

THE OBSERVER

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WHY THIS APATHY?

Three steamship companies in Japan are building vessels for use when the Panama canal is opened.

A Chinese owned steamship company is preparing to operate a line from Shanghai and Honk Kong to Central and South America.

Australia is sending men to South America to develop trade.

A line of freight vessels will be run direct from Calcutta or Bombay to South America.

Every important port in Europe is strengthening its harbors and adding to the capacity of its steamship lines.

Chile, Peru and Bolivia are spending \$50,000,000 in railways into the interior. Brazil is spending \$100,000,000 on railways and coast improvements. Venezuela, Colombia, Central America, Mexico, Cuba, and many other countries are busy with preparations to take care of the increased trade which the opening of the Panama canal will bring to their shores.

In the midst of all this activity, the United States, which has made the dream of De Lesseps come true; which will, of necessity, continue to bear the burden of the maintenance of this canal, is showing an indifference to the commercial possibilities of the canal which is startling, in contrast to the feverish activity abroad.

What is the United States doing to increase its merchant marine? What is it doing to improve the harbors of the important shipping centers in this country?

These are questions which directors of the Pan-American Union are asking, and so far, have found no satisfactory answer. Director General Barrett well asks:

"After spending hundreds of millions of dollars on the Panama canal shall the United States see other nations rake in the profits of this gigantic investment?"

THE DESERT.

J. D. Gillilan, D. D.

He who knows only the desert of the geography naturally thinks of it as an absolutely forsaken and empty region where only dust storms are born, unattended and die without "benefit of clergy" or any other care.

An experience in an actual sand storm is food for reminiscence much more pleasant for the memory than for the flesh. First, there come the scurrying little outriders, lithe and limber whisking gusts dancing and whirling, coyly brushing you or boldly dashing a fistful of dust into your eyes; then off with a swish of invisible skirts—vanishing possibly in the direction opposite to which they came or returning on the old trail; they go, leaving you wiping your eyes disgustedly, for the act was so sad one could not keep back the unbidden tears.

Before you are aware of it another and a stronger duplicates the deed of the first wingless wizard of the plains and you are left gasping. Almost immediately there are to be seen the regular desert devils, as they are called, bringing a dozen or more whirling columns of yellow silt rapidly through the air, each dancing on one foot and assuming all sorts of fantastic shapes.

Like the blasts of the blizzard the shrapnel of the desert is hurled into face, eyes, ears, nostrils; little rivers pour down the back and fill every discoverable wrinkle and cranny of the clothing with its gritty load.

If in summer you button to suffocation and the sweat soon makes you a mass of grime; if in winter it is not so unbearable for one can fence against the cold at the same time.

The whole landscape is obliterated and the trail is so often drift-filled that unless one himself is accustomed to such methods of travel or has an experienced plainsman for his driver there is danger of becoming lost, or so out of the way that night may overtake him and cause him to have a waterless and supperless camp for both himself and team.

But, reader, did you ever see a morning or evening on the quiet sand ocean? In summer it is a scene of splendor. Such are often seen after a day of sandy wrath. There are always the wide-eyed desert anemone, sand poppy, or other of the beauties no other region supplies.

Their gaudiness will assuage of the wants for which the eye craves in the aesthetic.

At early dawn, limning the Eastern horizon are the jagged saw-teeth of the sleeping mountains, fifty or more miles away. A faint hinting at a lightening of the Back-sky only deepens of the snow-streaked peaks. The coyote yelps less keenly and the burrowing owl's "to-whit, to-whoo," comes more faintly, and the white desert sparrow starts up as if to look for the early worm which he is sure not to find.

The stubborn mountains begin to let the sun's forerunning rays glide between them and the sky is now old gold, fast transforming into kaleidoscopic crimson and other reds, while the swift arms of the day's painter are reaching from between the peaks of the precipitous crags and dyeing the scales of the mackerel sky with hues and tints the rainbow would covet.

In the opposite direction a morning mirage inverts an image of a stretch of trees along a faraway river and blends them from top to top till they seem greenish-black columns supporting the dun clouds of the west while the belated moon peers through these fanciful corridors.

The sunset is far more gorgeous. It reaches grandeur. Let it be a winter evening. A suggestion of storm has been playing threats. The Western hills have reached their toughened arms and carried the tired sun to bed, tucking him away in gold lace tapestry and rose-tinted down.

Now the blue, the white, the brown clouds change quickly to purple, pink and red by turns and the opaline sky itself form a background for the dissolving community of interlacing filaments of lilac, till in a time too full of interest to contemplate by measure, the whole heavens is aflame with a riotous orgy of color, a prodigality of shifting scenes, making one think of the descriptions essayed in the descriptions essayed in the Apocalypse.

We think of Moses who wished to see God face to face, but was told he would be permitted to see only the "dying away of His glory." No wonder the man who was forty years in the desert before the grand exodus was able to write the majestic prose poems that have lived unaltered these thousands of years! He was in the region where inspiration is dispensed with a lavish hand. God is the dispenser.

Mrs. A. J. Adams and Mrs. Jack Atteberry wish to announce the opening of their dressmaking parlors at 1362 1/2 O Avenue. Phone Black 561. 10-25-2tp

Program at Arcade Today.

- 1.—"The Retreat from Eden." Comedy drama.
2.—"The Renegade." Drama.
3.—"Convict's Brand." Feature drama.
4.—Brooke & Doyle, clever entertainers.
5.—"Organ Grinders' Ward." Drama.
6.—Winkley & Chapman. Music.
Coming Monday and Tuesday—Dublin Dan.

PHOTOPLAY OFFERINGS...

- News of the "movies"—
Gossip of the pictures—
Newest photodramas and—
Comedies of the screen.

Where to Go in La Grande.

Brook & Doyle at Arcade.

One of the cleverest and best acts at the Arcade in a long time is Brook & Doyle in their musical comedy portrayals, their numbers being all good, especially the closing sing in which they play their own accompaniment. The picture program is up to the average, if not better, and the management takes pride in calling attention to the fact that the films used are new and of the best quality. Coming next Monday and Tuesday—a three reel production of Dublin Dan with Barney Gilmore in the title role.

FOR SALE—Two heating stoves. Call Black 3882. 10-25-1w1

SLEDS OF THE YUKON.

They Are Built to Stand the Hardest Kind of Hard Wear.

The Yukon sled, while not a thing of beauty, is built to stand all kinds of hard wear, or, as the Irishman said, "It will last forever and after that can be used for firewood."

The sled is about eight feet long, is made of any kind of hard wood, lies close to the ground, costs from \$10 to \$14 and makes a trail sixteen inches in width.

Another pattern is known as the basket sleigh and is to the Yukon sleigh what a three masted schooner is to a coal barge. In length it is from eight to fifteen feet, is made of birch, oak or hickory, cuts a trail twenty-two inches in width, costs from \$40 to \$200, is raised a foot or more from the runners and in the best examples is lashed together with rawhide.

The basket sleigh, as its name implies, is fitted with a basket, into which the load is placed, and from the back of the basket a pair of handles project, to be used in guiding the sled on the trail. It often happens that a Yukon sled will be fitted with a home-made basket in imitation of its more aristocratic brother.

In very cold weather wooden runners are best, but in ordinary circumstances steel or brass runners are used. —Wide World Magazine.

JUMPING BEANS.

Secret of This Curious Product of the Vegetable World.

The "jumping bean," which is always sure to excite the wonder of those who have not before seen this specimen of the vegetable kingdom, is the product of a small bush which grows in the northern part of Mexico.

Within each blossom are two fertile seeds and a third, which is the home of a small, exceedingly active worm, whose performances are responsible for the queer conduct of the bean. When this worm emerges from its prison it becomes a beautifully colored moth. The seeds of the jumping bean blossom in the month of May. Then the female moth deposits one egg on the pollen of the flower.

As the flower develops it forms a triangular shaped shell on two sides, with a convex shape on the other. Within this the chrysalis develops into a grayish brown worm about one-tenth of an inch in diameter and about one-half inch in length.

This worm lives inside its cell for a period of six months, or until the middle of November. Then, climatic conditions being favorable, it bores a hole through the end of its shell and flies away as a moth. —New York World.

Prussic Acid in Plants.

The remarkable fact that considerable quantities of free prussic acid are accumulated in the living tissues of certain plants was observed by the late Dr. M. Treub, and there appears to be little doubt that this poisonous acid is actually utilized as food material by these plants. Some interesting details concerning the occurrence and function of prussic acid in the cherry laurel are given by Peche, who concludes from his observations that the prussic acid found in the leaves and other organs is produced as a direct result of carbon assimilation in the green leaf cells when exposed to light and that it is not merely a product of the hydrolysis of glucosides. Peche found evidence that while part of the prussic acid enters into the building up of glucosides some of it is transported in a hable form, probably in loose combination with a tannin, and is stored up in various tissues as a reserve food. —Nature.

The Early Trusts.

Trusts were sometimes dealt with summarily in old England. For instance, the records of the Brewers' company show that "on Monday, July 30, 1422, Robert Chichele, the mayor of London, sent for the masters and twelve of the most worthy of our company to appear at the guildhall for selling dear ale. After much dispute about the price and quantity of malt, wherein Whittington, the late mayor, declared that the brewers had ridden into the country and forestalled the malt, to raise its price, they were convicted in the penalty of £20, which objecting to the masters were ordered to be kept in prison in the chamberlain's custody until they should pay it or find security for the payment thereof."

Will Take the Stand.

Salem, Mass., Oct. 25.—That Joseph Eitor, Arturo Giovannitti and Antone Caruso, who are accused of killing a woman textile striker, will testify in their own defense, was stated today by the court for the defense.

WANTED—The person, lodge or church that has our folding tables to please notify us and we will call for them. Henry & Carr. 10-25-3

MODERN FIVE ROOM BUNGALOW in Portland close in, for trade for La Grande property or sell outright. Inquire C. F. Simonson, phone Black 291. 10-25-4r

JUST RECEIVED
New Barrel
Dill Pickles
Home Made Kraut
FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
MAIN 43
J. G. Snodgrass
QUALITY GROCER

OLD GLORY OR THE RED RAG?
Nightly on the streets of Portland loud-mouthed agitators blaspheme the name of the Lord and curse the Star Spangled Banner. They are reaching out into the smaller communities and it may be your turn next to contend with them. Read and vote No. 370 in Voters' Pamphlet.
Assaulting the Dignity of Labor!
High salaried agitators are constantly assaulting and maiming the honest laboring men of Portland who are unwilling to divide their earnings with these leeches on the decent labor element. Read and vote No. 368 and prohibit boycotting and picketing. Your son is not safe in Portland if he refused to support these crime instigators.
Paid adv.—Employers Assn. of Oregon. W. C. FRANCIS, Secretary

The Strength Of A Bank
Is based on the character of its assets, and of the men behind it.
This bank, for twenty-five years a pillar of strength in this community, keeps its resources absolutely clean and dependable.
Its officers will always see that its assets are of such a character that its strength can never be questioned.
Upon this basis we invite your confidence and your account.
La Grande National Bank
LA GRANDE, OREGON.
CAPITAL \$ 100,000.00
SURPLUS 120,000.00
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20c, three for . . . 50c
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Home Made Sauer Kraut . 20c qt.
Dill Pickles . . . . . 20c qt.
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