

THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS
Editor and Owner.

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LOWER EXPRESS RATES.

It is predicted that a reduction in express rates throughout the country will be ordered by the interstate commerce commission as a result of an investigation by the commission's experts. An inquiry will be started by the commission this week and the express companies will be asked to explain the figures gathered, particularly the large revenue on a comparatively small investment.

The commission's experts state in their report that the "income account of the express companies shows an unusual amount of income resulting from investments." It is understood the express companies will be asked to give details concerning these investments, as it also is stated that the "proportion of the income from investments which is derived from securities owned suggests the generally recognized fact that express companies are large investors and to some extent speculators in securities."

Commenting on the cost of real

property and equipment of the express companies, the report says:

"It may be observed in connection with the figures contained in the table of cost that real property and equipment constitute only a small part of the assets of express companies. This is made clear by reference to the balance sheet which states that the total assets of the express companies in the United States at the end of the year covered by the report were \$186,221,380; this is to say, the record value of the property actually used in operation by express companies is only 12 per cent of the assets shown by the companies on their balance sheet statements. This is perhaps the most significant fact contained in this report as indicating the peculiar business conditions of express companies."

Action similar to that proposed by the interstate commerce commission was taken by the Dominion railroad commission of Canada a year ago. An investigation was made and the result was the issuance of an order for a reduction of 50 per cent in rates. It was found that the two express companies—Canadian and Dominion—were capitalized at about \$25,000 each and both were conducting a business in which the profits were a thousand times the amount of capitalization. The commission took the attitude that the profits were too great in comparison with capitalization and the reduction order was issued and complied with by the companies.

ASK GOVERNMENT AID IN DEVELOPMENT WORK.

The latest move of the Northwest Development league is to ask the federal government to collect, publish in different languages and distribute to foreigners as soon as they arrive on or shores, all the information possible, about the states having vacant lands, about their products and the opportunities awaiting a family willing to work and having only small means.

To accomplish this, the league is backing a bill, introduced in the United States senate by Senator Brown of Nebraska, which amends the act to regulate the admission of aliens into the United States and makes it obligatory on the part of the general immigration commissioner to give this information to foreigners when they are admitted to the United States. The league is asking Congressman Pray of Montana to push the bill in the house and to introduce one making an appropriation to carry out the provisions of the act.

The secretary of commerce and labor is understood to be favorable to the proposition and willing to make a success of the campaign if the bills are passed.

Another clause in the amendment makes it lawful for agents of states and territories to have access to the aliens at all ports where foreigners are admitted and gives them the privilege, under certain regulations, of presenting the claims of such states and territories either in writing or orally that the aliens may learn first hand where they can go to farm.

"Many of these immigrants were farmers in the old country and would go to farms instead of to cities if they had some information from a reliable



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Gordon \$3 Hats; Stetson \$4 and \$5 Hats; J. E. Tilt Shoes, \$4.00 \$4.50 and \$5.00

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The Quality Store

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"A JUST VERDICT" ... Lubin
A melodramatic story and well photographed.

"MANNERS AND CUSTOMS IN MALAYSIA" ... Pathe
An interesting travelogue. You will come away with a greater knowledge of the world and its inhabitants than you had before.

"DAD'S WATCH" ... S. & A.
Dad was to meet some learned professors. In reality he meets some very gay girls. A live comedy.

"A GIRL OF THE WEST" ... Vitagraph
By the western company. Very strong and very pleasing.

"MRS. PROSSY'S LOVE FOR ANIMALS" ... G. C. P. C.
Mrs. Prossy has a love for animals and fills her house to overflowing with cats, dogs, chickens, monkeys, etc. Mr. P. in despair buys a leopard and turns loose among them. Imagine the results.

LAURA GREEN WILLS
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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
RESOURCES 1,000,000.00

United States Depository

source, when the first come to the country," says the secretary of the league. "The trouble is they do not get the information until after they become acquainted in some city and are stripped of the means to start on lands. Many of them have the resources when they arrive but spend their last dollar before they discover that it would have been possible for them to have secured land. Then they are hopelessly bound to the city and it is hard for them to get again as much as they had when they arrived."

Poultry is being dumped on the New York market until it is so cheap there is danger that the poorer classes will have to live on fried chicken.

Perhaps Mrs. Longworth wears crystal slippers that she may be the glass of fashion, if not the mold of form.

The most interesting crop report comes from Manitoba where they are finding gold in chickens crops.

Perhaps if Colonel Bryan would go into training now he might make the electoral college football team.

A well meaning friend inquires whether we have read Tolstol's "post-humorous" book. Not yet.

"THIS IS MY 4TH BIRTHDAY!"
Phillippe Roy.

Phillippe Roy, who a year ago was appointed to succeed the late Hector Fabre as Canadian commissioner to France, was born in Montmagny county, Quebec, February 13, 1868, and was educated at the college of Ste. Anne de la Pocatiere and Laval university. From the last-named institution he took his degree in medicine. He went west some years ago and located in Edmonton, Alberta, where he practiced as a physician and later became a newspaper publisher. In 1906 he became a member of the senate of Canada. His interest in the promotion of a number of large industrial concerns brought him in contact with many eminent French capitalists and led to his appointment later to the important position of Canadian commissioner to France.

Congratulations to:—
Major-General George B. Davis, the former judge advocate general of the United States army, 65 years old today.

James Guthrie Scott, the builder of several prominent Canadian railroads, 65 years old today.

THIS DATE IN HISTORY.
February 13.

- 1689—William and Mary proclaimed king and queen of England.
- 1766—Benjamin Franklin examined before the English house of commons on the effect of the passage of the Stamp act.
- 1788—Warren Hastings, governor general of India, placed on trial before the peers of Great Britain for high crimes and misdemeanors.
- 1795—University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill opened.
- 1812—Rear Admiral Samuel P. Lee, naval officer in the civil war, born in Virginia. Died June 5, 1897.
- 1843—Commodore Isaac Hull, U. S. N., who distinguished himself in the war of 1812, died. Born on 1862.
- 1862—The federals began their assault on Fort Donelson, Tenn. March 9, 1773.
- 1877—Prof. A. Graham Bell telephoned from Salem to his laboratory in Boston.
- 1883—Richard Wagner, famous musical composer, died. Born May 22, 1813.
- 1898—Count Kalnoky, famous Austrian foreign minister, died. Born Dec. 29, 1832.

Thomas Nelson Page, the noted author, is mentioned for the democratic nomination for governor of Virginia.

Classified Advertising

FOR RENT—Furnished housekeeping modern conveniences. Phone Black 822.

FOR SALE—Standard bred Rhode Island Red cockerels and eggs for

hatching. Phone or write C. C. Coolidge, La Grande. -23-4wks

LOST—Tire chain, 34x4. Lost on 4th street near track. Leave at Observer office and receive reward. 2-10-12

FOR SALE OR TRADE—Seven acres of land on foot hills close to town. Good for orchard and chicken ranch. Call 1417 Washr. avenue. Phone Red 752. 2-7-1mo

FOR SALE—A modern residence, Six rooms, bath room, pantry, clothes closets and basement. Hot air heating plant installed. Electrical fixtures in position and all in first-class condition. One of the best locations in town. Terms to suit responsible purchasers. Will rent subject to sale. Apply to La Grande National bank. 2-1-1mo

DRY CHAIN WOOD—\$3.50 a cord. Phone Main 54. 2-1-12t

FOR RENT—5 room brick cottage. Modern. Inquire 1906 Adams. Phone Main 714. 2-6-12t

FOR SALE—Library table, piano, a sideboard, cook stove, heater, extension table, kitchen treasure. Inquire 1417 Wash. avenue. Phone Red 752. 2-7-12t

FOR RENT—Modern 5 room flat close in, furnished. Inquire 1208 Spring street. 2-7-5t

WANTED—A fresh milk cow. Apply by telephone to Farmers 205. 2-7-6t

FOR RENT—Four room house, 2112 First street. Inquire 2008 Second. 2-7-12t

WANTED—Loan of \$2,000 for one year at 8 per cent. Security is first class business property worth \$6,000. Address P. O. Box 606, La Grande, Ore. 2-10-6t

FOR RENT—Furnished front room Telephone and bath. Phone to Red 41. 2-10-12t

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. N. MOLITOR, 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. 169 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. OF A.—La Grande Camp No. 7703 meets every Saturday evening at 8 o'clock in K. of P. hall, over Lilly's hardware store. All visiting neighbors are welcome.

W. A. DUNN, V. C.
W. F. 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. 50 meets every Tuesday evening in the I. O. O. F. hall. All visiting members are invited to attend.

LEAH R. COOLIDGE, 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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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.

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