

THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS, Editor and Owner

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THE MERCILESS ASSOCIATED PRESS.

When Colonel Roosevelt was beaten for the presidency it was thought the Associated Press would be satisfied, but the guess was wrong. Not content with belittling the acts of a man who, regardless of anyone's feeling toward him, did more big things as president than any leader of any nation has ever done, the Associated Press now endeavors to attack the colonel personally. The best illustrations of an unfair press is the undercurrent carried in the Associated Press dispatches which report anything pertaining to Roosevelt.

His suit for damages against the Michigan newspaper receives the curled lip and a tinge of scorn in every paragraph of the telegraph report. His visit to Lincoln park in Chicago served as a subject for the Associated Press to impress Roosevelt's declining popularity.

It is quite true that Roosevelt is not the popular man he once was, but there is a spirit of fairness which should exist down the line regarding public men and this is not being shown the ex-president at the present time, by any means.

DECORATE THE GRAVES FRIDAY.

Let nothing stand in the way of every citizen paying proper tribute to the soldiers, both living and dead, next Friday. The least we can do is to strew the graves with flowers and hold proper exercises to commemorate the deeds of valor, the loss of life sustained in order that this nation might be free today.

The Women's Relief Corps will observe the occasion in appropriate manner as will also the living members of the Grand Army of the Republic, but added to the efforts of these two fraternal organizations must come the combined citizenship to make the occasion what it really should be.

If this weather continues people will begin to plant corn in this valley.

ASHLAND'S GOOD ROADS.

About the most sensible good road news we have read in many months is a dispatch from Ashland, Oregon, which states that the county court has purchased thirty King road drags for use on the highways.

The northwest with its tremendous mileage of roads seems unable to talk anything but macadam or hard surface highways, when it should be talking road drags just as Ashland is doing. The state of Oregon is in no condition to bond itself for millions, neither is any single county in shape to take on heavy debt for highways when it is possible with small expense to make good dirt roads. The free and constant use of the King road drag makes a good road, and with proper grading and drainage it is surprising what a solid roadbed can be maintained.

Let other counties follow the plan adopted at Ashland.

DEFENDING THE CRIMINAL.

It is proposed in New York state to abolish the law by which the failure of a defendant in a criminal trial to take the stand is shielded from reference either by prosecuting attorney or judge. The suggestion is made by the bar association in the interests of justice.

The truth is that our American law bends backward in its effort to stand up for the criminal. Convictions for criminal offenses are secured in most of our states only when the evidence of guilt is absolutely overwhelming. The many obstacles thrown in the way of a prosecution on behalf of the people are relics of the old English common law. They were made for a day when the king was more powerful than any individual and when it was necessary to protect the citizens from this overpowering authority of royalty. Many of these obstructive rules have no place in the procedure of today. Made for another period and to fit radically different conditions, they long ago survived their usefulness.

It would be well if the defendant not only was made open to criticism for failing to take the stand, but was forced to take it when called by the state's attorney. There is no legitimate reason why an innocent man should refuse to tell all he knows about the affair for which he is being tried. Usually he is only too glad to testify. Criminals with records, on the other hand, usually decline to give evidence. Thus it often happens that nothing of the previous lives can be brought out before the jury. A man accused of burglary, for instance, many have been convicted and sentenced a dozen times for burglary, but this fact cannot be disclosed if he declines to testify. Furthermore, the prosecutor in his argument cannot comment on the evidence with anything like the freedom permitted the defense. In fact at every stage he is under such a handicap that it is a wonder we secure even the convictions that we do. Then, if at the end, a gross miscarriage of justice follows the jury's verdict, the people have no power of appeal, although the defendant has.

If the criminal law is amended in

one particular, its general weakness from the people's point of view is bound to be shown in a way to suggest the advisability of a radical overhauling.

Roseburg citizens believe in getting up in the clouds on gala occasions. But really it is a bad precedent to start for how will La Grande, Portland and other good Oregon towns ever find time to spend three days in a balloon.

Gambling at Palm Beach, Fla., has been stopped, but people will be allowed to continue to buy Florida lands by the gallon.

IDAHO MAN INVESTS

W. J. Dennis of Idaho Buys Property on North Side.

W. J. Dennis who arrived here a few days ago from Idaho immediately decided to invest and yesterday closed a deal through the Geo. H. Currey Real Estate agency for a choice acre tract on North Spruce street, just across the street from the big school house, belonging to Mrs. Anna Brooks. This tract will soon be divided into lots as North La Grande is rapidly growing and close in desirable lots are becoming quite scarce.

Snake River High.

Lewiston, May 28.—Both the Snake and Clearwater rivers are on a rampage and this morning reached the highest point in many years and still rising. Drift is running freely in the Clearwater. Two sections of a wagon bridge over Clearwater slough went out today. The Northern Pacific bridge at Spaulding is in a dangerous condition. Trains passed over it last night but a Spokane train is being held here today. It may possibly get out this afternoon.

PERSONALS.

Herman Kiefer of Elgin, filed a Homestead application at the land office today.

Harry Frawley left last night for Oklahoma City.

Frank Pfy returned home this morning from Portland.

Mrs. George Birnie returned home from Portland and Hood River this morning.

Miss Flora M. Koch and Miss Josephine Kirk, who have been teaching in the high school for the past year, returned to their homes in Illinois this morning.

J. W. Sawyer returned to his home to Hot Lake this morning.

Judd Geer, county fruit commissioner, was over from Cove today.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Donohue returned home last night from Portland, where they went on a wedding tour.

J. G. Kilpack, Portland; Wm. Iroy, Elgin; E. S. Walton, Wichita, Kans.; J. T. Chapman, Portland; F. D. Rinehart, Enterprise; A. T. Pierce, Walla; A. H. Rudd, Joseph; Stella Hooper, Joseph; and H. Kiefer of Elgin, are among those who stopped at the Savoy last night.

C. Prescott, Weiser; Jno. A. Mad-

Pearls, Shells and Gold Wire

Also tools for making the popular wire jewelry. All for sale by

N. Christensen

Grande Ronde Valley House, La Grande, Ore.

Anyone can make this jewelry. It is a good business.

Most Prompt and Efficient Cure for Bad Colds.

When you have a bad cold you want a remedy that will not only give relief, but effect a prompt and permanent cure, a remedy that is pleasant to take, a remedy that contains nothing injurious. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy meets all these requirements. It acts on nature's plan

den, Portland; M. L. Jose, Seattle; Geo. C. Miller, Seattle; Chas. Taylor, St. Joe, Mo.; Leo. Shire, Chicago; A. Runke, Hood River; H. C. Blazier, Portland; F. M. O'Brien, Portland, and A. Wagner of Portland, are among those stopping at the Foley.

J. Davis, New York; N. S. Kahn, New York; G. B. Bradley, Portland; Geo. Armstrong, Portland; F. H. Eason, Portland; G. W. Loman, San Francisco; E. B. Budge, San Francisco, and Walter Froman of Portland are among the guests stopping at the Sommer.

Mr. A. H. Rudd, county surveyor of Walla walla county, is in the city today on land office business.

Ruth M. Smith of Enterprise, filed a homestead application at the land office today.

Jas. T. Kennedy of Heppner filed on a 320 acre homestead at the land office today.

A. Runke of Hood River is stopping at the Foley. Mr. Runke formerly lived in La Grande.

SPECIAL AT THE ARCADE TONIGHT.

The Arcade offers for tonight as the headliner "The Wheels of Destiny" a three reel feature by the Kay-Bee company. This is one of the best feature production released by this excellent company and is thrilling in the extreme, the photography and acting is up to the usual high standard. Also for tonight the management has secured an amateur stunt, that is a winner. The other numbers on the program are "His Son-in-Law" a crackerjack comedy, and the bill closes with Odell and Hall, in their clever acrobatic comedy act.

Advertisement for Society Brand Clothes, featuring an illustration of three men in suits and the text: 'Will give you that well dressed appearance that every man wishes on DECORATION DAY We have them in the latest styles at prices from \$20.00 to \$30.00 West THE QUALITY STORE'

CIRCUS COMES HERE TOMORROW FROM BAKER



CIRCUS DAYS - THE AFTERMATH!

Tomorrow is circus day in La Grande. Sells-Floto with all its splendid attraction will arrive at an early hour, and unless it rains too fiercely, the city will be filled with farmers for it is too wet to seed grain and the circus is bound to attract plenty of people for the occasion.

Sells-Floto brings all that is new in circusdom and something high class is promised, in parade and sireshow and main attraction. The circus will arrive in two sections from Baker during the night, and the parade will be held at 10:30 promptly. The circus is at Baker today. Two performances will be given, one at 2:15 p. m. and the other at 8:15. Doors open one hour earlier.

STOLEN—A bicycle of Erie make, brown rims, and black frame. Five dollars reward for return of same to 1502 Fourth St., 5-24-6t

relieves the lungs, aids expectoration, opens the secretions and restores the system to a healthy condition. This remedy has a world-wide sale and use, and can always be depended upon. Sold by all dealers.

For the Weak and Nervous. Tired-out, weak, nervous men and women would feel ambitious, energetic, full of life and always have a good appetite, if they would do the sensible thing for health—take Electric Bitters. Nothing is better for the stomach, liver or kidneys. Thousands say they owe their lives to this wonderful home remedy. Mrs. O. Rhinevault, of Vestal Center, N. Y., says: "I regard Electric Bitters as one of the greatest of gifts. I can never forget what it has done for me." Get a bottle yourself and see what a difference it will make in your health. Only 50c and \$1.00. Recommended by all druggists.

WATER NOTICE. Shareholders in the La Grande Ditch company wishing to work out their assessments please confer with Samuel Story, Island City, or call Red 1391, before Monday, June 2, as the ditch will be cleaned that day. By order of the president. 5-27-2t

When you want good SERVICE, CALL

JONES Transfer Co

Large Wagons - Good Horses - Careful Men

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.