

THE OBSERVER

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WHOLESALE AND JOBBING CENTER.

With a favorable decision on the Spokane rate case, which also includes rates to La Grande and other inland cities, it is not unreasonable to anticipate wholesale and jobbing houses for this city in larger numbers than heretofore.

So far as creating an individual distributive zone, as talked of by other towns in Eastern Oregon, that is all talk.

In transportation natural laws should govern and they will govern in time. We mean by that, it is not practical to haul a carload of merchandise over mountains and then haul it back in order to reach a point on the line.

There is where La Grande holds the key to the whole situation. It is the easiest city in Eastern Oregon to reach and from here in the course of time the whole Eastern Oregon country will be supplied.

ELK ON GRANDE RONDE RANGE.

Now that the government has decided to stock the Grande Ronde range with elk, the interest locally is bound to follow. For some time the local Elks lodge has had this matter up and several prominent members have been working on the movement but it was hardly thought results would follow so soon.

Knowing that the elk were dying in Montana during the winter season for lack of food it was considered probable the government would take sufficient interest to transport large numbers of the antlered herd to the Grande Ronde where there is always plenty

of feed on the range, and where also is an ideal elk country. The government in this, as in many other matters, saw at once such was the proper thing to do and now the order has gone forth to make ready for large shipments the coming winter. This means that the forest reserve in the Grande Ronde country is not to be overlooked in the future; that it is to gradually grow into a government park for the department will carefully look after that part of the country where the elk have been placed.

FABULOUS PROFITS.

Not so very long ago a gentleman came to me and unfolded a plan by which with the investment of just a few hundred dollars I would soon be on Easy street with an assured and ample income, says Tom McNeal.

A company was organized to buy banana lands in Central America at what he said was a very low price. The lands were to be planted in bananas and within just a few years the annual income from each acre would be many times the price of the land.

The gentleman was evidently in dead earnest. He unrolled a lot of figures that made the sound of a din with his marvelous lamp look tame and inconsequential. I didn't invest for two reasons: first, because I hadn't the money to spare, and second, because I have on two or three occasions in the past invested in glittering and most alluring prospects. The figures looked all right, but somehow or other things haven't turned out according to program.

Then I, just for curiosity, consulted a gentleman who has been in the banana business for years. It seemed to me that there was a sort of wary look in his eye as he said, "If you have money that you don't need put it in some good safe place where it will bring you a regular interest income even if it isn't so very large. Yes, there is money in the banana business if it is handled with care and judgment and intelligence, but if a lot of novices think they can go to Central America, invest in some land, plant it in bananas and then sit down and let the money roll in, they will find that they are mistaken.

"The tropics present difficulties that the farmer of this region does not dream of. Torrential rains convert the whole country at times into a morass. Storms more violent than anything he ever experienced sweep over the country and destroy crops and buildings.

"He must build tramways to get his crop to the river or railroad and then he finds just one market for his fruit. He is at the mercy of a monopoly that gives what it pleases and takes so much of his crop as suits it.

"We had the same illusions about sudden and enormous profits when we first engaged in the business. We were disillusioned by sad experience. We hung on and humped for years until my health failed and I had to leave the country. My brother stood a better and he remained in charge of our plantation. It looked for a time as if we would lose everything but we have finally got to the point where we are making some money."

When you are asked to invest in something that promises abnormal profits it is generally sensible to let it alone. If it were really a legitimate enterprise that would pay anywhere near the profit promised there would hardly be the necessity of paying

agents big commissions to go out and sell shares in it to strangers.

When Miss Chance married Mr. Hobson she did not know whether or not to call it an insult when a friend suggested it was "Hobson's choice;" and he did not like to hear it said he "took a Chance."

Able and Willing.

The Rector-Freddy, do you know where little boys go when no moping on the Sabbath day? Freddy—Yes, sir. Follow me and I'll show you the place.

WASHING AWAY THE LAND.

Erosion of the Drainage Basins of the United States

Investigations by the United States geological survey of the erosion of numerous drainage basins of the United States show that the surface of the country is being removed at the average rate of about an inch in 500 years. Though this amount seems trivial when spread over the surface of the country, it becomes stupendous when considered as a total of erosion in separate drainage basins. The Mississippi river, for instance, carries annually to the sea 130,000,000 tons of dissolved matter and 340,000,000 tons of suspended matter, and of this total the Ohio river carries \$1,250,000 tons and the Missouri river contributes more than twice as much. The Colorado river, which has built up for itself a vast delta, brings down more suspended matter than any other river in the United States, delivering annually 387 tons for each square mile of its drainage basin or a total of 100,740,000 tons.

The rivers of the United States carry to tide-water every year 270,000,000 tons of dissolved matter and 513,000,000 tons of suspended matter. This total of 783,000,000 tons represents more than 350,000,000 cubic yards of rock or 610,000,000 cubic yards of surface soil. If this erosive action had been concentrated on the isthmus of Panama at the time of American occupation it would have excavated the canal for an eighty-five foot level canal in about seventy-three days.

A FAMOUS DWARF.

Borulwaski, the Pole, Was Handsome, Scholarly and Witty.

A notable dwarf, who had a long lease of life over parts of two centuries—he was born in 1739 and died in 1817—was Borulwaski, the Pole, of whose debut an interesting tale is told. As a boy of fifteen, when he was just one inch higher than a two foot rule, Borulwaski was presented to the Empress Maria Theresa, who was so charmed by his good looks and grace that she seated him on her lap and gave him a hearty kiss. To the queen's question as to what he considered the most interesting sight in Vienna the dwarf replied, "What I now behold, so little a man on the lap of so great a lady." This speech rendered the little fellow a great favorite.

He became a special favorite of Stanislaus II, who took him to England and introduced him to George III, and for more than half a century Borulwaski made his home at the English court.

This dwarf, who at his tallest was a yard and three inches, had a sister whose head just reached her big brother's shoulders. Borulwaski was not only a handsome and courtly man, but a scholar of repute. He lived in five reigns, and when he died, lacking only two years of reaching the century mark, he was laid to rest in Dunham, side by side with the Faistafian Stephen Kemble.

A Dark Smoke.

Funny thing about smoking! If a man were compelled to puff a good cigar with his eyes shut the operation would lose its zest. A man who had undergone a slight operation upon one of his eyes had to stay in a darkened room for a week with his optics bandaged. After a few days his doctor told him he could take a gentle smoke if he liked. He jumped at the chance and to his amazement found it afforded not the slightest pleasure. To be sure, men often smoke in the dark, but there's always the rosy glow of the lighted end to be seen and the faint outline of the cloud of smoke in the air. There's no more fun in a sightless smoke than a saltless egg or a kiss implanted upon your own hand. What's the psychology of it.—New York Press.

Universal Language.

He spoke his love in German—she answered not a word. In French he tried to woo her—the maiden never heard. He tried his luck in English, in Irish—all in vain; in Turkish, Greek and Latin, and in the tongue of Spain. And then an inspiration came to the anguished youth. "The universal language," he cried. "I'll try, forsooth!" He kissed the demure maiden and pressed her to his breast. She understood that language, and you can guess the rest.—Centaur's.

These Warm Summer Days Demand COOLER CLOTHING

Our reduced prices during Mid-Season sale made this an opportune time for you to select garments that are cool, comfortable and stylish. You can save from one fourth to one half the price at

West's Mid-Season Clearance Sale

Table with 3 columns: Savings in Dry Goods, Reductions in Ladies 'ready-to-wear Dept', and Special Prices from Men's Department. Lists items like summer lawns, waists, parasols, leather goods, dresses, suits, coats, and knickerbocker pants with their respective discounts.

HALF PRICE MILLINERY SALE

Our Entire line of Oxfords reduced 10 per cent Sale closes Tuesday, August 1st

N. K. WEST, The Quality Store

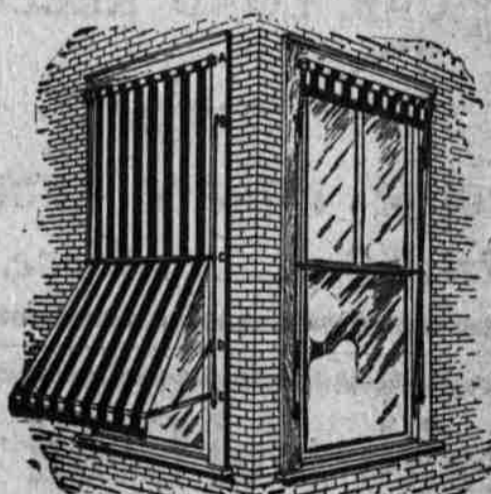
Pa's Hard Job. "Johnny," said the visitor at the door, "is your father at home?" "He's trying to be, sir," said Johnny, "but you know, Mr. Squiggs, ma's mother's here."—Harper's Weekly.

The Real Sorrow. "Did your operation cost you much pain?" "Yes, but I didn't mind that so much as the dollars it cost."—Baltimore American.

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Winning permanent, lasting friends is the work of time, and this bank numbers among its clients hundreds of banks and business houses with whom it has had close relations for a great part of the twenty-four years of its existence.

Our friends have helped to make this one of the largest and strongest banks in the West. We have helped in their making, too.

We welcome new friends and will attend to their wants with the same fidelity which has cemented our relations with our older ones.

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LA GRANDE, OREGON. CAPITAL \$ 100,000.00 SURPLUS 100,000.00 RESOURCES 1,100,000.00 UNITED STATES DEPOSITORY Fred J. Holmes, Pres. W. J. Church, Vice Pres. F. L. Meyers, Cashier Earl Zundel, Ass't. Cashier

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