

THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS

EDITOR AND OWNER

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REFORM FROM WITHIN.

Impatience of the masses has called forth many supposed remedies for wornout methods in the courts. Some of these remedies have been good and some of them have been very bad.

The recall of judges and the recall of judicial decisions were not proposed simply for the sake of offering something new. They represent the feeling that remedial and corrective measures were necessary to give the average man a square deal in the

courts. Perhaps the proposals are bad; certainly there are many objections to them, but at least they should be a warning to judges and attorneys that unless they take the lead in corrective measures there will be a revolution with others at the head of it.

One of the strongest appeals that has been made for court reform from within was delivered recently by Judge W. O. Howard of the appellate division of the supreme court of New York. After declaring that the recall of judges and judicial decision promises no cure, Judge Howard said:

"All men are supposed to be equal before our laws but that seems not to be so. The road to justice should be straight, short and simple. There should be no tollgates on the way, no brigands, no false guide boards. The suitors traveling in automobiles should have no precedence over those on foot. It is not well to scoff at the muttering of the people; there is much reason for it."

Warning his hearers that the movement should begin from within instead of from without, Judge Howard continued:

"The people are becoming impatient with the discrepancies in justice and they are demanding each day in a louder voice that there be reform. Our laws are becoming inadequate; they do not satisfy the popular conceptions of equal justice. The people clamor against the law, its delays, its discriminations, its inconsistencies, and they clamor with much reason."

"Every judge below the judges of the last resort fears reversal; this impels him to follow not his judgment and his conscience, but a precedent established, perhaps, for 20 centuries. There should be a concert of judges to obviate this fault. That which defeats justice be it either statute or precedent is pernicious to the public good. Judges should not be sensitive about reversing themselves, and when a decision, rule or precedent made by the courts is found to be wrong, obstructive or obsolete, it should be revoked."

"Let us not deceive ourselves," said Judge Howard in closing his address, the spirit of recall is spreading; the impatience of the masses grows deeper. Unless the judge act, the people will act; if they do not resort to the recall they will revise the constitution and create new courts—courts to do rough justice; courts to do summary justice; courts close to the common people; courts without technicalities, sophistry and delay, and where substantial right prevails." Judge Howard is not a demagogue. He is not a political agitator. He is an observer, a student and perhaps a prophet.

DEFINES WHAT "LABOR" IS.

Some interesting facts concerning the army of toilers in this country are given in the World's Work by Prof. Samuel P. Orth, who occupies the chair of political science at Cornell university.

Speaking of the relative proportion to be found in the different occupations, Professor Orth uses statistics showing that of the 29,000,000 persons working in this country 6,000,000 are farmers and 4,000,000 are farm laborers, 12,000,000 are wage

earners and salaried employees, 1,500,000 are professional persons, and about 2,000,000 are employers.

Narrowed down still more, Professor Orth takes the 12,900,000 wage earners and states that at least 5,000,000 of these are salaried. This leaves an army of wage earners numbering 7,000,000, and these are working for 200,000 employers. He mentions the fact that "salaried" persons frequently receive smaller wages than mechanics or bricklayers, but they prefer their boiled shirts and are content with their lot. He instances the fact, also, that there is little conflict between the farmer and his help, so that the labor disputes are confined to a comparatively small proportion of the population.

No attempt is made to belittle the working man in this article. It is merely a statement of fact, and serves to bring out the varying ideas people have as to what constitutes labor. No one should be ashamed of work, and an effort to avoid the stigma by declaring one's self in a salaried position is extremely un-American. It bears out the contention which an English noblewoman once expressed when she said that, so far, her observation led her to believe that the American idea of the meaning of the Declaration of Independence is this—

"I'm just as good as those who think themselves a great deal better, and a great deal better than those who think themselves as good."

Every American, in fact, is a wage earner and a wage worker. The trouble is that many Americans have not yet grasped the fact that, in order to be effective, they must also be collaborators with others, for mutual benefit.

Some one has written a column on "How to prevent automobile accidents." "Slower and Safer driving" covers the subject quite thoroughly.

Readers of jokes have reason to rejoice. Market reports say chestnuts are to be higher priced this year.

A CUNNING WAGER.

It Looked Like a Sure Loser, but Was Really Easy Money.

There was a queer bet, one that seemed somewhat foolhardy, made by a politician a few weeks before the election in 1905 when it was apparent that McKinley would sweep the country.

He had been approached by a man who offered to make a "majority" wager. "I'll tell you what I'll do," the politician replied, "I'll bet you \$50 that I can write down the names of thirty states that McKinley will carry."

The man snapped up the bet eagerly, and the politician wrote the list of names and gave them to a friend to keep, sealed, until the day after election.

"Now," he said, "just to show you how big a cinch McKinley has, I will bet you \$500 that I can name ten additional states that he will carry."

The man who took the first bet jumped at the second chance, feeling certain that forty states would not go Republican.

When the election was over and the votes counted the envelopes were opened. In the list of thirty states the politician had named all the solid south and the doubtful states. He lost \$50. But in the list of ten he named states that did not go Democratic in twenty years until the election of 1912.—Louisville Times.

LAI D THE SPECTER.

The Story of a Ghost With a Troubled Conscience.

The following well authenticated ghostly happening is recorded in Jessie Adelaide Middleton's "The Grey Ghost Book."

In Suffolk, England, from a widow who had lately lost her son. One day she was sitting in the drawing room when the figure of a boy of about thirteen walked across the room, halted opposite a table on which was some china and began to weep bitterly. When she got up and hastened toward the boy to comfort him he at once vanished. As the same thing occurred repeatedly, the lady wrote to the owner of the house, seeking for some explanation. This was her answer:

"Will you kindly search the table with the china ornaments on it, and if you find sixpence in any of them put it into the poor bag in church? I gave him sixpence to put in the bag the last Sunday he went to church, and instead of putting it in he kept it to spend. He told me about it before he died, but I did not know where he had hidden it."

The tenant searched and found the sixpence in a little china jug. She put it into the poor bag—and was never again visited by the apparition.

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It's the laugh of a lifetime
A MILE A MINUTE OF MIRTH
HENRY W. SAVAGE
offers
RUPERT HUGHES' FURIOUSLY FUNNY FARCE ON A FAST TRAIN
The Biggest Comedy Success of This or Any Time.
9 MONTHS IN NEW YORK
6 MONTHS IN CHICAGO
4 MONTHS IN BOSTON
Your turn is coming to laugh as you never laughed before
To be presented with the incomparable company of comedians that appeared in New York in this play, with Willis P. Sweetman as the porter.
Seat sale Thursday, Feb. 20th.
Prices 75c, \$1.00, \$1.50, \$2.00

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Time determines whether the policies under which a bank is operated are safe.
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
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Capital, \$100,000.00 Surplus, \$130,000.00 Resources, 1,100,000.00
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Second Shipment Received
Women's Spring SUITS AND COATS

Our Spring Showing now replete with all that's new and nifty in ready-to-wear for both women and misses.

THE COATS This spring's fashion tendency is toward the jaunty three quarter lengths or moonlight coats. Odd shaped collars and cutaway effects in materials of wondrous colorings and weaves. You will be delighted with the charming lines and jaunty air of these new garments. Regularly priced from \$15.00 to \$30.00.

THE SUITS Mostly plain tailored effects in jackets of fringe tip and wrist lengths and slight graceful skirts, some with set in pleats and others of plainer lines. Popular prices from \$15.00 to \$35.00.

THE WAISTS Beautiful styles in dainty lingerie trimmed in dainty laces or embroideries. Also many charming silks of every shade and design.

THE DRESSES Dresses for every occasion are here in a wide variety of materials and trimmings. Evening gowns of dainty emiffon and laces. Street dresses of both silks and wools in very latest New York styles.

New Wash Fabrics---New Spring Dress Goods
WEST'S THE QUALITY STORE.
Newest Trimmings and Overlaces just received.
First Shipment Spring Shoes for Women and Misses just received

APPRAISEMENT UNDER WAY.
City's Assets Listed and Appraised by Neutral Committee.
Appraisal of city property and preparation of a table to indicate all the assets that belong to the city of La Grande, under the direction of a session of the council, is going on now special committee named at the last and the rough draft of the report is already prepared. The cash on hand item is now being prepared by City Auditor Manager, and it is hoped to have the entire report ready for publication by the end of the present week. A great deal of work has been found unnecessary in the reports, and assets that the citizens seldom consider were unearthed. The committee is composed of M. B. Donohue, Bernard Loewson and Jack Childs. These men will visit the finance committee, Councilmen Haisten, Campbell and Wright.
STRIKE STILL LIKELY.
Not Believed Counter Peace Proposal Will Meet With Favors.
New York, Feb. 17.—It is expected that 54 railroads involved in the threatened strike of firemen, will submit a new proposition this afternoon as the result of a conference between the railroad heads and Judge Knapp, Acting Commissioner Hauger and the board of mediation in the dispute. It is generally expected the strike will occur tonight despite this action and it is not believed the firemen will recede from their original plans.
HILLMAN IS FREE.
Seattle Faker Sentenced to 2 1/2 Years Free After 10 Months.
Seattle, Feb. 17.—Clarence D. Hillman, the millionaire real estate operator, who was convicted of fraudulent use of mails, is free to leave McNeill's penitentiary after serving 10 months. He was sentenced to two and a half years by Judge Donworthy but President Taft commuted his sentence to one year.

PENINSULAR STEEL RANGES
are the result of years of intelligent effort and experiments in the world's largest Range factory. When you buy a PENINSULAR STEEL RANGE all your baking troubles have ended.
Most beautiful and pleasing Range ever put into the home. Warranted for 25 years. Let me fit your kitchen with the BEST RANGE ON EARTH. Bakes as evenly as a BAKER'S BRICK OVEN. Cooks your boiled dinner in the oven while you are baking bread and with its SPECIAL OVEN CONSTRUCTION carries all odors of cooking into the flue, thereby eliminating circulation thru the house.
I want you for a customer and when you buy a PENINSULAR Range it means for me a permanent and satisfied patron.
F. D. HAISTEN Furniture on Easy Payments