

# THE OBSERVER

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## YOU CAN'T BEAT IT.

Have you ever thought of removing from La Grande?

Has a hard day or a series of hard days ever forced into your mind that just across the ridge there might be better places, where money is freer, where the people spend more and where everything is moving snappily?

Well, if you let such days get you to going, please be reminded that this is a large world that every place you go conditions are largely the same; that man is man no matter where you find him; that the game of life is a scrap to a finish with the survival of the fittest always serving as the ring rules.

Then cast your eyes around you.

Could you make what you are making each year in an easier way elsewhere than in La Grande? Get right down to brass tacks and convince yourself for once in your life you are going to the bottom of this case of Dreamland vs. Real Bread and Butter Earning. Investigate everything. Get the records of rainfall, of crop production, of land prices from a dozen communities. Spend two weeks on this sort of job and you will then join the army of the satisfied people right here in La Grande.

For it is a good town. It is a town where every man has an even break. There are no immensely rich people, and the dollar is more nimble in such places than it is where a few own the wealth.

Perish all thoughts of seeking different surroundings and get in the game to win. If you can't win here, you will find it very, very hard to win any place in the whole, whole world.

## SHERIFF'S HUG'S NEW TAX RECEIPT.

Sheriff Hug has adopted a new form of tax receipt which not only lessens expense of receipts, saves the county a great deal in clerical help, but also gives the property owner at a quick glance a description of his entire possessions with instructions for paying his taxes.

The new receipt is a vast improvement over the former one in use. An original and a duplicate are sent out to the property owner and instructions as to the amount of tax, while on the opposite side is printed a table of all the tax levy and for what purposes each levy is made. The property owner sends the entire receipt back to the sheriff with his remittance, who in turn receipts one portion, detaches it and returns to the property owner, thus closing the transaction and saving twice entering the work in the records.

## IS THE SUPREME COURT OVERWORKED?

Every two years, and between times, comes the agitation for more supreme judges. Does the state really need them?

Are the present justices overworked?

Does any member of the supreme bench ever say he is working too hard?

We have never yet heard one of the men who sit on the bench make such an assertion.

Increasing the number of justices usually comes from some lawyer whose keen sense of cunning prompts him to do a favor for the highest tribunal in the state.

Whether this is done with expectation that he may be considered a special friend of the court, it is not for us here to state.

This much is true, however: Courts are human—the supreme court is human, and some lawyers are intensely human.

## VERY INCONSISTENT.

Those who are opposing a bill to prevent outside money being expended in Oregon, in the interest of measures such as single tax, and at the same time claiming to be advocates of the new form of political procedure, seem to be very inconsistent.

The whole essence of the uprising in Oregon, known as the Oregon system, is based on the use of money in campaigns. People revolted against money in politics, and to carry out the idea in its purest form campaigns should not excite the people any more than ordinary every-day transactions.

Yet we find some who have screamed the loudest for the new order of things fighting the law to prevent money being lugged in from outside sources during the campaign, as it was the last year to aid and assist single tax. If we, as a people, are to be consistent, let all money be excluded from campaigns. Mr. U'Ren, one of the framers of the new system, was found this year expending large sums from the Fels fund to put over single tax. The spirit of his action was directly opposed to the direct primary and the corrupt practices laws. The Portland Journal, ever claiming to be the supporter of the "people's measures" is also found bawling that such a bill should be offered.

If sincerity marked the actions of either U'Ren or the Journal there would be no need for such a law. Their conscience would prevent them from using money in any manner whatever during a campaign.

Cut out the use of money altogether. Prevent national committees of political organizations from flooding the state with money. Make the advocates of initiative measures cease operation after the avenues provided by the state, such as the state pamphlet, have been used, and we will then have an example of what the Oregon system might do if it was lived up to.

You would be surprised at the car loads that go in and out of La Grande

and other Union county towns in the course of a year, indicating that business is going merrily on in increased form.

Let us hope the unmerging of the mergers will not affect the O. W. R. & N. to the extent that La Grande's new railroad station will be overlooked this year.

With another business building assured from the West-Jacobson real estate investment, La Grande feels all right. Thank you.

## STEAM ROLLER TACTICS

(Continued from Page 1.)

It will result in all election returns being made known almost as soon as the polls close. It provides for a second board of judges and clerks in precincts where 150 ballots will be cast, and it shall be their duty to count the votes, beginning one hour after the polls open. They will receive the ballots from the regular judges and clerks every hour, or as soon as there are 25 votes in the ballot box. They shall not cease their labors until the entire vote is counted.

There is every indication that some sort of good roads legislation will be passed at this session. The senate has passed Barrett's good road bill and the house has passed Hurd's road bill. Barrett's bill provides that the county court shall say what roads are to be improved, while Hurd's bill provides that delegates shall be elected from each precinct and shall hold a meeting to select the roads to be improved. A joint meeting of the two committees will be held soon to agree upon some form of legislation. Senator Dan Kellahey insists upon his amendment which provides that no patented article shall be used in making improvements on any public highway.

Representative Forsstrom is not taking any conspicuous part in the deliberations of the house but he is busy preparing legislation that will be of benefit to the people. He has introduced a bill providing that a judge of the circuit court may enter defaults, decrees, etc., at any place in his district where court is in session. Thus if court has been in session in Wallowa county and is then in session in Union county, the judge may enter a decree, judgment or default for Wallowa county while he is presiding in Union county, and need not wait until court convenes again in Wallowa county. This bill will aid in many ways in expediting business.

A bill for the revision of the tax code has been prepared by Representative Forsstrom and other members of the house and is now in the hands of the printer. There are several important changes in the measure.

A resolution has been introduced in the house and senate providing that a constitutional amendment be submitted to the voters to change the term of county officers from two to four years.

A bill is now before the house providing for the establishment of a logging engineering course at O. A. C. The lumbermen claim that young men should not merely know how to care for the trees, but also the best methods of logging and converting the trees into lumber.

A big meeting was held at the capitol Thursday evening to urge the legislators to appropriate an adequate sum for the Oregon exhibit at the Panama-Pacific exposition in 1915. The commission appointed by the governor recommended that not less than \$300,000 be set aside for this work, and representatives from various parts of the state coincided with this view. Of this amount, about \$90,000 would be expended for a building and furnishings, about \$20,000 for attendants, watchmen and other help, and about \$100,000 for advertising and printing of literature concerning the great Oregon country.

All employers who hold out a portion of their employees' wages for hospital fund, sick benefit or other purposes must give an accounting of such money, and allow the employees a voice in the expenditure of the same, according to a bill which has passed the house.

The old fight over the state printer will come up again this week when a bill is introduced to repeal the law of 1911, placing the printer on a flat

salary. This promises to be some scrap.

Like the slaughter of the innocents will be the defeat of the governor's bill to give him power to appoint special prosecuting attorneys, sheriffs, constables and other officers to serve for 90 day periods. They would displace the regular officers and thus the entire state would be virtually under the control of one man. It is very doubtful if the bill ever is reported out by the committee.

## SLAVES OF THE DESERT.

A Lashing Taken With Gratitude by the Emir's Servants.

Abd-el-Bahman wore a heavy scow that boded ill for some one, and his fingers caressed his rawhide koorbag as he watched the camels being laden. When all was ready to start he called out four names, and four dejected-looking Arabs answered shamefacedly to the summons.

The Emir spoke to them dispassionately, as one might speak to one's dog, and then, tossing his koorbag to the nearest of the four culprits, he bade him lay on a dozen of the best, while he watched and criticized each stroke with grim equanimity.

It was not a pleasant sight to watch, and I thought it policy to turn aside, but the rest of the caravan thoroughly enjoyed the exhibition and greeted each well laid blow with approval.

When the punishment was completed each of the culprits in turn came forward and kissed the Emir's feet, thanking him for his mercy and calling Allah to witness that they were his dogs to do with as he wished.

From their subsequent conduct I have no reason to believe that they did not mean every word they said, though at the time I was skeptical. It is not every day that one learns such an object lesson in humility and feudal service.—Wide World Magazine.

## INSPIRED AUTHORS.

Ideas Come to Them, It Would Seem, In Spite of Themselves.

Bernard Shaw has stated more than once that he is "inspired." "I am pushed," he says, "by a natural need to set to work to write down conversations that come into my head unaccountably. At first I hardly know the speakers and cannot find names for them. Then they become more and more familiar, and I learn their names. Finally I come to know them very well and discover what it is they are driving at and why it is they have said and done the things I have been moved to set down."

Other writers and painters, too, have described their processes in a similar way. William Blake was positive and emphatic in describing himself as a mere amanuensis, writing down the words that were audibly spoken to him, and he painted in the same way from a model set before his eyes and visible to him alone. Rodin, the French sculptor, gave his assent to the same idea of models visible to the eye of the artist. Dickens said that his characters were actually visible and audible to him, and it will be remembered that Coleridge while he slept—London Spectator.

## The Curious Guanaco.

"Amura," guanaco, whispered one, as they crouched low in the boat. "Kill!" and he pointed to the ride beside me in the stern sheets. The roid en brown of the white breasted, deer-like animal stood out, a little note of color, complementing strongly against the verdant green of the dark, wet forest side, but well out of range. I had seen the Indian guanaco skin caps (cloaks) sold by the fur dealers of Punta Arenas, but this was my first glimpse of the animal itself, many thousands of which I saw after during my expeditions through Tierra del Fuego and Patagonia. "You are a queer animal, indeed," apostrophized an Argentine lieutenant as he and Captain Musters once viewed a solitary guanaco. "You have the neck of a horse, the wool of a sheep, the neck of a camel, the feet of a deer, and the swiftness of the devil." Yet without a graceful animal and at a distance not unlike red deer, though larger. Omitting

## Jarred Her.

A Chilean woman was traveling in the orient. On a trip through a desert she was carried by four stalwart blacks in a chair suspended on poles. The natives started out with great cheer, but as the journey progressed and the sun beat down upon them they began to chant a prayer to Allah. It was melodious, though a bit mournful. Its constant repetition was soothing, and the lady dozed. On awakening, the prayer, grown more mournful, almost despairing, was still being intoned. Turning to her interpreter she asked the meaning of the mysterious words. The interpreter pretended not to hear, but being pressed for an answer he bowed low and said: "Madam, since you insist that I tell you that the great Allah may make you less fat."—Chicago Tribune.

In the true life of the individual, every day is the beginning of the new year.—Jordan.

## Vanishing Seamen.

It used to be seamen. Now it is steammen. The change suits to a "T." The old time sailor has nearly vanished. Steam has put him out of the running. If a new Sir Joseph Porter were to come from the imagination of some new librettist he would no longer be told of gifted sailors "who could handle, reef and steer or ship a selvaage." There will be no present day Allingham to chant the glories of "the wet sheet and the flowing sea and the wind that follows fast to bend the willowy mast," for there are no longer sheets and masts enough to inspire his muse. For the matter of that, the entire song has gone out of sea life. When men "tripped anchors" and did it by manning a capstan and bending their backs rhythmically to the job, as the mate sang chants to them, music counted as an exhilarant, but now steam winches lift the anchors and what would be the sense of singing to a mass of iron and steel?—Cleveland Leader.

## Trees and Lightning.

The relation of trees to lightning, as shown by a bulletin of the United States forest service, does not wholly accord with popular beliefs. It is found that trees are the objects most often struck because they are the most numerous of all prominent objects, they offer a short course to the ground, and their spreading branches in the air and roots in the soil present an ideal conductor to the ground. Any kind of tree may be chosen by the lightning, the greatest number in any locality being found among the dominant species. The likelihood of any tree being struck is increased if it is taller than surrounding trees, is isolated, is on high land, is deeply rooted and if its condition—as when wet—makes it the best electrical conductor of the vicinity at the time of the flash. Lightning may set a forest fire by lighting the tree or—what is much more likely to be the case—the humus about the base.

## First Record of Alimony.

An Egyptian mummy now on exhibition in London was wrapped in papyrus which scholars have found to be covered with inscriptions. Among others is one which indicates that at least one lady of the pharaonic period failed to agree with her life partner. The document is a petition to the proper authorities for justice against a spendthrift and abusive husband. "When I married Heracleides," writes the petitioner, "I brought 200 drachmas as a dowry. Besides this, my husband, when he lost his property, found a house in the house of my parents. In spite of this, Heracleides, after he had run through my dowry, cursed me, beat me, deprived me of the necessities of life, wickedly deserted me and left me in misery. I pray you to force him to appear before you and to cause him to return to me the dowry I gave him increased by half."—New York American.

## Turks First Banned Tobacco.

Tobacco was first carried into Turkey by English sailors, and its use was quickly prohibited. As in Russia, a tradition was discovered prohibiting its use by the faithful. Mohammed, it was said, had prophesied that in future ages some of his followers would smoke a herb called tobacco, but these would be unbelievers. Sultan Amurath IV. strictly prohibited its use. Search was made for smokers. Tobacco pipes were driven through their cheeks, and rolls of tobacco hung as collars around their necks. Thus arrayed they were mounted on asses, facing the wall, and driven through the streets as a warning to lusters after tobacco to be hanged.—New York Sun.

## Very Much Easier.

"Any man can make a fool of him self." "True, but with a woman's help it's much easier."—Boston Transcript.

We sometimes have those little rubs which Providence sends to enhance the value of its favors.—Gosmith

# PICKLES!

We carry a full line of pickles.

Sour  
Sweet  
Dills  
Chow Chow

Also green and ripe olives. These are absolutely carried in sanitary glass jars and kegs.

# CUMMINGS & BLACK

THE CALDWELL COFFE STORE.

## SHERREY'S

Presents Fine Program.

For this change is offered a varied program including an unusually fine Pathe Weekly, with many excellent views of the Balkan war.

"Requited Love," a beautiful story featuring Ruth Stonehouse.

Confer & Schuler, a singing and dancing act of merit complete this splendid program.

## TEACHER SELLS HOME.

Resigns and Secures a Large Tie Contract for S. P.

Frank Rohan, the well known genial railroader, this week purchased a nice home in South La Grande on Fourth street of Paul Hanson who came here last fall from Albany to accept a position in our public school which he resigned a few days ago, having been awarded a large tie contract by the Southern Pacific railroad company. He leaves with his family this evening to arrange for his new field of operations. This deal was perfected by Geo. H. Currey, the land man.



## MORRIS SAYS

A sweet head is a head for sweets. It's not our business to furnish the heads, but

## AS TO SWEETS

We have the finest in the land. Made from True Fruit Flavors. Fresh and sweet every day at the

SNOW FLAKE BAKERY.

# The Test of Time

Time determines whether the policies under which a bank is operated are safe.

This bank has been in business twenty-six years.

It has grown steadily until it has become one of the strongest and most prosperous financial institutions in the West.

The soundness of its policies is attested by the long list of conservative business men who transact their business here; also by an earned surplus of \$130,000.00, the work of time and the result of conservative management.

This bank has facilities for taking care of more high grade business and offers its services to those who appreciate the best in banking.

## La Grande National Bank

La Grande, Oregon

Capital, \$100,000.00 Surplus, \$130,000.00 Resources, 1,100,000.00

DESIGNATED DEPOSITORY OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.  
UNITED STATES POSTAL SAVINGS DEPOSITORY.

## We handle the "PEERLESS PRODUCTS"

The name "Peerless" signifies perfection in Mazda and Gem Lamps

## We sell Westinghouse Motors

Byrom - Jackson & Gould Pumping outfits for irrigation, etc.

We sell American and Westinghouse

## Electrically Heated Apparatus

Irons, etc. Guarantees for all time.

"We will wire your house and take care of repair work."

## La Grande Electric Co.

Foley Hotel Block Black 3141