

**THE OBSERVER**

BRUCE DENNIS, Editor and Owner

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**WHAT DO BUSINESS MEN BELIEVE.**

No other ministry save that which "grapples with men's actual problems" can today expect to find a "generous hearing." With this conviction in mind a Toledo minister sent out a list of questions to 120 of the "most prominent business men" of his city and requested permission "to enter the citadel of mind and soul, and take therefrom the deepest and most honest thoughts concerning religious subjects." The inquirer, Rev. George R. Wallace, tells in *The Advance* (Chicago) the results of his investigation, and first of all mentions "the willingness of the men addressed to discuss their beliefs." The "promptness, frankness, and earnestness of the replies," he says, "were pleasantly surprising." But besides this, he declares that in marked evidence were "the pathetic yearning for a sufficient faith, the diversity of beliefs, the startling denials of doctrines commonly cherished by the church, with the deep and serious thought evidently given to the subject." The replies are compressed under several heads:

"Regarding the existence of God there seemed unanimity that God exists. Regarding His nature most believed not in His personality; God to them, is a supernatural first cause, the uncaused cause of all existence, a force which manifest itself in everything and most highly in man. Some believed in God not simply as God and preserver, but also as 'Our Father,' those holding this belief were comparatively few. The replies indicated that rational instruction regarding the nature of God and the relation of deity to humanity is greatly needed.

"The question 'For what do you believe man is in existence?' elicited a variety of opinions. Some declare they had never heard or read a satisfactory answer to the question; others thought for some divine purpose which, with our present mental equipment, none could explain. To live, beget, and die, the same as a horse or bird, expressed the limited conception of some, while others considered the purpose of human life to

be the exemplification of the highest form of creative existence. Many looked upon such existence as an inevitable necessity, the product of natural law, and the consummation of the laws of evolution. The theory of the divinity of man seemed to grip many, one expressing the belief by saying, 'As the acorn has in it all the possibilities of the oak tree from which it came so man has in him all the possibilities of God who begat him.' A thoughtful Michigan manufacturer, owner of a large institution later worked toward a solution of the human problem by the definition: 'Man is a germ of divinity operating under laws of limitation.' Some thought man exists here in preparation for a future life, and one asked, 'Could it be that man was created by God, on account of a paternal affection pre-existing in him?'

"The changed belief regarding moral obligation from the clear cut and definite faith of our Puritan ancestors was startlingly and overwhelmingly in evidence. To the question, 'Is man morally responsible to God, and will God punish evasion of this responsibility was frequently asserted. Opinions were expressed that hereditary tendencies nullified such obligations. The nearest approach to orthodox teaching was that any penalty would result in proportion as man is physically, mentally, and spiritually responsible to laws that can not be violated or evaded without incurring inevitable and fixed penalties. Some threw the obligation and responsibility for human failure upon God, one intimating that God would not condemn human failure 'more than a builder would attempt to blame his building for falling down, because of inherent weakness caused probably by faulty design.'

Immortality seemed a perplexing problem to many and one concerning which they were in grave doubt. He we read:

"The replies received contained varied and emphatic views, such as, 'There is no future life, when we die that is the end; our immortality comes in the lives of our descendants—in the solidarity and continuance of the race; the good exists after physical death, the evil perishes; this life is only a stage in human development; the next is a progressive life; in the next world lives are graded.

"Regarding providential interest in and interposition for humanity, the prevailing attitudes revealed in the replies indicated pathetic desire and profound doubt. Asked 'Is God interested in, and does he care about man's every day life and experiences?' some wrote, 'I wish I knew; so many in the past trusted false gods that were nothing at all; how can we tell?' 'There is too much suffering to believe that; I do not believe so, but such a faith would make one very happy; then life's sorrows could be laid on the shoulder of God, or at least shared with him.' The problem whether God is a person or impersonal law robbed some of comforting faith in providential oversight. One said, 'I can not reconcile personal supervision of individual affairs to my conception of law; while another wrote, 'God is not a person, so can not be personally interested.'

The supreme surprise of the re-

plies, says this minister, lay in the attitude of these prominent business men toward the church:

"So much has appeared in the press and elsewhere regarding the decadence of the church that at least qualified endorsement of that institution was to be expected, in reply to the question, 'What good is the church to the world?' Not one unkind criticism or weak endorsement of the church was received. Appreciation of the church was comprehensively and startlingly expressed. Witness the following: The church stands first in the world's institutions for the good of mankind in every relation of life; the church is the foundation of civilization, and does great good; the world would be lost without churches; without the moral teachings of the church the world's degeneration would inevitably follow; it is the keystone of social order, society would be chaos without it; it uplifts the world and does away with vice; it teaches that, regardless of future reward, morality pays, not in money or glory, but in all that makes a man satisfied with himself; it creates and keeps alive high ideals; emphasizes the spiritual against the material; it elevates softens, soothes, and comforts humanity; it keeps us close to God.

"Two impressions are made upon the propounder of the questions. One is that men are interested, as much as ever, in the history of the world, in the great religious questions regarding life and destiny. The other is that never has there been greater need, nor greater opportunity, for ministers to present intelligently, rationally, and earnestly the fundamental truths of Christianity. Men are hungrily seeking for true guidance in things spiritual. This is the age for ministers with a divinely inspired message; the world turns disappointed from all others.

"No attempt is here made to discuss the subjects presented. This article is written in response to requests from several ministers, that the results of the investigation regarding the beliefs of business men be published in abbreviated form."

**ANY COLOR, SO IT'S RED.**

Now that the government has issued orders to paint all mail boxes a bright red, there is an exceeding fine promise that some innocent fun will result.

All simply because the fire alarm boxes are of a bright red color.

Imagine a dignified citizen mailing a letter in a fire alarm box—or an excited resident trying to turn in a fire alarm on a mail box.

Think of the thousands of wives who will fret and grow truculent as they receive no answer to the letter that is calmly reposing and quietly mellowing on the summit of a fire alarm box, where it was placed by the hand of a kind and loving husband who allowed color to influence the disposition.

Or the thousands of dollars worth of property that will be lost because some effervescent mammal pushed the knob on a mail box and waited patiently for the fire department to respond, while the members of the hook and ladder truck company No. 1 sat quietly in a circle in the left of the engine house and played game after game.

Try to conceive the picture of a stand inhabitant, who, on discovering that his chimney is afire, madly pursues a street car for blocks through a crowded district, imagining, the while, that the little red mail boxes at the rear of an itinerant fire alarm.

Or picture the man, who mails a parcel post package of farsh eggs on a fire alarm box, and discovers his error three weeks later.

Before the confusion can be overcome, either the government will have to assuage its passion for bombast and repaint the mail boxes green, or Fire Chief Benham will be forced to daub his alarm boxes with Nell blue of Abyssinia black, and issue a bulletin that the hours of collection have been changed.

**Badger Women Foiled Again.**

Madison, Wis., May 27.—Governor McGovern has vetoed the Glenn bill providing for a referendum on the woman suffrage question in Wisconsin next year. The governor's referendum on the proposition should be recommended that instead the referendum on the proposition be taken in 1916.

**Our Dry Goods Department Showing**

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Almost simultaneously with their appearance in the eastern cities you will find the newest novelties displayed at this store.

**A VERY COMPLETE LINE OF NOVELTY WASH FABRICS**

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<p><b>Balkan Trimmings</b> The most popular of the new creations in seasonable bandings and edgings. 20c to 50c yard.</p>	<p><b>Wide Flouncings</b> In the new Momie Crepes—many beautiful patterns to select from. \$1.50 yard.</p>	<p><b>Ratine Edges</b> Very popular for trimming the ratine and linen fabrics, all shades. 15c to 20c yard.</p>
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In all widths and shades  
50c to \$1.50.

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NEW STYLES IN BULGARIAN DRESSES IN OUR READY TO WEAR DEPARTMENT.



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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.

**SINNOT VOICES OBJECTION**

Files Protest With Navy Department Over Oregon's Future Fate.

Washington, C., May 26.—(Special)—Congressman Sinnott in response to many protests received from his home state against the threatened use of the battleship Oregon as a target ship recently sent the following letter to Secretary Daniels:

To the Secretary of the Navy, Washington D. D. C.

Sir: In protesting to you with all the vigor at my command against the reported proposal to use the battleship Oregon as a target in naval practice I believe myself to be voicing the wishes of every man, woman and child in my home state.

Ever since the famous ship made her memorable voyage around the Horn the people of Oregon have looked upon her as peculiarly their own and have regarded her with a pride and affection greater, I think, than that cherished by the people of any state in our country for any particular ship in our navy.

She is enshrined in the hearts of the school children of Oregon alongside the Liberty Bell and "Old Ironsides" and it would seem to them most unfitting that her fine service had not secured for her at the hands of her country as kindly an old age. To see instead their venerated Oregon destroyed by American gunners would outrage their patriotism.

The seriousness with which the people of my state are taking this matter is reflected in the strong terms used in the protests which are being sent to me—such as—"wanton destruction," "outrage public senti-

ment," "un-American," "utterly undefensible," etc.

I trust that you will be able to assure me that the press reports of the contemplated destruction of the Oregon are incorrect. If our battleship has outlived her usefulness for active service would it not be possible to place her at the disposal of the people of Oregon for a naval training ship. Such a step on your part

**Birds and Insects and Vegetation.**

A well known French scientist has asserted that without birds to check the ravages of insects upon vegetation human life would vanish from this planet in the space of nine years. But for the vegetation the insects would perish; but for the insects the birds would perish, and but for the birds vegetation would be destroyed. Nature has therefore formed a delicate balance of power which cannot be disturbed without bringing great loss and unhappiness to the world.—London Tit-Bits.

**For the Sake of Others.**

"Have you ever done anything for the sake of promoting the happiness of others without selfish reward?" asked the idealist.

"I should say so," replied Mr. Growcher. "I have bought any quantity of stock that never paid dividends."—Washington Star.

**Plenty of Room.**

She—A woman has a greater capacity for learning than a man. He—Yes; a woman is never so full of gossip that she can't hold more.—Philadelphia Record

**Good Reason.**

"Hello, Spraddles?"  
 "Hello, Borom. I haven't seen you for a week."  
 "No; I've been seeing you first."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

would win the warm gratitude of the people of the Pacific coast.

Yours respectfully,  
 NICHOLAS J. SINNOT.

After a small boy has had his first fight and defeats his opponent he loses all interest in little girls.

**When Dealing With J. H. PEARE & SON**

La Grande's Leading Jewelers and manufacturing Opticians. You are trusting yourself to a store of twenty-two years' standing which should satisfy you that you will be treated right.

Call when you desire anything in the jewelry line or are in need of glasses.

THE BEST FITTED OPTICAL PARLORS IN EASTERN OREGON.

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