

THE OBSERVER

Published Daily Except Sunday

BRUCE DENNIS,
Editor and Owner.

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

United Press Telegraph Service

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

Daily, single copy..... 5c
Daily, per week..... 35c
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.

THE MILLS OF UNCLE SAM DO GRIND.

At last the heads of United Wireless have been indicted. It has been a long, hard fight, in which the government has been vigilant and careful. So well were the men who promoted this company entrenched, that it required considerable skill to ferret out every line in order that true bills could be rendered.

It would not seem that those who have evidently profited from the sale of what appears to be practically a worthless stock will meet a fair and impartial trial, with chances very fair for their conviction. Doubtless hundreds of stockholders will feel good over this move on the part of the government, for there is little doubt that misrepresentations were made to innocent purchasers in order to sell United Wireless. In this part of Oregon there were many who bought stock, which was their privilege, and they did so, feeling the company was managed by honest and reliable people. It did not appear very good on the face of it for a twenty million dollar company that never paid a dividend had no right to manipulate its stocks above par. That however, was some frenzied finance, and might have been forgiven if the officers had pushed the business and put it on a paying basis. Such was not done and no wthose who have lined their pockets with money from the innocent, are called upon to face the courts.

BE SURE AND REGISTER

The general feeling in Union and Wallowa counties seems to be that registration is a thing that can be put off until the last minute. So it can, but always when things are left until the very last chance, some one fails to appear. It is so with registration. Just as sure as many neglect this important duty, just that sure is there to be confusion on election day causing extra labor for judges and clerks. The matter of voting is not only a privilege accorded all citizens, but it is their duty as well. No matter what you may stand for, see that your name is properly registered and when election day comes be sure and deposit your ballot. If the arrangements go through to have the registration records removed to the United States bank building there will then be no excuse whatever for not seeing this is attended to. Ac-

ording to the number of names now appearing on the books one would think there was scarcely any population in this valley, which is not the case by any means.

It is gratifying to note the steady increase in revenue from La Grande's water department. A city of this size consumes a great deal of water and at the nominal cost charged here, it does not seem that any great amount of revenue would be produced, yet as a whole, it amounts to considerable. The department has almost everything under the meter, the only correct way to sell water.

The attempt to make Senator Bourne a common enemy to every republican who believes in organization will not work. That is what his enemies are earnestly endeavoring to do, but the senator, like all public men, will have friends in both camps despite such efforts. The assembly is a matter of principle and should not be used against any man individually.

In selling the old court house to Union school district, the county court undoubtedly did what was best for all concerned. Some advocated giving the building and grounds to the district but that would establish a bad precedent and might have created discord in the future. In our opinion the transaction terminated very satisfactorily.

Among other crops at this season of the year is the petition crop and judging from the number in circulation it appears that candidates must be thick as flies. Under the present law it is necessary for each candidate to obtain a certain per cent of the voters in his district in order to get recognition on the ballot.

Doubtless Senator Cummins really thinks he is a greater man than Taft. But quite likely he is the only man who holds to that opinion.

Hunter and Hunted.

A nearsighted sportsman strolled into a little hotel on the shores of Loch Carron and complainingly said, "Just seen a seal, shot at it three times and missed it each time."

At dinner an hour later he sat next to a tourist who had a bandage round his head.

"Had an accident?" asked the sportsman.

"Accident?" growled the other. "Attempted murder, you mean. I was having a bath about an hour ago when some lunatic with a gun fired at me three times from the shore and shot part of my ear off. I don't know why such animals are allowed out without a license."

Then silence reigned supreme.—London Telegraph.

Lavishness.

"In days of old luxurious people had cloth of gold placed beneath their feet."

"Yes," replied Mr. Chuggins. "But those times were comparatively economical. Now we want nothing less expensive than rubber tires between us and the earth."—Washington Star.

There Was No Music.

"What is the greatest fib that ever impressed itself on your experience, Snapper?"

"Well, by all odds, the worst one I ever heard was that your quartet perpetrated last night when they came round to the house and sang 'There's Music in the Air.'"

The Terms of Exchange.

"We wish to arrange for an exchange of prisoners," announced the South American dictator.

"On what basis?" inquired the leader of the other side.

"The usual basis—eight generals for a good, husky private."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Quick Sprint.

Sandy Pikes—Dat rich guy in de bungalow took quite a fancy to me. He took me around to de stable, showed me de \$5,000 bulidg he had just bought and asked me if I could beat it. Gritty George—And what did you say? Sandy Pikes—Nuttin'. I just beat it.—Chicago News.

SOCIETY

Two weddings of local interest have occurred during the past ten days, and while there have been no particularly fashionable weddings in the city in that time, the marriages—one at Baker City, and the other at Portland—will bring two stranger nee-mades to the city within the next month. Mr. and Mrs. Hugh McCall (dmrkah51 desInEOD aonw aonw) who were married at Portland, will be "at home" on West Adams avenue, September 1, and Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Clark will also be permanently located by September 1. Mrs. Zulu Zoe (Himes) Clark, comes to La Grande from Clarion, near Pittsburg, Pa., and Mildred (Maurer) McCall is a popular Chicago girl who will make La Grande her future home.

Fifteen members of the Crystal Rebekah lodge No. 50, I. O. O. F., paid a fraternal visit to the Rebekah lodge at Summerville Wednesday night. Mrs. Addie Grout, president of the grand assembly of Oregon, was one of the visitors. All the La Grande people were splendidly entertained by the Summerville lodge, the hostess serv-

ing a sumptuous lunch at the close of the session. After the luncheon the visitors returned home having enjoyed the visit very much. These inter-lodge visits always cement friendship and create acquaintances that are bound to be pleasant and lasting.

The 56th birthday anniversary of Mrs. S. E. Spiker was given Thursday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Spiker, 1309 Y avenue, and a delightful and entertaining evening was enjoyed. Beautiful presents were awarded the guest of honor. The following were the guests: Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Spiker, Mr. and Mrs. John S. Spiker, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Washburn, Mrs. C. A. Logue, Mrs. Paul Barn, Miss Jane Widlis and Mrs. Katherine Taylor.

Mrs. W. H. Bohnenkamp entertained the Five Hundred club Friday afternoon. Honors were won by Mrs. Jay Van Buren. Light refreshment were served.

Last Wednesday evening Miss Lena Jones pleasantly entertained the P. T. & T. central girls at her home with a three-course luncheon. The home was very prettily decorated in pink and white sweet peas and the lamp shades were of an attractive cream color. The central girls and other young ladies who were the guests, were: Misses Pearl Murchison, Celestia Love, Elsie Wright, Netta Leap, Hazel McCrary, Hilda Williams, Jesse Green, Cecile Smith, Hazel Jones, Ruth and Madeline Jones.

Aching Voids.

"Brooks," said Rivers, "that's the second time I've heard you use the phrase 'aching void.' I wish you would tell me how a void can ache."

"Well," said Brooks, reflecting a moment, "not to speak of a hollow tooth, don't you sometimes have the headache?"—Chicago Tribune.

Matrimonial Felicity.

Mrs. Quackenbush—Am yo' daughter happily mar'd, Sistab Sagg?

Mrs. Sagg—She sho' is! Bless goodness, she's done got a husband dat's skeered to death of her!—Woman's Home Companion.

You can conquer your cares more quickly if you do not continually carry a long face.

THE OIL WELL SHOOTER.

Sometimes Blown Into Eternity With His Own Ammunition.

In certain of the petroleum producing districts it becomes necessary sometimes in opening an oil well—sometimes when the well has become clogged or apparently exhausted—to begin or renew the flow by exploding nitroglycerin at the bottom of the well. This explosive is employed because it is exploded readily by the dropping of a weight upon it. A man who carries nitroglycerin from well to well for this purpose is known in the oil regions as a "shooter."

The shooter has a wagon in which to carry his explosive. A square box under the seat is carefully padded, and when it has been solidly filled with cans of nitroglycerin, which is a molasses-like fluid, he fastens down the cover and drives slowly away to the well that he is to shoot. Usually he makes the trip very early in the morning to avoid the customary travel and so diminish the chance of danger.

For the most part the roads are bad, and the wagon jolts along in a way to make any one but an old shooter decidedly nervous. If it is dark there is great danger that a wheel may drop into a hole with force enough to detonate the explosive. Several wagons bearing shooters and their loads have been blown up, but no one ever lived to tell what sort of jar caused the explosion.

In such a case little is ever found except the great hole in the ground which the explosion has dug, with possibly a wheel of the wagon a quarter of a mile away in one direction and another in the opposite direction.

The shooter generally takes from 80 to 240 quarts of nitroglycerin in his wagon. The smaller amount is quite enough if it should explode to leave no trace of the driver of the vehicle.

When the shooter reaches the well which is to be treated long torpedo tubes are placed within the casing of the well, and the nitroglycerin is poured carefully into them. The well may be 1,500 feet deep and is seldom less than a thousand. When one of the tubes is filled it is lowered with the utmost care to the bottom of the well. This operation is repeated until the shooter is satisfied that the load is heavy enough to accomplish the purpose. When all is ready a bar of iron, known as a "go-devil," is dropped into the well. The instant it leaves his hand the shooter takes to his heels, seeking a place of safety.

Suddenly the earth trembles; there is a crash, followed by a snap; a muffled sound arises and becomes louder and louder until a column of oil and water shoots from 75 to 100 feet into the air. The country for hundreds of feet around is filled with clouds of spray floating to leeward. When this subsides the well is in operation and the shooter receives his fee and drives away.—Harper's Weekly.

Political Announcements

This column is open to any candidate regardless of Faction or Party and is paid advertising

S. F. WILSON, Athena, Oregon, candidate for joint senator for Umatilla, Union and Morrow counties subject to decision of republican primaries. "I firmly believe in the direct primary law, economy in the use of public funds, good roads, better schools, strict and prompt enforcement of law, the square deal and eternal progress of man and his institutions."

C. A. BARRETT, Athena, Oregon.—I hereby announce myself as a candidate for the nomination for joint

senator for the district embracing Union, Umatilla and Morrow counties, subject to the choice of republican voters at the primary nominating election to be held on September 24th, 1910. If nominated and elected I will work for the interest of all the people of my district to the best of my ability, favor the maintenance of the direct primary law and the people's choice for senator and believe the people are as competent to nominate as they are to elect their officers. Very respectfully yours, C. A. BARRETT.

Some Mistake.
"You are not the one who was here when I called last year," said the business visitor, looking down at the fussy little man seated at the desk.
"I am sure I am. I have been here ten years."
"I wouldn't have recognized you."
"There may be a reason for that."
"Yes?"
"Looking you over, I don't believe you are the one who called."

The Way It Works.
"Are riches dangerous?"
"Well, a rich man is apt to get into trouble."
"Explain."
"Brown had always been poor until last year."
"Well, what of that?"
"He got rich, and now he is being sued for alimony."

Anchored.
A little chap four years of age met with the misfortune to have his hat blown into the river. When he reached home his father said to him:
"It's a wonder you didn't blow overboard too."
"I couldn't," was the quick response. "I was fastened to my feet!"

Acute Sense of Hearing.
Camille—Clarence isn't so diffident when he talks to you through the phone, is he? Estelle—Isn't he? Even through the phone I can hear his heart flutter.—Exchange.

Knew the Outcome.
Sympathetic Father—Parted from Harry forever, have you? Well, perhaps it's just as well not to see each other for a day or two.—Life.

A sunny temper glids the edges of life's blackest cloud.—Guthrie.

Conscience.
In the commission of evil another is but one witness against thee; thou art a thousand against thyself. Another thou mayest avoid—thyself thou canst not.—Quarles.

It is better to suffer wrong than to do it, and happier to be sometimes cheated than not to trust.—Johnson.

FARMERS' BUSINESS

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

The United States National Bank, LA GRANDE, OREGON.

GEORGE PALMER, Pres. W. L. BRENHOLTS, Ass't. Cash.
F. J. HOLMES, Vice-Pres. 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.