

THE OBSERVER

Published Daily Except Sunday.

BRUCE DENNIS,
Editor and Owner.Entered at the postoffice at La Grande
as second-class matter.

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.

THEY ARE ALL COMING.

The Union county exposition this year is to have a very large attendance. From every city and corner of the two counties we hear the same report of coming with good cattle, horses, fruits and grain. Wallowa county will ship some of her best exhibits to this fair, and the little city of Cove will send a carload over here on Tuesday. Union is responding nobly to the call of publicity and Elgin is getting ready to come with the bells and "belles." Summerville says no back seat will do for her and she is planning a surprise for the remainder of the district.

Taking the fair as a whole, there never has been such extensive preparation and earnest work. The desire to make La Grande the show window for Union and Wallowa counties during the exposition is such that the same will be done in a way that will be delightful to every citizen.

And the children are taking an active part in the fair. They will have the opening day and the way the youngsters are planning for the occasion shows the enthusiasm unbounded. The ladies are doing their part in the great undertaking and there will be on exhibition, not only needle and fancy work of the finest grade, but there will be something better than that for the ladies—cooking displays. Good bread, cakes, pies, etc.—the kind that make the Oriental cooks look like the proverbial thirty cents.

Get in early to the fair. Come prepared to stay in La Grande for it will be one continual round of pleasure and not a dull moment in that whole time.

One of the things that is attracting attention at the coming election is the proposition to bond counties for the purpose of building roads. Judge Webster of Multnomah county is working hard on this with the hope of carrying it. Many believe it will not carry, for the same reason that Union county farmers would not stand for irrigation district—matter of bonds. In this day and age it is very hard to induce land owners to vote bonds on their possessions, no matter for what purpose the bonds are to be used.

It is very likely that Charley Barrett grew weary waiting for returns. He seldom gets excited but in this particular case we believe he was inclined to be fidgety at least.

The clarion voice of Pat McArthur

even failed to turn the political sentiment in Multnomah county, and for the first time in his career Pat is beaten. He should remember the old slogan,

"He who fights and runs away
May live to fight another day."

Now that the primary election is over Union county can get down to business, and in order to make everything move smoothly, try a few more liquor cases.

DODGED THE DUELS.

Voltaire's Disastrous Attempts to Make De Rohan Fight.

Literary men in dueling times and countries have always been rather prone to get into trouble from which only a passage at arms could extricate them. Voltaire had at various turns a number of duels on his hands, but counted among them two which did not reach the expected climax.

One of these was his affair with the Chevalier de Rohan Chabot, who goaded him to the point of fighting and then, instead of giving him the satisfaction demanded, had him lured into a coach and soundly whipped with switches by some hirelings concealed there.

Voltaire, after trying in vain to induce one of his noble friends to back him in his further pursuit of his enemy, appealed to the municipal authorities in these phrases: "I humbly represent that I have been brutally assaulted by the courageous Chevalier de Rohan, aided by six cutthroats, behind whom he was bravely posted. Ever since that time I have sought to restore not my honor, but his, a task too difficult."

As this public affront failed to produce any effect, Voltaire hunted out the chevalier one evening at the theater and flung insults in his face there. Rohan at last consented to meet him, but contrived to let the news reach other members of the Rohan family, who had Voltaire arrested and thrown into the Bastille.—New York Post.

Private Property.

"If I had a dollar for every time a barber has asked me if I wanted that mole removed," remarked a man the other day after he left a tonsorial shop and was drawing his hand across a smooth shaven face, "I would go down to the office in the morning and tell the company to give my job to some one who really needed money, and then I would start on a long trip and just enjoy myself the rest of my days. Every time I strike a new barber he asks me if I want him to remove that mole, and I tell him I do not. As a rule, I can train a barber in four lessons not to ask the question, but a man can't always get the same lather peddler in a shop, and the question continues to come at me. As a matter of fact, I need that mole. If I wanted it removed I would not expect a barber to do it anyway. Why can't barbers refrain from asking the question? It isn't their mole. It's my mole. It's always been mine too."—Detroit News.

Impudent.

He—So you insist on breaking off the engagement?
She—Most decidedly. What do you take me for?
He—Oh, about forty. Better think it over; it may be your last chance.—Exchange.

Always Gets the Last Word.

"Say, pa," queried little Billy, "what's an echo?"
"An echo, my son," replied the patient old man, with a sigh that was long drawn out, "is the only thing that can flumm a woman out of the last word."

'GOING SOME' TO OPEN SEASON

TROUPE HERE AND WILL PRESENT COMEDY TONIGHT.

Big Seat Sale and Opening Night Will Likely Be Popular One.

Lawrence & Sandusky's troupe of comedians arrived in La Grande this morning from the West and will open the theatrical season at the Steward this evening with "Going Some," a western play that is a whirlwind of marathon comedy triumph. The story is written by Rex Beach and Paul Armstrong which insures it heart interest and real comedy.

Seats have been selling rapidly and Manager Steward is confident that the opening night will be a profitable one. The show loving public is deeply interested in "Going Some" for it comes with a great deal of praise from Oregon towns. At 4 o'clock this evening there were a few good seats left.

The Homeric Controversy.

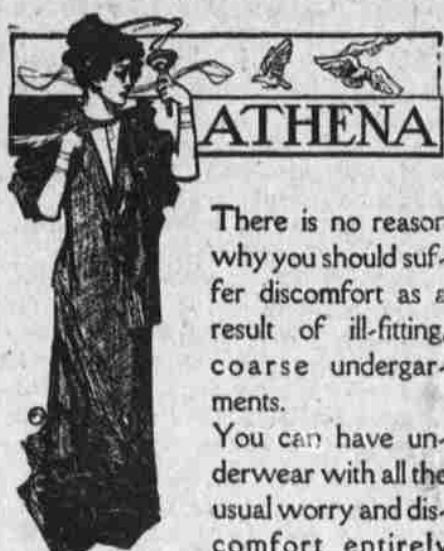
It was about the year 1795 that the "Homeric controversy" began. About that date F. A. Wolf, in his Prolegomena, argued that the Homeric poems were composed of independent epic songs, collected and arranged by Pindar about 550 B. C. Wolf's theory created a great stir among scholars and poets and inaugurated the fight which enlisted most of the learned men of the day. Mr. Andrew Lang, in "Homer and the Epic," 1883, vigorously defended the "one author" theory, as opposed to the idea of Wolf that the famous poems were composed through ages by many different persons.—New York American.

Shot Out.

Rev. Mr. Waters—Look at Bill Barley, for instance. It was the demon run that made him the one-eyed, low browed sort that he is today. Cactus Charley—Not altogether, parson. It mebbe made him a low browed sort, but it was me that made him one eyed.—Judge.

A Love Passage.

"Love! Ah, love!" cooed the sentimental maiden. "I feel as if I could live on nothing but love."
"Do let me be your caterer," returned the ardent youth at her side.—Boston Transcript.



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FOUGHT TO A FINISH.

Tiger and Crocodile in a Battle in the Water.

In India a native went to bathe in a ravine. He was in the water up to his neck when a tiger on the hill above gave a leap toward its prey. But the tiger had not calculated that, since his victim was much lower than himself, a leap of the right strength for a horizontal range would carry him far beyond his mark; consequently he fell some ten feet on the other side.

Now, it happened that a hungry crocodile was at the same time drawing a bee line under water toward the native. When the crocodile had almost come upon his prey he heard a splash just in front and made a dash, bringing his enormous jaws down on the tiger's paw.

The bather nearly fainted with fright when he saw the tiger fall into the water, and for a few moments he could not understand why the creature did not devour him. Why did he persist in keeping one of his paws under water, beating savagely with the other? And the water turned red!

Then all at once the assaults of the tiger became more furious, and his growls developed into roars. The huge tail of a crocodile reared up out of the water. The obvious intention was to pull the tiger under water and drown him, and the tiger, understanding this purpose, tried to frustrate it by beating the snout of the crocodile with his other paw. But the snout was too far down, and he left much of his force on the surface of the water. His struggles became more and more feeble, and at length he disappeared altogether, only a cluster of bubbles remaining to show where he had been.

His fight, however, had been a game one, not entirely in vain, for when the bodies of the two beasts finally came to the surface it was seen that the tiger had literally torn away the whole front of the crocodile's face and had blinded it so that its victory was a useless one.—Chicago Record-Herald.

FALLING BODIES.

Their Velocity Varies According to the Force of Gravity.

A man falling from a three story building in New Orleans will not fall as fast as he would if he were in New York city. In fact, in hardly any two places will he fall with the same speed. This is because as we go toward the equator the force of gravity gets less and less, and consequently the acceleration of a falling body becomes less, and the force of impact is therefore less.

While it does not make very much difference in the injury to a person falling from a height, it does make a difference in other things. Take a rifle and fire it exactly horizontally, and if the gun is sixteen feet above the ground, say, at New York the bullet fired from such a rifle will strike the ground in exactly one second after it leaves the rifle. If the bullet has a horizontal velocity of 1,000 feet per second it will strike the earth exactly 1,000 feet away. Let us take the same rifle to a place where the force of gravity is not the same as at New York, but a good deal smaller, say two-thirds smaller. We find that if the gun is placed sixteen feet above the ground, as before, and absolutely

horizontal the bullet will not fall the sixteen feet in one second, but will take over one and a half seconds to fall, thus enabling the bullet to be in the air during that length of time. Therefore it will strike the ground about 1,000 feet away. Thus it is seen that the range of a rifle is increased as it is taken toward the equator.

Of course there is no place on the earth where the force of gravity is two-thirds smaller than at New York, but there are many places where the difference is considerable enough to affect slightly the range of rifles.—Harper's Weekly.

The Chicle Tree.

Chewing gum is nothing but chicle mixed with sugar and flavoring, and chicle is the gum of a tree that grows plentifully in Mexico and Central America and that of recent years has been cultivated on a large scale in Yucatan. The chicle tree is not unlike the India rubber tree, and the gum was first shipped to America by men who believed that in it they had a perfect substitute for rubber. In this, however, they were mistaken, as it was found that the chicle gum was insoluble. Not to this day has any medium acid or alkali, spirit or ether been found that will dissolve it.—Argonaut.

Tolerance.

Jane—I've something on me mind.
'Arry, that I hardly knows how to tell yer.

'Arry—Aht wiv it.
Jane—I'm afraid yer won't marry me if I tells yer.

'Arry—Aht wiv it.
Jane—I'm a somnambulist, 'Arry.
'Arry (after prolonged pause)—Never mind, Jane, it'll be all right. If there ain't no chapel for it we'll be married at a registry.—London Punch.

A Good Actor.

"I see you have an actor employed on the farm."

"Yes, I put him on. He's a darn good actor too. I thought he was working the first week he was here."—Kansas City Times.

The Little Things.

It is not the straining for great things that is most effective; it is the doing the little things, the common duties, a little better and better—the constant improving—that tells.

Umbrella Economy.

Umbrellas last much longer if during fine weather they are never kept rolled up. If this is done the silk will soon begin to fray at the folds, and a rent will be the result. When wet an umbrella should be opened to its fullest extent on entering and dried with the handle downward.

Ivy Bushes.

Ivy bushes used to be hung over the doors of taverns as signboards, because the plant was sacred to Bacchus, the Roman god of wine.

The Uses of the Sword.

The uses to which the sword has been put seem to have been almost as varied as its appearance when we recall the anecdote told of Charlemagne, who said as he used the point of his sword to put his stamp on treaties: "I sign them with this end, and with the other I will take care that they are kept."

Sleeping Sickness.

Sleeping sickness has been known in West Africa for a hundred years.

The Crow.

Although the common crow is one of the slowest of flying birds, it with ease can maintain a speed of thirty miles an hour for many hours at a time.

Ice and Water.

A ton of ice will cool about 284,000 pounds of water one degree.

The Meteoric Zone.

The August meteors are believed to originate from a large cluster or zone of meteoric bodies, which revolves around the sun in an elliptical orbit, extending far beyond the orbit of the remote planet Neptune, and through which the earth plunges annually. The earth is about ten days in passing through the entire cluster, which, from our velocity in space, indicates that the thickness of the cluster is about 16,000,000 miles.

Three Metals.

A cubic foot of aluminum weighs less than 160 pounds, a cubic foot of cast iron 450 pounds and a cubic foot of copper 550 pounds.

The Turkish Language.

Turkish is the softest toned of modern languages.

Darkening of Hair.

Hair darkens some 55 per cent during the first five years of life and a further 33 per cent up to the age of forty-five. This darkening is more marked in males than in females.

Iridescent Fishhooks.

Natives of a number of south Pacific islands make fishhooks of mother-of-pearl, so bright that no bait or other lure is necessary.

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