

AT HOME.

A Paragrapic Record of Recent Happenings in and Around the City.

County court is in session. Holiday courts at cost—Jones Bros.

The Oregon Legislature convenes next Monday.

Fasciators and hoods at cost at Mrs. Rinehart's.

The Grande Ronde Chronicle is soon to be issued as a daily.

Glassware, lamps, and holiday goods at cost and less than cost at Jones Bros.

Ladies' Misses and children's woaden underwear at cost, at Mrs. Rinehart's.

A pair of twins have taken up their residence with the family of Mr. Starbird in La Grande.

If you want to be astonished at the cheapness of holiday goods, visit Jones Bros store and learn their prices.

A meeting of the fire company was held at the city hall last Monday night.

Woolen hosiery, gloves, felt and wool hats, for sale at cost at Mrs. Rinehart's millinery store.

The county clerk issued 123 marriage licenses last year, and the court records show that 31 divorces have been granted during the same time.

Material has been in La Grande for several weeks for a telegraph line between that city and Elgin, but owing to the lateness of the season it is doubtful if the line will be put up before spring.

A communication from Nelson Schooner, in which he answers the charges preferred against him in the last issue of the La Grande Chronicle, was received too late for publication in this issue.

Commissioners Eddy, Summerville and Bushee have finished their appraisalment of the Umatilla Reservation lands.

The "Week of Prayer" is being observed in the Methodist and Presbyterian churches of this place, with good results.

Another masquerade ball will be given in this city on the night of February 14th.

Many year's practice has given C. A. Snow & Co. patent solicitors, Washington, D. C., unsurpassed success in obtaining patents.

A serial story by our talented contributor Mr. C. F. Hinckley, entitled "Clara Belle Lee," is commenced in this issue of the Scout.

W. H. Packwood, Jr., the fourth and last implicated in the Baker county warrant steal, was arrested in Portland last week.

Deputy Sheriff Usher visited La Grande and Elgin this week.

The identity of the person who "borrowed" the gold filled case watch at the Cove post office has been discovered.

A disastrous fire, which destroyed an entire business block, with the exception of two brick stores, occurred in Athena on the night of January 2nd.

The O. & W. T. road proposed to be built down the north side of the Columbia, to Portland, is not, as many think, abandoned.

The illustrated New Year's edition of The West, published at Florence, Lane county, is a gem and reflects much credit on its editor.

THE MESSAGE.

A Carefully Prepared Address to the Council.

The New Mayor Points Out What He Thinks is the Road to Success and Prosperity.

Gentlemen of the Common Council of the City of Union, Oregon—Although not required by your laws—yet it has become the last of our duty to you as mayor-elect, to assume this official position, to deliver to the common council an address—or message—setting out his views, and offering his recommendations for the general action of your honorable body, in making and providing for the enforcement of just and necessary laws for our municipal government and for the management of city affairs during his tenure of office.

By their suffrages, the people have delegated to you, the making and enforcing of their laws and management of their community affairs. You are their representatives; you are the people; they have placed in your hands all their rights and responsibilities as a municipality, except the right of petition for their wants, and appeal for their grievances.

They will hold you largely responsible for the peace, health, safety, improvement, prosperity and general welfare of the city during your term of office. They look to you for a proper enforcement of their laws touching all these matters and in the absence of necessary laws expect you to enact and put into effect such laws as may be needed for their protection and welfare.

Whatever may have been the feelings of any part of the community as to the propriety or desirability of certain matters which it is contemplated shall be acted upon by you, I feel assured they will gracefully yield to the will of the majority and lend hearty aid to every measure for the upbuilding and common good of the city.

I take it that every citizen of this municipality is awake to the fact that every improvement both public and private, will redound to the best interests of all, while contributing to the permanency and prosperity of the city, and should be willing to lend at least their hearty encouragement to every new enterprise or improvement without considering the solid question whether it will tend to line his own individual pocket book.

While I am ready at all times to most heartily commend economy in the administration of both public and private affairs, yet I must condemn that economy which ends in parsimony in the one and miserly greed in the other. I deem it your duty, gentlemen, to afford every encouragement, which you can legitimately afford under your oath of office, to private improvements, which look to the upbuilding of the city, no matter in what particular part of the city located. I deprecate all jealousy or sectionalism—any North Union or South Union—and warn you that upon such rocks have been wrecked the hopes and prospects of many towns, whose location and advantage bade them become fair cities. I deem it your duty to foster so far as you may, public improvements of whatever name, nature and character, and trust that you will not allow any personal feelings, personal interests or trifling technicalities to stand in the way of promoting the general welfare, but that you will mark all your proceedings with harmony and by your acts and example admonish the community at large to lay down all differences and pull heartily together for the public weal.

While it is a nice thing to be entirely out of debt, yet it is not at all necessary thing, nor do I deem it at all times a wise thing. The largest cities, the ablest counties, the state and even the nation itself find it not an unwise policy under certain contingencies, for certain purposes, and under safe provisions to contract public debts, both bonded and floating, in many instances aggregating vast sums. I do not think any action of yours pledging the credit of the city can be fairly questioned, provided you can clearly demonstrate an ultimate profit in the permanency, improvement and financial prosperity of the place, which will at the same time be the best guaranty of the ability to pay these debts so contracted.

The first matter to which I desire to call your attention is our city charter—or constitution, if you so desire to term it—by which the legislature intended to delegate to you the power and authority to erect and maintain a municipal government.

The charter should be carefully revised and amended wherever it appears to be in conflict with itself, or the statutes of the State, and the power delegated should be materially enlarged. I am informed that at a recent meeting of the common council, this matter was under discussion, and a committee appointed upon this important subject, and it is likely they will submit to you as their report the draft of an entirely new charter, with their recommendation that the necessary steps be taken for its enactment. I do not know what it may be, but in view of the proposed report of that committee, I do not deem it necessary to enter into any discussion, or make any recommendations as to desirable amendments; but as the subject most necessarily comes under your attention subsequent to this address, I am compelled to be guided in the line of my remarks by the char-

ter as we now have it, it being highly probable that many matters alluded to in this address may be met and answered by that report; yet matters of grave and urgent necessity should be taken up and receive your immediate and careful attention, and in any event the present charter must remain your foundation law until the legislature shall enact the new chart or extend your powers under the old, and whatever their action, it cannot be of use to you for a period of two months.

Upon inquiry of the proper officials, I learn that the common council has no laws. I recommend the adoption of a proper code of by-laws to govern the procedure of the council, expending the services of the members, systematic and expeditious proceedings, and especially to compel the members present at any meeting to vote upon each and every question put to the meeting.

It has been suggested that such city ordinances as have been repeatedly passed by the council are in such unworkable shape as to be practically worthless—and I believe it an open question if the city has any ordinances. It will be your duty to answer this question by ascertaining if the city has any ordinances, if properly enacted, if in force, and whether in conflict with each other, the charter or the general laws of the State. I recommend that all ordinances of the city now in force, together with all ordinances enacted in the future, be carefully recorded by a good penman, in a suitable book provided for that purpose.

Art. 6, Sec. 8, of the charter provides that, "all ordinances passed by the common council, before the same shall finally take effect, be published in a newspaper, published in the city of Union, for one week." "Sec. 3, of same article, provides that, "the common council shall at the commencement of each fiscal year, if there be more than one paper published in the city of Union, invite proposals from the proprietors of such papers, to do the city advertising and printing for the ensuing year, and shall let a contract to the lowest bidder." "Sec. 11, same article, provides for publishing certain reports in the "official paper." Every ordinance of the city ought to be brought to the attention of the public which it is to effect by a public manner. In what more suitable manner can their attention be called to these laws than by placing them in each citizen's hands, in the city papers? These provisions ought to be properly enforced.

It will be your duty to provide proper regulations for the preservation of the health of the city, and the prevention of the introduction and spread of contagious diseases. A health officer should be appointed, vested with proper powers, and allowed an adequate compensation, who, in conjunction with a properly appointed and empowered health committee, should as often as once every month, or in case of emergency, thoroughly inspect the city and report upon the sanitary condition. The officer should have police power, and be authorized to abate any nuisance which is offensive to the senses or injurious to health. I am of the opinion that many of the wells of the city, from which water is used for drinking, cooking and domestic purposes will be found in such close proximity to cess pools and privy vaults as to be contaminated by the exhalations of these vaults, and that many of our people are daily using water, poisoned from such sources. Every well in the city should be examined at least once a quarter, and if found to be polluted from such sources, to be at once filled up. Garbage, fish and sewage from hotels, restaurants, wash houses, stables or any other places, thrown upon the open ground, in streets and alleys or upon private premises, and left to fester, rot and pollute the air, an offense to sight and smell and a menace to good health, should in every case be promptly abated, and persons permitting or causing such nuisances, should be punished for like subsequent offenses. Dead animals should be carried away from our confines and buried or burned.

Hoz pens should be prohibited within city limits, and if maintained in such near vicinity of the limits as to prove offensive, should be abated as nuisances, and the council as a body or by its authorized officers should see this matter attended to through the proper courts. The oft-quoted maxim, "an ounce of preventive is worth a pound of cure" is a very true one, and a little attention bestowed at the proper times and places may save the city an epidemic of typhoid, diphtheria, scarlet fever or other equally dangerous and malignant diseases.

The city has absolutely no adequate fire protection, and I consider it only one of the mysterious mercies of providence that it has not long ago been reduced to ashes. It is a very nice thing to trust providence, but our forefathers found it advisable while trusting providence to "keep their powder dry." You may term it providence or good luck or any name you please—except good management—but our immunity from destructive conflagrations in the past is a matter of astonishment. We have no right to presume that it will always be thus, and no one can safely promise that tomorrow will not open upon a heap of ashes and blackened ruins where now stands the city of Union.

The only fire organization the city has is a volunteer company of ardent young men having the welfare of the community at heart; who, without encouragement, at a sacrifice of their time, and practically upon their own resources, have maintained a hook and ladder company since the incorporation of the city. They have rendered good and willing and efficient service, and without doubt have on several occasions prevented considerable loss by their timely services. This organization is poorly provided with apparatus, and shamefully housed, their building being a rickety, tumble-down shed, the front looking as though at the school house; good enough, perhaps, to house a scrub cow, but not good enough to house Union's fire company. The general safety of the city demands that adequate provision shall be made for the protection of the homes and property of our

citizens, not only by providing every safeguard against the origin of a fire, but for extinguishing and preventing the spread of a fire once originated; and for this purpose I recommend the purchase at once of a suitable hand fire engine, hose cart and at least 750 feet of hose, at city expense, and that steps be taken for the proper housing of the fire apparatus of the city, when not in use, and for its effective use whenever we shall have the misfortune to call upon the valiant fire boys to exert their muscular and face the dangers of a conflagration. I also recommend that police powers be granted the fire company or any member thereof, whereby the assistance of bystanders may be compelled in case of a fire, in the moving of property and the working of the fire apparatus. In addition to this I recommend that the system of inspection by fire wardens be continued; that inspectors be more frequent, and that the wardens may be empowered to enforce their reasonable recommendations.

The peace and good order of the city has at various times been grossly violated and authority of the officers set at defiance. It appears that there is a technical doubt if the council has power under the charter to define and punish misdemeanors, and our municipal authorities have felt reluctant to prosecute those which might result in litigation and expense to the city. I am of the opinion that it was clearly the intention of the legislature to delegate the power to our city government to preserve peace within its limits and punish offenders; but if our city charter does not provide the means for an adequate remedy for infractions of the peace and good order of the community, I recommend that such offenders be dealt with by the State laws until such time as the city charter may be amended to give the city government complete jurisdiction of such offenses, and that thereafter stringent ordinances be enacted for the suppression and punishment of all misdemeanors, disturbances of the peace and disorderly conduct.

Section 5, article 4 provides for licensing, among other things, saloons, barroom, etc. Section 1, article 2, of the charter, empowers the council to make ordinances "not repugnant to the laws of the state or the United States." By not being "repugnant to" I think it to be in conformity with the laws in every essential feature. I submit it to you that the financial feature—the fee—is a very essential feature. The saloon license fee as I am informed as fixed by the city council is \$300 per annum. The license fee as fixed by the state law, see page 7 of the session laws of 1889, section 2, is \$400 per annum. Besides prescribing the fee the statute also provides the manner of obtaining a license and I am clearly of the opinion that the general rule as laid down in our statute cannot be legally departed from by the city, and that a license granted for a fee less than provided in such statute is illegal. I recommend that you at once investigate this matter and if you find that the license fee cannot lawfully be less than at the rate of \$400 per annum that you amend the ordinance so that it may not be "repugnant to the laws of the State" and take such steps as may be necessary to legalize or amend such licenses as may now be illegally in use from such cause.

I also commend to your careful attention the further provisions of said Sec. 5, of article 4. The question of streets and street improvements, has proven an exceedingly vexed question to the property owners of the city as well as the common council. The charter provisions upon this subject, together with the ordinances, if there are any, appear to be within themselves exceedingly lame, or to have been very lamely administered. The city appears to have but one decent reasonably well-kept street, Main street. The improvements upon this street have been made according to no fixed plan, but in a haphazard and unreasonably extravagant manner, utterly at variance with charter law, and it is safe to say that had the funds expended upon this street been applied agreeably to some well defined plan we could now boast a thoroughly built well paved, durable street.

There appears to be no established street grade, though the council may so provide, and in consequence we have sidewalks of varying widths and altitudes, nearly all in various stages of decay and dilapidation. A peculiar feature of our charter is that it provides for the construction of streets, sidewalks and sewers and the repair of the same at the expense of the abutting property, except the intersections, where the grading, crossings and repairs shall be paid for out of the general fund of the city. Section 4 of article 6 provides for the creation of a street fund, collectible, as I understand it, in money and expressly provides that "the amount of money so collected shall be applied to the improvement and construction and repair of the streets of said city." And that the moneys so collected shall be kept in a separate fund; further providing that in the discretion of the council such surplus may remain in this fund may be appropriated upon the public roads leading into the city. Presuming that the provisions alluded to have been complied with there must be a considerable amount in this fund, or it will devolve upon the officials who have collected the moneys from the taxpayers to explain what disposition has been made of it.

Without entering into any discussion I think the language of the charter clearly indicates the intention of the legislature as to the application of this fund. A city cannot be a city without streets; better a few good streets than a multitude of poor ones. I recommend that the city be a grade established at once for Main street and that the grades be established for other streets as required; that hereafter and as soon as practicable all sidewalks between Catherine creek and E street be brought to the grade and made a uniform width of not less than nine feet with crosswalks at least six feet wide, and that all other sidewalks of the city be laid in accordance with the established grades and at least six feet wide; that all sidewalks be kept in good repair; that all alleys of extraordinary street improvements the street fund be drawn upon to pay all over what would be the ordinary expense of such improvements.

I recommend that the street improvement at Catherine creek be completed at the expense of the city, and that the county court be petitioned to put in the necessary bridging. I further recommend that vigorous steps be taken to eradicate from the streets and private premises within the city limits the so-called Canada thistles.

I recommend that irrigation, whenever the ditches are led through or across the public streets, be regulated. As at present used the irrigation system of the city is nearly as much of a nuisance as a benefit. The waste and uncleaned for water in many places making unsightly and almost impassable thoroughfares. The roads leading into the city should have a due share of your attention, it being of but little consequence to the outside world how good or fine our streets may be if that outside world shall be unable to see or use them by reason of impassable roads leading into the place.

The city as at present provided has very poor public buildings—scarcely worth the name. I fancy no member of the council would invite a visitor to inspect the ramshackle sheds which we designate as city buildings, at least he would not point them out with any great degree of pride. I recommend this matter to your attention and suggest that a suitable building may be erected at no extravagant cost which would accommodate the fire company upon the ground floor and provide a suitable council chamber and city offices on the second floor.

The city has no place for public recreation, amusement and the holding of open air meetings, except such as are rendered to its use by private citizens. We may not be always welcome to the hospitalities we have heretofore so unostentatiously enjoyed in this respect and which I fear we have not always duly appreciated. It is not improbable that from among our generous citizens a piece of ground suitably located and of sufficient area, may be obtained by donation, lease or purchase for such purpose, to be made the pride and care of the city. I recommend that steps be taken to provide the city with a public park and to properly lay out, improve and care for the same.

Nature appears to have especially designed waterworks and an abundant supply of pure water for the city. As located, we could be cheaply provided with an abundance of water of the very best quality, for every purpose, from Catherine creek. The engineering difficulties are but few and the only serious question would be the rights—a question which will only become more serious by delay. I suggest that you examine into this question by a committee duly appointed and authorized, your subsequent action to be based upon the report of such committee.

The street lighting system as at present arranged, does not afford the most satisfactory results, and I recommend that the system be improved by a redistribution and rearrangement of the lights and addition of new lights where needed, and that the council ascertain if the terms of the contract for lighting of the streets is fully complied with on the part of the contractors.

I recommend that vagrancy, if not already provided against by ordinance, be defined and punished and that public begging be prohibited.

I desire to most emphatically condemn the practice of allowing thieving cows, pig-sticks and predatory animals of every kind to run at large in the city limits. It is only a few months since that we indignantly repelled the idea suggested by a citizen of a neighboring city that they intended to turn Union into a "shag pasture," and we didn't let them do it; yet we have for years made a cow pasture of the city ourselves, and the notorious, thieving cows of this city have become so expert that they can rob a farmer's wagon, climb a ladder and pick a jail lock. Premises upon which such care, labor and money have been expended are often in a single night utterly despoiled, enclosures are broken down and demolished and sidewalks all over the city damaged beyond repair, all in spite of the utmost vigilance of the sufferers. We would take it as an insult to be complimented upon our nice "grassy streets," and we want to inform the world at large that no grass grows in the streets of Union, why then in the name of common sense and justice allow cows and horses to roam the streets unrestrained. If there is no street pasture afforded them and they are to be benefited at all, it must be by the destruction of private premises and the plundering of farmers' wagons. It is a rank injustice to owners of gardens and decently cared for premises, a promoter of profanity among the agriculturists who visit the city and a howling nuisance and should be abated at once. I further recommend that an ordinance be enacted prohibiting the driving of herds of animals greater in number than 20, through Main street, except in the night time.

And now gentlemen permit me in conclusion to thank you for your indulgence in so patiently listening to these remarks, necessarily long drawn out. I find that under your charter the mayor has only two prerogatives. The first that of delivering you an address, and his privileges being so few I feel that you will pardon me for taking advantage of that privilege, especially as the second and last is very quickly disposed of when the emergency arises, the casting of the deciding vote in case of a tie.

Gentlemen, I hope that the end of the fiscal year will show that you have wrought for the best interests of the community and that you will be able to rejoice in the consciousness of your work well and faithfully done.

W. T. WRIGHT, Mayor.  
Union, Oregon, January 3, 1891.

Notice.  
To whom it may concern:  
Notice is hereby given that I will pay no bills contracted by George D. Ficklin.

G. D. FICKLIN.

OUR SOCIAL WORLD.

Brief Personal Mention—Epitome of the Week's Amusements.

T. B. Hart, of Antelope, was in Union Tuesday.

Mr. C. A. Gray, of Clover creek, called on us Tuesday.

Wm. Roth came down from Snake river last Tuesday.

Judge Shelton returned from Portland last Saturday.

Charles Tomblison, of Telocaset, was in Union this week.

Sherman McCormack made our office a substantial visit this week.

Mr. Hance Green, of Island precinct, called on us a few days ago.

James Allison, of Sanger, called on us this week and subscribed for The Scout.

E. S. McComas and E. L. Eakley, two La Grande journalists, were in Union this week.

Mr. J. L. Caviness, of Island City, called on us last Tuesday and subscribed for The Scout.

Andy Harris and wife, of the Cove, visited Union last Tuesday. We acknowledge a pleasant call.

A. N. Hamilton and wife returned last Saturday from an extended visit to friends and relatives in Summerville.

Alex. Jones, who has been sojourning on the Sound for some time past, returned to Union last Saturday. He reports times lively there but not looming like they have been.

Miss Mamie Baker returned from her visit to Portland last Tuesday. A dinner party was given in honor of her arrival to which a number of invited young folks did ample justice.

Hon. J. H. Raley, of Pendleton, was in the city Monday looking after the wants of his constituents, before taking his departure for the legislature. We acknowledge a pleasant visit from him.

Edward Jarvis had the misfortune to break one of the small bones of his left arm while leading a horse last Tuesday. The animal pulled back catching his arm in the rope with the above result.

Letter List.

List of letters remaining uncalled for at the postoffice at Union, Oregon, for the month ending December 31, 1890:

- Aisted John, Aikett Sam, Banerler J B, Brunsen Henry, Chandler Daniel, Christing Ida, Draper Judson, Dupes Lon, Drater E, Elliott Wm, Fisher H, Gaff F R, Gordon J L, Gifford Alexander M, Johnson G W, Johnson Grant W, Larkins A L, Larkins Monroe, Newenale F G, Norton D J, Payne Hiram B, Parish Farley, Pratt E H, Pearson Mary, Pope Dempse, Ryanen Dan, Rooke John, Simmons Lon, Sullivan Chas (Egn), Wood Miss I M, Wallen Mrs G, Markham Thos., Mt. Pleasant, Dakota; hold for postage.

Persons calling for any of the above letters, will please say "advertised."

Mrs. E. A. Auger, P. M.

Buckler's Arnica Salve.

The Best Salve in the world for Cuts, Bruises, Sores, Ulcers, Salt Rheum, Fever Sores, Tetter, Chapped Hands, Chilblains, Corns, and all Skin Eruptions, and positively cures Piles, or no pay required. It is warranted to give perfect satisfaction, or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale at Brown's drug store.

Necktie Party.

Preparations are being made for a necktie party to be given by Judge Craig and wife at the Depot hotel on Thursday evening Jan. 8th. Tickets including supper, \$2. Mr. Geo. Board will act as floor manager. All are invited and a good time may be counted on. 1-1-25

BORN.

SLOCUM.—In this city, December 31, 1890, to the wife of E. M. Slocum, a son.

NORTHERN.—At Telocaset, January 4, 1891, to the wife of Chas. Northern, a son.

MARRIED.

CHANDLER—WEBB.—In this city, Dec. 29, 1890, Mr. George Chandler and Miss Stella Webb, both of Baker county, Rev. J. P. Morris officiating.

EDWARDS—VAUGHN.—At the Union City hotel, Jan. 4, 1891, by Rev. L. J. Beebe, Mr. J. M. Edwards and Miss Emma E. Vaughn.

SHIRA—ROGERS.—At the Centennial hotel in this city, Monday, Jan. 5, 1891, Mr. John A. Shira and Miss Nellie Rogers, by C. L. Bates, Justice of the Peace.

SLOCUM.—In this city, January 1, 1891, Miss Bernetta Infant 9th of Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Slocum.