

THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS
Editor and Owner.

Entered at the postoffice at La Grande as second-class matter.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.
Daily, singly copy ..... 5c
Daily, per week ..... 15c
Daily, per month ..... 65c

THE SCANDAL OF THE LAW.

It is doubtful if a more pungent criticism of the administration of justice in the United States has ever appeared in print than in the article written by Carl Snyder in the last Collier's Weekly. It is a scorching arraignment of the delays, foibles and endless red tape which he alleges are coincident with court procedure in this country.

Mr. Snyder quotes from the speech of ex-Governor Thomas of Colorado before the Iowa Bar association in which the governor said that "fully half of the business of the appellate courts is devoted to questions of practice not affecting the merits of the controversy, and thousand of cases are reversed and remanded for errors in practice at enormous expense to the losing parties whose right to relief upon the facts are unquestioned."

The writer touches upon the criminal side with statistics in regard to the number of murders and convictions in the United States. In 1910, according to his statistics, there were 8,975 murders in this country or 98 to every million of population.

In closing his article, Mr. Snyder says:

"Is it any wonder that in the United States, proportional to the population, there are at least five times as many judges as in England, possibly ten times as many? That is why I said that if it were not for the monumental abuse of the right of appeal, and the still greater abuse by the courts of their power to reverse decisions upon the most flimsy and fantastic of pretexts, and without the slightest regard to the question of justice, the number of our judges could be reduced at least two-thirds."

"From all this mass of testimony, from the highest and most unimpeachable of witnesses, the following facts stand clearly forth: That the administration of justice in the United States is in a state of utter anarchy; that a plain man cannot know the law; that justice is simply the last

man's guess; that some judges feel at liberty to overrule the plain letter and the intent of any law, no matter how clear, no matter how imperative, under the atrocious fraud of it being 'unconstitutional.'"

YES, WE THINK SO.

Union, Ore., Jan. 10.—(Editor Observer)—It is noticed here, that in your issue of today, you state that passengers were transferred from snow stalled train No. 17 to Union depot direct and from there to La Grande where they arrived rejoicing, evidently conveying the impression that the O.-W. R. & N. transferred them direct from the train to Union Junction, and on to La Grande. Say, Mr. Dennis, we are always willing to accord La Grande all honor coming to her as a sister town. At the same time we of Union want justice done to ourselves at the hands of our sister town, La Grande, i. e.: when Union deserves notice. Would these passengers have arrived in La Grande feeling as happy as you say they did had it not been that Union first of all, threw open hotels and restaurants and fed the inner man? Did Union not haul them off the hill from the embedded train. The writer ventures to think that she did. A pleasantry along these lines from you stating that Union deserves at least some credit in the matter would probably have been appropriate under the circumstances! Don't you think so now, yourself, Mr. Dennis, when you come to reconsider the matter. Yours as ever, "UNION ANON."

A bright young fellow came up for the cadet engineers' examination at Annapolis one day, and the judges asked him the usual questions, which he answered readily enough until one gruff old fellow frowned at him and demanded:

"How do you say you proceed to get up steam?"

The cadet glibly described the process of building the fires, testing the water in the boilers and all that.

"And then?" snapped the examiner. The young fellow twisted his cap in his hands and thought up a few more details.

"And then?" rasped the examiner once more, pursing his lips and looking as if something important had been missed.

The cadet did the best he could, slyly adding such details as that he would shut the furnace doors after putting the coal in. The moment he stopped the same old question burst out:

"And then?" "And then," repeated the cadet slowly, raising his cap to his breast and gazing at the ceiling, "and then I should look up to heaven and think I am ready to go home if the boiler front comes out."—New York Sun.

Hoaxed the Book Collectors.

Some years ago a cruel hoax was played on the ardent devourers of booksellers' catalogues. A number of well known book lovers in France and Belgium received a catalogue of a library to be sold at Binche, a small town near Mons. There were only 252 items in the catalogue, but all these were unique examples, for, it was announced, "the late owner, M. de Fortsas, would destroy any book in his collection if he ascertained that another copy existed." The catalogue, as may be imagined, caused a sensation in the book world. On the day appointed for the sale swarms of collectors, including representatives of several national libraries, descended on Binche, only to find that both De Fortsas and his binelined library were myths.—London Chronicle.

Six of One, Half Dozen of the Other.

One of the most discouraging features of life in Tripoli, as in other Mohammedan countries, is the condition of the veiled, fatalistic women. Those of the richer classes live in untold idleness, the poor in even more ignorance and constant ill directed drudgery. A missionary for whom the wife of a muleteer was preparing supper noticed that she set aside in a furtive way a small part of the tea and sugar.

"Why do you do that?" was asked. "Oh," said the woman, "I must provide against the day when my husband may divorce me."

She then made the startling announcement that she was her husband's sixth wife and that he was her sixth husband.—Christian Herald.

Courage in Elephants.

An elephant with a good mahout gives perhaps the best instance of disciplined courage—courage, that is, which persists in the face of knowledge and disinclination—to be seen in the animal world. They will submit day after day to have painful wounds dressed in obedience to their keeper and meet danger in obedience to orders, though their intelligence is sufficient to understand the peril and far too great for man to trick them into a belief that it is nonexistent. No animal will face danger more readily at man's bidding.—London Spectator.

Careful.

He would have gathered her in a warm embrace, but she waved him back. "No," she said imperiously. "You crush my heart," he protested. "Better thy heart," she answered, "than my gown."—London Tit-Bits.

READY-TO-WEAR

Garments At Less Than Actual Cost At West's

14th Annual Clearance Sale

SOME OF THE EXTRAORDINARY PRICES ON LADIES' GARMENTS.

60 Ladies' Tailored Suits, values up to \$22.50 \$5.90

Entire line Party Dresses reduced 1-3 to 1-2 from regular prices

Newest Wooltex Suits Half Price

Ladies' White Dresses, values \$10.00 to \$20.00 Choice \$5.00

Another lot White Dresses, values \$5.00 to \$12.50 Choice \$1.90

WE ARE SELLING OUR ENTIRE LINE OF HIGH QUALITY CLOTHING FOR MEN AND BOYS AT ANNUAL SALE PRICES.

Benjamin Suits and Overcoats Reduced TWENTY-FIVE PER CENT

Society Brand Young Men's Suits Reduced 25 Per Cent.

Kenyon Rain Coats and Slip-ons, Reduced 25 Per Cent.

Boys' Knickerbocker Suits Reduced THIRTYTHREE ONE-THIRD per cent

Men's Dress Pants Reduced 25 Per Cent.

Entire Line Furnishing at Clearance Prices.

Absolutely Every Article In The Store Reduced. Remember This Sale Happens But Once Each Year.

WEST'S WEST'S

Arcade Theatre

Four reels, four thousand feet of high class photoplays.

"Ostrich Plume Industry" Gaumont

It's an interesting and an instructive picture of this industry.

"Her Wedding Ring" Edison

The brutal husband, the man from the east, the miners log cabin and splendid photography make up this most interesting picture.

"Jimmy in Love" Gaumont

Jimmie has won audiences before, and in this picture as in others he keeps us laughing. It isn't loud laughter but it has a lively jingle.

"Bleakbeard" Solig

Abucaneer story of times long since gone by

"Life Saving School in Australia" G. C. P. C.

"Oh, What a Thanksgiving" American Pathé

A roaring comedy, papa, a mother-in-law, a fine turkey, a bulldog and a few Tom-and-Jerry's go to make up this lively comedy.

Illustrated song by Mr. Williams: "Good Night, Mr. Moon" YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

ROUTED THE "ROGUE."

A Bad Elephant, a Lighted Lamp and a Lucky Blow.

An odd experience fell to the lot of three men who were on a tiger hunting expedition in India.

To prevent the invasion of mosquitoes and other insects that would be attracted by the light in their quarters the heavy cotton curtain which formed the door of the tent was closed, and the three friends were chatting across the table when suddenly the whole tent shook, and as they looked round to see the cause the heavy curtain was roughly snatched away, and in the open doorway appeared the head of a big elephant.

The men had no time to catch up their rifles. They knew by the appearance of the animal that he meant mischief. Lifting up the roof of the tent with his head he threateningly swung out his trunk at the man nearest him.

At this the hunter sprang to his feet and, seizing the lighted lamp from the table, hurled it with all his strength against the animal's forehead. The glass broke at the blow, and the blazing oil covered the animal's trunk with a sheet of flame.

With a cry of terror the beast drew frantically back, shook off the curtain and fled across the country, vanquished by a single blow from an oil lamp. It was a fortunate act, for the animal was no doubt a "rogue" and would probably have killed one or more of the men.—Exchange.

Gold Filled.

A gold filled tooth and your gold filled watch case may be said to be inversely analogous—that is to say, your gold filled tooth has more or less of the tooth's structure of enamel on the outside with gold on a core filling the center. Your gold filled watch case consists of two sheets of gold, having between each sheet some baser metal to which the gold is soldered. As to the gold in the case, it may be of any fineness and any thickness commensurate with the term "gold filled." A jeweler will tell you that 10 carat gold is not gold, having too great an admixture of baser metals. Many persons have the idea that the gold filled case is an amalgam of the kind instead of a "sandwich" of gold treated in the inside with the base metals.

Our Queer Language.

Isn't it a queer language? A New York policeman saw a woman in the street with a carpet and a stick.

"Beat it," he harshly commanded. Whereupon the woman struck the carpet with the stick and the policeman arrested her for violating a street ordinance.

The judge heard the woman's story and smiled.

"Beat it," he said to her, and this time she understood and hurried away.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The lower branch of the Kentucky legislature now in session has two members bearing the names of James A. Leach. The two are not related.

Right in His Line.

"Yes," remarked the sad looking stranger; "I have seen the last of many a good man."

"Doctor or undertaker?" queried the man behind the white apron.

"Neither," replied he of the sad looks. "I'm a shoemaker."

To Prevent Brain Skid.

If men could put chains or the wheels in their heads as they do on their automobiles it might save them a lot of skidding.—Oh City Blizzard.



What Makes a Strong Bank?

1. AMPLE RESOURCES—Our resources are \$1,100,000, composed of well secured loans and cash.

2. AMPLE CASH RESERVES—Our cash reserves are usually 26 to 30 per cent of our immediate liabilities (deposits subject to check, and always more than 15 per cent of our total liabilities, the amount required by law.

3. ADEQUATE CAPITAL—Our capital is \$100,000.00, and our surplus, which is profits earned and retained as additional capital, is \$105,000.00.

4. CAPABLE MANAGEMENT—Ever since its organization 25 years ago, this bank has been under careful management. Its officers and directors are men who have achieved success in the banking and other lines of business. The fact that we have safely weathered every financial storm during our career, and are today greater and stronger than ever is evidence of good management.

If you are not already a depositor or client of this strong and successful bank, become one now. If you are, tell your friends about us.

La Grande National Bank

LA GRANDE, OREGON.

CAPITAL \$ 100,000.00
SURPLUS 105,000.00
RESOURCES 1,100,000.00

Fred J. Holmes, Pres.
P. L. Meyers, Cashier

W. J. Church, Vice Pres.
Earl Zundel, As't. Cashier

After a Cold Auto Ride

What could be more comforting or exhilarating than a nice cup of Hot Chocolate, which you will always find ready at this season of the year at our Soda counter? We give it to you pure and cheering, full of that goodness and nutriment so peculiar to the best quality of Chocolate. It is a food, drink and medicine all combined, at low cost.

Selder's - La Grande