

THE OBSERVER

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PROBABILITY OF FLOODS.

With the large amount of snow that has already fallen in the mountains, and with assurance from the weather department that a great deal more is to come, the probability of floods on the Grande Ronde is to be considered.

It is not an uncommon thing to hear some of the older residents tell of the time when water was three feet deep from the hill to Island City, when it was possible to ride in a boat from the hill to Union. In those days there was no railroad grade and this would naturally protect the west side of the city now.

Suggestion has been made that the city look carefully to the bulkhead at Oro Dell to be sure that the rotten logs will not give way under heavy water pressure.

It would indeed be much better to expend some money as an insurance against floods than to go to heavy expense necessary to replace the damages caused by them.

As a year for snow this has every indication of being a record breaker.

THE ABSENT CREDITOR.

In recent years the farmers of the Middle West have rejoiced at getting out of the debtor class. Not so long ago farmlands of that territory were blanketed with mortgages that were held in Philadelphia, Boston, New York and other eastern cities. The east was the creditor of the west; and to the east the west shipped a considerable proportion of its earnings to meet interest payments.

These loans were part of a natural and desirable arrangement. The east being the older community, had the established fortunes from which these loans might be drawn. The west had the real estate collateral, but needed the quick money of the east for its improvement. Eastern money, therefore, and western brawn combined for the development of the prairie states.

Nevertheless, middlewestern farmers were anxious to become financially independent of the east as soon as possible by paying off these loans. In recent years the farmer has prospered. Land and crop values have increased, and the middle west finds itself free from the mortgages which once plastered the farms of that region.

There is no likelihood that middle western farmers will again become debtors of an absent creditor to an great extent, unless they shall generally follow the policy now being followed by a few. If the middle west farmer sends his money to the centers of population when he de-

sires to buy goods, reducing the volume of money at home, he will, of course, again find himself in the position of debtor to an absent creditor. The money that he will acquire will have to be furnished him by the financial centers to which he has sent it. Therefore, in sending out of the community the money which should remain at home for the use of himself and neighbors, he is effecting present and doubtful economy at the expense of tighter money later on.

WHERE IS THE FAIRNESS?

There are many things attached to the taking up of public lands which those who have not had experience may encounter. The writer sat in the land office yesterday when three isolated tracts were sold. According to land office rules these lands must be sold to the highest bidder. The first of these tracts was put up for sale and was bid in at appraisalment, which is probably the natural price for the land as appraisalment usually covers what the land is worth in intrinsic valuation.

The next two tracts were offered for sale and the parties who had proceeded with all the requirements to get the land on the market were encountered with opposition bidders. In one instance, at least, it was a clear case of hold-up, with the apparent desire of making the original party pay more for the land than it is really worth, but because of location, was desirable. According to the federal land rules there is nothing to force a man's money on table when bidding, and it occurred to us that the old-time rules of the poker player should be the rules of the land office—when a man sees fit to bid on a tract he should show the real money. The way matters now stand, anyone can appear and bid on isolated tracts, and while they may never intend to take the lands, still have the privilege of being a bidder.

WE NEED TO LIVE.

We need to live—for life is more Than eating, drinking, wearing, Than seeking pleasures door to door And hither, thither, yonder.

By artificial dress and speech We teach the world to doubt us, And cry for riches out of reach While joy lies all about us.

We need to love—for life is more Than drinking, wearing, eating, The outer mortal striving for, The inner mortal cheating, The tinsel things of life we clutch While skies are blue above us, While here beside us at our touch Are those who long to love us.

We need to learn—for life is more Than wearing, eating, drinking— A little less of later lore And more of early thinking.

We need to live and love and learn The simple things to cheer us, To truth established to return And learn the lesson near us.

DOUGLAS MALLOCH.

WILL PARCELS POST AID THE FARMER?

Just think for a moment how much good New York, Boston, Chic-

ago or Philadelphia—or any other city—will get out of it, remarks Judge C. Welliver, a well known authority. Within a 30-mile radius of New York City there isn't enough butter, poultry or dressed fowls raised to put in your eye, compared of course to the demand of New York's tremendous market. But get outside that little radius and you can't ship any of those things to any city.

Do you see what it means? The very things we have been promised could be shipped direct from farm to city home can't be shipped there at all. Eggs? Yes, it must be admitted that they're going to allow eggs to be shipped farther. They will go in a corrugated paste-board container that is very light. We took one of them, at the postoffice department the other day, a sample affair made to carry a dozen eggs, and weighed it. It weighed just six ounces. With a dozen eggs in it the weight was a little over a pound and a half. In that container you may ship eggs as far as you like. Put your eggs in and address it to a place in the first zone; that is, within 50 miles. The postage will be 8 cents. Add to that the cost of the container itself and it will be several cents more; probably enough to justify you in having an arrangement with your customer to mail the container back to you empty. The cost of sending it back will be five cents; so you have added 13 cents to the cost of the eggs.

But the eggs destined for large cities will not come from points within the first zone as a rule; they will come from the second zone, which includes everything outside the first and inside of 150 miles. For this zone the rate on your dozen eggs will be 10 cents, with a 6-cent charge for carrying your corrugated pasteboard back to you; total cost of getting the eggs to market, 16 cents. Will such rates market many eggs? The Eugene Guard points out the way in the following: "The retail hardware men in session in Portland, are alarmed over the growth of

mail order competition, and are laying plans to combat it. The best and surest plan would be to advertise in their local papers, placing the superior quality of their goods intelligently and persistently before the people of their field. The advantages of trading at home and of building up local interests might also be exploited in the same way. The truth is that the retail hardware dealers are as a rule non-advertisers and they are simply suffering from a lack of publicity. The mail order houses will continue to encroach into their trade until they wake up and go out after the business just like the dry goods men do."

WHAT CONSTITUTES A HOME?

Think of home, and the mind instinctively wanders back to the old town, the quiet street, the spacious grounds, the cottage hidden among the trees, the gravel walk, the old well, the flowers in bloom, and the fir laden with the fragrance of spring, says an Omaha paper.

As the closing day casts its shadow over the world, fading rays of the declining sun pierce through the latticed windows, and over cradled innocence a mother croons her lullaby.

As the breaking dawn calls to activity the waking world, we see him, on whom, for her, age never descends—we see them as, locked in each other's embrace, they stroll down the garden walk. Leaning over the gate, he implants upon her brow a parting kiss. As he passes from view, we see her wave aloft her embracing arm, and from the distance comes his response. We say: There is home. And so it is.

It is not necessary that it be sumptuous to be a home. It is only necessary that Love reign therein. It is not necessary that it be poor to be a home. It is only important that Kindness shall be the ruling spirit.

A nation that ignores the welfare and the happiness of the home is a nation doomed. Men do not defend tenements.

The only excuse for government's and law is to maintain the possibility of a home. We need not only justice to make it possible. Peace to make it whole. Kindness to make it inviting, companionship to make it blest. Love to make it holy, and the laughter of a child to make it divine.

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NEXT LADY OF THE WHITE HOUSE.

Mrs. Wilson is pre-eminently the type of woman whom one expects to enjoy the domestic side even of the public life which has been thrust upon her through her husband's advance to the foremost office in the gift of his countrymen, says Edith Townsend Kaufmann. "I know every woman wants to hear how the next lady of the White House looked on the rainy day following the expectations of the night before, and the exigencies of a morning of Christmas shopping. The tailor-made costume, of coat and skirt, was of smooth mannish cloth in grey and white stripes. The skirt fitted beautifully, but there was no suggestion of skin-tight garb. The coat was of the usual jacket cut, not cutaway back, with a narrow white simulated vest. On her shoulders she wore a wonderful deep collar of sable heads and tails and carried a moderate sized muff of the same fur. Her hat was far more simple than that of many shop girls. It was a soft camel's hair felt of warm brown, turned back from the wavy hair of almost the same tone, and caught by a rosette of green velvet and a green wing. It was tremendously smart and equally becoming.

"While we were talking, my eyes

were glued to the odd necklace worn by Mrs. Wilson. It was a circlet of antique coins in dull gold and fitted close like the English dog collar. This is one of the pet fancies of Mrs. Wilson, and she wears it almost constantly. As the long white gloves were drawn off, the ringless hands with the well kept nails and dimpled knuckles were in marked contrast to the overloaded hands of the average society woman.

"Not having been privileged to meet any of the former ladies of the White House, I cannot, even though I were rudely disposed, make any comparisons, but from the delightfully gracious reception accorded me and my raincoat, of one thing I can be certain—Mrs. Wilson with her charm of manner still retains a strong antagonism to anything even verging on vulgarity or an appeal to the sensational. This is borne out by the report that she will not countenance in the White House, the turkey trot or the bunny hug, approving as all women must, the graceful waltz and the always popular two-step. With these qualifications I can predict that no more popular hostess will live in the history than Mrs. Woodrow Wilson, wife of the President-elect."

A man who claimed to be the rightful heir to the Spanish throne has just died in Missouri, which is better than staying in Spain and being shot.

Boston physician claims that he can tell what ails a patient by holding said patient's hand. The usual method is to hold the patient's pocketbook.

A German scientist has invented a milk which he says is just as good as that given by the cow, and probably it is a good deal better than that given by the well pump.

One pound of good coal releases sufficient energy to raise an average man to a point 14 miles high.

Tomorrow---The Last Day

West's 15th Annual Sale Has Broken All Records for BARGAIN GIVING

FOR ALMOST A MONTH THIS STORE HAS BEEN CROWDED DAILY WITH HUNDREDS OF EAGER PURCHASERS AND EACH IN TELLING FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS OF THE GREAT REDUCTIONS, SQUARE DEALING AND UNEQUALLED SELECTIONS HAVE BEEN THE CAUSE OF THE ENORMOUS CROWDS EACH DAY.

Take Advantage of These Prices Now. Don't Delay

BENJAMIN AND SOCIETY BRAND SUITS All Reduced 25 Per Cent

TOMORROW ENDS THE UNPARALLELED \$9.90 SUIT Sale

Includes every Ladies' and Misses' suit in our entire stock. Values up to \$40.00.

Extraordinary Savings on All Staple Dry Goods

Table with 4 columns: Item, Price, Item, Price. Includes items like Velvet Corduroy, Triam Percales, Bakhara Flannels, Turkish Towels, Fortress Percales, Fancy Striped Seersuckers, Fancy Tissue Silks, Crescent Messaline.

BARGAINS IN EVERY DEPARTMENT THAT EQUAL THE ABOVE. MANY LINES REDUCED BELOW THE COST OF MANUFACTURE.

ONLY ONE DAY MORE HURRY

WEST'S

THE QUALITY STORE

ONLY ONE DAY MORE HURRY

We Now Have On Deposit \$800,000.00

of money accumulated by residents of La Grande and the Grande Ronde valley.

We Now Have Loaned \$700,000.00

to business men, farmers and others in this community. The money deposited here is not "laid away" as some of it might be if its owners had not deposited it, but it is industriously at work all about us, doing good.

La Grande National Bank La Grande, Oregon

Capital \$100,000.00 Surplus, \$120,000.00 Resources, \$1,110,000.00
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