

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 35c
Daily, per month \$1.00

1911 NOVEMBER 1911						
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SAFETY OF LIFE AND PROPERTY.

It would seem that the city administration has reached a point in providing sufficient police force for regulation of the city, thus insuring protection to life and property, all of which will be gladly known not only to La Grande people but to the outside world. No blacker spot can exist on any community than that of unsafe conditions; nothing tends to discredit present day civilization than to feel when darkness comes it is accompanied with a lurking suspicion that something is going to happen; that the morning will disclose crime and possibly bloodshed.

The murder across the track a few nights ago was a result of a tramp convention or gathering such as is liable to occur in any community, but it was not that alone which caused a tremor to creep up the spine of the citizen. There has been a spirit of unrest.

There is but one way to handle such conditions and that is stern and rigid police regulation with sufficient men on duty to handle any emergency. Apparently La Grande has such a force now and it will be continued. This is a city of homes as well as a city of active business and above everything else there must be guaranteed safety of life and property.

HANGMAN'S KNOT NO MORE.

It was left to Governor West to abolish the hangman's knot in Oregon, at least he has done so during

his tenure of office. And in taking this stand the governor has opened the oft debated question whether society has a right to take life in return for criminal offense. In many quarters of the globe the executive will find precedent for his action, while in other quarters which are just as well governed and peopled by just as high grade a citizenship he will find a direct objection. Take for instance the case of Henry Clay Beattie, Jr., who was electrocuted yesterday. It would be hard to follow that trial, the history of the man, read his confession and then not vote to kill him. Apparently society is better off without his presence, for as long as he lives in the body there is chance for his release from prison.

But Oregon will hang no one through the machinery of law as long as the present governor occupies the executive chair, which gives the man convicted a ray of hope, at least.

A HOME VIEW OF LA FOLLETTE.

The Observer has been anxious for some time to get an opinion of Senator La Follette from the ranks of his own state. At last we have found it in the Whitewater, Wis. Register, one of the dignified and reliable newspapers of Wisconsin. Listen to what Editor Coe of the Register has to say: Frequently we are asked why it is that we (editorially and otherwise) do not like Senator La Follette. It is a hard thing to make plain at times because the senator stands insincerely for some very desirable things. In the current issue of the Jefferson County Union we find an editorial by Ex-Governor W. D. Hoar, which hits on many of the points in the La Follette character so dangerous in a man of his present influence. We know from our own observation that Governor Hoar sees this man in his true light. We wish our readers would peruse his statements dispassionately.

We are beginning to think that the Jefferson County Union is doing a most useful service, in that it demonstrates to some of the blind and "far gone" editorial worshippers of Robert M. La Follette, what can be honestly and truthfully said against him. Some of the editors of the state who did not help once and coddle him as we did at the beginning of his career, think we are speaking the words of spite. Not so. It is in the interest of a square understanding of republican truth and decency that we say what we do. When such great and faithful old republicans as the late Geo. E. Bryant and Senator Stout, Isaac Stephenson, Magnus Swenson, George P. Hudnall, of Superior, Wm. Connor, Gov. Davidson, and a host of other tried and true men felt obliged to break from his support, there is greater significance and farther meaning in such action than in anything words can convey. These men were not stalwarts. They were the men who helped put La Follette where he is.

But they were self respecting men; men who would not consent to make war on their own party and fellow workers just to suit the spite or further the ambition of La Follette. When they got a view of that trait of his character, when they saw that he had no respect for the primary law and its decisions, nor the people who stood behind it, if it did not meet his purpose, they were shocked. They said as we said in our statement a year ago, that a man who recked at nothing in the pursuit of his ambition is a dangerous man to put in places of high trust.

His career since he went to the senate amply proves this. He has pursued President Taft with a hatred and malignity that has shocked the moral sense of the nation. And for what? Simply because he wants Taft's place, is that a sufficient excuse? He pursued Senator Spooner with the same hate; would not even speak to him on

the street. All his talk about "the people" is for La Follette and not the people.

Right here is where we differ from those editors who blindly follow him. We speak the truth about the man. All the paid for articles in the Saturday Evening Post, all that La Follette may say himself, for himself, in the American Magazine, does not blind us to the fact that he is in the game for himself and not for the best interests either of the nation or the republican party. He would sacrifice one as quickly as the other if he thought he could gain place and power by it. Like thousands of other men in this state, who once stood for him, we have lost confidence in his patriotism, his fairness, his honesty and sense of consistency. We have full confidence in his ability to make the worse appear the better reason, in his far-reaching gratitude to self sacrificing friends, in his boundless ambition, and in the amount of malignant hate he manifests toward those who oppose him. But are these the qualities of safe statesmanship?

The people must hold steadfastly to the principle of electing safe men as well as talented men. Oratorical ability is not enough. We need men who will curb their own ambition, who are fair, reasonable and just.

There is none of the bitterness of personal disappointment in what we say. It is not an agreeable task for us. We are not speaking from the standpoint of a sorehead, for we have never sought place or position at La Follette's hands. We have been, like hundreds of others, a giver, not a taker, in his interest. But we say what we do from a profound conviction that La Follette is an unsafe man to entrust with the power he so persistently seeks. Any other course on our part would be unworthy of the editorship we hold, and we prize that more than any favor kings or potentates might give.

Fred Wilson, of Athens, says he is a candidate for the republican nomination to congress in the new district. Let the others come forward and announce themselves, for voters are becoming anxious to see the lineup and pick out the one that shows the best points.

Ben W. Olcott is now governor of the state while the chief executive makes a trip through the east. "Governor Ben" should be able to get even more mention in the press now than he has heretofore and all will admit he has done first rate as secretary of state.

Some Portland people are calling Gipsy Smith all sorts of names. But this must be admitted the "Gipsy" delivers the goods and in religious work as in everything else, the world takes off its hat to the man who can make good.

Pit Brow Women.

The pit brow women work at the mouths of English coal mines in sheds open to the weather at the sides. The work which they perform has to do with the sorting of the coal according to size and quality and the freeing of it from stones. There is some lifting to be done and some pushing. There is some risk, but not a great deal. Women have been hurt by the catching of their clothing in the belting and machinery, but of late there has been more care than formerly in covering the parts of the machinery which proved dangerous. At the present time accidents are rare and confined for the most part to the crushing of fingers. There is dust constantly rising, and this makes the work untidy. Women working in coal get black faces as well as men, but they wear cloths on their heads, which keep the dust out of their hair, and the fact that they are in the open air, together with the constant muscular exertion required, is on the whole beneficial to their health. Many of the girls are fine figures and all have good color. They prefer the occupation to domestic labor or employment in factories. The wages they earn range from a shilling to 2s. 3d. a day. In the various colliery towns there are upward of 5,000 women thus employed.—Exchange.

An Elastic Appetite.

The American black bear has an appetite that may be appropriately termed elastic. He will kill a thousand pound steer and capture the tiny field mouse for a meal with equal indifference. If a pig or sheep is not handy to his reach he will dine on a colony of ants or a nest of wood grubs. He will feast on dainty birds' eggs or sweet stores of wild honey and on the foulest carrion with like gusto. He will lish for the savory trout, but at the same time snap any warty toad or slimy lizard that may happen along that way. He will seek the insidious wild plum when it has ripened or the wild grape among the branches where the vine clammers and bears its fruit, but will not miss the opportunity to make food of any snake that may lie in ambush there for birds that come to peck at the plums or grapes. The bear has a comprehensive palate. There is scarcely a thing in the animal or vegetable kingdom that will not do for it.

FRATERNAL ORDERS OF LA GRANDE.

A. F. & A. M.—La Grande Lodge No. 41, A. F. & A. M. holds regular meetings first and third Saturdays at 7:30 p. m. Cordial welcome to all Masons. L. M. HOYT, W. M. A. C. WILLIAMS, Secretary.

B. P. O. E.—La Grande Lodge No. 433 meets each Thursday evening at 8 o'clock in Elk's club, corner of Depot street and Washington avenue. Visiting brothers are cordially invited to attend.

H. J. RITTER, Ex. Rul.
H. E. COOLIDGE, Rec. Sec.

WOODMEN OF THE WORLD—La Grande Lodge No. 163 W. O. W. meets every second and fourth Saturdays at K. P. hall. All visiting members welcome.
D. FITZGERALD, C. C.
J. H. KEENEY, Clerk.

M. W. A.—La Grande Camp No. 7763 meets every Monday in the month at the L. O. O. F. hall. All visiting neighbors are cordially invited to attend.

W. A. DUNN,
WILL LANDRUM, Clerk.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS—Red Cross Lodge No. 27 meets every Monday night in Castle hall, (old Elk's hall). A Pythian welcome to all visiting Knights.

A. C. HAYNES, C. C.
R. L. LINCOLN, M. of R. & S.

REBEKAHS—Crystal Lodge No. 9 meets every Tuesday evening in the L. O. O. F. hall. All visiting members are invited to attend.
MISS HELEN McLAUGHLIN, N. G.
MISS ANNA ALEXANDER, Sec.

O. E. S.—Hope Chapter No. 13, O. E. S. holds stated communications the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. Visiting members cordially invited.

CARRIE B. HUNTER, W. M.
MARY A. WARNICK, Sec.

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