

Tuesday
Jan. 31

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THE OBSERVER

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.

1911 JANUARY 1911						
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NOT DOING SO BADLY.

The legislature at Salem is not doing so badly as many may think. The fact is, it is doing little or nothing and after all about the best legislature a state ever had is where it does nothing but act as a brake on what has been done.

Oregon's learned men are meeting almost daily, putting in a reasonable length of time, but the refreshing part of the affair is they are not being taken off their feet by the schemer and the man who is promoting legislation in order to obtain selfish ends.

Take the Webster Good Roads bill. When the legislature gets through with that measure to will either be in the waste basket or so badly disfigured that even Judge Webster, its

father, will not recognize his offspring. And there are other measures introduced for the sole purpose of creating business for concerns that are being picked to pieces in a way that pleases taxpayers.

The asylum investigation may prove a game of whitewash, but even if such be the case it is well that it has been brought up. Senator Bailey of Texas was whitewashed, 'tis true, but it has made a good dog of him ever since, and probably those handling state money with so little idea of its value will profit by this upheaval even though they are not punished or reduced in rank.

The Bourne fight has brought good results. It has put people to thinking as they never thought before on the question of government as well as the men they have been electing to office in this state. No one has been imprisoned, no one's character has been tarnished, but nevertheless the turmoil is worth while.

And should the Oregon legislature adjourn tomorrow without passing another bill the people of the state for once could honestly say, "well done, good and faithful servants."

TEACHING PATRIOTISM.

Saturday the Grand Army of the Republic and Women's Relief Corps in La Grande had installation and a general good time at their hall. It was one of those occasions where the flag floated, where the old army stories were heard again and again, but it meant something.

In this busy day of dollar chasing most of us are too busy to carry the banner of patriotism in our daily lives as we should. The rising generation does not hear enough about the days that tried men's souls; those days that are engraven in blood upon the nation's memory tablets. Passing, passing away are the old boys of the sixties. So are the good women who endured hardship and privation that this nation might be the home of the brave and the land of the free.

Such meetings as the one held Saturday deserve marked attention. When

the old boys in blue do anything, no matter how little it may be, we, as a people, should bow our heads and take time to recognize the heroes who will soon be but incidents in history.

There is quite a pleasing sight on the Wallowa branch line just out of La Grande. It is the bunch of stock hogs recently purchased by Senator Walter Pierce to consume the wheat recently damaged by fire. Those porkers are at home in the Grande Ronde valley. Here is where the squeal of the hog is welcome and nature evidently intended for large numbers to be raised here. Every rancher should observe these hogs and think of the wealth they will produce. And they do it in such a short time.

Every county officer in Oregon is anxious to see Senator Charlie Barrett's bill adjusting salaries. If it does not suit then Barrett had better prepare for war. When county officers in the state unite for a common cause there is a political organization that counts for something. It has often been claimed that George E. Chamberlain is a direct product of the Oregon sheriffs and there is some reason for believing it is true.

Whether Union ever gets an asylum or not she can rest under the full knowledge that she made the state of Oregon the best offer that any city could offer. Nature fixed things so that Union was in a position to offer everything and an error of mortal man prevented the state from accepting the offer.

Honk wagon owners and prospective owners have just had a meeting in Portland, and all the while Rockefeller smiles between lining off his hymn to his Sunday school class. More honk wagons means more gasoline and more gasoline means more money for the old man.

Had you noticed lately that a number of Kansas men had purchased land and business establishments in and around La Grande. It is hard to fool a "Jayhawker" on a good town.

With fourteen "baby Elks" added to a large herd that already is scattered over Union and Wallowa counties it would look as though the Elk is not becoming extinct by any means.

THE MAN AND THE MACHINE

(Montgomery Advertiser.)
The progress of human civilization may be likened to a great juggernaut, exacting a fearful toll in lives, from the men who attend the train of progress. Progress, given an impetus by man's ingenuity, is directly responsible for the terrible explosion in the heart of New York city in which 10 persons lost their lives, scores of others were injured, and millions of dollars in property were destroyed. A runaway motor engine with a train of cars overturned a bumper erected as a safeguard, and broke a pipe filled with illuminating gas for passenger cars. This gas filled the power house and an electric spark in some way ignited this powerful explosive.

Such an explosion a few years ago would have been impossible. Human invention, link by link, forged the chain of circumstances for the me-

chanical and spectacular tragedy.

The motor train, the illuminating gas for passenger cars, the power house itself, and even the electricity in that particular use, are all inventions of recent years. The absence of any one of this link of mechanical contrivances would have made impossible the tragic disaster in the heart of the greatest city of the country.

The greatest accomplishment of modern man is not in literature, as it was in Shakespeare's day, nor in founding religions, as it was in the days of Luther and Calvin, nor is it in war, as it was in the days of Napoleon. Modern man's greatest achievement is in devising machines for doing his work, and for doing things which were never done before. He builds his machine with ease, but the machine is invariably like Frankenstein's monster. It pursues and harasses the man. What a fearful toll of life the locomotive demands, that agency which revolutionized all transportation. Electricity, the eternal mystery of earth, has been made man's abject slave, but it demands human lives as the price of its subjugation.

Modern man has conquered the air—a feat regarded as impossible for unnumbered generations, but the machine with which man conquers the upper air is so frail and delicate, that it is almost as daring as leading a colt over a ridge to ride the air in one. A terribly large proportion of the men who have ridden the clouds has been demanded as the price of man's victory over the air.

But progress must go on—and humanity must pay its price in human lives.

REMARKABLE CENSUS FACTS.

(San Francisco Examiner.)
One of the most notable facts about the census is that the greatest percentage of growth during the past decade has taken place on the Pacific slope and the adjoining states and territories.

The average rate of gain in continental America was about 21 per cent. But the state of Washington gained 120 per cent.

Oklahoma comes next, and then Idaho, Nevada, North Dakota, New Mexico, Arizona, Oregon and California.

Another noteworthy fact is the comparatively poor showing of the Middle Western states, every one of which is below the average in gains. Iowa has actually lost ground by three-fourths of one per cent.

It is said that in nearly half the counties in the huge middle western region, comprising Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, Kentucky and Tennessee, there has been a decline in population.

The declining counties are of course, the rural counties.

No social philosopher can fail to find matter for serious reflection in this weakening of the earthhold of the people in one of the richest agricultural regions of the world.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

The gnawing fear is that some of our wealthy art patrons don't care very much whether their Old Masters are genuine or not, so long as they

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are in the nude.—Atlanta Constitution.

The Baltimore Sun gives it up and says there is no sense in trying to draw molasses from a jug this sort of weather. The only thing to do is to use the index finger.—Montgomery Advertiser.

A Kentuckian of the old school says it is a waste of good material to convert corn and rye into breakfast foods.—Chicago News.

What ever Manuel got for Christmas it didn't begin to stack up with what he had to give up earlier in the season.—Butte Miner.

It is still possible, too, that the New York power house explosion may yet be duplicated up in Oyster Bay unless the tension is relaxed.—Atlanta Journal.

We note a slight reduction in the current prices of bacon, and with the drop it will no longer be on sale at the ribbon counters.—Los Angeles Times.

The New York man who tried to commit suicide three times and each time ducked the bullet needs a nerve tonic.—Atlanta Journal.

Every posse organized for the purpose of a criminal winds up in a field and finds a rabbit in a corn shock.—Topeka Capital.

Yeast cakes stamped with "Votes for women" ought to be able to rise without any trouble.—Baltimore News.

Professor Egbert Humperdink, the German author, has reached New York. He must be some relation to the Hon. Hinky Dink.—Los Angeles Times.

Use a fair degree of prudence in working off your Christmas cigars on the elevator man.—Chicago News.

THE SPICE OF LIFE.

Before A Shop Window.
Billy—"Buy me that little rocking-horse, papa."
Papa—"If you are a good boy, you shall have it next Christmas."
Billy—"No! Buy it now. I may have a new papa before next Christmas."—Meggendorfer Blaetter.

Foley Kidney Pills.

Are tonic in action, quick in results. A special medicine for all kidney and bladder disorders. H. M. Beatty, Little Rock, Ark., says, "For two years, I have been troubled with severe kidney trouble. The pains across my back and over my hips were so bad that they almost meant death to me at times. I used several well known kidney remedies which gave me no relief until I used Foley Kidney Pills, and these I can truthfully recommend as they have made me sound and well." Hills Drug Store.

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