

LA GRANDE EVENING OBSERVER

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Our Experimental Form of City Government.

More and more we grow to realize that the commission manager form of city government, which La Grande people worked hard to figure out and finally adopt, is an experiment fraught with the dangers attached to any innovation.

It was the sincere hope of many who advocated the commission manager form that we had perfected a plan whereby one man would manage the city and the commissioners would act as the balance wheel and safety valve to all municipal affairs.

F. J. Lafky was the first manager and he was given free hand by the commission to handle things. Records show that we progressed considerably. Debts were reduced, city business was expedited and it looked as though we had met the troubles of municipal government and conquered them.

Fred B. Curry was selected as manager two years ago and so long as the remnants of the original plan prevailed, giving the manager almost a free hand in city work, things went well and La Grande ran smoothly.

When due consideration is given the administration of Mr. Curry was a successful one, and it is considered that his work encompassed features of a public nature above named which work usually commands as high a salary in itself as the manager receives here.

Thus we have had two successful managers fall victim to restlessness and dissatisfaction. We now enter upon another year with John Collier as manager and the problems he will have to face are apparent and certain.

With our army coming back, it will not naturally have to wait that fly.

For Croup. "Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is splendid for croup," writes Mrs. Edward Hassett, Frankfort, N. Y.

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ver, in the future it will be expected of the manager. It so happened that during Mr. Curry's administration the war with all its story of preparation and sending troops was on. The city was called upon to entertain, repeatedly, to not only show the soldiers the true La Grande spirit but to show to speakers and lecturers and war workers the glad hand of La Grande. Throughout all of this the city manager was the active force that "did things."

Investigation of that work shows that it was done exactly according to an engineer's blue print, that labor was hard to get and same on the job were not expert workmen. Yet, when the shortage of labor is considered and the desire to accommodate the engineer by letting him remain in Wallowa on a personal job of putting in a city sewer, there is no ground for complaint.

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