

THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS, Editor and Owner

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THE BUSY FOURTH FLOOR.

To the person who wants a stimulant in the line of seeing people work, we can recommend no better place to go than the fourth floor of the New Foley building where the O. W. R. & N. officials are located with the department headquarters. It is not longer necessary to journey to Portland or to Spokane or Seattle to see activity. Just enter the elevator and before the car stops at floor No. 4 you will hear the busy typewriters as they click away under the operating force.

A large slice of the O. W. R. & N. railroad system is being directed from the fourth floor and it requires competent men at the head as well as clerical help and competent stenographers.

It is a busy, busy place.

FALL BUSINESS.

Yes, business is good in La Grande.

Fall trade is opening up in a handsome manner and there is every indication that it will continue. Money is rolling in for crops, it is coming in from the pay rolls regularly and we can see no reason for dull times, except in the minds of people who belong to the pessimistic class.

But La Grande has reached a point where it takes money to do business. Only a few days ago three different people were here seeking locations for lines of business. Instead of attempting to start new enterprises it was suggested that they purchase something that was already a going concern. It was found that they had little money to invest and expected to run a very small business. Now, it is very doubtful if that kind of a business will pay here. We are too far from market for small concerns, they must carry the stock and it requires a large investment.

But all of this does not mean that business is not good and the large stocks here are growing larger every year.

EVERY HEAT A RACE.

It is understood that the speed ring

department of the Union County Fair association has determined to change the rules of the racing game this year and make every heat a race.

This will give earnest competition among the horses from the very first tap of the bell on the first day of the fair until the closing event. When a heat is a race there is little jockeying, there is little pulling and the horses go for blood. It is hard to fix a race of this kind in the stable before the horses go on the track and if any fixing is attempted the judges can detect it with more ease than the two in three and three in five races.

All things are shaping for a great race meet during the fair, which together with the harmonious effort in the way of exhibits means Union county will have the best fair in the history of this section of the country this year.

ANIMAL CIRCUS COMING.

Contracting Agent William K. Peck, arrived in town today, arriving for the appearance of Al. G. Barnes Wild Animal Shows that will give two performances here Saturday, October 11. In answer to numerous questions he said:

It is with great pleasure and pride that I offer the following remarks in connection with our appearance in your city. It is not my purpose to enlarge upon the manifold features that we present in the Barnes show, but rather to emphasize the belief that its maintenance to public is due very largely to the support accorded us by the more discriminating element in society, the element that is partial to good, clean amusement. The best years of Barnes' life have been devoted to the education of wild and domestic animals from all parts of the known world. I think I may say his efforts have been attended with a fair amount of success, as today he has the greatest and most sensational animal show in America. Early in his career he became convinced that a tented show of high class animal acts presented in a way to please refined audiences would be given liberal financial support an entertainment that was clean, wholesome and devoid of reprehensible features. The Barnes show is a western organization, and aims to establish itself in the minds of the public in so favorable a manner that its annual visit may be regarded as a welcome event. Everybody should see our novel street parade that takes place at 10:30 a. m. A decided novelty in street parades.

Washington, Sept. 20.—Senator Work's amendment to the Hetch-Hetchy bill, striking out all acknowledgment of federal authority over the disposal of the water of the Tuolumne river, appears certain of defeat at the hands of the friends of the measure in the senate public lands committee. When that committee gets a quorum to act, the amendment and the opposition set up by Senator Smoot will be set aside by a vote already pledged by the remainder of the committee.

Allowing for three prior consideration of the tariff conference report, Clerk Dunnigan of the San Francisco board of supervisors, believes that the bill will have become law before October 1. That will give time for preliminary work in the survey of the dam site and other parts of the municipal water supply plant this season.

THE ROOT OF THE TROUBLE

By Louis Alber Lamb

It makes us think of the witticism spoken by one of Dickens' people — "Income twenty shillings, outgo nineteen shilling, result, happiness. Income twenty shillings, outgo twenty shillings: Result, Misery." Says Louis Albert Lamb and then he continues as follows.

"What's the trouble?" Well, it simmers down to this. That the world—nations, cities, corporations, families, and individuals have been trying to strike a balance with twenty shillings spent and only nineteen shillings of current revenue! That's the trouble.

Reports to the Treasury Department at Washington indicate that the principal countries of the world have state debts amounting to about \$42,000,000,000. It requires nearly \$1,700,000,000 a year to pay the interest and other charges annually accruing on this enormous liability.

These countries have annual revenues of about \$11,600,000,000 and government expenditures totaling nearly \$11,700,000,000—showing a deficit of, say, \$100,000,000 a year. That's enough of a deficit to cause a little worry.

The foreign commerce of the world's chief countries, in and out, makes an annual total of about \$36,000,000,000. Of course, this figure represents the surplus of production, after supplying consumptive demands at home. The total annual output of commodities may run above \$100,000,000,000. When we try to translate this into terms of fixed capital, representing the means and instrumentalities of such a total yearly commerce, we are appalled by the magnitude of the estimates. In comparison with it the government debts of the world sink into insignificance. It may be \$200,000,000,000. All estimates must be guesses; but the total is stupendous.

Behind this inconceivable mass of balanced assets and liabilities, government debts, and private credits, the Director of the Mint finds gold in banks and public treasuries amounting to about \$5,167,600,000; silver \$2,621,200,000; and uncovered paper money, \$3,567,500,000.

The \$5,167,600,000 of gold shown in reserves appears to be about one-third the total amount produced since the discovery of America. The rest has disappeared from monetary and credit channels, where it would be of inestimable service just now; and so far as commercial benefits are concerned, it might as well be in the abysses of the Pacific Ocean.

What's the trouble? The trouble is Civilization. The trouble is that the expansive nature of human ambitions, once given a glimpse of "things more excellent," outruns any possible material container. Of the Philosopher Kant, our own Elbert Hubbard said that in his whole lifetime he did not travel more than eighty miles from his birthplace; but people nowadays are not like Kant. It requires more than 666,000 miles of railway to carry the world's passengers and freights, and the demands for better transportation everywhere on land and sea is imperative. About 13,000,000 telephones are in use in the world and many times that number are needed. The telegraph lines cover 1,400,000 miles with 6,000,000 miles of wire. The post offices give mail service totalling almost 1,800,000,000 miles annually, and transmit about \$7,500,000,000 a year in the form of money orders.

In the old days comfort was a mode of sinful indulgence—a bond of attachment to things temporal and mundane—to be frowned on as diverting attention from the Holy Felicity of Heaven. Education except as an apogee to holy orders was "de trop" except for the rich. Sanitation was a luxury and a substantial act of unfaith in the wisdom and mercy of Providence. Fine apparel was a mode of defying the flesh and exalting temporal appearances to the prejudice of eternal interests. Ornate houses, r eubles, art objects, equipages, Persian rugs, Shearson, Chippendale, Adam, Boulle—all devices to center the mind on earth—were not to be thought of except by the favored few.

Civilization is the matter. Everybody the world around has had a taste of modernism and demands more. Instead of regarding work as the end of life, most people regard pleasure as the prime object. Labor used to be the theme of poets; and contentment the "far-off ideal." Now leisure is the ideal and discontent the universal passion of mankind.

Having tasted the sweets of "tinned music," as they say in the Congo Hinterland, everybody wants a phonograph or a player-piano—on the installment plan if the house will not stand and immediate draft. Having in view the careless ease of city nights, youth deserts the farm and troops to store, factory, or selling force. To live by one's wits in "honorific." To live by muscle is to concede inferiority. "White Collar" jobs are in request. Farm labor is as scarce as the austere faith of Plymouth Rock.

Saving was a cardinal virtue when Ben Franklin was alive. It was supposed to have some correspondence with sterling character. Today, with most people, it is only a necessity—a bitter compulsion to stave off possible want between "jobs" or to meet "payments" on some extravagant purchase.

"Panem et circensem!" it was in Rome. And "Bread and the circus!" is the cry of the modern populace. "Short hours, big pay and plenty of picture shows! Never mind the future! We may be dead tomorrow!"

It is not fashionable to speak of religion as an economic factor; but, fashionable or not, no honest observer can gainsay the fact that the decay of faith among men has contributed not a little to the "trouble" of which we are speaking. So long as mankind in general had faith in a personal God, belief in future rewards, and assurance of final salvation through Divine Grace there were powerful checks in the way of reckless living, wild borrowing, insane spending, and blind determinism in conduct. Having lost the fine flower and potency of ancient faiths, the populace—the proletariat of the world—has taken resort in socialism, radicalism, syndicalism, unionism as the only agencies by which the ills of materialistic living and thinking may be corrected. Unfaith and envy are sisters, and revolutionary ideas are cousins-germane to both.

By the same inevitable association of opposites which set up the guillotine within eye shot of the "alcoves de volupé," we have combined in our industrial leaders the most paternal benevolence and the most vulturine cupidity and shrewdness. These men of vision, of genius, of wonderful driving force have done the impossible and have transformed the planet for the indubitable benefit of mankind. They were the unconscious tools of the cosmic urge, or elan, using the corporate means at hand with utter boldness to cross deserts, pierce mountains, exploit resources, and banking the profits, while the glamor of their achievements was on the public vision.

But their works are not immune from calumny any more than they; and the jealousy of the proletariat is inflamed against what the people most applauded in 1879, 1898 and 1901. The demi-gods of corporation creation in 1898 are anathema now; and the mergers which were to usher in the "co-operative commonwealth" are maranatha now! Such is the story of the craze for disruption, regulation and

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reform. Civilization must rest on confidence and not on cupidity if it is to last. Modernism if it is mere materialism is not worth while. Regulation is not rapine.

As long as great masses of mankind want certain things—whether for pleasure, or profit, or gain, or loss makes no difference—there will be daring "enterpreneurs" to supply those things. Alert men will get rich, and combine, and employ their massed brains and money to augment their power. Regulation of popular desires, individual self-control, repression of personal extravagance, common sense living, are the urgent needs rather than regulation of industry, corporate wealth, and business activity.

The trouble is this: All the world wants things beyond its immediate purchasing power, and it has mortgaged the future so recklessly that lenders are aghast and decline to make further loans except at ruinous premiums.

We have learned, lately, that luxuries must be paid for. It is impossible, without creating public debts, to have fine schools, grand cities, super-dreadnaughts, splendid armies, spectacular wars (with moving-picture men in the van), unlimited water supplies, irrigating dams, Panama Canals, brick pavements, free golf links, tennis court in every park, and orchestral music "al fresco" gratis. It is impossible, without enlisting new capital and credit resources, to have an unending supply of all luxuries and new necessities one sees advertised in the magazines. If the people want automobiles they must pay the charges on the capital invested in motor plants—they must pay more for shoe leather—they must pay more for gasoline—they must expect to pay more in an endless chain for every luxury they indulge in. The whole range of "Supply and Demand" is involved.

The people everywhere have been insanely desirous of thousands of excellent things provided by the gods of science, technology, industry and advertising. The populace has been deliriously anxious to taste the sweets of leisure, luxury and pleasure. In general, the masses have gone as far as possible to obtain these baubles. Public administration has followed the same urge, borrowing at a reckless rate and paying pawnbrokers' interest. Corporations have done the same.

There had to be an end somewhere. At last the world woke up to the fact that it had drawn down to the danger line all the liquid capital left by wars, calamities and extravagance.

Enforced liquidation was the only remedy. It has been in progress months. Everybody hopes it is nearing an end. Great hardship has been forced upon many people, but hardship was the penalty the world had to pay for trying to go too far "on tie." Let's slow down for a while and save a dollar or two. A period of Ben Franklin thrift will work wonders.

RELIABLE HOME TREATMENT

The ORRINE treatment for the Drink Habit can be used with absolute confidence. It destroys all desire for whiskey, beer or other alcoholic stimulants. Thousands have successfully used it and have been restored to lives of sobriety and usefulness. Can be given secretly. Cost only \$1.00 per box. If you fail to get results from

ORRINE after a trial, your money will be refunded. Ask for free booklet telling all about ORRINE. O. E. Silverthorn, corner Depot and Adams.

T. J. Craig, prominent game warden. Alfred Millsap and George Cornie, the men who brought the fish car to La Grande today, are spending the afternoon in La Grande. They agree that the city has handled the fish with the dispatch that La Grande did today.

La Grande National Bank

Organized in 1887.

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

Capital \$100,000.00
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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