

THE OBSERVER

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HO, THE NEW YEAR.

La Grande is facing one of the most important years of her existence when she enters upon the year 1912. On every hand there is good prospect for an excellent year—a year not only of plenty for those willing to work, but a year of extraordinary advancement as a community.

Has it occurred to you lately that less than two years ago La Grande took off her village clothes and proclaimed to the outside world that henceforth she was of age and amply able to take care of herself; that the days of the short skirt and curly hair had given way to long dresses and the proverbial "rats"? Well, that is true. No longer can this municipality sail under the guise of the "innocent and young" for she is now battling with the outside world for the recognition that is due her. No longer can the probable investor find a residence lot in the main part of the city and buy it for a few hundred dollars; no longer can the tenant rent a modern cottage for a song; everything is on the move; it is in the air, and harmony prevails throughout the city on this point. Many towns are unwilling to accept advancement. Not so with La Grande. What few people insist on keeping a cow and chickens in their backyard must this year either give up these primitive luxuries or move to nearer the outer edge of the city. The day has passed for the cow barn smell to strike the leading hotels in the face, and the day has passed when a poultry yard can be kept within two blocks of Adams avenue. Yes, there was a time when this was all right. There was also a time when board sidewalks passed the Foley hotel and no one thought of paved streets.

Different now? Oh, yes. La Grande is on the march as the Eastern Oregon metropolis. In fact, she has reached her destination. If you cannot accept her as she is today, move out and let the man who likes a good little city moving in. There will be no stopping, so don't get cheery and think a few words from an individual against this or that will have weight. You may kick against how it shall be done, you may kick about letting the contract, you may kick regarding the price, and all of those things, but don't put yourself on record against improvements. The other kicks are laudable and are the rights of every citizen, but no citizen who wants the town to forge ahead has a right to kick against a legitimate improvement when such improvement is let through proper process to responsible people who carry out to the letter the specifications. However if such be not done then their righteous wrath of everyone touched is due and should prevail.

But, with assurance that all details will be satisfactorily adjusted among ourselves, let us turn our faces to the New Year—gladness and happy. It is a presidential year—a year when the historians will put on the label of dull times—but why should there be dull times in La Grande or in Union county? There is absolutely no reason. Take an invoice of the stock of goods this county has to sell, go to the expense sheet and see if there will not be a handsome balance of trade in favor of this county. You can figure it no other way. The lumber industry alone here promises to be increased immeasurably which will bring in from the markets of the world lumps of money. The railroad company is necessarily bound to spend more money here than ever before, and so with other industries.

Truly, the outlook for a bright year for La Grande was never in all her history so good as it is for the new year of 1912.

THE ALDRICH PLAN.

Anything that affects unfavorably the money or currency of a nation touches the pocket-book of its citizens, and, therefore, becomes a matter of grave concern. For this reason the subject of monetary reform which is to come before the present session of congress within a short time should be seriously considered by the people of the United States.

If after widespread study and thought the people think they desire the so-called Aldrich plan of reform adopted, they should make their desire known in no uncertain terms at Washington. If, on the other hand,

the plan seems not to be good, their protest at Washington should be no less outspoken.

Every student of currency knows that the United States has the worst monetary system of any first class power on earth. It is haphazard, unscientific and a breeder of panic and disaster. Only a country with our own vast recuperative powers could prosper with such a handicap. It is time a reform was forced through congress. The people's advancement is retarded by their own neglect to remedy so patent a fault.

The Aldrich plan has been formulated by the national monetary commission, whose chairman is the former powerful senator from Rhode Island. It is the product of more than three years of travel and study. Probably never before in the history of financial legislation has so much painstaking labor been spent in preparatory study.

The banking systems of Europe which make the currency of its principal nations stable and adaptable to the varying needs of their people, have as the main controlling feature a great central bank. This central institution monopolizes bank note issue and serves as a "big brother" to all the other banks. It is the balance wheel, the big, dominating element in each entire system.

In the United States, however, the idea of a central bank seems out of harmony with the government. It fits better into a monarchical system, like Great Britain's or Germany's. Realizing this, and the difficulty there would be in getting congressional sanction for a central bank, the monetary commission proposes instead a national reserve association—which its enemies assert is merely another name for a central bank.

This reserve association would be organized after the model of the government. The national banks would be organized into local associations and these into a district association, each with distinctive functions and each with local self-government, and all the district organizations would unite to form the central reserve association. The resemblance to the local, state and federal plan of the general government is plainly discernable.

This reserve association is described not as a bank but as a cooperative union of all banks. It is an extension of the clearing house idea to meet the needs of the entire country.

At best the subject is complex. Bankers were slow to express themselves definitely upon it, the laymen may well delay an opinion until he has studied it carefully. And yet there is no question now before the public which deserves wider consideration.

It would be well for every citizen to secure a copy of the proposed enactment, take it to some banker for advice if he desires, and then—having made up his mind regarding the advisability of the measure—let his representative in congress known about it.

A FEW DAYS AWAY FROM HOME.

It is a fine idea to take that trip to Southern Oregon being planned by a number of business men. The plan of getting away from home for a week and seeing how other towns do things is a good one. It will broaden every citizen who goes. Stops are to be made at all of the important towns in the Willamette valley and direct investigation is to be made of the methods adopted in public work as well as in private business.

No one hesitates to admit that Eastern Oregon is a money country compared with the Willamette valley; no one hesitates to admit that money is accumulated in this part of the state with much more ease than in the valley, but we must also admit that the valley has been forging ahead at an alarming speed for some time past. Good towns have taken the place of sleepy villages; modern buildings have replaced wooden shacks, and on every hand there is a spirit of progress and go ahead.

La Grande people want to see how it is done. We want to know if the Seattle spirit of doing much on paper has been the cause of this advancement or whether it is bona fide work of the local citizens who put their money into local enterprises.

The trip will do everyone good. Be sure to go if you can. You will be of more benefit to yourself and the community at large after you have seen for yourself what is going on below.

A TENDER HEARTED EXECUTIVE

There are times when the tender hearted man is almost equal to the hysterical woman in committing strange acts. Oregon today is the victim of what might be termed a tender hearted governor. He cannot understand the misery and crime following in the path of criminals. He cannot

see why there should not be leniency extended to everyone incarcerated; in fact, he can see nothing through his tears of sympathy for men who have broken the laws of man and are now behind prison bars.

The Observer feels differently towards the governor than many papers appear to feel in this matter. While we do not agree with him in any sense and believe he will see the wrong position he has taken, yet we do think his views are prompted largely by a tender heart—too tender, in fact, to deal with men.

In other words, Oregon has chosen a man in Governor West who really is not large enough for the position. He is not a governor by measurement. Successful as an office man, successful as a bank officer, he certainly is making a failure as a governor and an executive.

Oregon will live through it, however. She always does. Handicapped by her public men in many places she keeps pegging along and advances more rapidly than one would think with so many handicaps.

Husband and wife sat on the same jury in Tacoma, Wash., and voted for the same verdict. Hubby knew how to prevent a scene at home.

Chorus girls appearing at a Detroit theatre were robbed of five pairs of silk tights. The police are working on the case, thin as it is.

The sporting editor pauses to inquire why the Indian runner crossed the Atlantic on the steamer Megantic. Because it is a Longboat.

One thousand two divorces were granted in Detroit the first 11 months of this year, which is a fair record, considering that all of the six judges took their usual summer vacation.

The undertaker who has been appointed health officer at Newwaygo, by faithfully discharging the duties of his office, might drive himself into bankruptcy court.

THIS DATE IN HISTORY.

December 30.

1765—James Francis Edward Stuart, called the Pretender, died. Born in 1688.

1813—British burned Black Rock and Buffalo.

1847—John P. Altgeld, governor of Illinois, born in Berlin, Germany. Died in Joliet, Ill., March 12, 1904.

1851—Louis Kossuth, the famous Hungarian patriot spoke before the United States congress.

1860—President Buchanan declined to receive the delegates from South Carolina.

1861—Banks in New York and other cities suspended cash payments.

1884—Socialist league formed in England.

1903—Six hundred lives lost in the burning of the Iroquois theatre in Chicago.

"THIS IS MY 37TH BIRTHDAY."

Bishop Warne.

Francis Wesley Warne, Methodist Episcopal bishop at Lucknow, India, was born in Erin, Ontario, December 30, 1854. He was educated at Georgetown Academy and Albert College, at Belleville, Ontario, and entered the Methodist Episcopal ministry in Canada in 1874. From 1878 to 1881 he was engaged as missionary to British North America. In 1881 he entered Garrett Biblical Institute and graduated in 1884. Three years later he was sent to Calcutta, India, as a missionary. For twenty years after his arrival in India he was pastor of Thornburn church and presiding elder of the Calcutta district. At the general conference of the M. E. church held in Chicago in 1900 the services of Dr. Warne were rewarded with his election as missionary bishop to India.

Notice for Sale of Improvement Bonds.

Notice is hereby given that the city of La Grande, Union county, Oregon, will receive sealed bids for the purchase of improvement bonds, in the sum of \$9,413.22, in denominations of \$500.00, bearing six per cent interest, per annum, up to 5 o'clock p. m., January 3rd, 1912; said bids to be filed with the recorder of the city of La Grande and to be accompanied by a certified check for the sum of \$470.00. The successful bidder will be required to pay for said bonds within ten (10) days after notice that said bonds are ready for delivery.

La Grande, Oregon, December 20th, 1911.

C. M. HUMPHREYS,
Recorder of the city of La Grande,
(Do. 23-26-27-28-29-30)

DON'T GET RUN DOWN

Weak and miserable. If you have Kidney or Bladder trouble, Dull head pains, Dizziness, Nervousness, Pains in the back, and feel tired all over, get a package of Mother Gray's AROMATIC-LEAF, the pleasant herb cure. It never fails. We have many testimonials from grateful people who have used this wonderful remedy. As a regulator it has no equal. Ask for Mother Gray's Aromatic-Leaf at drug stores or sent by mail for 50 cts. Sample FREE. Address, The Mother Gray Co., LeRoy, N. Y.

Take Your Choice Now of
ANY SUIT IN THE STORE
at 20 Per cent Discount

COME TO OUR STORE MONDAY OR
thereafter and see our elegant showing of stylish
Suits for men. Select the one you like and it's yours at

1 - 5 OFF
OUR REGULAR LOW PRICES

THIS Sale is for the purpose of making new friends
and customers for this store. Our regular prices are
as low as the lowest. Now, you can save one-fifth more.
We expect this sale to get us many new customers--We
know that everyone will be so well pleased that he will
come again.

You will like our goods--You will like our prices--You will like our
methods of doing business. Come and see what you can save at this

- TWENTY PER CENT DISCOUNT SALE -

The Biggest Values For The Least Money

Toney & Scranton

The Store That Satisfies

FADS AND FANCIES IN GOTHAM

New York, Dec. 30.—Furs have always been more or less popular for winter wear but while in former years only the practical side of the furs as a warmth giving covering, was considered, the vogue for the picturesque, is now strongly marked. Never has there been a great variety in models, combinations and uses of furs than at the present time.

The new long coats, for example, are made with rather full fronts gracefully draped around the figure and held in place with knots of velvet or satin ribbon. Linings for the long coats are of satin velled with chiffon, or of richly brocaded silks, often having threads of gold or silver running through the design. Small heads and tails of furs are being used as motifs, under which garment fastens. Wide schulke stoles are finding favor in the eyes of fashionable women. Three reasons why they are so popular are warmth, becomingness and the fact that they can be made of velvet and fur or satin edged with fur. The latter are made quite warm by an interlining of lamb's wool.

Ermine is extremely popular this season and is used either alone or in combination with other furs. The new schulke fur is greatly in demand. It resembles the American skunk but is of finer and softer texture, darker and richer in coloring. Moleskin is coming to the front again and seal is always a good choice, though extremely expensive. Muffs of fur are made larger than ever, perfectly flat like a pillow, or with a curved end made to throw over the hands.

One of the most interesting and picturesque features of this winter's fashions are the long, wide and straight fur scarfs which have found so much favor among the fashionable women in Paris. Most of these scarfs are made of short-haired furs of simple texture, mole, baby lamb, seal ermine and chinchilla being first favored.

often introduced merely in bordering bands or in a band bordering one side of the scarf. Yet one sees double-faced scarfs, one fur-lined with another, which might be expected to give rather to much bulk. As a matter of fact they are less graceful and less easily adjusted than the models in supple fur lined with satin, velvet or chiffon.

Combinations of fur are popular in these scarfs, as throughout the whole province of furs, and ermine is perhaps more used for relieving purposes than any other fur, as it harmonizes well with all the darker furs and is easily worked. A wide scarf of softest satiny baby lamb bordered with ermine is much liked and is in line with the persistent popularity of black and white effects.

Another very stunning scarf in breitschwanz is lined with black velvet and is bordered on one side only, the upper side, which is worn next to the face, by a band of white fox heading a rather wide frill of black tulle which falls over the black fur of the scarf. This model suggests development in many charming combinations and colorings.

Ermine is most often left unadorned except by fringes of its own tails. It may be mentioned here that ermine is little used now, as it once was, with the little black splashes introduced at intervals all over the surface. The preference now is for all white ermine with the black tails applied as fringe or in ornamental clusters.

There are ermine scarfs bordered by skunk, by black fox or by dark short haired fur. One handsome ermine scarf made with an eye to reversing it upon occasion, was lined with black velvet in a bordering band six inches wide. This treatment is possible in any combination of velvet and fur but is particularly effective in the white fur and black or dark velvet.

Taupe, which may be worked in so

many ways and which the furriers love because it gives them a chance to show their exceeding cleverness in setting the little skins together so that the contrasting grain in the pile will form tiny designs of check or diamond or point or scallop or stripe, makes fascinating scarfs, soft and clinging as satin, and this fur is very frequently combined with ermine or with seal, the latter being used not only as border fur but often in stripes alternating with the mole. Chinchilla is an ideal fur for the big scarf, but is now so very expensive that the price of such a scarf is prohibitive for all but the very rich or very extravagant. Fox is also made up into scarfs by the Paris furriers.

For wear with the big fur scarf, as with the fanciful pelerines and capes of fur, the one-piece frock is the correct thing, and this one piece frock is the correct thing, and this one piece frock appears in all degrees of elegance and in many materials. Most effective, however, in connection with handsome furs, is the velvet frock, and this the Parisienne particularly affects for afternoon toilet. The best of these velvet frocks, designed for street wear with small furs, which means without a coat, the scarf of the moment makes it far from being actually small are severely simple in line and detail.

Handsome buttons, a little fur or embroidery or lace or contrasting material, but no fussiness or elaboration and usually none of the extreme sheerness about the bodice which obtains in velvet or cloth frocks intended for house wear or wear under coats. This rule however, is not unvarying. Women wear their fur scarfs over the most elaborate of afternoon frocks, whose bodices are almost entirely of chiffon or lace, and for social functions this does very well, since the transit from warm if not to warm house is brief; but for all around street wear the heavier bodice is more comfortable, since the artistically draped scarf, while warm enough where it covers, and covering most of the body, does have a way of leaving gaps open to the attack of winter winds and chilling draughts.

FLORENCE FAIRBANKS