

THE OBSERVER

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Editor and Owner.

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THE BUSY PERNICIOUS RAT.

The most destructive creature in the world, most people now agree, is the common house fly. Besides this seemingly harmless, interesting insect, tigers and rattlesnakes sink into gulflessness. The fly is the cause of typhoid, the busy little distributor of germs which annually claim thousands on thousands of human lives.

Next to the fly probably comes the common rat as a destroyer. Society is pretty well organized now in a war on flies. It is time to organize to exterminate the rat.

Figures are sometimes confusing because of their bigness. Yet the destructive tendencies of the common rat are to be told in figures. For instance, it is computed by the government experts at Washington that rats annually destroy property worth as many dollars as there are people in the world. In the United States, the loss due to rats is put at \$100,000,000. And this does not take into consideration the death caused by disease which the rats carry from place to place. Fortunately in the United States this feature of the case is not as serious as elsewhere, but this nation is by no means secure even in this respect.

The rat has the advantage of being by nature a night worker. He gets in his best ticks when the vast majority of human beings are tucked away in

bed and forgetfulness. Then it is he creeps out of his sewer abode, out of his cellar barrow, out from beneath the rotten barn sills and plies his trade of destruction. By daylight his tour of duty is done and he sneaks back to hiding while mankind takes the stage.

A rat will eat anything, drink anything, destroy almost anything. Millions are spent each year repairing the damage he does, but even millions cannot replace the food supplies he destroys. He causes fires, thus adding his mite to that great waste by conflagrations which taxes the wealth of the nations to meet.

But in spite of the rat's activity as a destroyer of physical values, it is a disease carrier that he particularly shines. Against him as a carrier of germs the governments of the world are coming to give him earnest, scientific attention. The rat came to America from Europe about the time of the revolutionary war, the government at Washington believes. Originally, he was an inhabitant of Asia, and in Asia still he is most active. Though an alien in the western hemispheres, he has made himself remarkably familiar. He comes by ship to the western ports of the United States and thence scatters himself and his posterity over the new land.

If America really faces a yellow peril, the peril is bound up in this four-footed, long-tailed rodent. He is the carrier of the plague, of trichinosis which finally infects pork and brings death to its consumers, of pebragra and scientists now believe he has something to do with keeping the hook-worm of the south alive.

We have been trained in recent years to swat the house fly. It is hardly less important to kill the rat.

In St. Louis a woman with a diamond ring in her mouth talked four hours to a detective. So we learn that not even a diamond ring will keep 'em still.

A prepared-rooting advertisement reads: "Its bright and red color is permanent, and will always remain permanent. From which one gathers that it will always be bright and red."

Nothing so takes the paper out of a boy who has determined to run away as to have mother offer to help to pack a grip.

Harry Thaw is studying law. Probably to find out the process by which his lawyers separated him from his money.

The battleship Maine, according to laide information, was blown up from the outside.

"THIS IS MY 66TH BIRTHDAY."

William Carey Poland.  
William Carey Poland, professor of the history of art at Brown university was born in Goffston, N. H., January 25, 1846. His education at Brown university was supplemented by two years of study at the universities of Berlin and Leipzig. In 1868 he became principal of an academy in Worcester, resigning two years later to accept a position as instructor at Brown. The years 1878-9 he spent in the study of art in the great museums in Germany, France and Italy. For the past 30 years Dr. Poland has been professor of the history of art at Brown, and during the greater part of that time he has filled the position also of director of the fine arts museum of the university. He is the author of several works on the history of art and classical archaeology. Congratulations to:— Charles Curtis, United States sen-

# FROM EVERY DEPARTMENT

## Many Lines Are Reduced Still Lower During The Last Few Days Of West's 14th Annual Sale

Only a short time left to save

on your

**BENJAMIN**

OR

**SOCIETY**

**SUIT**

Better come in today and make your selection.

**GREAT SAVINGS ON DAINY SWISS CURTAINS.**

Lot No. 1  
39c Pair.

Lot No. 3  
98c Pair

Lot No. 2  
59c Pair

**SEE THEM IN MILLINERY WINDOW TODAY.**

Table and Bureau Scarfs  
at Annual Sale prices

14c to 59c

White Tailored Waists reduced to ..... 29c  
White Duck and Linen Skirts reduced to 59c  
Sweaters at less than wholesale cost.  
Broken line underwear ..... 39c  
Flannelette Dressing Sacques ..... 19c  
Misses' and Child's Coats ..... 90c

## Cotton Piece Goods at Wholesale Prices

Amoskeag Staple Ginghams, 5c yd  
31 in. Dress Percales 8c  
32 in. Imported Ginghams, 12 12c yd  
Best regular dress Ginghams, 9c yd

Teazeldown Outing, 9c yd  
Yard wide Percales, 10c  
Silkolines, 10c  
Craft Cloth Drapery, 10c

## Don't Pass Up An Opportunity Like This

### SALE CLOSING WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31ST

WEST'S

WEST'S

## Arcade Theatre

Refined Entertainment for All People, now running Four Reels

"THE COWARD".....Am. Pathe  
The skillfully managed battle scenes, the armless old hero and the young coward who fends a retreat, leads a charge and dies a hero.

"THE FRANCISCAN FRIARS OF KILLARNEY".....Kalem  
A very interesting topical picture showing an impressive church ceremony.

"A EWNSBOYS LUCK".....Lubin  
A deserving human heart is brought out of sorrow and difficulty into gladness. Strongly appealing and very convincing.

"AMONG THE IRISH FISHER FOLKS".....Kalem  
Showing much of the intimate life of Irish fishermen and maidens.

"THE BULLY OF BINGO GULCH".....Selig  
A very lively and pleasing comedy.

"GOOD NIGHT DEAR"  
Sung by Laura Green Willis.  
Matinee daily from two to four

## A Working Capital of Over \$215,000.00 Inspires Confidence in This Bank

The stability of this institution, The substantial men behind it, Its reputation for progressiveness, Its large loaning capacity, Its spirit of accommodation, have attracted customers whose deposits aggregate over \$700,000.00. Promote your interests by allying yourself as a depositor with this strong and successful institution.

## La Grande National Bank

LA GRANDE, OREGON.  
CAPITAL \$ 100,000.00  
SURPLUS 115,000.00  
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## United States Depository

ator from Kansas, 52 years old today.  
Thomas W. Palmer, former United States senator from Michigan, 83 years old today.  
Richard Rathbun, assistant secretary of the Smithsonian institution, 60 years old today.  
Most Reverend Edward J. McCarthy, Roman Catholic archbishop of Halifax, 62 years old today.

### THIS DATE IN HISTORY.

- January 25.
- 1759—Robert Burns, the great Scottish poet, born. Died July 21, 1796.
- 1804—Jean Jacques Dessalines proclaimed himself emperor of Hayti.
- 1828—The Duke of Wellington became British prime minister.
- 1830—Robert Y. Hayne of South Carolina delivered his great speech in the senate in defense of state rights.
- 1832—W. L. Marcy of New York declared in the senate, "To the victors belong the spoils."
- 1858—Marriage of the Princess Royal of England and Prince Frederick William of Prussia.
- 1866—Rev. John Barrett Kerfoot consecrated P. E. bishop of Pittsburgh.
- 1871—Anglo-American association formed to cultivate more cordial relations between Great Britain and the United States.
- 1882—Rev. Cortlandt Whitehead consecrated P. E. bishop of Pittsburgh.
- 1906—Gen. Joseph Wheeler died in Brooklyn. Born in Augusta, Ga., Sept. 0, 1836.
- 1911—James E. Martine elected United States senator from New Jersey.

## POWER SITE FILED UPON

Spokane, Wash., Jan. 25.—(Special)—Wilbur S. Yearsley of Spokane, the president of the International Power company, has filed on 200,000 second feet of water at three points on the Pend Oreille river between the international boundary and Metaline

Falls, Wash. The water is appropriated for the development of electrical power for manufacturing and irrigation. The company will build a dam and power plant at each of the three points. The river has a fall of more than 500 feet in the nine miles covered by the filing, thus making possible the development of an almost unlimited amount of power. S. H. Anshell of Metaline Falls, said today on returning from Vancouver, B. C., that he has interested capital to finance an electric or steam railroad from the boundary to Colville, by way of Metaline Falls, 61 miles, also that it is likely the line will be extended from Colville southward to Spokane. Mr. Anshell has no connection with the International Power company. Milwaukee and Canadian capitalists are chiefly interested in his project, which will serve a large territory in the northern part of Stevens county not now tapped by a railroad.

Spokane, Wash., Jan. 25.—(Special)—Zora E. Hayden, commissioner of public safety, has sent letters to the officers of the various women's clubs in Spokane, saying that if any of their members desire to wear police badges and be invested with full authority the wish now will be gratified, adding, however, that such services must be of a voluntary character, without pay from the city. He also says he is willing to grant police powers to a joint committee of the clubs to visit the dance halls, promising that its report will receive full consideration. Numerous complaints having come to Commissioner Hayden's department regarding the dance halls, but he says he has not been able to verify them by personal visits or by having plain clothes men stationed in the places. It may be, he says, that women might

view these things differently and in that way the department could get at the truth in the matter.

## SOCIAL THEMES BOTHER PANAMA

Washington, Jan. 25.—As the work on the Panama canal draws to a close and it becomes apparent that the difficult problems of construction and engineering have been successfully solved, interest in social conditions in the canal zone increases and visitors returning from Colon and other places in the vicinity are eagerly questioned as to "what takes the place of the theater and other amusements in the zone?"

Unfortunately no data are available either here or in Panama to make possible a comparison between this country and the canal zone, but it is the opinion of careful observers that the American canal workers have as many breaks and on the average of as good quality, in the routine of their lives as they had in the cities of the "home country."

Moving pictures, that element of instruction and entertainment second to none when price and ease of accessibility is considered, are the principal source of entertainment in the zone. A large number of "wiggie picture"

houses, many of them as elaborate as those in the states dot the isthmus and these draw their nightly quota of amusement seekers.

A fact that attracts the attention of canal zone visitors almost immediately is that different classes of pictures are popular in different parts of the zone and the managers, realizing this, cater to the tastes of their audiences. At Empire and Christabol the slaughter of Indians and like western pictures elicit the most applause; at Gorgona the residents seem to care more for the slightly pathetic or tragic films, while at Culebra, Corozal and Gatun there is a distinct leaning toward the more romantic scenes.

The commission clubhouses, as a concession to the demands for dancing and music, have secured the services of bands which play at stated times at the popular clubs, while the dances, to which the only necessary invitation is a respectable character, are of frequent occurrence. In addition to this there are a number of minstrel shows given every winter by organizations in the different cities while itinerant theatrical troupes have been known to visit the zone. It must be admitted, say the returned visitors, that theatres—as such—are not much of a success in Panama. Amateur theatricals, particularly when the play presented is a well known one, are extremely popular, however.

Last year a choral society was organized at Empire and rendered effectively several oratorios. This year a similar society is practicing at Gatun and a glee club is rounding into shape at Culebra for a tour of the canal villages.

So that the American in Panama, be he visitor or permanent resident, will have but little trouble in finding something to while away the long tropical nights.



## 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