

THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS
Editor and Owner.

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THE POSSIBILITIES OF SOIL DRAINAGE.

There is a potential force behind the National Drainage congress which assembles in second annual session at New Orleans in April that the country at large does not appreciate. In the first place, nearly every state in the union will derive direct benefit from drainage because nearly every state has within its borders some tracts of fertile lowlands which cannot now be cultivated because such lands are too wet for habitation. In the second place, the drainage and cultivation of the 75,000,000 acres of wet lands in the country will so greatly augment the nation's food supply as to reduce the cost of living and so greatly increase the nation's commerce as to exert a beneficial effect on the country's international trade balance. In the third place, a national drainage policy and federal action looking to the control of the rivers and the prevention of floods have become necessary through the increase in popula-

The Coming of Spring is Apparent in Every Department of This High Grade Stock.



Splendid Showing Of New Spring Apparel

Today we are showing an assortment of beautiful spring styles that will fully meet all demands of this store's constantly increasing trade. You don't need to visit a larger city to find a becoming and exclusive model garment for spring, for now you have all the advantages of the city store right at your very door. Come and see our unequaled showing and you will be convinced.

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Kalem
A strong dramatic story

Opening engagement of the Romig Twins, harmony singers and dancers here for three days.

"BUNKIE"

Selig
A picture that is fresh and interesting, featuring Selig's famous trained horse, "Bunkie"

"A GINGERBREAD CUPID"

Lubin
A lively comedy by this popular company.

DONT FORGET YOUR BALLOT

"UNCLE HIRAM'S LIST"

Edison
Uncle Hiram keeps a "skunk list" and it keeps him busy recording the failings of his fellow townsmen. A good comedy.

REMEMBER THE ROMIG TWINS. OLD TIME FAVORITES.

ADMISSION 10c.

YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

WEST'S

tion, the denudation of forests, and the destruction of natural reservoirs which in earlier times held back the freshest waters of the rivers, causing slower and less destructive floods.

Irrigation in the west has proved the economy and value of intensive and the practical side of intensive farming. Thriving prosperous communities now exist in large areas of the west where jack rabbits and coyotes alone could live a generation ago. This means desirable homes for the people, valuable markets for the manufacturer, and increased food supply. Nobody now questions the wisdom of irrigation through government aid. Yet all the land reclaimed by irrigation in the west during the past 20 years does not exceed in extent the area of Delta prairie land in the single state of Louisiana that must be drained before it can become available to the plow.

The 75,000,000 acres of wet lands in the United States, taken as a whole, comprise the most fertile region on earth. The soil of these lands is very deep and very rich in plant food. They are alluvial. Drained and properly cultivated and they can be made to produce an average of fifty bushels

of corn per acre. Cut up into small farms and intensively cultivated they will support in comfort a greater population than any similar area on earth. Scientifically drained so that the drainage canals may be used as navigable canals the whole will become a veritable Holland, and the farmers thereon will enjoy a degree of independence not enjoyed anywhere else in the world.

THAT Y. M. C. A.

Time is too precious to the average citizen to waste time in debating the necessity or virtue of a Y. M. C. A. building. The question is not open to debate. It is a premise that every city of La Grande's size—especially La Grande, because of its many working men—needs a Y. M. C. A. This being true the only question that can by any hook or crook be worthy of attention is "How to get it?" This problem will be discussed tomorrow evening at a mass meeting and every man and boy in La Grande should have a voice in the session.

The situation in China is complicated, notwithstanding the abdication of the Manchu dynasty and the recognition of the republic. Sun Yat Sen, who was chosen provisional president by the revolutionists in the southern section of the country, has resigned in favor of Yuan Shih-Kai, premier under the empire and who has been elected president by the national assembly, representing the entire people. But there are signs of distrust of Yuan and possibilities of friction between him and the more radical republicans. Statesmanship and patriotism of a high order will be needed to guide China safely.

When the Chinese invented fire works, they didn't dream that some day they would have a Fourth of July of their own.

MR. DAWSON ANSWERS.

To Editor of Observer.—Sir: I note your remarks on editorial page of Saturday's issue regarding my errors (to err is human, to forgive divine). After reading over my letter I do not see any necessity for the harsh comment.

Yet, perhaps your diagnosis of my mental attitude is accurate for it is born of my experience with the employment agents both in capacity of employer and of employee.

The conduct of these men as a class is so well known that I need not explain the genesis and development of

my attitude toward them.

Quite a number of men yesterday thanked me for being so outspoken. I wrote what others think.

As regards Mr. Black, I had his assurance before publication of my letter that he was not the source of the news item in question.

He is, too just, many men have through him (I am reliably informed) found employment for which no charge was made; no payment given.

He is not in the category of those of whom I rant; buttressed in the love and confidence of the community, his honor needs no defender.

Mr. Slough I do not know, but I would be sorry to offend any virtuous man.

I direct your attention to an occult crime, and spoke of it in terms becoming a man of sense and of spirit, and in the discharge of that duty my mind is at peace.

I thank you for your generous courtesy and remain,

Respectfully,
THOMAS DAWSON.

Particular Woman.

Judge—She insisted on having a woman lawyer secure her divorce.

"Why was she so particular?"

"She did not want to go contrary to that portion of the marriage ceremony that reads, 'Let no man put asunder.'"—New York Herald.

His Use For Soap.

"Lady," said Meandering Mike,

"would you lend me a cake of soap?" "Do you mean to tell me you want soap?"

"Yes'm. Me partner's got de hiccups an' I want to scare him."—Washington Star.

Romig Sisters Make Good.

On the opening night of these popular little favorites at the Arcade last night they were greeted with a packed house. The non-arrival of their trunks yesterday morning caused some delay to patrons of the first performance but a cordial invitation was extended for all to remain in their seats and on the arrival of No. 18 some 20 minutes later the little folks lost no time in getting ready, and that the patrons were amply repaid for their long wait was plainly seen by the rounds of applause which greeted them as they were called back again and again.

COMMITTEE FAVORS BITULITHIC

Patent Process to Be Recommended to City Council.

In a report to be submitted to the city council at its meeting next Monday afternoon, the members of the committee on streets and public ways, including Councilman Belland, Knobloch and Curtis, and City Surveyor L. C. Rogers, will unanimously recommend that the bitulithic type of pave-

ment be used in the extensive campaign of street paving to be carried out on about 26 streets of Astoria this year.

The members of this committee have all arrived at the conclusion that bitulithic is superior to all other kinds of paving, and is better suited to the needs and conditions of this city than is asphalt.

The committee decided strongly in favor of bitulithic, following a trip of investigation of various types of paving used on the streets of Portland and after ascertaining the experience of numerous other cities with bitulithic, Hassam, asphalt, wood block, stone concrete, macadam, Westerville and other kinds of paving.—The Morning Astorian, Astoria, Oregon.

SWIFT'S PREMIUM HAMS

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