

# La Grande Evening Observer

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### CITY AND COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER

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### DAILY BIBLE THOUGHT

IF YE WILL OBEY my voice indeed, and keep my cov-  
enant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all  
people; for all the earth is mine and ye shall be unto me a  
kingdom of priests, and a holy nation.—Exodus 19:5, 6.

## "Let The People Rule"

What's gone wrong with Governor Pierce since he went  
to Salem? Has he changed his views on politics? Has he  
retraced his steps from the attitude taken for years in  
Eastern Oregon when he advocated "let the people rule."

Oh, that slogan, how sweet it used to sound when the  
governor with his marked oratory and straight stature so  
eloquently poured forth into the ear of the proletariat,  
"let the people rule."

But, something has happened, Walter "ain't what he  
used to be," for in appointing Jefferson Myers to the of-  
fice of state treasurer, the governor insisted that the com-  
mission be made out to 1927, the end of the deceased treas-  
urer's term. A general election is to be held this fall  
when, according to all rules of the game, a new treasurer  
should be elected to fill the unexpired term of Treasurer  
Hoff.

Yet the governor ignores that dear old slogan, "let  
the people rule," and by gubernatorial edict attempts to  
continue Jefferson Myers in office over a regular election.

Oh, Walter, Walter, has the association with those Wil-  
lamette valley fellows changed your ideas of pure democ-  
racy? If heart-rendering grief is, indeed, to set you in an ex-  
ponent of the people who almost competed with William S. Uren  
for years—turn to the official edict to thwart the will of  
the people at a regular election.

## Here Comes Will R.

Clear the highways and by-ways, for Will R. King is  
headed this way from Washington, D. C. He is coming  
for a purpose, too. Will R. expects to grab the democ-  
ratic nomination for United States senator and leave Bill  
Strayer, Milt Miller and George Mansfield standing with  
open mouths as he fans past them.

Charming a residence in Eastern Oregon, Will R. lives  
elsewhere. He does not even have his washing done east  
of the mountains, and it is doubtful if he pays tax on any  
real property in the state. Yet, he says to the Bourbon  
Democrats, "I'm your man; I'm close to McAdoo and there-  
fore I am entitled to your votes."

Of course you will say it is a joke, he can't be nomi-  
nated, but don't be too sure of that. Once before Mr. King  
panced out from Washington and beat Dr. Morrow, an  
old-time Democrat of Portland, for national committeeman  
of his party.

But what can Democrats be thinking of to cast their  
votes for a non-resident in fact for the United States sen-  
atorial nomination?

## Humanity Is Much The Same

Roy Ritner, state senator from Umatilla county, has  
been in the east for several weeks in the interest of the  
wheat export bill. We have received a post card from  
him bearing the picture of the national capital and upon  
it was written: "After watching congress in operation for  
a month I have come to the conclusion that the Oregon  
legislature is not so bad after all."

And this reminds us that humanity is very much the  
same all over the nation. The New York man is little  
different from the Oregon man, and the men elected to  
sit in the national congress are not so tremendously far  
advanced over those selected for state duties.

Most things are largely as we view them, and Roy has  
been looking on while congress twiddled away, forcing the  
opinion that men representing the nation in the national  
body are "just folks."

Nearly a third of the taxes paid in La Grande go to  
the state, county and road tax, about a third go to the  
schools and a third go for the city. In reducing taxes the  
only sane way to do it is to spend less money in all three  
places. A 10 per cent reduction all along the line would  
be mighty welcome to the taxpaying public. And really,  
we could get along some way, couldn't we?

Dying for a friend marked the end of C. P. Church,  
an old pioneer, who rushed into a burning building in  
Portland to save an old associate from destruction. A fine  
tribute and no mistake—"dying for a friend." Such in-  
stances recall vividly that the friendship of Damon and  
Pythias still exists—occasionally.

## THE OLD HOME TOWN

By Stanley



## OFFICE CAT



BY JUNIUS

## Editorials From Over the Nation

### WILL PRIMARY SYSTEM SURVIVE?

Christian Science Monitor: Early within the memory of those persons in the United States who still profess a deep interest in affairs political and in shaping civic policies an important change has gradually been wrought in the manner of selecting and informing candidates for nearly all positions of public trust. Whereas formerly such selections were made in caucuses and conventions, it is now provided that initiative action lies at least theoretically, with the voters themselves. The effort has been to eradicate what were generally admitted to be the abuses of the political ring system, under which it seemed that candidates acceptable to the ruling political powers, but often unpopular with the masses, were nominated and elected to public office. Theoretically the modern system is sound and democratic. But there are disquieting indications which point to the possibility that in practice the results obtained are not always satisfactory.

There are two points of weakness in the primary election system. One of these is the undeniable fact that in a majority of instances the initiative is not taken by the people of the state or district, but by the individual who regards himself as the best or the strongest prospective candidate. The ambitious office seeker finds it easy to obtain, by personal solicitation, the necessary number of signatures to the petition which insures him a place on the official ballot. His activity in his own behalf too often prevents the entrance of opposing candidates.

Another element of weakness in the primary system, though it is by no means inherent, is the indifference of the voters in availing themselves of the opportunity to express their preferences. Nominations are made for even the more important offices by a minority of the qualified electors. This again the choice is more than likely to fall on the ambitious aspirant who first places himself in the field upon his own initiative.

If the primary method of nominating political candidates is to survive, or if it is to prove its fitness to survive, it can do so only as the means to serve the people, rather than the seekers of public office. Party leaders

anxious for success, would hesitate to recommend to the suffrage of the electors many of those candidates who, through the carelessness or indifference of the voters, obtain places on the official ballot. In congress, in state legislatures, and on the bench in those states where judges are chosen by popular vote, many positions of power and authority are filled by those who have gained preference through the side door left open by an indifferent public.

The primary method of nomination should survive. It can be made practically, as well as theoretically, efficient and effective. The people have the right, in the first instance, to initiate the candidacy of those whom they desire to call to political service. But, having that right, they should exercise it. Failing to do this, they might do worse than yield the privilege to their nominal party leaders and tacticians, well, as a preliminary step, all undesirable or incompetent material. This necessary process cannot safely be neglected. If the people will not undertake it they should allow it to be accomplished by someone in their behalf.

### DRUNKEN DRIVERS

Washington Star: Public sentiment against drunken automobile drivers is strong and rising. The chief of police has said that a drunken man with an automobile is more dangerous than a drunken man with a gun. There is "no doubt as to that." It is obvious. A drunken auto driver is likely to do more damage than a drunken pistol-toter, and no clemency should be shown to either. A police court judge, speaking a few evenings ago before the Mid-City Citizens' association, advocated the confiscation of the automobile driven by a drunken man. He said that within the year more than 800 cases had come before the police court of persons charged with driving cars while under influence of liquor, and there were fifty-nine of these cases last month. He said that the drunken driver is a potential murderer and must be dealt with accordingly. This is strong language, but it is justified. All citizens worthy of the title will agree with the judge. It is within the power of the police and the judges of the courts to deal severely with offenders of this class, and the power should be so exercised that every person convicted of driving a car while drunk shall be punished in a way proportional to the offense and be thereafter barred from driving a machine.

### Poles Review Wilson's Life

WARSAW, (AP)—The life and work of Woodrow Wilson were the subject of lectures delivered in the grammar and high schools throughout Poland March 3 by order of the educational authorities.

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<b>WORK SHOES</b> Lion brand sturdy work shoes; wear- like iron— real buy at \$3.50 \$4.50	<b>CORDUROY PANTS</b> Heavy grade Corduroy PANTS, Neustadter Bros. quality, built for service. \$1.50 and \$6.00

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Cars - Trucks - Tractors

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There was a new woman  
Who lived in a shoe.  
She wanted a car,  
So what did she do?

She phoned to our office,  
And took our advice;  
We had the material  
There in a trice.

The garage was soon finished;  
Her troubles are through;  
She keeps the car in it,  
And lives in it too.

## The Grande Ronde Lumber Co.

Our Friends Are Legion.

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They can't—but you can begin right now—and be one of the Successful Eighteen.

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