

THE OBSERVER

Published Daily Except Sunday

BRUCE DENNIS, Editor and Owner

Entered at the postoffice at La Grande, Oregon, as second-class matter

United Press Telegraph Service

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

Daily, single copy..... 5c
Daily, per week..... 15c
Daily, per month..... 65c

This paper will not publish an article appearing over a nom de plume. Signed articles will be revised subject to the discretion of the editor. Please sign your articles and save disappointment.

NAMING OF JURYMEN.

The trial of State of Oregon vs. Adolph Newlin, charged with selling liquor contrary to the local option law has closed and all evidence and matters pertaining to and brought out by that trial are now public property. A newspaper has little if any right to try a case while it is in court, but after a decision has been reached by the jury, free speech is then guaranteed. This trial has brought out many important things and among others the act of some leading prohibitionists in selecting names for a jury to try a case in which they are personally interested, stands forth in bold relief. Without doubt there is nothing the equal of it on the records of Union county, and even though ignorance of law be pleaded, it still smacks of a spirit which is not desirable in any human being.

If individuals or interests should choose their own juries, then the belt of corruption would indeed be cinched and the common people would be submitted to hardships in America that no foreign monarchy ever dared attempt.

This, however, is but one of many unfortunate and perplexing conditions that grow from a law made only to be broken; a law that on its face is ever written failure; a law that has never made good in any community wherein it has been tried.

The local option law is a disorganizer. It debauches the courts, makes perjurers of citizens, continuously keeps a community in a chaotic state and never accomplishes results that are satisfactory to anyone—even to those who make and frame the law.

So long as it is a law, however, it should be enforced. In this country law is king. If it be a foolhardy law then we, as a people, must live under a foolhardy ruler until there is a chance for repeal. Without doubt the men who gave a list of names they wanted to be drawn upon the jury, did so because they were eager for results. One of the men, we are told, is employed to procure evidence and convictions under this law, while others probably believe in the law as strongly as we believe to the contrary.

To say the least and tell the truth, everyone must admit that La Grande is suffering from a law that says there shall be no liquor sold. Suffering, we say, because everyone knows that the law exists, and everyone also knows that liquor is sold in this city. This

fact may not be knowledge that would be evidence before a court, but nevertheless every truthful man realizes in his own heart that he is living in a community where law is being broken every minute of the day. This is a bad example for the young, much worse in our opinion than the selling of liquor under rigid restrictions where odium attaches to the man who becomes intoxicated; where places where liquor is sold are subjected to the keenest scrutiny; where wine rooms, gaming tables and prostitution are not allowed in connection with the sale of liquor.

The task of regulation can, and has been accomplished, but the task of absolutely prohibiting the sale of liquor is one of the undertakings which has never yet claimed the word success.

Everyone should be anxious to do what is best for this community; he should have the interests of La Grande and her people uppermost, but to do this he must be honest with himself and honest with the people. That is exactly why the Observer has decided to tell the people the plain unvarnished truth about conditions here—it is for the good of the city and all concerned. Many will differ with us, and we give them credit for being perfectly honest and sincere in their views but they must give us the same consideration, for our opinion has not been hastily made up. On the other hand it is a product of long observation of a state-wide prohibition law that fostered the lowest grade of dividers and made it possible for hell-holes of worst variety to exist. For our part, give us liquor regulation that will place saloons in the hands of some honorable official like a county judge, with power to revoke and cancel license when saloon-keepers fail to live up to and run their places of business according to those regulations.

INVITE WALLOWA TO PARTICIPATE

Now that the time of year is near at hand for preparing an exhibit in the hall at the railroad station, why should it not be a graceful thing to ask Wallowa county to join the Grande Ronde valley in making this display. Change the lettering on the hall so as to include Wallowa county, thus giving the traveler a chance to learn of that section of Oregon, which, while not a main line, is very important nevertheless, in the way of production.

This bit of courtesy will not be harmful to this valley, and it will aid in more ways than one. The railroad company cannot help noticing the spirit manifest, and as Wallowa county is a part of its tonnage producer, will be glad to see the happy combination.

If this suggestion is adopted there will be a pleasant rivalry between the two counties as to products to be displayed. Each can do very well indeed, and it is up to Wallowa county to make this beautiful Grande Ronde valley do her very best.

Wallowa has the advantage of extensive irrigation while the Grande Ronde has the warmer climate. Let us see how the fruit and grain compare.

DR. WITHYCOMBE'S FRIENDS.

Dr. James Withycombe is giving his life to a most noble calling and works incessantly for the betterment of the

farmer and the producer. When one knows this it can easily be understood why the doctor displayed so much strength in the gubernatorial nomination a few days when he had scarcely admitted that he would accept the nomination.

Oregon realizes that in Dr. Withycombe she has a man who each year is adding wealth to the state by his knowledge which he delights in giving along with hard work, to the state's institution. The silent sentiment that favored the doctor was so pronounced that he cannot but feel its importance and be grateful for it.

If there was a smaller town contest as to which contained the most wealthy people, we believe Union would win against any other community in Oregon. Recently a property owner over there complained because he had to build a cement sidewalk, and it was found upon investigation that the complainer had a large chunk of money on interest and that every property owner effected for a distance of five blocks each way, had money loaned out. And Union never did boast very much about her plutocracy.

Quite frequently the men who are working hardest for the upbuilding of a community have the least. But their public spirit nine times out of ten is worth more than wealth. There is always expected some rich person who will give vent to his feelings by calling attention to the poverty of a poor man who is a punner. That counts for little, however, so the thing to do is to keep constantly pegging away.

A PIG'S SQUEAL.

It Played a Momentous Part in American History.

The war between this country and England in 1812 was caused by one vote, and, stranger still, the small margin came from a pig getting its head stuck in a rail fence. It was a Rhode Island fence at that, but built much like a Virginia worm fence.

They were having an election of members of the legislature in Rhode Island. One Federalist put off going to the election and left himself just time enough to get there before the polls closed. Just as he got on his horse and started for town he heard a pig squeal. He looked around and saw that the pig had its head jammed into that old rail fence, and anybody who knows anything about hogs knows that the hogs would have eaten that pig up if it hadn't been rescued. The farmer stopped long enough to liberate the pig, and when he got to the polls they were closed. He was too late.

The result was that a Democratic member of the legislature was elected from that district by one vote, and he would not have been elected if that Federalist had got there on time. In the legislature a Democratic United States senator was elected by one vote, and that Democratic legislator who had been elected by one vote voted for him.

In the United States senate they voted for the war of 1812 by one vote, and that Rhode Island Democratic senator who had been elected because that pig was caught in the fence voted for the war of 1812—Popular Magazine.

Not a Waxwork.

The opening of the courts in an asize town in England is always a great day for the residents. The procession to the church, where the judge says his prayers and listens to a homily, the march to the court, with the attendant javelin men and the braying of trumpets—the men in wigs and gowns—fill the rustic mind with the sense of awe and the majesty of justice. It is related in Mr. Thomas Edward Crispe's book, "Reminiscences of a K. C.," that a farmer once took his son into the crown court.

On the bench was the Baron Cleasby, gorgeous in scarlet and ermine, statuesque and motionless. The yokel gazed with open mouth at the resplendent figure on the raised dais. Suddenly the baron moved his hand from right to left and left to right.

"Why, feyther," said the boy, "it's a loive!"

A Friend in Need.

Algie—I say, Fred, you're—aw—a friend of mine, aren't you?

Fred—Sure.

Algie—Then be a good fellow and—aw—help me out. I'd like to have that pretty cousin of yours learn all about my—aw—good points, doncher know.

Fred—I am helping you, old chap. I argued with her for two hours yesterday trying to convince her that you weren't as big a fool as you look.—Chicago News.

Laughter.

Without laughter the human race would have wept itself to death or exterminated itself long ago. Pathos is beautiful; tragedy is absorbing. But both pathos and tragedy are instantly routed by the laugh.

Sanitary Hair Goods OF EVERY DESCRIPTION

Our line comprises everything that is new for Hairdressing. You are assured of strictly sanitary conditions if you buy your Hair Goods here, as we handle only Hair Goods that have been thoroughly sanitized and do not allow any hair goods to be sent out on approval or exchanged.

REAL HAIR SWITCHES

All Lengths and Shades

PRICES \$4.00 TO \$10.00

Coronet Braids Made from real hair in all shades. Prices \$5 to \$6

Puffs with Comb Attached A new idea in Hairdressing easily put in place. Price \$5.00

Separate Curls and Puffs, prices 25c to \$1.00. Red Cross Turban Rolls, 25c each. Washable Hair Rats 50c each. Light Weight Turban Caps 25c each. Combs, Barettes and fancy hair, prices of all kinds.

N. K. WEST, The Quality Store

HUMAN SACRIFICE.

It Appears to Be an Ordinary Occurrence in Liberia.

Of certain aspects of Liberia Captain Braithwaite Wallis writes in the Geographical Journal: "The population of Jane is large, almost untouched by the so called civilization on the coast. It is typical of western Africa. The men have fine physiques and very black skins, and most of them plait their hair, which is worn about six inches to eight inches long. They appeared to be well armed with rifles, guns, spears and swords. While in this town I saw even slaves, who were held by the leg in wooden stocks. They had been in that position for some months. One of them told me through the interpreter that he had been kept thus for two years. He was a man of poor physique, and a purchaser could not therefore be easily found for him.

"That night, while asleep in my little hut in the town, I was awakened by hearing a gentle chorus of women's voices singing some yards away. After a few minutes the chorus ceased and a single voice began, in Bando, an African song. The voice was soft and melodious, and the tune was fascinating and weird and harmonized with the wild environment to which it belonged. After a few lines the other singers joined, and the result was most attractive and beautiful, containing as it did such delicate harmony with excellent taste. During the years I have been in Africa I do not remember having heard anything

quite like this singing before, and I shall never forget it. The interpreter told me the next morning that the song was to the good spirits, asking them to guard and protect the white man and his followers on their journey."

Another incident: "A few yards outside the first stockade I noticed an empty grave, the newly turned earth of which showed it had been recently dug. This grave, it appeared, had been used for the purpose of burying a man alive as a sacrifice, and I was informed in a most matter of fact way and as if the occurrence was quite an ordinary one that the unfortunate victim's body had lately been exhumed to obtain certain portions for the purpose of manufacturing fetish medicines."

THE LION'S HEAD.

Origin of Its Use as a Decoration For Fountains.

"The sun glows in the Lion," says Seneca, meaning that when the sun enters the sign of Leo at the summer solstice the highest temperature of the year is experienced. We may say, on the other hand, that the Babylonian astrologers thousands of years ago placed the king of beasts, the fiery and ferocious lion, in that part of the zodiac which the sun enters at the summer solstice.

The constellation which is called Leo bears very little resemblance to the outline of a lion. Probably the name was originally applied only to its principal star, Regulus. It is to this constellation in the zodiac that we owe the countless water spewing lions' heads which are found in ancient and modern fountains, because in the latter part of July, while the sun is still in the sign of Leo, the Nile is at its highest level.

Furthermore, the lion's head with widely open jaws is in itself very suitable for the mouth of a fountain or waterspout. This decorative motif was employed universally throughout the Greco-Roman world. Lions' heads are found used in this way at Athens, Ephesus, Olympia, Agrigentum and countless other places. It is not quite certain that this employment of the lion's head originated in Egypt. Curtius describes an Assyrian bas-relief from Balran showing water streaming from a ring shaped vessel. A lion stands as if on guard on either side of the fountain.

The water clock, which was used in judicial proceedings, had the form of a lion and a name which means the guardian of the stream. Hence the idea of protection may have been the origin of the association of lions with fountains, and this custom may have originated in Asia.—Scientific American.

GEORGE PALMER, Pres. F. J. HOLMES, Vice-Pres.

W. L. BRENHOLTS, Ass't. Cash. EARL ZUNDEL, 2d Ass't Cash. F. L. MEYERS, Cashier.

LA GRANDE NATIONAL BANK OF LA GRANDE, OREGON

United States Depository Capital and Surplus \$180,000.00

DIRECTORS

GEORGE PALMER F. J. HOLMES W. J. CHURCH F. L. MEYERS

C. C. PENINGTON G. L. CLEAVER F. M. BYRKIT W. L. BRENHOLTS

W. M. PIERCE

With our ample resources and facilities we can render you efficient service and handle your business to your entire satisfaction.

FARMERS' BUSINESS

WE GIVE PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE BUSINESS OF FARMERS. WE COR- DIALLY INVITE THEM TO MAKE THIS THEIR BANKING HOME.

The United States National Bank, LA GRANDE, OREGON.

"Squaw Man" TONIGHT.

Presented by

Ethel Tucker Stock Co. C. W. BAKER, Manager.

35 Characters, 16 Head of Horses, Prairie Schooners.

Heacock Orchestra

Admission - - - 25c

Lincoln Ball Grounds