health?

If the answer to any or all of these questions is—NO—come to our corset department and let us show you the many models in Nemo and Henderson Corsets. We have them in a great variety of styles and sizes. Priced \$1.25 to \$5.00

Just Received—Silk Hosiery. In all the latest colors in plain and fancy stripes 60c to \$1.75

N. N. West & Co. THE QUALITY STORE

a condemnation stronger than a book's length arraignment.

A Washington or a Lincoln or a Wilson would have loved to hear this man say the few words it was The Observer staff's pleasure to hear this morning.

It was to be expected that Congress would not grant an extension of power to the President to act in any way that might involve the country in war by using the army and navy to protect American interests during adjournment of Congress. Congress is very jealous of its prerogatives and, if war is to result, will want to be consulted before it is brought about.

They are making a lot of fuss and feathers about Mrs. Alexander Thompson, the woman legislator from The Dalles.

Union will hold its livestock show in June. This will be one of the best shows ever held, and La Grande will turn out in force.

Sooner or later an American ship will put its head in the lion's mouth. Then what will we do.

Flappers Are Evidently Girls Who "Flap".

La Grande, Feb. 23.—(To the Editor)—What and who are "flappers"? question asked by the Stroller in Thursday's issue of The Observer.

"Flappers" an English term for girls between fourteen and eighteen. Probably suggested by the way girls of the unformed age flap around in walking and carrying themselves generally. When I left England thirty-five years ago the term was not in use. I don't think it has been used more than ten years, and only recently have I seen it in American papers. It will probably become quite common as it is very expressive.

UPTON H. GIBBS.

Resume of Work Done by Oregon Legislators During Session Just Closed

Salem, Feb. 23.—(Special)—It is impossible yet to secure the exact text of the road bonding bill, the road code, or any other of the important measures passed by the legislature. This is due to the fact that many changes were made during the discussions that preceded the passage of these measures and their amendments do not appear in the printed bills.

Consolidation Fails.

As usual consolidation of commissions and officers failed, the tax commission being alone wiped out. A committee was appointed to consider the consolidation question for two years and report a plan at the next session of the legislature.

Money Left Over.

In spite of the six per cent tax limitation law the legislature left the state with an apparent balance of \$974,650 over and above the amount allowed for it to expend under the intent of the limitation amendment.

The grand total of appropriations made was \$6,319,084.75, and the grand total of revenue available under the estimates prepared in the budget was \$6,309,505.82. This would indicate a seeming deficiency on the part of the legislature of \$9,578.93, not taking into consideration unexpended balances and the greatly enhanced estimated

revenues of the next biennium.

But in reality such a deficiency does not exist. One appropriation made by the legislature was for \$10,553.58, to be used in repaying money which was borrowed from a local bank to take care of the flax industry. This appropriation, however, was made with the string tied to it, that as soon as the flax on hand is sold, the money accruing from the sale of such flax is to be returned to the general fund.

Hence a seeming deficiency of \$9,578.93 is turned into an apparent balance of \$974,650.

Constructive Legislation.

Among very important pieces of constructive legislation which have been placed on the statute books may be numbered the insurance code, the irrigation code, the rural credits bill, the military and fish and game codes. All represent much hard work and will go a long way toward simplifying and bettering our laws. The men who worked them out deserve great credit.

Road Bills Important.

The road program consisted of six bills of prime importance. There is one known as a procedure code which prescribes methods for the opening, laying out and vacating of highways. Heretofore three different processes have been available and they have promoted more uncertainty and confusion than good highways. The three systems have by the procedure code been revised into one workable system.

There is also a county code which has to do with expenditures of county funds and administration of county road work. It does away with the time-honored supervisor system, and provides for appointment of a county road master instead. In other words it centralizes authority in county road work and eliminates the haphazard and expensive system so long in force in Oregon. It also specifically repeals by section numbers many conflicting road sections in the codes and session laws.

Highway Code Notable.

There is, further, an ambitious measure known as the state highway code. Its object is to provide procedure for construction of hard-surfaced highways and for co-operation of county and state in construction of what are known as state highways. It dispenses with the existing ex-officio state highway commission composed of elected state officers and provides for appointment by the governor of a non-salaried commission of three, one member to be from each congressional district. It severs the highway engineering department from the state engineer's office, and gives appointment of a highway engineer to the new highway commission. This bill carries an emergency clause.

A measure known as an act to regulate motor vehicles is, in its main effect, a road law. It doubles the present motor vehicle license taxes and deotes the whole proceeds proceeds to road work under supervision of the state highway commission. The old law required that motor vehicle license taxes and devotes the whole which they were collected after payment of the cost of license tags and other incidentals of state administration. The money was thus scattered and inefficiently expended in many instances. Under the new law the automobiles will pay, on the basis of the existing number of such vehicles in Oregon, about \$300,000 a year into the state road fund.

Still another road bill is the Bean-Barrett bonding act. This is a contingent or emergency measure. It authorizes issuance, in event revenues from established sources are not sufficient to meet allotments of government road funds, bonds in an amount equivalent to the deficiency. This bill also carries an emergency clause, and insures expenditure in Oregon of the entire government allotment for post roads and forest roads and an equal sum of state money as is required by the federal act. This assurance prevails regardless of the fate of the \$6,000,000 road bond issue to be submitted at a special election June 4.