

THE OBSERVER

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BUYERS MEETING AT PORTLAND.

The name of Nathan Strauss will in the future be a pleasant sound to the ears of the country merchant. It was he who conceived the idea of holding a "Buyers' Week" in Portland, and with the assistance of the Commercial club of that city carried out one of the most pleasant events coupled with a strictly commercial proposition that has been our pleasure to witness.

Mr. Strauss had heard his fellow-townsmen deplore the fact that the city and country were too far apart, both socially and commercially. He had seen many excursions enter Portland, realized the excursionists were well treated and all that, but for some reason the vital spot had not been touched. The business end of life is needfully so thoroughly uppermost in the mind of every man that Mr. Strauss concluded if a combination of business and pleasure could be blended it would win.

He conscientiously believes that the City of Portland is a great jobbing center, which it is; he knew personally that the stocks of goods carried in the Portland wholesale houses are remarkably large; that prices are not out of line with other cities, and last that Portland is the logical center for four states to buy from.

All of these things entered Mr. Strauss' mind and, like the boy with the blocks (for we are all boys with blocks), he began building his structure. The first row of blocks he laid were commercial blocks, the next social and he alternated until he put on a fancy cornice which consisted of a delightful banquet by the Commercial club at which were seated three hundred and fifty country merchants. They were all in good humor. They had journeyed to Portland, gone through the big stocks convincing themselves of values. There was not a kicker in the bunch, neither was there a man who was taken off his feet by the splendid entertainment. It was a gathering of cool, hard headed business men driving bargains in every deal, shaking hands and meeting

men whom they had traded with for years but had never before seen.

In our opinion Strauss' buyers week has done more to bring Portland and the country that she serves close together than thousands of dollars spent in any other direction. It will be an annual affair—it is bound to be. Next year there will likely be twice the number of buyers and next year Portland will doubtless plan even a better entertainment—if such a thing is possible. It will gradually come to be the week of the year that the country merchant will plan on leaving the store in charge of the clerks while he goes to Portland to buy goods and have a genuine good time.

GOLD AND HIGH PRICES.

Whether or not there is an over-production of gold at this time and if there is, whether this over-production is in any way responsible for the high prices that are affecting practically every commodity—these are questions that are receiving much serious consideration. Joseph T. Talbot, vice president of the National City Bank of New York, in an address delivered last May at the meeting of the Bankers' club at Detroit, held that there was not an over-production of gold. The learned Prof. Fisher claims that there is an over-production and that it is directly responsible for high prices. The opinions of these two authorities are sharply conflicting but they represent a diversity of opinion that is existing among authorities throughout the world.

It is easy to see that the production of gold has greatly increased, but it is far less easy to show that there has been any such over-production as to account for present prices—or, indeed, any over-production at all. There is at the present time a tremendous and wholly legitimate demand for gold in all the great commercial centers. What with Turkish, Balkan and Chinese loans, the accumulation of gold against possible wars, the enormous demand of India for the precious metal, it will be seen that we are not likely to have more of it than we need. India alone, according to Mr. Talbot, is now taking from London more than one-quarter of the world's production. And so much of this is hoarded that it is not likely to find its way into general circulation.

It is easy to show that if trade continues to expand and the demand for gold increases in the same ratio as during the last few years, we shall be threatened with, if not actually confronted by a real shortage. This he says, will have the immediate effect of bringing about a sharp decline in prices.

The theory that gold has depreciated in value because of over-production seems to be very largely an inference from the high scale of prices. But there are many at least possible causes for high prices. Tariffs, monopolies, middlemen, strikes, government regulation of production and distribution, the very marked movement from farm to city—all these are not unimportant factors in the problem.

But if it is really true that there is an over-production of gold there is comfort in the thought that the de-

mand is rapidly catching up with the supply for that, as Mr. Talbot says, means lower prices.

The London fire chief is in this country to learn, he says. One of the things he will probably learn is the amazing capacity of a chief's uniforms for brass buttons.

One of the popular colors this fall will be midnight blue. We had an idea that color was restricted to the hours between 6 and 7 a. m., and that midnight was a glorious pink.

The authors are landing a good many good jobs under the Wilson administration. There is money in writing if a man knows how to go at it.

It is said that the president frequently is not recognized on the street. That's nothing. President Huerta is not recognized at all.

It has been discovered that the women of Greece wore slit skirts away back 3500 years ago. Well, look what happened to Greece.

Huge Grain Crop.

The Enterprise Chieftain of recent date says:

With a score of threshing machines and combines now at work, the grain crop of the county is rapidly being gathered into sacks and bins. The total yield will exceed that of last year by a considerable margin. More land is under the plow, and, all sections included, the return per acre is probably a trifle larger. The quality will be up to or above the average.

As compared with last year, the 1913 growing season was more propitious in some respects and less so in others. Too much rain fell in July and August of 1912, causing the grain to grow so rank that much was not matured when the early autumn set in. The rainfall has been about right this season, but two light summer frosts damaged crops in some of the lower lands. However the grain affected was mostly cut at once for hay. The hills and the higher slopes as a rule escaped altogether.

A. L. Barton's new separator started work Monday morning on C. F. Whitehead's farm west of Enterprise. It went next to Henry Deranleau's then on up the backbone of the ridge to L. Deranleau's and so on. There is about 700 acres of wheat in the strip and the farmers will be disappointed if the yield averages less than 40 bushels. J. H. Hartshorn, through whom the outfit was bought, is in general charge of it and Kelly Hartshorn runs the separator.

Julian Ellis' machine started threshing George S. Craig's wheat east of Enterprise Wednesday morning. If Mr. Craig's yield turns out anything under 40 bushels he will not tell about it. He will have 400 acres on this hill ranch next year.

C. S. Haney and O. J. Rand have put their outfits in order and are all ready for work. W. J. Hammack's new machine probably will find all it can do on Alder Slope.

Threshing has been under way on Prairie creek two weeks or more, and some of the best wheat in the northwest has been handled. Upper Prairie creek never looked finer, with immense crops of choice wheat, barley and oats.

Further away from town the farmers have to wait their turn to get their grain threshed as a rule, as these districts in the hills are so now that the older sections get first call on the machines. Considerable grain will be threshed at Chico and Zumwalt and at the Buttes.

Leap will have a very heavy crop of excellent grain. Most of the fall wheat has been cut and some of it threshed. The same is true of the Lostine section and the rich lower valley around Wallowa.

The north end of the county reports a good crop everywhere, and an unusually large yield in Paradise and farther west on both sides of the Grande Ronde river.

The small Idaho combines brought in by T. C. Bunnell and H. A. Galloway, have been watched with great interest. Mr. Galloway started work last week and the results have fully justified expectations. Two men with eight horses have been cutting and threshing the wheat, an almost incredible performance when one remembers the old time methods with a

You Are Cordially Invited to

Visit Our Exclusive

Millinery Dept.

and inspect the first showing of

"GAGE BROS." and "LYMAN'S"

Tailored Street Hats

"FOR AUTUMN AND WINTER"

West
 THE QUALITY STORE



great crew of farmers and their "hands."

Farmers and threshers are requested to send in reports on grain yields, that it may become known what this country produces. Last year the banner yield reported came from J. W. Hayes of Joseph who raised 52.78 bushels of wheat to the acre on a 17-acre tract, without irrigation. But anything from 30 bushels up is good. The great wheat raising states farther east consider 20 bushels to the acre something to brag about for years.

Curious Marriage Custom.

Among the islanders of Jersey there is a very curious but pretty marriage custom. As soon as the ceremony is over and when the happy couple are entering into occupation of their house the large granite slab over the porch is inscribed with the initials of the bride and bridegroom, and between the two a rough representation of two hearts is entwined, the whole thus forming a marriage certificate for all the world to see. It is said that should the couple by any chance be one day divorced the hearts are pierced through by an arrow, which is cut into them.

Witty Retort.

A lady of great beauty and attractiveness who was an ardent admirer of Ireland once crowned her praise of it at a party by saying:

"I think I was meant for an Irish woman."

"Madam," rejoined a witty son of Erin who happened to be present, "thousands would back me in saying that you were meant for an Irishman."—London Tatler.

Persuasion.

"I can't marry you," she said. "You are old enough to be my father."

"Don't hesitate on that account. Ten years from now nobody will suspect it."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Imitative.

Mother—Whatever are you doing to poor dolly, child? Child—I'm just going to put her to bed, mummy. I've taken off her hair, but I can't get her teeth out.—London Tit-Bits.

Soul System.

"Algy writes to seven girls."

"It's a wonder he doesn't get his love affairs mixed."

"He keeps a card index."—Washington Herald.

The Nature of the Creature.

"Your cook?"

"Oh, she is so careless that I don't believe she could drop a remark without breaking her word."—Smart Set.

Be not simply good; be good for something.—Thoreau.

No Encouragement.
 "Gerald, have I ever given you reason to think I would marry you?"
 "No, Gwendolen; you never have, and if you don't want me to bother you any more I won't. Just give me my regular good night kiss and I'll go."—Chicago Tribune.

Inquisitive.
 Nell—I declare! That woman finds out everything. I never knew any one so inquisitive. Belle—That's right. I believe she would even pump an organ.—Philadelphia Record.

Well Tried.
 Mrs. Exe—Did you try that new girl you heard of? Mrs. Wye—Try her? Why, she tried me beyond all endurance.—Boston Transcript.

A Love Tap.
 Miss Redbud—Do you think he will love me when I am old? Miss Pallade—There's one consolation. You will soon know. Puck.

NOTICE TO VOTERS.

The registration books are now open for registration, and all persons desiring to vote at the special election to be held October 1, 1913, must register by the 15th of September, 1913, regardless of previous registration.

LEE WARNICK, City Recorder.

WANTED—At once, a good live man to take care of the Grand Union Tea Company business at La Grande. A good thing for the right party. Write Grand Union Tea Company, Walla Walla, Wash. 9-8 tf.

LOST—On street Saturday, one blue wool sweater. Finder Phone Red. 3101. 9-8 2t p.

FOUND—A garment, call for same at Cherry's New Laundry. 9-8 1t.

DORDAN'S BAR

215 FIR STREET.

COUNTRY TRADE SOLICITED. PHONE ORDERS TAKEN CARE OF AT ALL HOURS.

J. F. DORDAN, Proprietor

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.

FREE Hardwood Rule

WILL BE GIVEN FREE TO EVERY CHILD OF SCHOOL AGE WHO MAKES A PURCHASE OF EVEN ONE SMALL TABLET FROM OUR EXTENSIVE LINE OF

School Supplies

THERE IS A SPECIAL VALUE IN THESE TABLETS, ALSO IN OUR PENCILS, FOR THEY ARE MADE ESPECIALLY FOR OUR STORE.

GET IT AT HILL'S ITS BETTER

Hill's Drug Store

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