

THE OBSERVER
BRUCE DENNIS
 EDITOR AND OWNER.
 Entered at the postoffice at La Grande, Oregon, as second class matter.
SUBSCRIPTION RATES.
 Daily, single copy 5c
 Daily, per week 35c
 Daily, per month \$1.00

THE GOVERNOR AND THE RAILROADS.

When did Governor West become solicitous of the welfare of the railroads of Oregon? He has now discovered that George Cochran, water commissioner of Oregon, rides on a pass because he is an attorney for the railroad company and immediately gets into the newspapers demanding that Mr. Cochran's pass be cancelled.

On the face of the governor's statement everyone unfamiliar with conditions will at once agree with the chief executive and hold up their hands in horror because in this day of progressive ideas a state official is using a railroad pass. But let us see what the facts are before the wily governor is given a decision.

Mr. Cochran is attorney for the railroad company and because he is its attorney he rides on a pass. He is also water commissioner and in attending to the state's business in that department he has used the pass instead of buying tickets.

But, listen, here is something the governor did not tell you: Mr. Cochran has never put in a bill for mileage to the state of Oregon and the state has benefited by the use of the railroad pass in every instance.

The only criticism rightly due Mr. Cochran is from the railroad company because he used the pass in transaction of state business.

Perhaps the governor is so interested in the railroad's welfare that he dislikes to see the company lose the mileage which the state would have had to pay had Cochran not used the pass. At any rate the governor is not a mortal enemy of railroads and corporations as he would have the people believe. He and Chamberlain and Clyde Alchison and a few more have kept in pretty good standing with the railroads while they were "fighting for the dear pee-pul against corporations," and there is some reason to believe they still are not sworn enemies to the common carriers.

However, that is not the point in question. Governor West may make all the flurry he desires to fool the people and make them think he is an anti-railroad man, but where has Cochran committed any offense, or where has he done the state an injustice?

Say, for instance, he has traveled 8,000 miles on that pass which no doubt he has. The state has failed to pay \$240 in railroad fare which it would have had to pay if Mr. Cochran had not used the pass.

It may have been poor politics to ride on the pass but certainly it has not harmed the taxpayers in the least—except the railroad company

while he pays a good deal of tax here and there over the state.

THE PALMER COMPANY EXTENSION.

There is nothing to be admired in the business world more than substantial, honorable business concerns—whether they be corporations or individuals. La Grande is blessed with several firms of this nature. Just now the George Palmer Lumber company is beginning the construction of a railroad into the Smith Mountain country.

This means that La Grande is brought within easy commercial distance of that section of country which heretofore has been isolated. If it is not too far to haul the logs for manufacture it is certainly not too far for the people of that section to drift into La Grande as their large town and the place where the bulk of commodities will be purchased.

The laying of steel rails into the Smith Mountain country at once transforms it into commercial activity—gives market for the best crop, the timber; and turns all eyes toward La Grande where the Palmer company's mills are located.

GOOD ADVICE TO EMPLOYEES.

The "soulless corporation" no longer deserves that appellation. Really a human institution, organized, officered, managed, controlled and directed by human beings, the corporation is proving daily that it is coming out of the machine class and becoming the flesh and blood creature it should be.

This latter day movement is evident once more, in the statement issued to its employes by the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railway company. Following the "safety first," "efficiency" and "economy" rules proposed to railway employes, the western road has begun a "cheerfulness" campaign. "Learn to laugh" is the slogan. In the statement to its employes the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railway says:

A good laugh is better than medicine. Learn how to tell a story. A well told story is as welcome as a sunbeam in a sick room. Learn to keep your own troubles to yourself. The world is too busy to care for your ills and sorrows.

Learn to stop croaking. If you cannot see any good in the world, keep the bad to yourself. Learn to hide your pains and aches under pleasant smiles. No one cares to hear whether you have the earache, headache or rheumatism.

Don't cry. Tears do well enough in novels. Learn to meet your friends with a smile. A good humored man or woman always is welcome, but the dyspeptic or hypochondriac is not wanted anywhere.

Above all, give pleasure. You will pass through this world but once. Any good thing, therefore, you can do, or any kindness you can show to any human being, you had better do it now.

This advice should not be taken to heart by railway employes only. It is good enough for the employe of

any firm or corporation to follow, and it fits the home as well.

Read it over once a day, and you will find your work growing less irksome and often, where you may have met with frowns in the past, you will find a smiling countenance and the hand of good fellowship extended to you.

Statistics show that there are 26,000,000 telephone conversations held in the United States every day. It seems as though there are at least that many from one corner drug store.

A Pontiac man found a safety pin in a boiled egg the other day. How shall we cook our eggs to escape the results of adulteration?

Water is supposed to be as free as air. The drinking cup vending machine companies, however, would choke us to death if we didn't have the necessary cent.

WALL STREET BANKS.

As a Rule They Make Loans on a 20 Per Cent Margin.

Most Wall street banks insist on having a twenty point margin behind each loan. That means that a man borrowing \$100,000 must put up as security stocks or bonds of \$120,000 market value. If the securities decline to a point where the \$20,000 margin is reduced to \$15,000 the borrower is called upon to put up additional securities. Most brokerage houses do not wait for such a summons, but send the necessary collateral to the bank as soon as they see that the price of their securities has declined.

But the banks are guided always by the character and the financial standing of each borrower. Each bank has a list of favorite borrowers who can secure whatever money they need in times of stress at 10 times of ease. The loan clerks know who the favorites are and show them every courtesy. It means a good deal for a Stock Exchange house to get on the "favored list" of a Wall street bank.

Some borrowers, in order to stand well with a bank, never complain when the bank raises the rate on their loans. They go on the theory that it is foolish to dispute a rate with a bank when the difference between 2 per cent and 2½ means only \$1.39 a day on the interest charge for a \$100,000 loan.—New York Post.

Society Brand Clothes



Society Brand Clothes

embody all that is graceful in young men's clothes.

Designed

especially for young men by Americas best fashion artists

Tailored

especially for young men by America's best garment makers

Sold

to America's best dressed young men by the best store in every city.

If you want to dress in the highest degree of good taste and fashion, let us show you the Spring and Summer styles, Society Brand Suits.

Prices \$20 to \$30.

Gordon \$3 Hats.

Stetson \$4.00 and \$5.00 Hats.

West
 THE QUALITY STORE

TEST YOUR BAROMETER.

It is a Tricky Instrument and Must Be Treated With Respect.

Don't expect a barometer to tell you the truth about the weather until you have tested it thoroughly. Two common causes for unreliability are air and water mixed with the mercury in the tube. These can be expelled by boiling the mercury.

In order to test a barometer let it hang for a time in the proper position, then gently and with care incline it so that the mercury may strike against the glass tube. If there is no air within you will hear a sharp metallic click, but if the sound is dull and muffled it indicates the presence of both air and moisture. The presence of air alone is shown by minute bubbles.

If at any time the mercury seems to adhere to the tube even in the slightest degree and the convex surface assumes a more flattened form it is safe to conclude that either air or moisture is present. In any of these cases the instrument should be put into expert hands for rectification.

There are several kinds of barometers. The ordinary "weather glass" in common use is more or less unreliable and is easily made more so by careless handling. In fact, any barometer must be treated with great respect in order to retain its usefulness.—Harper's Weekly.

CHURCHES IN CHILE.

They Are Always More or Less in an Uncompleted Condition.

When walking through the streets in any large town in Chile one is immediately struck by the fact that church buildings are always undergoing repairs.

One day you will pass a church which for weeks has had about six masons working against the walls. Then another day you will find that they have been changed to the other side. This constant changing of masons goes on year in and year out, but no one ever seems to be inside of the ladders, though, perhaps, a new brick or a bit of plaster will occasionally be added to the building.

There would seem, however, to be a very real reason for the presence of these masons. The Chilean government, in fact, levies a tax upon church buildings, but only when they have been completed. In order to evade this tax, therefore, no church ever has been completed.

The law surely might be altered, then, for the eternal presence of these masons—certainly an ingenious idea—does not add to the appearance of the buildings or to the comfort of pedestrians in the streets.—London Answers

UNCLE SAM'S GREAT SEAL.

Story of the Design It Carries on Its Reverse Side.

Every American is familiar with the great seal of the United States—the design of an eagle with outstretched wings, bearing in its beak a scroll with the words "E Pluribus Unum," but few know that there is a reverse side to the seal, which, though never used, is just as officially a part of the great seal as the side bearing the eagle. All seals were originally made with two sides, like a coin. Soft wax was placed on both the face and back of the document to be witnessed by the seal. The obverse, or head, impression was made in the upper wax; the reverse, or tail, impression on the under.

The reverse side of the great seal of the United States has for its design a truncated pyramid of masonry. Immediately above it is a sleepy looking eye framed in a triangle, which is surrounded by a sunburst. Above is the motto, "Annuit Cœptis." On the base of the pyramid is the date 1776, written in Roman numerals. The pyramid is set in a field sparsely covered with plants. Below the field and following the curve of the circular rim there winds a scroll bearing the words "Novus Ordo Seclorum."

It was designed by Charles Thompson, secretary of the Continental Congress, in 1782. "The uncompleted pyramid signifies growing strength and duration," he wrote to congress concerning the design. "The eye over it and the motto allude to the signal interpositions of Providence in favor of the American cause. The date, underneath is that of the Declaration of Independence, and the words under it signify the beginning of the new American era, which commences from that date."

The design was criticised so severely by art critics and others as being unworthy of a great nation that it was never used officially. Nevertheless it was adopted by congress as a part of the great seal, and as such it must remain until that adoption is repealed.—New York Times.

PLANNING A ROBBERY.

This London Thief Was Quite Diligent in His Preparations.

This story of an elaborately prepared crime was told by Sir Robert Anderson when he was connected with Scotland Yard, London. A criminal marked a millionaire as his quarry and rented a bedroom near the railway station from which the rich man took the train for town. Well dressed and well groomed, the criminal took his seat in the same compartment, attracting notice only by his apparent desire to remain unnoticed while he dealt with the papers he carried in a stylish hand bag.

One morning after a few such journeys he gave vent to his annoyance at having forgotten his keys. A stranger sitting in the opposite corner politely offered him his bunch in the hope that he would find on it a key to open the lock. At the suggestion of the stranger, who, of course, was an accomplice, the millionaire then produced his bunch of keys, and a few seconds sufficed to enable the thief to take a wax impression of the key of the rich man's safe.

A few weeks later the millionaire's safe was rifled, and before the crime was discovered the thief was across the channel with his rich booty.—Liverpool Post.

Plumbing Heating

J. G. DURST

Estimates Cheerfully Furnished. Prompt Attention to repair Work.

Phone Red 3191 Res. Red 3351

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.

If you pay for first class work see that you get it. That is the only kind the Grande Ronde Construction company does.

Owned and operated by La Grande men. Phone Black 641 for figures on sidewalk, curb, or foundation.

concrete work with GUARANTEE that STICKS