

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 65c

THE OPENING GAME.

The opening game of the baseball season demonstrated a few things of interest to all La Grande people who have interest in the team. Apparently the home team is much stronger than North Yakima. But for errors and uncalled for suicides in attempting to steal bases the home team really played good ball.

Of course there were times such as when Mountain made a "Red School House throw" letting in two runs when the grand stand felt like grabbing him and eating him raw, but as a whole it was easy to detect the few weak spots existing in the home team.

Head work in baseball means so much and the cool headed player will not throw over the first baseman, neither will he make a wild throw to second. Far better it is to take a little time and get the ball in the hands of the baseman too late, than to take the long chance and let in scores which cannot be erased.

There is a hopeful feeling among the "Spuds" that this week will put them well up the ladder and we believe that the team is strong enough to fulfill this hope.

THE WAGES OF SIN

"The wages I was able to earn amounted to a grim joke."

This is what led Maude Wilbur of New York to become a shoplifter in the big stores of New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Detroit and Chicago. After a career filled with hairbreadth escapes that would make the average boy desperado's hair stand on end, she was arrested in Cleveland where she has served a ten months' sentence, and will now be placed on trial in Chicago on a similar charge.

Her confession and her advice to girls come from the heart. She had everything she wanted when a girl, but married against the consent of her parents, was soon abandoned and thrown on her own resources. Here she takes up the narrative by saying:

"I got work in a store and discovered that either I had to steal to get presentable clothes or accept the proffered friendship of men inside or outside the store. The wages I was able to earn amounted to a grim joke. As against the men, I chose to become a thief, and while I am "down and out" as they say on the street, I prefer jail to some other things.

"I have spirit and some honor, the best kind, left. No person can take these from me. Of course, the criminal life don't pay, and I think I have learned that lesson. With the valuable lessons in life learned in the last two years, I am planning to start anew when I have served whatever

sentence is imposed upon me here."

There is a deeper lesson in Mrs. Wilbur's confession than is often admitted by those who are interested in welfare work. When a girl has to work for wages which are, as she says, a grim joke, the ordinary lessons on frugality and right living sound like mockery. No girl can face life unaided without being brought face to face with the two temptations which this girl found. She is required to dress well or lose her job. If she is not given a living wage, she must be strong indeed to withstand the temptations which surround her.

A living wage is her only safeguard, and those who are interested in welfare work realize this more and more. Preaching will not suffice.

TO REGULATE PRICE OF GOLD.

A plan for international regulation of the price of gold has been proposed by Prof. Irving Fisher of Yale university. It was the contention of this speaker that fluctuations in money value—so to speak—are directly connected with and largely due to fluctuations in the world's production of gold, now the basic element of the currency of practically all modern nations. The more gold produced, in other words, the cheaper the basic gold dollar becomes in comparison with other commodities, including the price of labor. Which, of course, upholds the argument of those who contend that present prevailing high prices all over the world are directly due to a steady increase in the world's output of gold for several years past.

Professor Fisher, however, believes this is a thing that could be and should be regulated by nations through international agreement, and the plan he proposes is simplicity itself. He would restore the old law of seigniorage, under which a government imposes a charge on the producer or owner of gold bullion for converting it into coin, and he would have this seigniorage regulated by an "official index number of the average price level of all other stable commodities." In other words, when the relative price of gold is low, as measured by the average price of other commodities, the bullion owner would receive less for his bullion, thereby tending to restrict the production of gold until a stable level was restored. And at all times, so Professor Fisher claims, the tendency would be to keep the gold dollar or other unit of currency, on a stable basis, at the same time leaving separate commodities subject to the usual influences of supply and demand.

The theory is an ingenious one, to say the least, and is likely to attract the attention of financial experts all over the world. The present system is concededly imperfect, for it not only offers a premium to the gold bullion producer, when the relative price of gold is low, but imposes a double burden on the public generally by unduly encouraging gold production at the very time when commodity prices are being forced upward through an already too plentiful supply of gold. The proposed plan of relief is therefore worth considering, and it is not unlikely the time will come when something of this kind will be actually undertaken by the leading nations of the world.

THE PRESS AGENTS OF OREGON

Things have reached the stage in Oregon when every commission, every state official and most of the colleges have paid press agents.

And for what? To furnish stories to newspapers in the hope of getting advertising for nothing.

The Observer has put on the lid on this kind of "junk." Hereafter when the railroad commission, the governor or the secretary of state or the university or the railroads want their wares mentioned there must be a check accompany the copy or an advertising order which means that a check will follow at the end of the month.

Portland is full of leagues and societies each of which has a publicity department and usually some one man is boosting his name before the public hoping at a future date to take advantage of the advertising he receives.

Did it ever occur to you that this state is "organized" to death. There is a bunch in every part of the Willamette valley who "organize" for some purpose and immediately install a press bureau which means that some snip of a youngster gets a salary for trying to work the newspapers of the state.

No more for us. We are done.

WHEAT, LIVE STOCK AND LUMBER.

The three great pillars of the Grande Ronde valley are wheat, live stock and lumber. No one can doubt this statement.

We have many other resources that bring in money, but the wheat, live stock and lumber are staple and can be depended upon every year.

The same resources abound in Wallowa county. Truly, Union and Wallowa counties are one and the same. By legislative act there has been an imaginary line established, but when it comes to business and the people of the two counties they are one and the same. Probably the only reason they were ever divided was due to the desire of having a county seat located nearer than La Grande.

But, with these three great resources there is a wonderful future ahead of this part of the state.

Enough timber to last two generations with live mills in operation means a permanent commercial standing of the two counties, to say nothing of anything else that is produced. But here comes the horse buyers from Canada and the federal government after the Union and Wallowa horses because they claim they are better than the horses raised elsewhere—they have better wind and better feet, etc.

Wheat—the old standby—is a winner one year with another. Prices always give a reasonable margin of profit to the grower.

Then with the fruit crops, the pay rolls and the smaller industries, why worry and fret over business. Do you not realize that if you fail to make good in either of these commodities, that the doors of the commercial world elsewhere are closed to you?

The same argument prevails in favor of Baker county, for the products are the same. No one in Baker has the least cause to complain of business, for again we say, if by your ability you cannot make good in Eastern Oregon then try not elsewhere for you are a dead one. There is no room for you and your ideas any place in the world. You are a "never was," to use someone's else expression and you had just as well go into the commercial discard first as last.

WHAT CHILD OF SEVEN KNOWS.

Teaching by the use of object lessons has long been the accepted method of presenting new facts to pupils. That it is also the most effective way to teach the difference between normal and abnormal development of children has been demonstrated at the national hygiene exposition at Washington.

The mental and physical attributes of two boys from North Carolina afflicted with hookworm were compared with those of two children from prominent families, and some striking facts were brought out in the comparative examinations.

Physical measurements, blood pressure tests, haemoglobin counts, examination of the teeth, eyes, ears and

analysis of the child's disposition were made in each case.

Among the facts brought out in this test, it is interesting to note that a child of seven years of age should be able to count up to thirteen, touching an article representing each progressing number as he counts. He should be able to repeat the days of the week, make change in simple sum, recognize the principal colors, tell the time, pick out the missing details in pictures, and be able to draw these missing features as well. Any child not able to do these things has been retarded in his development in some psychological way.

One of the boys tested, at the age of six, was shown to have the development of the average boy of 9, and his father explained this by saying that, since one year of age, the child had been fed chiefly on bananas and milk, and meat only during the last year.

The two hookworm subjects, aged fourteen and seventeen years, showed the mental development of boys only nine years of age.

Without any further comment it is evident that the national campaign in the south against the hookworm is not only needed, but that it has already more than paid in the number of people who have been restored to normality.

HELPING TO BUY HOMES.

Some families pay rent because they want to. The purchase of a home, especially on the contract plan, means giving hostages to fortune in much the same way as does the having of children. A permanent home owned entirely or in part by the salaried man or the wage-earner means an interference with that freedom of movement apparently necessary for securing the highest possible price for brain or manual labor.

Other families pay rent because they have to. This is by far the larger class. With the instinct for home owning and with the ability to enjoy all that a home means, they lack the first payment demanded for the kind of a home they want.

It is to help the latter class that a proposal has been made to use the \$10,000,000 now in the hands of the city of Chicago as its share of street railway profits for the creation of a fund to permit the flat and tenement dwellers there to become home owners.

There is sound economic sense at the bottom of the suggestion. A city where most of the inhabitants own their homes is usually free from the discontent which marks the community that numbers its renters by the thousands. Men having a stake in the locality take more interest in its affairs. They watch its politics more closely. They lose few opportunities to vote. The labor situation is improved by substituting for the class of "fitters" one that is financially interested in holding a permanent residence.

For those who are nomads either by choice or by conviction that their best interests lie in keeping foot free of entangling connections with any one city little can be done other than to tempt them by some such method as this to come into the home owning class. Yet the "tent dwellers" of this world, the gypsies of our modern business and industrial system, are not easily bribed to give up that independence gained by having no immovable possessions.

The Chicago plan contemplates the loaning by the city of the money payment on the house and lot. It is supposed that the normal human craving for a habitation and a home will do the rest.

A Pittsburg church has barred dirty faced parishioners. It is said the rule was passed because the preacher could not produce satisfactory results when his audience did not look clean.

What the people put on their backs and into their stomachs must be made cheap, says the president. Of course, he was not referring to porous plasters and stomach pumps.

Two hundred New York physicians have agreed to give their bodies to science, for special autopsies. Now, if they will only agree to treat themselves when they are ill, everybody will be happy.

President Wilson is upsetting so many precedents that we shouldn't be surprised if he rode his bicycle up the capitol steps.

SPECIAL MILLINERY SALE

48 of the season's newest creations in the famous

GAGE BROS. PATTERN HATS
REDUCED 25 PER CENT.

\$20.00 HATS ...\$15.00 \$10.00 HATS\$7.50
15.00 HATS ... 11.25 8.00 HATS 6.00
12.00 HATS ... 9.00 6.00 HATS 4.50

An offer that comes just at the season when you can profit most by these generous reductions.

Make Your Selection Today

If you delay the very model you like most may be gone. Many will come to select a spring and summer hat at these prices—SO DON'T DELAY.



GET OUR PRICES FIRST

on Electric Irons, Cookers, Motors and Wiring. It will pay you.

La Grande Electric Co.

Foley Hotel Bldg. — — — — Black 3141

D. R. FONG
Medicine Co.

CHINESE ROOT AND HERBS REMEDIES.
No Drugs—No Poison—No Alcohol—No Knife—These remedies have been used by the Chinese people for many thousand years. Remedy for Rheumatism, Appendicitis, Heart and Nervous Troubles, Kidney, Liver, Bladder, Skin Diseases and all other infirmities of the body.

ALL CONSULTATIONS FREE AND ABSOLUTELY CONFIDENTIAL.

FOR LADIES AND GENTLEMEN—For one cup of herbs tea or root medicine 25c, 50c, 75c, and \$1.00—Nothing higher.

CONSULTATION FREE—People out of town can cure themselves at home with our root and herb remedies.

Office hours, 10 to 12 a. m. 1 to 8 p. m. Sundays, 10 to 12 a. m. 1 to 4 p. m.

Telephone Main 726. Office 1412 Adams Avenue, next door to Garrity's Blacksmith shop.

LA GRANDE, OREGON.

LACHEERABLE CIGAR
ALL HAVANA CUBAN HAND MADE
NOTHING BETTER CAN BE MANUFACTURED

It must be certainly great to have a brother like Charles Taft. He acts more like a friend than a relative.

An Englishman has succeeded in producing a stingless bee, but in business affairs people will continue to get stung as of yore.

The government's suit against the coffee trust will be dropped. Perhaps there are not sufficient grounds.

Wages and hours are at the bottom of the whole problem which confronts the working woman.

A German says electricity will cure insomnia. If applied suddenly it will also cure enui.

isic university, has provided a havenport for Prof. Taft instead of the usual faculty chair, and a great problem has been solved.

Bryan and Clark have buried the hatchet, but it is probable that both marked the spot.

There is no tariff on dictionaries. Maybe that's why we are using so many imported words.

House for Rent, Furniture for Sale.

Furniture for three rooms for sale. Will rent house to party buying, if desired, reasonable rent, good location, large grounds, modern. Call at Oberver office. 5-12-13

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.