

THE OBSERVER

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FORESTS A PUBLIC ASSET.

A few days of light winds and the forest fire situation became appalling, says the Telegram. Several hundred soldiers and a few thousand settlers and bird fighters have combated to the limit of human endurance, with little effect. Houses and an occasional homestead may be protected and perhaps a town or village saved in the line of a forest fire advance, but odds are against even this success, especially when the wind rises. Most of the energy and funds expended in fighting such conflagrations are in vain, the puny contributions of weak men who permit natural forces once to get beyond control.

Prevention is the cure, the only hope of an appreciable success. Every fire that has swept away millions in value and taken human life was preventable by reasonable human diligence, with very rare exceptions. Often that which called into active effort hundreds of men, was in its very inception a match which a finger would have extinguished, or a campfire ember which a cupful of water would have quenched. How much easier it is to educate or compel careless persons to observe stringent fire rules in the forest during dry seasons, must dawn upon the Northwest in time, and this season of loss, which may surpass any property or life toll we have ever known, is the time when a more intelligent, effective vigilance should be inaugurated.

Popular conceptions of timber losses is erroneous. That which burns on the National reserves is not a Federal debit in any important sense, but essentially a charge against the community and state. Timber on private holdings, where the title rests with the greatest of the "timber barons" is private property in every consideration of that term, but its real

and most vital value is to the community at large, which will get four or five times as much from protecting and using that timber as the titular owner. At present the highest valuation given our timber is about \$2 a thousand feet in the forest. In cutting, logging and manufacturing into lumber, the community must have the benefit of \$8 or \$10 per thousand, nearly all of which is a labor outlay. Our timber cannot be utilized unless the owners give to the local communities this additional sum in labor, whether the stand is on Federal reserve of private tract. No natural resources is surer of eager demand in the near future than this timber and all in the broad world that can prevent Oregon reaping millions and millions of dollars annually from this industry, is forest fire.

For each dollar's interest had by the timber owner, the community has four or five, giving forest fires an entirely different aspect for many other classes of destruction. It resolves the whole question not into the simple problem of saving private property, as in a city where community fire protection is enforced by law, but into the greater and more popular issue of saving what directly effects all the people, and what is in any liberal construction, a present, immediate popular asset, where no intelligent effort has ever been made to protect anything.

WHAT THE LADIES ARE DOING FOR LA GRANDE.

Without the energy of La Grande's ladies, this municipality would feel a sluggishness which does not now exist. Without the women who are ever alert to push the city La Grande would not have so good a reputation for doing things as she has.

Undoubtedly the feminine portion of this city's citizenship accomplished much in the course of a year. We can look at the city park and trace its purchase to the ladies, we can look at the Astor show and trace its success to the ladies. The same view can be taken of many of the good things of this community. The ladies say little, but they work. And that means everything. Results are what count and when a stranger hears the story of the city park purchase he cannot help feeling an inward admiration for the women who took the initiative in so large and important an undertaking.

In many cities the women are to be credited with the better things accomplished, and it would seem that this city is in that class. Any supporter rendered a club or organization of La Grande ladies is support that will bring returns. This has been demonstrated and the only way to judge future events is by those of the past.

Good leadership and strong committee workers is a combination that can accomplish almost anything. The ladies here possess both in their organization.

zations. The Observer takes pleasure in publishing to the outside world the achievements accomplished by the good women of La Grande.

The Baker City Herald has recently lengthened its columns, purchased new head rules and column rules, put a new blanket on the press and is now issued in a form that is very attractive. Colonel Kennedy, the editor and publisher, is gradually satisfying his ambition to give Baker City a first-class evening paper and he is receiving a proper support to reward his efforts.

Sometimes a ticket agent can separate a man and his wife quicker than the legal machine. This was illustrated a few days ago, when Mr. and Mrs. Harry Foreman, of Baker City, started home, after their wedding in Indiana. The ticket man routed Mr. Foreman over the Canadian Pacific and wrote Mr. Foreman's ticket for the Great Northern. All who have passed through the exciting stage of getting married will realize the confusion that followed. It goes without saying that Mr. Foreman did not let a railroad ticket accomplish its purpose, and the agent that sold the pasteboard will have to answer to a higher official for his negligence.

Governors In the Limelight



A. O. EBERHART.

GOVERNOR A. O. EBERHART of Minnesota is holding his head pretty high these days. And no wonder. Just think of being governor of a state having so much cash in its treasury that it probably won't be necessary to levy any taxes in 1911! The situation is one that has likely never before occurred in Minnesota or any other state.

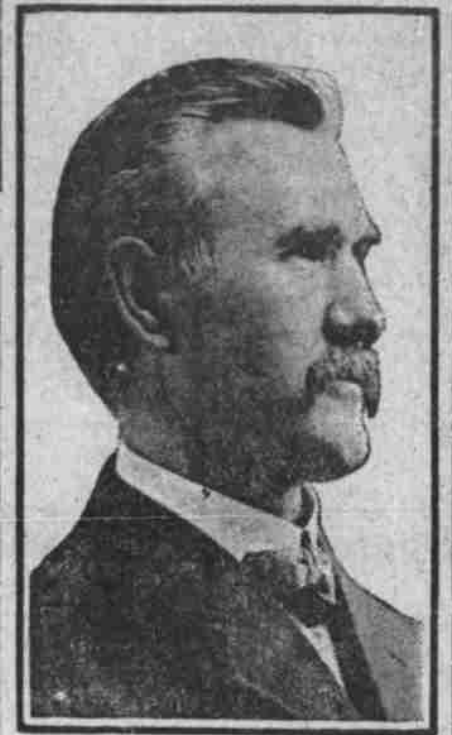
At present the treasury is groaning under the burden of a surplus which has never been duplicated. On Oct. 1 there will be nearly \$4,000,000 in the state treasury. On Oct. 1, 1909, there was approximately \$2,000,000. The unusual surplus has arisen through the successful settlement of cases which have netted the state large sums of money. The largest of these items came from adjusted lumber cases, the gross earnings tax cases, the inheritance tax cases and others.

Not only have large sums of money come into the treasury through them, but there will be a constantly augmented stream, so that Minnesota bids fair to become a state unique in the history of taxation.

Governor B. F. Carroll of Iowa, who was recently indicted for criminal libel, tells many amusing political experiences. Once at a caucus the only attendant besides himself was a citizen of very tall stature and ponderous build. Mr. Carroll had some resolutions to pass which began by representing that they were presented to a "large and respectable" gathering of

voters. "Hold on," cried the other man. "We can't pass that, for it ain't true."

"What isn't true?" demanded Carroll. "It ain't a large and respectable caucus," objected the other member of



GOVERNOR B. F. CARROLL.

the assembly. "There's only two of us."

"That's all right, brother; that's all right," assured Carroll. "It goes as read. Just you keep still. This is a large and respectable caucus, all right. You're large, and I am respectable."

And the resolution passed without further demur.

The indictment of Governor Carroll is the outgrowth of an investigation by the grand jury of affairs at the Iowa Industrial School For Girls at Mitchellville. It is alleged in the bill that the governor made libelous statements concerning John Cownie, former chairman of the state board of control, in an article published in the Des Moines Capital of May 24, which the governor set forth at length his reasons for demanding the resignation of Mr. Cownie.

If you imagine that a governor doesn't know what real hard work is you should visit the farm of the chief executive of Missouri. When a bunch of politicians swooped down on Governor Hadley at his farm recently they found him shy of hands and facing the thrashing of his wheat from fifteen acres.

"A ha!" exclaimed the governor. "You're just in time. I'll feed you all if you work. I need hands just now more than I need advice. Is it a bargain?"

"Sure!" John Swanger, bank examiner, and Mr. Lee, insurance commissioner, responded gayly. "Here's where we make a hit with the farmers."

The governor thrashed 155 bushels from his fifteen acres, or ten bushels to the acre. Finally Swanger had to give up; it was too hot.

The dinner of fried chicken was a dandy. This was where Swanger had a chance to shine.

"Tolerance" in Coins.

The mint allows a certain degree of "tolerance" in coins. For example, the gold double eagle's standard weight is 516 grains, and the "tolerance" allowed is half a grain. A coin of this denomination may weigh as little as 515½ grains or as much as 516½ grains, but never less than the first nor more than the second figure. The standard weight of the silver half dollar is 192.9 grains, and the tolerance allowed is 1.5 grains. This coin may weigh as little as 191.4 grains and as much as 194.4 grains, but never less than the first nor more than the second figure. The standard fineness of all gold and silver coins is 900. In the gold coins a deviation of only one one-thousandth from this is allowed and in the silver coins of only three one-thousandth. The so called five cent nickel coin is really only 25 per cent nickel, the rest being copper. One cent pieces are 95 per cent copper and 5 per cent tin and zinc.—Philadelphia Record.

Sir Walter Scott's Debts.

The Ballantyne failure threw upon Sir Walter Scott the responsibility for \$120,000, or \$650,000, and the grand old man immediately set about the mighty task of paying it; but, notwithstanding the most heroic efforts on his part, he never succeeded in paying it all. He did the best he could, but he had to depend solely upon his writings, and the task was more than mortal man could accomplish. As his powers failed he became possessed of the idea that all his debts were paid and that he was a free man, and in this belief he happily remained till his death.—New York American.

MODERN METHODS COUNT NOW-A-DAYS

There are a great many struggling and plodding business men today, who would have been financial successes years ago, had they been quick to accept modern ideas and modern methods as they came out.

But they either didn't keep their eyes open, or were not progressive enough to keep up with the times.

It is needless to mention that your stock must be up-to-date or your store or advertising will avail nothing. Did you ever know a girl to cut a dash in a gown five years out of date?

Not on your life! Well then, how can a business man expect to cut one, when it's a question whether his present business methods were considered up-to-date twenty years ago? It's a lamentable thing, but these men have been riding in a stage coach when they should have been using more modern means.

The up-to-date modern methods employed by HEACOCK the eye-sight specialist puts him years ahead of his competitors. His glasses ALL give satisfaction.

Clean Up Sale of LADIES TAN OXFORDS

Your choice of any Ladies tan oxford or pump in the store for

\$2.49

Regular prices \$3.50 to \$4.50 ALL THIS SEASON STYLES

Special Petticoat Sale

60 Black Heatherbloom petticoats full 18 inch shirred flounce with full width dust ruffle of same material

\$1.69

You cannot afford to miss these two specials

N. K. WEST The Quality Store

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 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.

DR. C. T. BACON, La Grande, Oregon.—The Observer is authorized to announce the candidacy of Dr. C. T. Bacon for coroner of Union county, subject to the decision of the republican voters at the primary election

DR. CLYDE T. HOCKETT, Enterprise, Oregon.—I wish to announce my candidacy for joint representatives for the 24th representative district subject to the voters of the republican party at the primary nominating election to be held in said representative district, September 24, 1910. CLYDE T. HOCKETT.

The Song of the Aviator.

(After Ben King) Nothing to do but fly, over the hill and town; Nowhere to go but up, nowhere to fall but down.

Nothing to see but clouds; nothing to breathe but air; Nothing to dodge but winds; nothing but death to dare.

Nothing to do but go, wherever the mad swirl wills; Nothing but storms to face; nothing to feel but thrills.

Nothing but necks to risk! Alas, and again, alack! Nothing but arms to break; nothing but skulls to crack.

'Tis a tame and a quiet life! More stirring by far to be In the path of a wild joy ride when the riders are on a spree. —St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

PERT PARAGRAPHS.

If we could recognize our own foolishness as easily as we can recognize that of our next door neighbor it certainly would help some.

There are people who get on rapidly in the world because it always seems to them that theirs plus yours equals theirs.

A thick purse has a long range and is easily and accurately aimed.

Loafers are geniuses out of a job.

There is this one advantage that death has over taxes—death never comes but once

An Indian can be happy without a Piano. But who wants to be an Indian? STEINWAY, LUDWIG, KERTZMANN, A. B. CHASE and CONOVER Pianos for sale by J. J. SCOTT

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, Surplus and Undivided Profits \$200,000.00 DIRECTORS GEORGE PALMER W. L. BRENHOLTS C. C. PENINGTON W. J. CHURCH F. L. MEYERS G. L. CLEAVER F. J. HOLMES W. M. PIERCE F. M. BYRKIT With our ample resources and facilities we can render you efficient service and handle your business to your entire satisfaction.