

THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS
Editor and Owner.

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THE FEARFUL DAMAGE IS ON.

At present the sky is filled with fire by night and smoke by day, telling of the yearly damage to Oregon and the northwest from forest fires. In almost every direction can be seen the destructive fire or marks of it, proclaiming the ruthless slaughter of fine timber of high value.

It is the time of waste and strange to say, there seems to be no way to stop it. Why a fire should get started in timber seems a question hard to solve if everyone was alert to the importance of preventing it as he should be.

Does not the average man, especially the citizen of this commonwealth, realize his strongest asset is the standing timber. Curtail the lumber business in the northwest for a year and you will see a financial depression. Destroy it entirely and the campaign for more people would be entirely useless, for the northwest would hardly take care of the people now living here.

It is therefore of the greatest importance that everyone fight forest fires. When you see an opportunity to help do it with the same feeling that you would mount a neighbor's house with a bucket of water and extinguish a blaze which threatened entire destruction.

HEARD ON EVERY SIDE.

"La Grande is a hummer and no mistake."

This and many other similar remarks can be heard when there is a number of men congregated, whether on trains, in railroad stations, or at hotels in neighboring cities.

Do the citizens of La Grande realize the value of these remarks? They mean everything. Once get an idea started that one community is forging ahead of the balance of the surrounding country and it is easy to keep the movement going.

In this instance, the utterances are based on fact, for this city is showing some speed in all lines. At present the dull summer season is on, but still there is a large volume of business transacted.

Public improvements have been on

the exception of sewer construction and some sidewalk work. It was thought when the large number of men were taken from the street work La Grande would be dull. Nothing like it. The change is hardly noticeable and business keeps moving right along for there is always something to fit in where when one industry slackens pace.

Sheriff Childers left for Salem last evening with several prisoners that Union county officials have been working hard to convict. Also, the taxpayers have been paying heavily to bring these men to justice. Now it is up to Governor West to exercise his pardoning power, as usual, and turn loose these prisoners who have given the officers and law so much grief.

When the government ships in a trainload of elk on this range there need be little fear of protection for the Elks lodge of this city has members scattered all over two counties and each member will be a specially appointed custodian of the government elk.

The story of good crop yields in the Grande Ronde valley and Wallowa county gets better as the harvest advances. And the grain is here to back up the statements. If ever there was a year of plenty in this section it is the year 1911.

On the surface it look as though England and Germany might take a little slap at each other. Uncle Sam can umpire the fight without a great deal of trouble.

In Washington they are drawing women on the jury. It will be necessary to fit the jury rooms with mirrors.

FIRST YEAR UNDER THE DES MOINES PLAN

Secretary Gels Botsford of the Commercial Club of Des Moines is authority for the following:

April 1, 1908, city government under old plan lacked \$119,200 of enough to pay the obligations of the year preceding. On April 1, 1909, there was a balance in the city treasury over actual cost of running the town in the year of \$104,855. This was the first year under the commission plan. Mind you, this was done with a commission of five men, four of whom had held offices of mayor, assessor, councilman and municipal judge under the old system. Was it a case of the plan or of the man?

Just a case of doing away with the ward apportionment and the strife of the ward alderman to get all he could for his immediate constituents without reference to cost to the balance of the city.

These results were brought about in a way as follows: New lighting contract that saved \$5,540 to the city secured it a gain of 1,818 hours per lamp per year on 643 lamps, gross saving to city, \$10,332.

Mr. Ash of the park department, by the application of business methods and with the incentive the plan affords for individual record, kept our parks up as they had never been kept before and made improvements far in advance of those of any single previous year and saved a little over \$8,000 in his department in one year.

The change in the bookkeeping sys-

tem and the application of such very free and business methods reduced the clerical charges at the city hall \$2,100, and the standard of efficiency went up to such a degree that promptly at the end of the year an annual report was issued, the first annual report of the city of Des Moines, and this in a city fifty-seven years old.

The cost of crossotid block paving on concrete base was reduced in the first year from an average of \$4.47 per square yard to \$4.09.

The last year under the old plan saw 2,272 catch basins cleaned at a cost of \$1.40 each. The first year under the new plan saw 3,561 catch basins cleaned at a cost of \$1.12 each.

Under the old plan concrete culverts cost the city \$17.61 per cubic foot each. Under the new plan they cost \$12.63 each.

Under the new plan the police force was actually increased and the efficiency bettered to the extent that public gambling, the red light and street walking were actually abolished, the excise laws strictly enforced, and the cost was a little over \$8,000 less than during the last year under the old plan.

The saving was \$1,400 in the health department, with increased efficiency.

For the first time the city funds in bank drew interest of 4 per cent on time deposits and 2 per cent on average daily balances, and from this source the city received \$9,132.17.

Under the new plan the street cleaning area was more than doubled, and for the first time this department has flushed and cleaned alleys, and there has been no increase in expenditures on this account.

Uniform paving, sidewalk and other specifications have been adopted.

The tax levy has been reduced 3 mills in the face of this.

A Dance Without a Smile.

They have a singular kind of dance conducted on the greens of country villages in Russia. The dancers stand apart, a knot of young men here, a knot of maidens there, each sex by itself and silent as a crowd of mutes. A piper breaks into a tune. A youth pulls off his cap and challenges a girl with a wave and a bow. If the girl is willing she waves her handkerchief in token of assent. The youth advances, takes a corner of the handkerchief in his hand and leads in a circle round and round. No word is spoken, and no touch is heard. Still with cords and rib with braids, the girl moves nimbly by herself, going round and round and never allowing her partner to touch her hand. The piper goes on for hours in the same sad key and measure, and the prize of merit in this "dancing" is the dance is called, is given by spectators to the music who in all that summer revelry has never spoken and never smiled.

Wanted More Converts.

Southey in his life of Wesley relates the following whimsical incident. He states that some of the opponents of these religionists in the excess of zeal against enthusiasm took up a whole wagon load of Methodists and carried them before a justice. When they were asked what these persons had done there was an awkward silence. At last one of the accusers said "Why, they pretend to be better than other people, and, besides, they pray from morning till night."

The magistrate asked if they had done nothing else.

"Yes, sir," an old man said. "An't please your worship, they have converted my wife. Till she went among them she had such a tongue, and now she is as quiet as a lamb."

"Carry them back; carry them back," the magistrate said, "and let them convert all the scoundrels in the town."

Icebergs and Echoes.

Icebergs are always a source of worry to the transatlantic steamship skippers. It isn't pleasant to run along through a fog or a murky night and smash into one of these floating mountains of ice. The liner captains have a way of finding ice that at first strikes the landsman as curious. When it is suspected there are bergs in the neighborhood the whistle is kept going. If there is an echo the navigator slows down and keeps a sharp eye out for echoes don't grow in the open ocean.

Disraeli's Gorgeous Costume.

When Disraeli was a young man he once went on a vacation trip to Corfu in this extraordinary costume: "A blood red shirt with silver buttons as big as shillings, an immense scarf for girdle, full of pistols and daggers; red cap, red slippers, broad blue striped jacket and trousers. His servant, engaged for the occasion, wore a Mameluke dress of crimson and gold, with a white turban thirty yards long and a saber glittering like a rainbow."—London Spectator.

The Difficulty.

The First Worker—Manner born be blown! D'joo mean ter say if me an' you come into a bit o' splash we couldn't keep our ends up with these 'ere dooks and people?

His Doubting Friend—Oh, we should be ori right, but our missuses 'd give the game away, yer know.—London Sketch.

MONDAY THE LAST DAY OF

WEST'S

Mid-Season Clearance Sale

SAVE 25 TO 50 PER CENT ON

Men's Clothing

Ladies' Suits

Ladies' Dresses

Summer Dress Goods, All Ladies' Coats

Entire Line of Oxfords at Reduced

Prices

N. K. WEST, The Quality Store

Signaling at Sea. The custom of signaling at sea by means of various colored flags is very ancient, and the method seems to have been brought to a degree of development bordering very closely on perfection. Many people have been astonished at the length of messages conveyed in a few moments and with the use of but half a dozen flags in various combinations, and when the extent of the language and the complexity of many necessary messages are considered the eighteen flags in the signal flag jacket seem very inadequate. However, it must be remembered that the signal code utilizes a sort of shorthand, and many long messages, known to be of frequent occurrence, have been contracted to a single showing of flags in a given combination. The number of flags hoisted when a signal is made never exceeds four. With the eighteen flags of various colors, using four for each signal, no fewer than 78,042 combinations can be made.

Notice of Final Settlement.

Notice is hereby given that Angus Shaw, administrator of the estate of Isabella Shaw, deceased, has filed in the county court of Union county, Oregon, his final account as administrator of said estate, and said court has set Monday, the 7th day of August A. D. 1911, at two o'clock p. m., for the

hearing of such report and all objections thereto.

Dated at La Grande, Oregon, this July 8th, 1911.

ANGUS SHAW, Administrator.

D—Jul 8 15 22 29 Aug 5

WANTED—Girl to work at I. X. L. store.

7-28-6t

HACK AND AMBULANCE

Uptown office Main 720
Residence phone Main 25
E. L. BUSSEY

THE GROCERY

Stageberg & Sandborg
Phone 70.

Remember we employ Two delivery wagons, which assures Prompt delivery. Fresh fruit and vegetables every day.

Old Friends and New

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.

La Grande National Bank

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

O SEE US!

Electric Drink Mixer

The latest method for preparing such delicious beverages as Malted Milk Chocolate with egg, Egg Lemonades, Egg Phosphate, Orange Punch, and other combinations that are very popular

SELDER'S