

**THE OBSERVER**

BRUCE DENNIS, Editor and Owner

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**A FIREMEN'S FUND.**

The praiseworthy features of a fire department are not the only features to be considered for fire fighting is not ordinary duty by any manner of means. Every city the size of La Grande should start a firemen's fund—not to be used in having lunches and stag parties or to be divided among members of the fire department, but for the purpose of establishing an income for the boys who become crippled or ill from fighting fire. This is a very important thing and La Grande cannot start too soon to encourage a firemen's fund so that those who belong to both the regular and the called departments will rest in the full knowledge that should mishap overtake them there will be some recompense.

Of late checks of appreciation have been sent to the local department. One firm in its heartfelt appreciation of the remarkable manner in which the department fought to save property sent in a check for a thousand dollars. To cut up such contributions among individuals would mean little but to let it remain on interest and add to it as much as possible will mean much should disaster overtake one of the boys.

We are all proud of the La Grande fire fighters. They are made of the right metal and never learned the word "quit." In fact we are so proud of them that we feel at this time like offering this bit of advice so that in the future there may be a fund of considerable proportion at their disposal.

**WHY NOT LOAN DIRECT?**

There is no question about the sincerity of Secretary McAdoo in his desire to spread out government money to assist in moving the crops, and the effort is surely a laudable one, but inasmuch as the banks must deposit bonds for this money and pay two per cent. for its use, the question arises, why should not the banks choose to loan their money direct to the farmers rather than buy bonds and then deposit the bonds with the government? Of course, we do not overlook the

fact that many large banks keep a large supply of government bonds on hand and in these cases they merely deposit the bonds they have already purchased. But in rural communities like Union county which is a fair sample of most rural counties the banks do not own a goodly quantity of government securities which forces them in order to take advantage of the McAdoo plan to first invest money in the bonds and then deposit the bonds for money from the government.

It will be noticed that Portland and Seattle bankers have assured the department there is enough money in the northwest to handle the crops, a condition which if proven true, further reflects the remarkable prosperity of this great northwest country.

**HOW TO CENTRALIZATION.**

There is not a month, a week or a day passes but what the tendency of centralization is felt. Large trade centers are growing larger and will continue to do so. The parcels post, the lower freight rates, the lower express rates all tend to bring this about, and there is no use to kick against the inevitable.

For instance, the O. W. R. & N. company has just put on a train that leaves Portland at midnight or thereabouts, and that train brings the Portland morning newspapers into La Grande before noon the next day. There never has been a time before in the history of Eastern Oregon when a daily paper could reach here before late in the evening. This shows what the smaller community is up against, and it is a natural consequence of advancement, so why explain.

As the newspaper field is affected by the larger cities so the merchandizing must meet with a smile the extensive efforts of the large department stores. We people in the country must of necessity suffer in a way from the fast trains, the cheaper freight rates and the mammoth investments made in the city.

We have often said the best place to make money is where whiskey sells for 25c a drink, and we still contend that is true, but it is very difficult to find such places any more for railroads soon build to them as in the case of Goldfield, and as soon as the railroad gets in prices fall in a short time.

Centralization makes the large cities and in turn reduces what seems to be the rightful growth of the smaller places. But it will continue to be felt more and more in the west for this country is at last getting railroads and getting fast trains.

For poor streets the two blocks on North Fir between Monroe and Jackson seem to have the wreath of dog fennel. This is a street that was macadamized a year ago. In some way the settling was not uniform leaving it full of low places. It is really worse than Center street at Baker after the cold weather last winter when crack after crack appeared in the bitulithic pavement, presented such a bad appearance that the whole of Center street was re-surfaced. Undoubtedly North Fir should be re-surfaced.

Walter Pierce, who has removed to his ranch, and who by the way takes no stock in the story that Democratic rule brings hard times, cites anyone who wishes to know to the real possibilities of this country. In a letter to the Observer recently he indicated why this country is safe commercially in the fact that cattle do exceedingly well in this part of Oregon; that hogs keep on making money while the owner sleeps, and that the soil does its part abundantly if the bread winner will but use a little of the sweat of his brow in conjunction.

La Grande people are to be commended for the vigorous manner in which lawn mowers have been used this season. There are few cities of this size that present the well kept appearance which La Grande presents. This is reason for considerable pride on the part of property owners.

Just a little swim in the park stream is now very popular among all ages of La Grande people. Bathing suits are becoming a part of the wardrobe, and it is even said there are styles being advocated, where formerly anything in the shape of a bathing suit would do.

It may be necessary for Postmaster Bragg to prepare a petition to the department asking that the federal building steps be made smaller, if the tight skirt continues to become tighter—and that is the order from the modiste.

This is a splendid time to study the new charter. Be sure that a copy is hanging on the wall at home. It is as useful as a telephone directory.

Well, if you haven't had your vaca-

tion, it is about time, for business will not continue this recess much longer and then everyone will have to be up and at it.

Governor West assisted materially in getting business for the Oregon City circus. Now look for handsome offers for his services from Sells-Floto and possibly Rice Bros.

One thing the new time card has done: It brings the Portland dailies into La Grande at noon and does away with the married man's excuse for "going down to Jay's to get the paper" in the evening.

A Pittsburg official refuses to interfere in the matter of woman's dress saying "women know what they want to wear," which is generally something different from what the other one has on.

Princess Maud of England cannot marry the man she loves. Well, then nothing can ever make her think less of him.

Greece will find room for a lot of shoe shining stands in that newly acquired territory.

It might be well to have two congresses—one for investigation and one for legislation.

English polo players are using tea instead of American highballs this season. Therefore the game loses about 50 per cent of its excitement.

London women are taking to the cigar habit. It is more manly than cigarettes at that.

Nowadays if a man lives five years in the same house he's a pioneer to the newspapers when he dies.

**Want State Powder Factory.**

Seattle, Wash., Aug. 6.—Organizations of farmers throughout the state of Washington today sent to Governor Lister a petition urging an immediate passage of legislation which will establish a state powder factory. A \$2,000,000 appropriation was made by the last legislation, but additional legislation, the farmers declare, is necessary to make the proposed factory of real aid to them. The ranchmen and others interested declare that such a factory would reduce the cost of powder to be utilized for blowing up stumps and rock formation from \$13 and \$14 per hundred pounds to about \$5 and \$6 per hundred pounds.

FOR RENT—Two housekeeping rooms furnished, 2008 Third st., Phone Black 431. Adv. 8-6 tf.

**Remarkable Cure of Dysentery.**

"I was attacked with dysentery about July 15th, and used the doctor's medicine and other remedies with no relief, only getting worse all the time. I was unable to do anything and my weight dropped from 145 to 125 pounds. I suffered for about two months when I was advised to use Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. I used two bottles of it and it gave me permanent relief," writes E. W. Hill of Snow Hill, N. C. For sale by all dealers.

**HILL MILITARY ACADEMY**  
 A Select Non-Sectarian Boarding and Day School for Boys. Military Discipline; Small Classes; Men Teachers. Careful supervision secures results that are not attained elsewhere. Send for catalog. PORTLAND, OREGON.

**Final Sale Prices on Summer Merchandise**

That Must Appeal to Every Economical Buyer

**ENTIRE SUMMER STOCKS**

Must go this month. Read the following prices we offer:

<p><b>\$15.00</b></p> <p>Takes your choice of our entire line</p> <p><b>Benjamin Suits</b></p> <p><b>Society Suits</b></p> <p><b>Hirsch-Wickwire Suits</b></p> <p>This is not a sale of odd sizes or undesirable patterns, but includes every suit in the stock. Regular prices were up to \$35.00. Take them now for</p> <p><b>\$15.00</b></p> <p><b>All Men's Furnishings at Reduced Prices</b></p>	<p>Our Entire Line Newest <b>Oxfords and Pumps</b> Reduced 20 Per Cent.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>\$5.00 val. \$4.00</td> <td>\$3.00 val. \$2.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4.50 val. 3.60</td> <td>2.50 val. 2.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4.00 val. 3.20</td> <td>2.00 val. 1.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3.50 val. 2.80</td> <td>1.50 val. 1.20</td> </tr> </table> <p>This includes every new style for this season and all standard makes such as</p> <p><b>J. E. TILT OPFORDS For Men</b></p> <p><b>PINGREE OXFORDS AND PUMPS--For Women</b></p> <p><b>UTZ &amp; DUNN OXFORDS AND PUMPS--For Women</b></p> <p><b>PONTIAC OXFORDS AND PUMPS--for Misses and Children</b></p> <p><b>Men's Summer Shirts</b></p> <p><b>All Reduced 20 per ct.</b></p>	\$5.00 val. \$4.00	\$3.00 val. \$2.40	4.50 val. 3.60	2.50 val. 2.00	4.00 val. 3.20	2.00 val. 1.60	3.50 val. 2.80	1.50 val. 1.20	<p><b>\$9.90</b></p> <p>Takes Your Choice of our entire stock</p> <p><b>Women's and Misses' Tailored Suits and Coats</b></p> <p>Here you can select from the choicest styles of the season</p> <p>Regular prices of Suits were up to \$40.00</p> <p>Regular prices of Coats were up to \$27.50</p> <p>Priced for final clearance at only</p> <p><b>\$9.90</b></p>
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3.50 val. 2.80	1.50 val. 1.20									

Broken line of large sizes in Ivy Corsets. Values up to \$5.00, now **89c**

Regular 20c and 25c Summer Lawns, all reduced to **9c yd**

**WEST'S REMODELING SALE**

**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 \$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.

**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.

**Walk a Block and Save a Dollar**

WE WILL FURNISH YOUR HOME FROM CELLAR TO GARRET ON EASY PAYMENTS. A COMPLETE STOCK OF THE BEST FURNITURE AND HOUSE FURNISHINGS ALWAYS CARRIED. WHY PAY THE FANCY PRICES WHEN YOU CAN WALK ONE BLOCK AND BUY THE SAME GOODS FOR MUCH LESS MONEY. WE PAY CASH FOR USED GOODS. WILL EXCHANGE NEW GOODS FOR OLD. SECOND HAND DEPARTMENT IN BASEMENT.

**ADCOOK & FRITTS**  
 CORNER FIR AND JEFFERSON. PHONE RED 31.