

THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS, Editor and Owner

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WHY NOT HAVE AN ECONOMY CLUB?

La Grande, and every other city of her size, has various clubs, all of which are good and fill their respective places in society. But we have thought of the burning need at the present time for an "Economy Club." Such a club would have a tendency to put on the brake in the home, in the business, in the public office—to establish economy in every act. Instead of spending three dollars a day for living the half of it would suffice if a well organized Economy club prevailed here.

You who cry of the high living cost, did you live in the eighties and the nineties? When it was a luxury to smoke a five cent cigar instead of the bit cigar today? When it was easy to walk instead of ride in automobiles that cost ten cents a mile to run? When it was easy to work ten hours a day instead of eight? When social functions were pulled off with guests dressed in ordinary clothes instead of plug hats and spike tailed coats? When a social function costs the household but a few cents in the way of refreshments instead of ten times as many dollars?

Did you live in those days when people were inclined to live within their means and save a few cents for the rainy day?

And that could all be done over again if the Economy club could be made a reality. No, there would be no discount on the happiness in life. You would be just as happy as now, just as healthy as now, and the savings bank roster would contain many of our names where now they do not appear.

ONE CAUSE OF DEPRESSION.

There is always one cause for business depression that is patent to all western people who live in or near a mining section, and that is when a shortage of gold is recorded for the year universally there is a clamor that business is duller.

The people of Baker county can well remember when the hard times of 1893 were on in other parts of the country and Baker was a healthy, energetic

camp having plenty of money. Times were hard and men were digging for gold and finding it. When business gets so good that money is more easily obtained than to fight with nature prospectors and miners seek other employment. Then when money begins to tighten you will see the prospector start for the hills with his pack-horse.

This year is an indicator to the mining section. Our guess is that Eastern Oregon will produce more gold in 1913 than she has produced in three previous years; that more mines will be opened, more men be employed than for years past. And it all comes about because the average production of gold has dropped, adding one very good cause to the many that have combined to slow things up and cause a duller business period.

OREGON AGAIN HONORED.

It is with considerable pride that the Observer calls attention to election of Arthur Swift of Baker county to the vice presidency of the National Farmers' union, an organization composed of four million members. Recognizing this farmer's worth to his fellowmen; his ability to do things in a national way; his sterling integrity and soundness of judgment, the national organization in convention assembled in Salina, Kansas, recently, chose him as second man to control and map out the work of the great and far reaching farmers' movement which extends from the lakes to the gulf and from ocean to ocean.

Mr. Swift is a native of Oregon. He has been identified with Baker county since very early life and he loves this state as a mother loves her child. His elevation to the vice presidency will no only bring attention of farmers of the nation to himself, but it will also direct their attention to this state, which today needs farmers more than any other class of citizens. The influx of business men into Oregon continues. Men visit La Grande almost daily seeking locations for some business, but there are few farmers coming and if it were established in the minds of the farmers of the nation that Oregon offers better inducements to the farming class than to any other, we believe this state would have a greater rural population.

Certain it is that the election of Mr. Swift cannot harm Oregon's prospect for agriculturists, and besides it is a pretty compliment paid to a deserving man.

MACADAM.

Too much criticism should not be given the macadam road, for there are some good macadam roads in city and country. And there are some decidedly rotten pieces of macadam, as well. The reason for this rotten macadam is beyond us, for in some instances the same contractor built the good and bad. Why he built the bad when he demonstrated that he could build good roads is more than we know unless he was held to specifications drawn by an incompetent official.

At any rate we have some macadam which should be fixed. Unless it is repaired soon all money in first cost will be lost and the highway will be next to impassable. Fasten the blame for this poor work. That's what is

necessary. Fasten the blame, and then let some one show cause.

Under the commission plan of government the responsibility for every act is nailed down and it is not hard to find the one at fault, while under the aldermanic form responsibility is so terribly divided that it is impossible to ever attach blame and make it stick.

TOM WORD AND THE DECLARATION.

Considerable sport was had over Nick Sinnott reading the Declaration of Independence at a Fourth of July celebration in The Dalles and several people complimenting him for his excellent speech, but the report now comes from Portland that Sheriff Tom Word in his anxiety to wipe out the I. W. W. boys, arrested two of them for attempting to read the old historical document recently.

It is said that one of the I. W. W.'s mounted a soap box and began in sonorous tones to recite the Declaration and immediately the sheriff grabbed him and turned him over to a deputy. Soon another of the I. W. W. organization mounted the same box and began the same proceeding. Again the sheriff got his man and the two were placed in jail—for attempting to read the Declaration of Independence.

Tom has been mentioned for governor, but it is believed he will have to study history a while before the people will believe he is sufficiently familiar with early events to entrust to him the gubernatorial chair.

PORTLAND'S ADVANCED SCHOOL METHODS.

It is interesting to everyone who watches school work to notice the advanced ideas and methods in educational matters that Superintendent Alderman is applying to the Portland schools. Where once the "readin', ritin', and 'rithmetic" alone prevailed, now comes steps even in advance of domestic science and manual training. The school garden, which is one of Superintendent Alderman's ideas and the one that made him strong with Elbert Hubbard, is this year to be a great feature of the work. Study of the industrial plants of Portland by the children has begun although the school has been open but a few days.

All of these ideas are modern. They will come in other places in due time but Oregon in school work, as in other things, is today leading the nation.

ROBBINS QUILTS NEWSPAPER WORK.

George A. Robbins, who for some time has run the Pendleton Live Wire, announces that he has sold his newspaper to Alvin Johnson who will in the future turn on the current and make sparks issue from the Live Wire coil. Mr. Robbins did not state what he intends doing in the future but whatever that may be there is a large number of friends who wish for him the prosperity that counts and that is obtained without too much effort.

And until yet Geiger, Geiger the concrete paving man from Salem, has not been heard from. Still one can hear an echo occasionally around the city hall—"Geiger, Geiger, has one here seen Geiger?"

In Memoriam.
(Contributed.)

Wiebka Marie Catherine Graves, Mrs. Herman Vehers was born in Schwenhusen, Germany, June 14, 1853 and came to America first to Steubenville, Kanaksee county, Ill., in 1857. Here most of her childhood days were spent.

In 1872 she became the wife of Mr. Herman Vehers. From Steubenville, they moved to Nebraska in 1884 and then to Oregon in 1902, having resided here ever since and being among the most prosperous farmers of Union county. In recent years Mrs. Vehers has had very poor health; her sickness has been increasing for several months. During the last few weeks her suffering was intense. She was patient and uncomplaining. Her daughter, Helen McReynolds, of Portland, Oregon, has been by her bedside constantly for months and with filial love and fidelity did all that loving heart and hands could do, but God had called her to come up higher and graciously removed her from the earthly house of his tabernacle of clay, to the house not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens. Sunday evening, September 14th, she passed peacefully away. The funeral services were

held at the Central Christian church, of which she was a devout member, and were conducted by the Rev. O. W. King of Everett, Wash., a former pastor of this church. A large congregation of relatives, friends and acquaintances and strangers attended her funeral to pay their last tribute of respect. She was then laid to rest in the Peach cemetery at Island City.

This loving wife and mother leaves to mourn her loss a faithful husband and a large family of devoted children, namely: Mrs. Helen McReynolds, of Portland, Ore.; Mrs. Anna Kirchner, of Kahota, Mo.; Mrs. Alice Webster, of La Grande; Mr. Otto Vehers, of Deer Lodge, Mont.; and John, William, George and Earnest, all of La Grande. One daughter having preceded her in July 1897, on the 30th day.

A precious one from us is gone,
 A voice we loved is stilled;
 A place is vacant in our home,
 Which never can be filled.

God in his wisdom has recalled,
 The boon his love had given
 And though the body moulders here,
 The soul is safe in heaven.

FROM SHAKESPEARE.

How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is
 To have a thankless child!
 —King Lear.

Imperious Caesar, dead and turned to clay,
 Might stop a hole to keep the wind away.
 —Hamlet.

Poor and content is rich and rich enough.—Othello.

Golden lads and girls all must,
 As chimney sweepers, come to dust.
 —Cymbeline.

Now, good digestion wait on appetite
 And health on both!
 —Macbeth.

We must take the current when it serves
 Or lose our ventures.
 —Julius Caesar.

New
Millinery

In a wonderful variety of styles and shades, now on display in our

Exclusive
Millinery
Department

Agents for the Famous "Gage Bros." and "Lyman's" Pattern Hats. Here you will always find the largest and best assortment selections in the city and always priced reasonable. "Pay us a visit."

NEW FALL SUITINGS
AND TRIMMINGS TO MATCH

Many of the elegant new Brocades are in exclusive dress lengths. New Brocade Velvets, New Brocade Ratine, New Brocade Bandings.

Come and see for yourself our extensive showing of the many new fabrics for the Fall Season.

West
THE QUALITY STORE

New Fish Market

Foley Annex.
 Cor. Chestnut and Jefferson.

FISH OF ALL KINDS
 OYSTERS AND CLAMS

Fresh Chinook Salmon 12c a Pound.

JOHN KULGIS, Prop.

Crawfish

Foley Grill

Equipped to Serve
French Dry Cleaning

WE CLEAN

Suits
 Dresses
 Silks
 Laces

Gloves
 Furs
 Feathers
 Etc.

A REAL EXPERT IN CHARGE

Incidentally, We have the only Complete Dry Cleaning Plant between Boise and Portland. Parcel Post shipments given special attention.

Cherry's New Laundry, Inc.
 GEO. GILBERT, Manager.

La Grande National Bank

Organized in 1887.

DESIGNATED DEPOSITORY OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.
 UNITED STATES POSTAL SAVINGS DEPOSITORY.

Capital \$100,000.00
 Surplus \$130,000.00
 Total Resources \$1,000,000.00

For twenty-six years, in all kinds of financial weather, we have successfully catered to the monetary wants of the people of La Grande and the Grande Ronde Valley.

We respectfully solicit your business.

La Grande National Bank
 La Grande, Oregon