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THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS, Editor and Owner

Entered in the post-office at La Grande, Oregon, as second class matter.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

Daily, single copy 5c
 Daily, per week 15c
 Daily, per month 65c
 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.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

"The world owes me a living" has been said many times, chiefly by idlers and ne'er-do-wells. It is hard to see how the world owes any man a living, but that there is a grain of truth in the generality is coming to be realized. Instead, however, of admitting that it owes every man a living the modern world only admits that it owes every man an equal chance to earn a living.

This is the fundamental idea underlying the British scheme of unemployment insurance and a national

labor exchange, described in Harper's magazine. The two necessarily go together, for before a man can be paid insurance while he is out of work the nation must know that he is not out of work through his own laziness or indifference. The labor exchange thus not only checks frauds on the insurance fund, but also makes the labor supply mobile. In other words it makes it possible to relieve unemployment in one part of the country by moving the unemployed to another part where they are needed. It has proved a boon both to the laborers and the employers in seasonal trades. It also is solving the problem of what to do with those broken down in indoor industry. Before these workers become entirely waste material it removes them from the employment that is breaking their health and spirit and provides the outdoor labor that builds them up.

Great Britain is tackling the problem of unemployment in a big way. It plans to regulate public work in such a manner that in times of depression men can be employed in building bridges, digging canals, reservoiring destructive rivers, reforestating the moors and rocky hills, building ports, developing water power and doing other labor of a public nature. Such employment will be held in reserve until the necessity for it arises.

Before a problem of unemployment is solved, however, the state must go to the sources of the trouble and eliminate from the army of the unskilled the large number who have been denied an education to make them capable. Perhaps some day we will have courts with authority to sentence in-

efficient men and women to schools instead of to workhouses.

Chicago woman arrested for selling watered milk said she couldn't help it because her cows got up before daylight and ate dew laden grass. The trusts with watered stock probably wish they could explain as easily.

In Detroit, Mich., a teamster has been discovered who was supporting two families on \$15 a week. What he had left over he spent in riotous living.

Nobody has offered Uncle Joe Cannon any college professorship. He might hold down the chair of profanity all right.

It is the men who are burning the midnight oil who are accomplishing great things, not the men who are burning the midnight gasoline.

A Missouri editor says a woman cannot climb a tree. No, but she can make a man do it any time.

CEREMONY.

Ceremony keeps up all things. 'Tis like a penny glass to a rich spirit, or some excellent water—without it the water were split, the spirit lost. Of all people ladies have no reason to cry down ceremonies, for they take themselves slighted without it. And were they not used with ceremony—with compliments and addresses, with legs and kissing of hands—they were the pitifullest creatures in the world. But yet methinks to kiss their hands after their lips, as some do, is like little boys that after they eat the apple fall to the paring, out of a love they have to the apple.—John Selden.

Zoological Myths.

Certain creatures oft heard of, pray who ever saw?

There's the camel whose back broke beneath the last straw.
 There's the wonderful goose that laid eggs of pure gold
 And the bull that got in where the chins was sold.
 There's the ass that the skin of a lion doth wear
 And the wrong pig we frequently get by the ear.
 The wild horse that never—no, never—could drag
 Us somewhere. There's the cat we let out of the bag.
 There's the bird that goes whispering secrets around.
 Whoever has seen it, whoever has found?
 There's the oft mentioned dog in the manger that stands
 And the elephant some one has got on his hands.
 There's the ravenous wolf from our door that we keep
 And the wolf that goes round in the clothes of a sheep.
 There's the nightmare that somebody tells us they've had.
 There's the cat with nine lives, and the March hare that's mad,
 And the fox that declared that the high grapes were sour,
 And the grim dogs of war. It would take quite an hour
 Just to list all the odd, freakish creatures that we
 Nearly every day hear of, but never once see.

—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

WAGE ARBITRATION.

The experience arising from large wage controversies places a serious responsibility upon those whose duty it is to enact proper legislation governing the relations between employer and employee, to consider whether the Erdman act should not be amended to increase the number of arbitrators and thereby constitute a board of sufficient size to properly represent the public as well as the parties to the controversy and to direct the necessary far-reaching investigations and fully share the responsibility of an impartial determination of the equitable and economic questions arising from such disputes. It will also be found necessary to provide a longer time than thirty days specified in the act for the consideration of the subject and the rendering of a decision. It may not be possible to prevent strikes or lockouts by requiring compulsory arbitration, but it is wise to consider whether an obligation should not be placed upon the employer and employee to advise the authorities of the questions at issue before any lockouts or strikes can become effective, so that by due publication and inquiry the government and the public may be fully informed of the extent of the controversy and its causes.—Samuel Rea, President Pennsylvania Railroad.

ROUND THE GLOBE

New York's Chinatown has a population of 5,000.

Woolless sheep is one of the peculiarities of the Kongo country.

Less than one-third of the area of Korea is suitable for farming.

By a new system of machine telegraphy 300 words a minute can be sent. Subject to government inspection, 16,000 New Zealand farmers keep bees.

The population of India is seven times greater than that of Great Britain.

The choicest corks come from Algeria, which has 2,500,000 acres of cork forests.

Last year British shipyards turned out more than 1,750,000 tons of new shipping.

Of the 112 tourists who lost their lives last year by Alpine ascents eleven were women.

Records kept for twenty-five years show that the proverbial fogginess of London is decreasing.

A floating drydock with a lifting capacity of 30,000 tons has been built for the British admiralty.

Experts in China are investigating the possibility of using bamboo pulp in the manufacture of paper napkins.

There are over 32,000 beggars in Vienna, and it is stated that their average income is more than that of most workmen.

Accurate photographs of buildings and land have been taken by United States army aviators from altitudes as great as 1,000 feet.

The Salvation Army is at work in forty-seven different countries and has

fifty-five periodicals, printed in twenty-one languages.

The value of secondary metals (those recovered from scrap metal, sweepings, skimmings, drosses, etc.) last year in the United States was \$52,585,390.

The recent census shows that New Zealand's population is over 1,000,000. The 1906 census showed a total of 888,578 and the 1911 census 1,007,811.

By the construction of a number of short cuts in Siberia the time from Berlin to Peking will within a year or so be reduced from thirteen and one half days to nine days.

Trinidad, which was the first West India island to test wireless telegraphy, is now to have a larger plant at Port of Spain, which will have a maximum radius of 2,000 miles.

Military rowdies are again stopping inoffensive coolies and others whom they suspect of wearing cues in the streets of Nanking and relieving them of the objectionable appendages.

Whales are increasing rapidly, as it no longer pays to kill them. Twenty-five years ago 400,000 barrels of whale oil were produced annually. The quantity has now fallen to about 60,000 barrels.

To insure the owner of a private shaving cup kept in a barber shop that he is its only user there has been invented a paper cap to cover it, which cannot be removed without breaking a seal.

Collectors of etchings and engravings must occasionally pay high prices for their treasures. A Rembrandt print, "Jan Syllvius," signed by the artist and dated 1646 brought at auction recently \$1,925.

The Westminster Men's Society For Women's Rights of London publishes a weekly paper called the "Eye Opener." Among other things it deals with the present inefficient state of the law for the protection of women.

A poet says it's hard to be poor. We fail to see anything difficult about it.—New York American.

Increasing the supreme court from nine to eleven suggests going from baseball to football.—Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch.

Health authorities now declare that the finger bowl is full of germs. Never drink from the finger bowl.—Detroit Free Press.

You can now have your Auto top or seats

Repaired at home by one who knows how. Prices very reasonable.

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Please get your orders in before noon each day.

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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 \$1,100,000.00, 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.

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La Grande, Oregon

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