

THE OBSERVER

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THE WEST-JACOBSON PURCHASE.

After all, the thing that counts for more than anything else in "boosting" a city or community is the actual investment of money by men who expect reasonable returns.

The transaction of yesterday afternoon when N. K. West of this city and C. S. Jacobson of Portland joined in the purchase of one of the very best business corners of La Grande for the purpose of erecting a business building at once, causes renewed faith in La Grande as a city and convinces all that men of business ability have unwavering faith in the future of this community.

Another feature of the deal that is decidedly important to consider is the fact that Portland money comes across the mountains. Why? Because it finds better opportunity for investment than can be found in the metropolis. Men do not invest money unless they expect returns, and they invest their money where returns seem the best and most certain.

Behind the investment just made are men who have had large and extensive business experience and whose judgment on futures of communities can well be taken as a guide to others who seek investments.

WE'RE TIRED OF "OVERSIGHTS"

The Rural Spirit of Portland tells of a special poultry train that is to tour Eastern Oregon, "and will stop at Baker and Pendleton." It will be noticed that La Grande is not mentioned by the Spirit. Of course that paper will cry oversight, but La Grande is tired of the "oversight" racket. There are more chickens raised around La Grande than around Pendleton and Baker combined.

There is such a thing as being a good fellow to a limit that others get into their cocoanuts an opinion. "Well it's La Grande; they are good fellows and will stand anything." La Grande has every asset and every feature that makes up a city of some importance, yet the remainder of the state does not seem to realize it. It is fight for everything we get, but thank heaven, the people here know how to fight, so let the game go on. La Grande can live and prosper with all the Rural Spirits, Oregonians and Journals against her. La Grande can get along without the Portland wholesaler or jobber fairly well, and it need not surprise some of the highbrows of the lower country if a few accounts were placed with Spokane houses in the near future. We believe it would

be a fine idea, for Eastern Oregon seems to be of little service to the remainder of the state except to pay in her money.

TARDY DISCOVERY.

The Portland Journal announces that Dan J. Malarky is to be a candidate for the United States senate to succeed Chamberlain. This is a trifle tardy on the part of the Journal, for it has been understood for some time in Eastern Oregon that this program was mapped out.

Commenting on the possible candidacy the Journal seems to think this is the cause of Malarky's pronounced friendship for "the people" in the recent past. Whether this be true or not in Malarky's case, it is apparent to everyone that the Journal and its "inner circle" has profited financially and politically by alleged friendship for "the people."

If it has been a profitable game for Jackson and his crowd, surely there is no copyright on the plan, and why not let Dan Malarky try his hand if he thinks he can make some medicine.

There would likely be as much sincerity in Malarky's claims of loyalty to the people, as there has been to the Journal's, for it is plain to anyone that the Journal treads only a certain distance on the toes of Portland's big business interests and then it recedes, leaving the common people without protection. This has been going on for some time, but only recently has there been heard a clamor that the Journal no longer fights for the people.

Every person who is not in the financial ring of Portland can rest under one positive fact—Portland's financiers have their own sweet way about Oregon state matters.

Malarky could not be any worse than those who are playing the game now, but it is doubtful with his record as corporation attorney if he could score as big a success as has the Journal and its "inner circle."

GOVERNMENT LOANS ON LAND.

At present Arthur V. Swift, president of the Farmers' union for Oregon and Idaho, is in Washington, with other prominent Union men from different parts of the nation trying to make congress see that long time loans on farm land would be a benefit to the agricultural conditions.

Mr. Swift and his associates are eminently right in their claims. This is one branch of business that has been neglected, and it is the best security known. Why should a railroad water its stock and then be able to float enormous loans at a small rate of interest when the farmers of the country, who hold the best security obtainable, be turned down for money, and if successful in negotiating a loan, be forced to pay twice the interest rate that a corporation pays with watered stock as its chief asset?

Tom Lawson, with all of his dreaming and foolishness, has been advocating a government department for making farm loans for some time and he is right in this instance.

The best way to get the back to the farm movement in actual operation is to provide money for the farmer at a low rate of interest to work with.

PARCELS POST.

This morning's parcels post brought to the city from San Francisco, an iron frame part of a White sewing machine. It was not in the mail bag nor was it wrapped. It was about four feet long and weighed perhaps seven or eight pounds. On the shipping tag were attached the parcels stamps to the amount of 60 cents.

The uses to which are parcels post is being put indicate clearly that it is fast reaching into the business of the express companies and that shipments develop. Not many days ago a baby was sent from its mother's place to its grandmother. All of the requirements of the postoffice department were complied with and the rural carrier had the distinction of having carried the first parcel of the kind in the United States. Fancy a seven or eight pound baby wrapped according to regulation with the bright red stamps of the department attached to a snow white blanket, delivered to its grandmother, several miles distant, by the rural carrier. When this youngster matures, he will have history attached to himself in the making of which he did nothing but consent or protest. When that carrier consigns the job to a successor his proud record will be headed by the story of the baby that rode in the mail wagon as a parcels post package.

LA GRANDE FRIENDS REGRET IT.

The many friends of Judge Phelps of Pendleton in this part of the state sincerely regret hearing of his illness. The Judge is at his home in Pendleton and is undergoing what is believed the worst case of smallpox ever recorded in the Eastern Oregon country.

It seems that he did not undergo vaccination and as a result a malignant case of the old form of smallpox has developed, threatening his life.

Baker has seen fit to join La Grande in ceasing to regret that the Eastern Oregon insane asylum was located at Pendleton. The 200 crazy people recently added to Pendleton's population do not look good to the people of Baker who breathe good air and drink good water.

Some one has remarked, "It is the duty of all appointive city officers to enforce the city ordinances without fear or favor, and it is the duty of everyone to stand by such acts." This goes without saying, for when a city official takes his oath of office he swears she will do just what is quoted above.

INCREASE IN SHIPBUILDING

Pessimists who are alarmed at the activity shown in other countries toward increasing their merchant marine need not be discouraged over the condition in this country.

The department of commerce and labor has just given out a statement showing an increase in shipbuilding for the three months ending Sept. 30, 1912, as against the corresponding period of 1911, the number of sailing, steam and unrigged vessel built being 485, aggregating 80,281 tons, as compared with 462 vessels in 1911, aggregating 76,048 tons.

At the same time 32 steam vessels of steel construction were built, having a gross tonnage of 44,312, as contrasted with only five steam vessels in 1911, with 2,208 gross tons.

This report also declared the shipbuilders of the Great Lakes have demonstrated that they can bid lower on both iron and wooden vessels than foreign competitors, and it is also shown that the cost of materials is increasing so rapidly in Europe that only the lowness of wages will give them any shade of advantage over American shipbuilding concerns. Inadequate docking facilities and the reluctance of Americans to put their money into shipbuilding are the two big drawbacks to the building up of a bigger merchant marine in this country.

New England, once the center of the shipbuilding industry, is fast being robbed of its prestige, but it is believed that to America the nations may again turn for the ships which they want to be staunch and strong and able to breast every gale.

Meritol Hair Tonic keeps the scalp in a healthy condition, prevents the hair from falling out, restores it to its natural color and used regularly keeps the hair soft and fluffy. Newlin Drug company.

Red Tape in Germany.

The following is an illustration of the beauties of bureaucratic administration in Germany:

It appears that in the postoffice department at Berlin, if a clerk wishes a new lead pencil, he must turn in to the proper authority the stump of the one that has become too short for further use. In one case a clerk received his new pencil without returning the end of the old one, and before this error was discovered this clerk had been transferred to another office. Shortly after the assumption of his duties at his new post this clerk received an official intimation that he had neglected to turn in his pencil end. By this time, however, the end had disappeared. In order to avoid official reprimand, the resourceful clerk purchased a new pencil, cut off a piece about the length of the missing end and dispatched it to the stationery department. Everybody was accordingly satisfied. — Harper's Weekly.

When Swinburne Was Ready.

A diverting picture of Swinburne, his frock coat bulging with manuscript, waiting to be asked to read aloud his latest poem, is given in Edmund Gosse's "Portraits and Sketches."

After floating about the room and greeting his host and hostess with many little bows of the head and affectionate smiles and light wavings of the fingers, he would settle at last upright on a chair, or by preference on a sofa, and sit there in a state of rigid immobility, the toes of one foot pressed against the heel of the other. Then he would say in an airy, detached way, as though speaking of some absent person, "I have brought with me my 'Thalassius' or my 'Wasted Garden' (or whatever it might happen to be), which I have just finished." Then he would be folded again in silence, looking at nothing. We then were to say, "Oh, do please read it to us! Will you?"

Pairing Off For Dinner.

The custom of walking to the dining room arm in arm, "taking a lady in to dinner," strange though it may seem, is comparatively modern, as prior to the middle of the eighteenth century it was the custom for the hostess to go in to dinner first, the ladies following in order of rank and the gentlemen after, all in single file, also in the order of rank, the host being last. This, however, gave rise to so many duels on questions of precedence both among the ladies and the gentlemen that the custom of "pairing off" was begun in order that no dispute might arise, it being one of the customs of society that no duel challenge could be given in the presence of the lady concerning whom the dispute had arisen. — New York American.

Medical Fees in Bygone Days.

At the beginning of the eighteenth century the usual fees to physicians and surgeons in England were "to a graduate in physic, his due is about 10 shillings, though he commonly expects or demands 20 shillings. Those that are only licensed physicians, their due is no more than 6s. 8d., though they commonly demand 10 shillings. A surgeon's fee is 12 pence a mile, be his journey near or far, 10 groats to set a bone broke or out of joint and for letting blood a shilling; the cutting or amputation of any limb is 5s, but there is no settled fee for the cure." The system of regulating the fee according to the pocket of the patient is almost as old as history. — Westminster Gazette.

The Old Bedlam.

Bethlehem (pronounced Bedlam), the London lunatic asylum, was originally founded in 1247 as a priory, but is spoken of as a hospital for lunatics in 1472, and when the church was despoiled it was granted to the city of London as such an asylum. At one time the wretched inmates were exhibited to the public like so many wild beasts, as Pepys notes in his diary and Hogarth shows in one of his sketches. Patients that were harmless or half cured were given badges and released to beg on the streets. Edgar in "King Lear" impersonates one of these wandering Tom-o'-Bedlams.

Man's Dual Nature.

The professional mind for all its acuteness is liable to occasional lapses, like less highly trained intellects. One amusing case in point is reported in the Philadelphia Public Ledger:

A certain professor was struggling to make the point that both parents have an equal influence upon a child. "For," he continued gravely, "a man is as much the son of his father as he is the daughter of his mother."

Law and Poetry.

A lawyer can put 1,000 words together and make them worth \$1,000. That's legal ability.

A poet can put 1,000 words together and make them worth fifteen plunks, payable on publication. That's poetry. — Washington Herald.

Corrected.

The Doctor.—But, my dear sir, you must masticate your food. What were your teeth given you for? The sufferer (tearfully)—They weren't given me I bought 'em. — London Sketch.

First Night Critics.

In an article in the American Magazine, Walter Prichard Eaton writes: "The theater door man is an important person on first nights, because as he passes out return checks between acts he hears the comments of the audience. His ears are wide open on such occasions, and, mingling with the crowd in the lobby, are other attaches of the theater, all seeking to overhear the comments, and all rushing to report to the manager. Not long ago the last act of a play in New York was entirely changed after the opening night solely because the women in the audience, as they left the house, were nearly all complaining of the tragic finish. When a piece hangs in the balance between success and failure, when 'finkering' can perhaps turn the scale, these frank comments overheard in the lobby are of great importance to author and manager. In other cases they are a barometer of success or failure, though the ultimate test, of course, is the subtle attitude of the audience in the auditorium, its spontaneous enthusiasm or its coldness and signs of boredom."

A Household Maneuver.

"And what," asked the caller after he had been shown all over Mr. Bobbs' new house, "is that pretty little article hanging over the piano?"

"Don't you know?" answered Mr. Bobbs enthusiastically. "Why, that is a handy match receiver, made by Mrs. Bobbs. I scratch a match and use it. It must not be thrown on the floor. There is the receiver. Holding the burned match carefully in my fingers, I move the piano away from the wall to the center of the room. Then I go down in the basement and get the stepladder. I place the stepladder against the wall, mount it, deposit the match in the receiver, climb down again. I then return the stepladder to the basement, come back and move the piano into its former position. There's nothing like having these things about the house. It makes neatness and discourages smoking." — Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Recipes For Long Life.

The late John Bigelow, the patriarch of diplomats and authors, and the no less distinguished physician and author Dr. S. Weir Mitchell were together several years ago at West Point. Dr. Bigelow was then ninety-two and Dr. Mitchell eighty.

The conversation turned to the subject of age. "I attribute my many years," said Dr. Bigelow, "to the fact that I have been most abstemious. I have eaten sparingly and have not used tobacco and have taken little exercise."

"It is just the reverse in my case," explained Dr. Mitchell. "I have eaten just as much as I wished, if I could get it; I have always used tobacco, immoderately at times, and I have always taken a great deal of exercise."

With that ninety-two years shook his head at eighty years and said, "Well, you will never live to be an old man." — Lippincott's.

Not a Total Wreck.

"What have you done with your play?"

"It didn't go as a farce, so I had some music composed and tried it as an opera but it fell flat. Then I boiled it down into a vaudeville sketch, but nobody would touch it."

"Too bad. A total loss, eh?"

"Not total. There's one good joke in it; I can sell that for 50 cents." — Louisville Courier-Journal.

Man's Big Mistake.

According to a German biologist man made a mistake when centuries ago he changed himself from a quadruped to a biped, the contention being that many present day ills are due to carrying the spine in an upright position when it was intended to be carried horizontally.

Accounted For.

"The baby's awful bad," said Mabe. "Yes; they come bad on purpose. If they had hair they'd pull it all out, and then all that hair would be wasted." — said Tommy. — Philadelphia Record.

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