

THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS, Editor and Owner.

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

Published Daily Except Sunday.

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.

THE CASE OF THOMAS BRUCE.

When Judge Knowles not only sentenced Thomas Bruce to imprisonment for one year for failing to support his wife, but also gave him a lecture that should have made a wooden Indian weep, it was presumed that the young man would take his rightful place as a jailbird and cease to try and create sympathy by posing in the spotlight.

Weakened in morals and intellect as well; mistaking his brazen effrontery for wisdom this young man addresses a letter to the Observer evidently intending to force this paper to say to its readers that Thomas Bruce is not such a bad fellow after all; that he is getting really more punishment than he deserves, etc. Such is not the case. Thomas Bruce has shown himself an exceedingly dangerous young man in this community and every mother who has a daughter of young and tender years should rejoice in the fact that Judge Knowles sent him to prison for one year, and if possible should get the sentence increased to five.

Here is the story of this young man: His weakness for women had caused more or less trouble, and finally he was married. His acquaintances chose to look at his best side, just as a patient public usually does, and all agreed that Thomas Bruce was a bright young fellow, and after his marriage many predicted he would make good. His failure to support his wife was sufficient to lodge him in jail but it was not the serious part of the young man's actions. When in the county jail he continued to write letters to young girls proposing elopement when he got out, and many other things. These letters did not get past the sheriff as young Bruce supposed they would. Guilty of these and many other atrocities which are bound to excite every mother in La Grande this young degenerate has the nerve to address the following letter to this paper:

Editor Evening Observer:

Sir:—In your Monday afternoon's issue you misstated a few things in regard to me and if you have any justice in your makeup you will publish the following in as conspicuous a place as the article on Monday.

Respectfully,

THOMAS BRUCE.

In the first place I was not accused of wife desertion but of non-support and my arrest for non-support was unjust, for up to the time of my arrest I had never had any other in-

tention than that of supporting my wife. However, I was guilty of non-support in a technical way, because I did not have money to send her for three months, owing to the fact that I didn't make any. My wife knew when I was all the time I was away as I wrote to her, and she knew that I was not making money and I have a letter that she wrote to me, in which she said that any time I wanted to leave her I was welcome to go. That is why I say my arrest was unjust. If I had not intended to support her I certainly would have skipped out before.

The girl to whom I wrote, and who is referred to in your article as fifteen years old, is seventeen years old, and I have never attempted to ruin her as I can prove by the girl herself.

I do not pretend to be any saint or angel as some people do but even the devil should be given his dues and as the public has been misinformed I only think it just that the article should be corrected.

Thanking you, etc.

Yours respectfully, THOMAS BRUCE.

UNCLE SAM'S GREAT WORK.

It would seem that the United States government has at last found a man large enough for postmaster general in the person of F. H. Hitchcock. This is indicated by the following extracts from a report as to what the department is and has been doing of late:

The department's present policy, as already indicated, is to extend the service as rapidly as is warranted by increasing population, and to accomplish its savings, not by the curtailment of postal facilities, but by handling in a more systematic and business-like manner the constantly expanding volume of the mails. In furtherance of this policy there were established during the year over 1,500 new postoffices, while the rural delivery system was greatly extended by putting into operation 515 new routes, traversing altogether 12,235 miles.

There were appointed from the eligible lists of the Civil Service Commission over 1,800 post-office clerks to enlarge the working forces of city post-offices and over 1,000 additional letter carriers. The Railway Mail Service was strengthened by the appointment of about 750 employees, all of whom were taken from the civil service eligible list. The aggregate salaries of the new civil-service employees appointed during the year exceeded \$2,000,000.

Not only were these numerous appointments placed on the rolls, but the department made liberal increases in the compensation of employees already in the service. About \$1,750,000 was expended in advancing the salaries of post-office clerks, while the compensation of city letter carriers was raised to the extent of \$1,226,000. Railway mail clerks received increases of salary aggregating nearly \$250,000.

All increases in the compensation of post-office employees were based on a recently adopted system of efficiency ratings that has had a most beneficial effect on the service.

The department favors liberal compensation for its employees, believing that the higher efficiency secured under the policy is sure to justify the resulting increase in expense. Undoubtedly the generous action taken in this regard last year was largely responsible for the effective cooperation the department received from its officers and men throughout the country in cutting out wasteful expenditures and making the postal service generally more efficient.

In the last annual report of the department special attention was directed to the enormous loss the Government sustains in the handling and transportation of second-class mail

matter. Owing to the rapid increase in the volume of such mail the loss is constantly growing. A remedy should be promptly applied by charging more postage. In levying the higher rates it is believed that a distinction should be made between advertising matter and what is termed legitimate reading matter. Under present conditions an increase in the postage on reading matter is not recommended. Such an increase would place a special burden on a large number of second class publications, including educational and religious periodicals, that derive little or no profit from advertising. It is the circulation of this type of publications which aid so effectively in the educational and moral advancement of the people, that the Government can best afford to encourage. For these publications, and also for any other legitimate reading matter in periodical form, the department favors a continuation of the present low postage rate of 1 cent a pound, and recommends that the proposed increase in rate be applied only to magazine advertising matter. This plan would be in full accord with the statute governing second class rates of the vast amounts of advertising now transported by the Government at a tremendous loss.

In view of the vanishing postal deficit it is believed that if the magazines could be required to pay what it costs the Government to carry their advertising pages the department's revenues would soon grow large enough to warrant 1-cent postage on first-class mail.

Newspapers are not included in the plan for a higher rate on advertising matter because, being chiefly of local distribution, they do not employ the mails to any such extent as the widely circulating magazines.

Under the system proposed it will be possible, without increasing the expenditure of public funds, to utilize for the benefit of the entire people that considerable portion of the postal revenues now expended to meet the cost of a certain privilege enjoyed by certain publishers.

Experiments made by the department show that the relative weights of the advertising matter and the legitimate reading matter carried by magazines can be readily determined making it a simple matter to put into successful operation the plan outlined. Under that plan each magazine publisher will be required to certify to the local postmaster, in accordance with regulations to be prescribed by the department, the facts necessary to determine the proper postage charges. The method of procedure will be worked out in such a manner as to insure the dispatching of the mails as expeditiously as at present.

Next to the heavy loss resulting from the low postage rate on second-class mail, the principal inroad on the profits of the postal service is that made by the excessive cost of rural delivery. The large expenditures for rural mail service are far more justifiable, however, than are the much heavier payments required to meet the losses incurred on account of second-class mail. Millions of dollars disbursed each year for the latter purpose are paid out chiefly for the benefit of a comparatively small class of publishers, while the appropriations annually granted to maintain and extend the rural delivery system are expended in the interests of a vast population. The advantages of a rural delivery system are such as to warrant its further extension even at a considerable loss to the Government. It is believed, however, that without checking the proper development of this branch of the postal service a material reduction can be made in the rate of expense incurred. The consolidation during the year of the star route and rural delivery systems will undoubtedly accomplish much in this direction. For some time past these two systems have provided practically the same kind of mail delivery, but as they were managed quite independently of each other much duplication of service resulted. Under the plan of consolidation recently put into effect the important postal facilities provided by these two systems can be extended with less expense to the Government and with a probable gain in efficiency.

LET US HELP YOU SOLVE THE

GIFT QUESTION

We're showing a more complete line of useful and beautiful gifts than ever before. Gifts that will suit any fancy and prices to suit any pocket book.

WHAT TO GIVE HIM

Smoking Jackets \$4.50 to \$12.00

House Slippers 50c to \$2.50

Bath Robes \$6.00 to \$14.00

Keiser Neckwear 50c to \$1.50

Fancy Suspenders, Linen Handkerchiefs, Mufflers, Gloves, Hosiery, Hull Umbrellas, Traveling Bags and Suit Cases



SHE WILL APPRECIATE THESE

Table Linens \$2.50 to \$8.50

Keiser Ladies Neckwear 25c to \$1.50

Embroid'd Linens 25c to \$6.00

House Slippers \$1 to \$1.75

Swiss Embroidered Handkerchiefs, Initial Handkerchiefs, Gordon Furs, Silk and Linen Waists, Pendleton Indian Robes and Indian Blanket Lounging Robes

Unbreakable Dolls for Little Folks

N. K. WEST, THE QUALITY STORE

BROKEN

rest from coughing will be a thing of the past when you begin to take White Pine Cough Balsam. A dose before retiring will do the work. No dope. Guaranteed by the Newlin Drug Co., 25c and 50c.

Take Care!

Remember that when your kidneys are affected your life is in danger. M. Mayer, Rochester, N. Y., says: "Foley Kidney Pills are a wonderful discovery and I heartily recommend their

use. My trouble started with a sharp shooting pain over my back which grew worse each day. I felt sluggish and tired, my kidney action was irregular and infrequent with a fine sand-like substance. While the disease was at its worst I started using Foley Kidney Pills. Their prompt and efficient action was marvelous. Each dose seemed to put new life and strength into me, and now I am completely cured and feel better and stronger than for years." Hill's Drug Store.

Get the Genuine Always.

A substitute is a dangerous makeshift especially in medicine. The genuine Foley's Honey and Tar cures coughs and colds quickly and is in a yellow package, contains no opiates and is safe and certain in results. Hill's Drug Store.

Every family has need of a good, reliable liniment. For sprains, bruises, soreness of the muscles and rheumatic pains there is none better than Chamberlain's. Sold by all dealers.

Solve the Gift Problem for One and All

BY CALLING AT HILL'S DRUG STORE

You will easily find what you want here as our stock is running over with Christmas Goods marked down in price within the reach of all

PERFUMES make nice Xmas Presents. We have the largest stock ever shown in La Grande.

STATIONERY—We have the Big Line with the Little Price.

WATERMAN' FOUNTAIN PENS always please—exchange them if they don't suit.

BRASSWARE is very popular—We have a Good Assortment at low prices.

PICKARD HAND PAINTED CHINA—None quite so good.

CUT GLASS in fancy shapes and rich designs.

BURNING OUTFITS and lots of wood; extra bulbs.

COMBS AND BRUSHES—The best there is, can be found here.

HAND BAGS and all kinds of Leather Goods.

COME IN and LET US TELL YOU

Hill's Drug Store

La Grande, Oregon