

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 15c
 Daily, per month 50c
 Daily, per six months in advance \$3.50
 Daily, per year in advance \$7.00
 Daily, by mail per year in advance \$4.00
 Weekly Observer, per year in advance \$1.50

Advertising rates on application. All copy for display advertising must reach the office the day before the ad appears.

Address all communications to THE OBSERVER, 1710 Sixth St., La Grande, Oregon.

ALBEE, THE MAN OF THE HOUR.

No better news has been received by the state at large for many years than the news of Albee's election as mayor of Portland. By this decree the people of the metropolis have shown to all Oregon there is decency, fairness and justice still remaining among Portland people to insure proper government at the populous center of the state.

Mayor Rushlight had the railroads, the large corporations, a percentage of labor voters, the liquor interests, the paying companies, the city hall machine, and probably the denizens of the underworld with him, making a tremendous machine to combat Tammany never had more intense loyalty than was displayed by the Rushlight crowd, but the element of Portland which must in the future be considered, took a decided hand in the municipal election. It is an element that stands for the better things of life. Whether Mr. Rushlight deserves the censure he received is for those close by to determine, but one thing is plain to everyone who has watched Portland of late and knows anything of her municipal affairs, Mr. Rushlight was not the man to be at the head of a large growing city.

Manager B. E. Kennedy of the Albee campaign, refused to enter the mudslinging field and throughout the Albee campaign nothing but fairness to all was permitted. This, during the heat of such a battle, reflects credit upon Mr. Kennedy equally with his chief. The Portland Oregonian undoubtedly made one of the most admirable campaigns known in newspaper work. Refusing to dig in the mire; refusing to harshly go after other candidates it pointed out the fitness of Mr. Albee and dealt with his opponents on their records which is always permissible. The result was gratifying. It means that there is a new Portland and that Mr. Albee is the man of the hour.

The battle fought by Mr. Albee, B. E. Kennedy and the Oregonian reached farther than the city limits of Portland, for it brings back the confidence of the state in the metropolis.

FROM THE OTHER SIDE.

To the chorus of protected industries against a reduction in the present tariff, is added the lusty voice of the jewelers who cry out against an increase of duties from 10 to 20 per cent on cut stones, as is proposed by the Underwood bill.

The cry of the jewelers is raised through a committee on tariff schedule, with headquarters in New York. This committee has formulated a written protest, which has been sent to every senator and representative, as well as to all the newspapers of the country. And so we have protests against an increase, as well as protests against a decrease in duties on imports.

The jewelers cite the fact that previous to the adoption of the Wilson bill the duty on precious stones was ten per cent. That rate, in 1892, produced a revenue of \$1,238,000 on imports valued at \$12,882,000. However, in 1895, after the Wilson bill had raised the duty to 25 per cent, the revenue was \$804,000 on \$4,725,000 of imports. In 1896 the revenue was \$1,096,000 and in 1897 it was only \$418,000, under the 25 per cent schedule.

Two years after the act of 1897, when the duty on precious stones had been reduced again to 10 per cent and the duty on uncut stones had been removed, on which basis such items now stand, the imports rose to \$17,200,000 and they have now risen to about \$40,000,000.

The great argument of the jewelers is that when tariff rates on gems are high, the business of smuggling is thriving. In this connection the official statement, issued by the jewelers also says:

"Foreign travel is continually increasing in popularity, especially with women, and they are the principal buyers of the retail world. They are naturally free traders and bargain hunters, and experience shows that the average woman, having no respect for a statute that interferes with what to her is an inalienable right to buy where she will, has no conscientious scruples whatever against the practice of smuggling, and it will probably be a long while before even the most straight-laced and zealous collector that the port of New York may obtain will not hesitate to strip and search the women of America on their return from abroad. Yet such a desperate course is the only possible solution of the problem, and even then, it will fail to stop the practice of smuggling in its entirety, for the ingenuity of those who are determined to get the better of the government is beyond description."

The jewelers claim that their position is honest by arguing that an increase in duty rates would be to their advantage, as all the precious stones in their possession would increase in value the amount of the increase in revenue. Still, they declare they are against an increase in rates, as it will upset their business.

From all of which it would appear that a congressman or a senator ought to be more than a Solomon.

A New York husband of 82 has been sentenced to prison for wife-beating. What must he have been when he was young and in his prime?

CODDLING VS. EFFICIENCY.

Secretary of Commerce Redfield is right in holding that the question of wages concerns everybody and that therefore any attempt on the part of employers to reduce wages with the purpose of making the new tariff law unpopular will be answered by a governmental investigation. In such an inquiry the efficiency or inefficiency of various concerns necessarily must be a large factor.

This country is just waking up to the fact that it should know all about wages and the methods by which they are fixed. The last few years have been marked by revelations that have clearly shown the unwholesome social effect of low wages. Inefficient business systems, in so far as they lower wages on the one hand and raise prices on the other, therefore, are a legitimate object of public scrutiny. When, in addition, manufacturers threaten to embarrass the whole country by an underhanded attack on a tariff policy endorsed at the polls they practically invite the government to use the handiest weapon available.

In any case it would be interesting to know just how far tariff coddling for many years has destroyed the efficiency of American business. Mr. Redfield, it will be recalled, is the man who first called attention in an impressive way to the weakening effects of undue protection. While in congress he pointed out the dependent state reached by many manufacturers as the result of having been trained to expect special governmental favors. If this is true—and the secretary of commerce has made out a good case for his side of the argument—we have an important clue to the dual evils of high prices and low wages. It stands to reason that a business which has not been subjected to the sharp discipline of keen world competition is likely to drift into wasteful, inefficient methods.

Naturally, the proprietor or group of proprietors demand a certain amount of profit first. If the general returns from the business have been lowered by faulty management this profit must come either from an unduly high price assessed against the public, an unduly low wage paid the workers, or from both. Thus all of us pay in the end for the blunders that inefficiency makes. With a clear justification for turning on the lime-light the government needs very little provocation to act.

A dying husband in Georgia left strict orders that his wife should not be allowed to attend his funeral—but it doesn't seem right that she should be denied that small and inexpensive pleasure.

Herr Moose, a celebrated Berlin editor, recently celebrated his 71st birthday anniversary. It isn't too late yet for him to join the Progressive party in America.

Prominent musicians have decided that ragtime is dead. Evidently the prominent musicians never travel in the pianola and phonograph belt.

The rag, the bone and the hank of hair seem to be obscuring the entire horizon and extending well toward the zenith in England these days.

Capt. Hobson is showing remarkable self-restraint during the present yellow peril. His lecture tour continues uninterrupted.

Menthol has advanced from \$3 to \$28 a pound, but as long as very few know what it is there is little harm done.

Baker says she will celebrate July 4th, but Elgin beat her to it and therefore has the first inning.

One stunt that the English suffragette has overlooked is passing the loaded cigar.

It isn't her hat that the unmarried woman wants to see in the ring. It's her finger.

There is no legal punishment, however, for wrecking a train of thought.

A man who can bottle up his wrath is a corker.

MARKET DAY
GOOD SUCCESS

TWICE EACH MONTH ENTERPRISE CELEBRATES.

Big Caterpillar Plow and Engine Draws Interest.

Enterprise, June 3.—(Special)—Market day is proving a great success. It was instituted this spring and is for the purpose of exchanging at public auction household goods, live stock, vegetables and merchandise of all kinds. It occurs on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. S. F. Pace serves in the capacity of auctioneer.

Sam Litch has moved his family into their Alder Slope home for the summer. He will close his town house until school begins in the fall, when they will return. Mrs. Litch and small daughter have gone to Corvallis to attend the commencement exercises at O. A. C. Miss Maude who has been attending this college the preceding year will accompany her mother home about June 8th.

The Enterprise ball team returned from La Grande Sunday with victory written all over their smiling faces. Wallawa county has oft been called the Switzerland of America because of its unequalled scenery, the vineyard of the United States on account of its crops, its fruits and its vegetables, and now the day is rapidly approaching when Enterprise will be known far and wide as containing the diamond of all diamonds in baseball lore.

Miss Nellie Graves returned to her home in Joseph on Monday's train, after a brief visit with friends and relatives in this city.

Mrs. Everett Stubblefield and three children of Promise, Ore., are visiting relatives here and on Alder Slope.

Dr. H. A. Shaeffer has resumed his practice of dentistry in the Litch building, after a month's vacation in Portland.

Big Plow is Interesting. Much interest is manifested in the operation of the Caterpillar engine which W. R. Holmes has rented to plow his two hundred and seventy-five acres of land east of Enterprise. It is owned by G. R. Matthes and is the first engine of its kind introduced into Wallawa county. It has 10 plows eight of which work constantly—the other two when needed. The rent is \$3.50 per day and it averages from 16 acres up per day.

Miss Sylvia Graves of Joseph is visiting her brother, Ward Graves, the Enterprise plumber. She intends to remain during the summer that she may receive instruction in music under Prof. W. A. Henry, lately of Liverpool.

Miss Lenore Lewis, who has made her home with Mrs. Henry Fletcher for the past four years, left on Thursday's train for La Grande where she will act as housekeeper for her father, William Lewis. The death of her mother, Mrs. Maude Lewis occurred in La Grande last week and was the cause of much sorrow to her friends in Enterprise, where she had lived for a number of years.

Miss Maggie Weaver has returned to her home in Enterprise after a two weeks visit with her sister, Mrs. Ethel Pidcock, of La Grande.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Zurcher and Mr. and Mrs. Best are now settled on their homesteads about 20 miles from this city. Each of the two homesteads number 320 acres and comprise some of the most fertile land in the Chesnimus country.

E. W. Steel and G. S. Reaves motored out to Zumwalt Sunday to inspect some land with the view of purchasing, but as yet the deal has not been completed.

Alice M. Bell departed on Thursday's train for Union where she will visit friends and relatives, and will also attend the stock show.

Lester Neil, accompanied by his wife and infant daughter, drove out from Snake river Friday and were week end guests of Mrs. Sarah E. Landers. Mr. Neil is owner of one of the finest farms on the Imnaha, and reports the prospects of a prosperous summer to be surpassing the greatest expectations.

Miss Mary Dale left Sunday morning for the Buttes where she will

The Invention of a Woman

The latest and greatest aid to the woman who does her own dressmaking and to the professional dressmaker.



We recently secured the agency for this wonderful invention and have just received the sample form.



It makes no difference whether you are tall, short, stout or slender, —this form will be your exact figure.

"PNEU FORM IS A GREAT TIME AND MONEY SAVER."

"It is not in any sense a luxury."

West

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.

We Grind Our Own Lenses

J. H. PEARE & SON

Grand Union

Order your bread and cakes of the Grand Union Tea Co. We also carry a complete line of fancy and staple groceries.

THE ONLY EXCLUSIVE TEA AND COFFEE STORE IN TOWN.

WE SELL

Pure Artificial Ice at 50c a hundred.
 Pure river Ice at 30 cents a hundred.

Our Artificial Ice is made from pure Beaver creek water and is guaranteed as pure as the city water. Please get your orders in before noon each day.

GRANDY THE ICE MAN.

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.