

# THE OBSERVER

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## IS IT FOR GOOD OR EVIL?

Announcement that the entire railroad mileage of a vast area of the Inland Empire has gone under one head and into one corporation is now made. The Oregon Railroad and Navigation company has expanded, changed its name and swallowed seven more roads. It is the oft repeated story of centralization, of gathering many things under the one management, of connecting the country's business arteries in such a manner that one policy can be adopted and followed.

But is it the best thing for Oregon? That is the all-important question. Some say it is, for larger issues of bonds can be made, while others claim it only gives a better chance to add more water to the physical value of the property forcing the bond holders and future bond buyers to pay money for something that does not exist only by manipulation.

If the latter is true, then Oregon suffers, for with a gigantic concern like the new corporation it will indeed be hard for any other transportation company to get a foothold in this state, even the sturdy James J. Hill. The state has been for years a one-railroad state. We can see the result in the backward conditions. Washington, to the north of us, has been a battle ground of the different railroads and look at the development. The new corporation may adopt different policies from those usually

pursued by a monopoly and turn its attention to development, but it is hardly likely. The only thing that makes a country develop is the railroads and the more that can be induced to enter usually shortens the time of industrial advancement and brings a commonwealth into its own very rapidly.

Competition, in our judgment, is the one thing needed in America, even in the railroad business. A healthy competitor of the Standard Oil would make a big change in a dozen large trade industries. Monopolies are absolutely wrong and no man can produce evidence to show they are right. If there is to be a railroad monopoly in Oregon, look out for another period of fifteen years when the state will only be permitted to exist and advance but little.

The final decision that Abe Ruef must serve his fourteen year sentence in prison is right and proper. He threshed it through all of the courts and nothing could save him—not even his money. This is one case where those who believe everything bows the knee to wealth must confess their mistake. But on the other hand, where there is one Ruef case there are hundreds that do juggle until they get free.

President Diaz is presumably in control of the Mexican Insurgency. Watch the developments and see how long he holds it. Diaz has never held the nation together except through fear and once the insurgents realize their strength, away goes Mexico and Uncle Sam will have to step in and take possession in order to save life and property.

Next week, at Salem the Greater Oregon Development League will hold forth. Special orations are now in course of preparation for the event, and the publicity stunt will be upheld in all its glory. Let the good work advance. Half a million dollars is none too small an amount for this state to spend in the next year.

Such criminals as was apprehended yesterday in La Grande have no right to breathe the air that others breathe. A crime of that nature is so unspeakably vicious that it makes nature revolt and causes the average

man to look around him for a rope regardless of law, order or former precedent.

Let us not get frightened about the tax law passed at the last election. The same people who adopted it can repeal it if it is a bad law, and strange to say perhaps those people will not be long in discovering its weaknesses.

A pocketbook containing diamonds and money was lost in the Louvre at Portland a few days ago by a lady who had gone there to dine. Possibly numerous things of value have been lost there in the past twenty years.

A \$50,000,000 company has been capitalized in Oregon. Who said New York floated all the big concerns. Interest at 6 per cent. on that amount means something, another thing to consider occasionally.

So far as can be learned La Grande lost none of her bachelors to the pretty school ma'ams who have just departed. But it is reported that some of the hardest bachelors came mighty high stepping across.

"Taft sees the ships in 1913," says an exchange. Is the ship of state included in the squadron, brother?

And we're thankful for everything in sight—even the invoice of beautiful snow?

Really now, how did the high priced turkey agree with the inner man?

And there are many Crippens who have not been hung as yet.

## NEITHER TEAM IS THE WINNER

### ALUMNI AND HIGH SCHOOL PLAY EXCITING GAME.

Flashes of Speed and Brilliancy Break up Winning Streaks by Higs.

Players of football who have either recently or long since quit the game could not "come back" yesterday afternoon sufficiently to win from the lighter high school youngsters, but did succeed in holding them to a nothing to nothing score. With a whirlwind of forward passes the High school started things off with a vim and it appeared like easy meat, but always at critical moments, the alumni braced and either on sheer strength and flashes of brilliant tackling, or on fumbles, recovered in time to prevent a score. In the last quarter the alumni relied principally on keeping out of danger and though Childer's old time form with his boot was not repeated he kept out of the danger zone pretty well. In the booting department, Bolton had the best of it, though his punts were low and hard to get down under. Bolton applied the toe better yesterday than anytime of the year.

A mere handful of fans witnessed the struggle. The ball zig zagged and see-sawed but never with such directions as to score a touchdown. The

High school carried the ball down the field in the third quarter with a fine show of superiority but in attempting to make a forward pass under the shadow of the goal post, lost their advantage. Garrity, the man who received the pass perfectly was over the goal line when he folded his arms around the pigskin.

Despite the fact that neither team could score, it was a pleasant game to watch. A snowy field meant, of course, plenty of fumbles, which added all the more to the excitement.

The Higs made first down repeatedly, principally on fake plays and forward passes, while the old timers relied more on end runs and a few line smashes, none of which netted material gains. Officials of the game were Dudley of Oberlin, Nelson Carruth and Zimmerman.

Just before the finish the Alumni sneaked up to within three yards of the goal but lost on a fumble.

### High School.

"Bill" Bohnenkamp, Center.  
R. Banks, Right Guard.  
F. Grout, R. Tackle.  
G. Currey, R. End.  
Watson, Left Guard.  
R. Ralston, Left Tackle.  
C. Garrity, Left End.  
Substitutes—Lee Reynolds, Willard Carpy.

### Alumni Lineup.

R. Blystone, Center.  
H. Zurbrick, Right Guard.  
J. Ingle, Right Tackle.  
W. Peare, Right End.  
F. Young, Left Guard.  
C. Grandy, Left Tackle.  
H. Grady, Left End.  
Changes—Earls for Grady—Pidcock for Zurbrick—Young for Blystone.

### From Pillar to Post.

This familiar expression is said to be derived from a custom practiced in the riding school of olden times. The pillar was placed in the center of the ground, and the posts were arranged two and two around the circumference of the ring at equal distances. Hence "from pillar to post" signified going from one thing to another without any definite purpose.

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