

THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS Editor and Owner.

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HOW THEY FIND LA GRANDE.

"This is the best town I have ever seen," said a man from Oklahoma today. He came out to view the country and being a tradesman naturally gravitated to men of his line of work.

Others will do likewise. They will all find La Grande is on the square and when they return honest labor they will have no trouble in getting work and plenty of it. This Eastern Oregon country cannot be beaten for men who can make good.

PAVING FOR RESIDENCE DISTRICTS.

A cheaper kind of paving for residence districts is being considered by the city council—a paving that will not cost half as much as the bitulithic. Of course it will not be as lasting a pavement and would not be suitable for heavy traffic.

Both sides of the question must be considered when it comes to paving a city—the public and the property owner. In the heart of the city the best paving obtainable is necessary but when such expensive improvements are forced on the outlying sections of a small city it means confiscation of a great deal of property.

tion of a great deal of property. Houses renting for \$20 and \$15 per month cannot afford expensive, hard surfaced streets in front of them, no more than the average man who works with his hands can afford to wear diamonds.

It is very gratifying to know that the council is taking up cheaper street improvement for the outlying districts, for by so doing there will be many hardships to individuals avoided.

For horrible and revolting crimes Portland is getting in the front rank. Some of the criminals when caught, should be made to understand that all laws are suspended while Judge Lynch deals with them. The brutal murder of a little five-year-old girl should bring out a thousand decent people in Portland each of whom would gladly tie the hangman's knot around the brute, and do it in broad daylight at that.

The state of Washington is building highways and as a result the whole state house at Olympia is in an uproar. Confusion marks the working of the road department and no seems able to unjangle the mess. See what Judge Lionel escaped by having his good roads bill in the last legislature.

According to Mrs. Whitney, fashion expert, every woman will soon wear the Harem skirt. But according to many good Grande Ronde women, there will be quite a sprinkling of exceptions to Mrs. Whitney's statement.

"To the farms" is now the cry of Portland. And that is the cry that will make Oregon. It has been needed for some time. The land must be tilled or the cities cannot exist.

Colonel Roosevelt drew a fair crowd down in New Mexico, but the people were not crazy about him.

OLMSTEAD SET THE EXAMPLE.

La Grande, March 17.—(To the Editor of the Evening Observer) —Jerry Rusk's offer to raise a company of cow-boys to go to the Mexican border is a piece of imitation. Quite a while ago, when Ben. Harrison was president and it looked a little as if we should have a "scrap" with a small South American nation, a distinguished citizen of Eastern Oregon, who had faced southern cannon in the civil war, telegraphed an offer to the president to raise a regiment of Eastern Oregon cowboys and go to the front. The war cloud passed away and the offer was declined. Col. Olmstead, of Baker City, is the gentleman who made this offer, and is the person who originated the idea. Later, when trouble arose with Spain, Col. Roosevelt, in imitation of Col. Olmstead's plan, raised a regiment of cowboys and went to the front. All honor for this idea belongs to Col. Olmstead, and not to the distinguished citizen of Oyster Bay or the gentleman who is supposed to have presided over one branch of the recent session of the legislature. If there should be real war with Mexico, and Mr. Rusk could organize all the members of our late legislature into a company and march them into the jaws of death like the Light Brigade, he might indirectly do a real service to the state. But, if he had to take orders from the ring that seemed to dictate his actions in the legislature, he would be a failure on the field of battle. If he should leave the field and hide himself when a battle was on as he is reported to have left the speaker's chair and to have locked himself up in a room when the state printer's bill was being reconsidered and passed, he would be in danger of court-martial. Rusk will hardly rival the fame of Lee or Grant as a military man, or of Bill Nye as a humorist. WM. M. RAMSEY.

THE RAPACIOUS LOAN SHARK.

The rapacity of the loan shark of Chicago and Illinois will be curbed by a bill now pending in the legislature which has the endorsement of the Legal Aid society and several clubs and commercial organizations. Persistent warfare has resulted in pulling the fangs of the money loaners, who a few years ago openly, and even now in secret, levy a tribute of 30 and 40 per cent on their victims. An investigation has shown that some \$25,000,000 is invested in the "loan shark" business, of which \$3,500,000 is employed by 125 offices in Chicago, according to the report made to the Russell Sage foundation. That report gave instances where the extra fees, brokerage, protest fees and collection charges added to the interest charges made the total rate paid as high as

1731 per cent per annum. Other instances were found where men and women had been paying for years on a debt of this kind, and then owed several times as much as the original principal. The Ap Madoc bill fixes a maximum of 3 per cent per month which may be charged for loans upon household goods, wearing apparel, or mechanic's tools, and 4 per cent for the assignment of wages. A limit of \$1,000 is placed upon any loan in this classification. It was drawn by the committee which included George P. High, representing the Industrial club; M. V. Wellington, the Legal Aid society; John V. Farwell, the Commercial club; A. C. Rishel, the City club, and Marvin B. Poole, of the Association of Commerce.

THE BREAD BOX PREDICAMENT.

Uncle Sam's breadbox predicament, with only 23 per cent as much wheat in the hands of the farmer March 1, according to government figures used by the Chicago board of trade, as the average for the last ten years, still further complicates the question of the Canadian reciprocity bill. The quantity of wheat on farms on that date was 179,690,000 bushels, which is only 25.8 per cent of the last year's crop. The Canadian prospects are reported good, western provinces having prospect for a bumper crop. One report says: "A quarter million acres of safe winter wheat is planted in soil exceptionally moist and on fields that have enjoyed a year of rest. There has been no thaw. In the irrigation block in Alberta, the central and eastern sections of which are not yet under irrigation, a snow fall of from four to six inches under a thick crust covers the ground." The corn bin, however, though showing the effect of the converging totals of production and consumption in the United States, is more than commonly full and of better quality as 86.4 per cent is merchantable as against the 10-year average of 83.6 per cent.

MEXICO'S POOR CHANCE.

Butte Miner.) Aside from the question of whether such warfare should or should not be waged, the point as to what really would happen if Uncle Sam would happen to take the field against Mexico is important only so far as it would cause interest as to how long such a campaign would last. It could not last very long. This country and Mexico once engaged in a war and it was such an utter rout for the Mexicans that American prestige immediately went up several points.

Against this country's equipment and power, Mexico couldn't even put up a fair resistance. As a matter of fact the Mexican troops are not making much of a showing against the insurgents.

The present trouble there has often threatened to degenerate into a complete farce. It wouldn't be any credit for this country to win a victory over Mexico, but so far as the United States is concerned it wouldn't be a case of winning credit, additional fame or a standing of any kind.

If this country ever has to tangle up with Mexico it will be on purely business basis in order to enforce demands this country wishes enforced, promptly as well as most effectively.

"THIS IS MY 50TH BIRTHDAY."

Thomas M. Bell. Congressman Thomas M. Bell of the Ninth Georgia district, who, before he became a statesman, was a traveling salesman, was born in White county, Georgia, March 17, 1861. His education was received principally in the common schools which was supplemented by a course in an Atlanta business college. He then began his career in business and before long he had established a reputation through out a large section of the south as a man who was able to "sell goods." His first entrance into politics was in 1898, when he was elected on the democratic ticket as clerk of the superior court of Hall county, Georgia, which position he continued to hold several years. Mr. Bell was elected to the Fifty-ninth congress and has been three times re-elected, practically without opposition. In the last two congresses Representative Bell served as the democratic whip, having first been appointed by John Sharp Williams and later by Champ Clark.

San Francisco Typographical union is making arrangements for the entertainment of 5,000 delegates during the

Nothing Indefinite About This ENTIRE \$60,000 Bankrupt Stock of the Morgan Department Store Portland's Great New East Side Store now being shipped to La Grande. This is no little stock of odds and ends, as this store has been in business only about one year, and consists only of Strictly New, High Grade Merchandise Watch for the Big Posters Announcing the Opening Date of this Great Sale. N. K. WEST Assignee of the Morgan Department Store

month of August, when the national convention of the International Typographical union will convene there.

"I had been troubled with constipation for two years and tried all of the best physicians in Bristol, Tenn., and they could do nothing for me," writes Thos. E. Williams, Middleboro, Ky. "Two packages of Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets cured me." For sale by all dealers.

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D. W. C. NELSON—Mining Engineer Baker City, Oregon.

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