

THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS, Editor and Owner

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Address all communications to THE OBSERVER, 1710 Sixth St., La Grande, Oregon.

SENTIMENT CHANGING FOR THE CHARTER.

While La Grande will not be permitted to give full expression regarding the adoption of the Commission charter Wednesday, because of the decision of the council (four members of the council) preventing re-opening of registration books and the swearing in of voters, yet nevertheless sentiment is rapidly changing in favor of the proposed charter.

Those who ten days ago believed it was not the proper form of government because they did not understand how labor would fare under its provisions, now see that the man who works for the city will be in much better shape—that he will get his money promptly instead of getting promises to pay him in three years; that he will not suffer the usual discount because of the financial condition of the city, and that he will get his money promptly instead of getting promises to pay him in three years; that he will not suffer the usual discount because of the financial condition of the city, and that he will get his money promptly instead of getting promises to pay him in three years; that he will not suffer the usual discount because of the financial condition of the city, and that he will get his money promptly instead of getting promises to pay him in three years.

If the O. W. R. & N. on pay day would issue a scrip that was payable in three years and in order to get cash on that scrip it was necessary to discount it five or ten per cent that company would have few employees and would soon be in the hands of a receiver. The city is doing that very thing to every man who works it.

Laboring men are viewing the new charter entirely differently than in the beginning of this campaign.

WILL GEORGE'S LUCK SAVE HIM

There is a good, sound trouncing laid on the shelf for Senator Chamberlain unless his opposition again gets foolish and by splitting asunder, attempting to make no imitations that are not in step with the progressive people of Oregon, they meet

George on the battle ground with several wings to their army, each of which proves to be weak and easily annihilated.

George's luck has ever been with him. He must carry a rabbit's foot taken from the negro who stepped backward over a murderer's grave in the dead hour of night, as tradition puts it. George has always been an easy man beaten, but his success has been due to his unwise opposition.

There is a good chance for those opposing him to make another mistake in the next campaign, and in the meantime doubtless George is laying quiet figuring on what the other fellows will do, not what he himself will do.

SCHOOL IN THE GREENHORNS

No better evidence could be produced to justify the belief that the mines of Baker county are coming back than the recent statement published that a school teacher has been employed for the Greenhorn district. Up in the Greenhorn mountains there is no industry but that of mining. For several years it has been a dead issue and only an occasional prospector would stick around and dream of the gold that had been produced and what might be produced in that heavily mineralized region.

But there would be no use for a school if only an occasional prospector were still on the job. The school means there are a number of families in the Greenhorns; that there are children there who need education and training. And this in turn means that mines are working and will continue to work during the winter season when the snow is several feet deep in the mountains there will be activity in the search of gold. And the gold will be found. It is there without doubt. All that is necessary is constant effort. The past has demonstrated this fact beyond question.

EMERGENCY FUNDS.

Governor West is to be supplied with more "emergency funds" for the purpose of cleaning up and purifying wicked Oregon. The state board decided that it was best to let the governor have the money in order that he might be chief executive, police commissioner, court and jury—all combined.

But what do the people think about the matter—the people who furnish this money? It is the easiest matter in the world for an impractical bank clerk when elevated to the governor's chair to spend the public money and parade over the state on horseback, or any other old way to attract attention, but the impractical bank clerk seldom knows how hard this money comes. He probably gives little thought to the number of bushels of wheat it is necessary for Oregon to raise and sell in order to keep him in spending money. And the governor is not alone in this money-spending habit. Some of the officials should also take a few lessons in economy.

Taxes in Oregon are shooting skyward each year. Expenses are piling up and what is the state getting in return?

Chiefly, a governor who frees prisoners, makes spectacular exhibitions of his power and utterly fails to fill the high office into which mere chance placed him.

GOOD ADVICE LOST.

American medical journals and physicians are at present, and apparently with justice, somewhat exercised over the reported use of bichloride of mercury by persons intent upon self destruction.

It is probably unfortunate that what the technical journals have to say upon the subject is circulated in an atmosphere that does not need such advice, and that little of it has gained general publicity.

The Journal of the American Medical association says:

"Some weeks ago considerable publicity was given a case of accidental poisoning from bichloride of mercury tablets. The case was so 'featured' as to lead the public to infer that corrosive sublimate poisoning was not only a sure but also a painless route to the other world. Since this accident the papers have chronicled almost daily cases of suicide in which bichloride of mercury was the drug used. There is no doubt that many unstable persons who, in fits of depression contemplate suicide are restrained from taking the fatal step by the dread of the unknown agony they may suffer in committing it."

"To such the knowledge of a sure and painless method of death removes the only restraining influence left. It is fitting, then, that the public should be acquainted with the fact that there are few modes of suicide more painful and in which he agony is longer drawn out than that die to the taking of bichloride of mercury. If this fact were given the same publicity that was accorded the case of accidental poisoning, there is little doubt that the corrosive sublimate method of self destruction would cease to be the fatal fad it has recently become."

This is pre-eminently sound counsel based on accurate knowledge. It is, however, probably idle to hope that even sound advice may prevail upon the minds sunk to a morbid or melancholy state that will permit serious consideration of self destruction. The journals and physicians do direct service by backing movements for better supervision of the distribution of such poisons as bichloride.

1909 ROAD TAX LAW INVALID.

A bungle was made by the last legislature in its attempt to pass a curative act making all road taxes voted under the road law of 1909 legal, according to the opinion of the Supreme Court of Oregon, in the case of Menasha Woodenware Co., appellant, vs. Coos County Road District No. 6 of that county, and others, which case has been looked up by a trade journal on the coast. Owing to a bungle the curative section doesn't even apply to the road law at all. It applies to chapter 202, laws of 1909, which is an act to provide for a state sanatorium for the treatment of tuberculosis. The court holds that the error is fatal to the curative section of the 1913 law, which is section 2 of chapter 316.

Other cases are pending in which the same question is involved, whether the curative act of 1913 made road taxes levied under section 6321, Laws Oregon laws valid.

In one of these cases the Oregon and California Railroad Co. is plaintiff against Sheriff William Esch, of Marion county. Circuit Judge Galloway held that the curative law really cured, and the circuit court for Coos county in effect held the same, as it dismissed the suit brought by the Menasha Woodenware Co., which appealed from that decision.

The Coos county case directly involved the 5 mill levy voted by road district No. 6, in Coos county on December 4, 1912.

ADVERTISING LUMBER.

The West Coast Lumber Manufacturer's Association has practically decided to inaugurate an advertising campaign with the object of increasing a demand for Douglas fir, (Oregon pine). Says Geo. Cornwall in the Timberman. An appropriation of \$25,000 will be subscribed for the first year's campaign, which will at once be undertaken. The well-known firm of Crosby advertising experts, of Chicago, who have successfully conducted campaigns for other woods, will undertake the work of exploiting fir, directed to the ultimate consumer, national magazines, and other means of reaching the public eye.

The fir lumber manufacturers are recognizing the value of suggestion through the printed page. It is confidently hoped to point out the beauties of fir as an ideal finishing wood; its excellent qualities as a porch ma-

ANOTHER SHIPMENT OF THE FAMOUS

Gage Pattern Hats

Just Arrived

NOW ON DISPLAY IN OUR EXCLUSIVE MILLINERY DEPARTMENT.

You are cordially invited to come and visit our new millinery department, where you will find on display the largest and most attractive line of pattern hats, street hats and shapes.

West
THE QUALITY STORE



terial; its utility as a general all around purpose wood in home and factory construction; its adaptability of car building, combining lightness with great strength; in short, to tell the virtues of Douglas fir in a clear, simple and convincing manner.

Advertising various species of wood is not an experiment in the United States. The cypress, yellow pine, poplar and white pine campaigns have blazed the way, and indicated to the satisfaction of the contributors to advertising funds that results obtained through increased use, have been satisfactory.

There are two broad views to take of advertising lumber: The first and most important is to combat relentlessly the unjust aspersions by substitute makers, regarding the non-availability of wood. Take for instance, the studied attempt to decry the use of lumber for passenger car construction. The recent wreck on the New Haven road, due, it is alleged, to the physical fatigue of the engineer, is heralded throughout the country by the steel car builders, as a frightful example of the use of wooden cars, and the supposed superior merits of the steel car. The public mind is being educated to the fact that only steel cars are safe for travel and wooden cars should be discarded.

The Timberman does not care to enter into any controversy on the relative merits of steel versus wood cars, but cites this instance so show the powerful effect on the public mind of the presentation of a statement, which on its face, may seem fair, yet its conclusions may be manifestly unjust and unwarranted by actual facts.

Wooden cars are lighter to transport; cooler in summer and warmer in winter. The practice of coupling wooden and steel cars together is not a fair test of the performance of either car in a wreck. These facts are undisputable, but the public must be kept advised or its deductions through spacious arguments will be against the use of wood.

So much for the necessity of a campaign against misrepresentation from any source prejudicial to the use of lumber.

The next and broader step is to insure the fullest use of wood, by dispelling the impression that wood is rapidly disappearing, and creating a demand by developing new ideas for its use. It has been demonstrated by text and illustration the value of sleeping porches, from a hygienic standpoint. As a result of this campaign many old houses have been remodeled and this innovation added, which makes for both health and convenience. The sleeping porch, campaign immediately created an increased demand for lumber, and sleeping porches are now regarded as essential feature in modern home construction.

Mr. Bryan declares that he eats radishes three times a day. They do not interfere with chautauqua speaking as garlic would.

THE WISE WARNING.

Senator Bristow recently gave expression to the opinion that the warning to Americans to quit Mexico had resulted most unfortunately.

Whether there is justice in the criticism is not yet fully evident.

The question of what becomes of Americans in Mexico and what becomes of their property is, however, aside from general considerations of right, justice and a desire for peace on earth, just now the paramount issue in the Mexican dilemma so far as the United States is most concerned.

The duty of the nation is first to its citizens. It is not hard to conceive the viewpoint of such statesmen as those from border states, who have denounced the administration Mexican policy. They have seen injustice done Americans, enough to warp any broader judgment. It cannot be said that that Mexico will be called to a strict accounting for the damage that it does.

President Wilson warned Americans to quit Mexico.

This has been a wise attitude and the best course that offered. That it has not brought wholly satisfactory results is probably not unexpected. Misconstruction of the warning has led in places to a pell mell flight, rather than to an orderly exodus. It is not to be wondered at the Americans, all their possessions situated within the danger zone, should be loath to place full confidence in a government promise to gain for them redress for any losses they may suffer, for loss of homes and business is not a matter of money entirely.

Nor is it to be wondered at that in the face of increased anti-American sentiment, those remaining should complain that the Washington warning had but added a burden to their lot.

In the general consideration, however, the whole must not be lost sight of in viewing a part.

The order of President Wilson has insured the physical safety of hundreds who were in real jeopardy before. The safeguarding of life must be put above the safeguarding of property, however valuable. If lives have been saved, it would seem that the Wilson warning was justified.

Redress for wrongs done Americans in Mexico remains to be brought about. In the meantime it will be to the advantage of the United States if the exodus from Mexico continues. And while it does, the United States can do no more in return than well care for those who have left their fortunes and possessions to hostile hands, adding whatever such bill may be to the debt that Mexico in the end must pay.

Jack Frost will soon end the X-ray gown controversy anyway.

Huerta and Thaw seem to be the two most prominent members of the up against it club.

The Designer of the "AMERICAN QUEEN CORSET" is recognized as the foremost artist in the country. This Corset is correct in its minutest detail. A Phone Call or postal will get you a demonstration.

The only strictly made-to-measure or tailored corset in La Grande.

MRS. O. CALHOUN-COMBS.
Corsetiere.

Phone Black 1971 1503 Seventh St.

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS.

To all those who have not yet paid their 1912 tax, we wish to remind them that taxes are due and payable now. The last half of the 1912 tax becomes delinquent on October 7th, and if not paid before that date, penalty, with interest from April 7th will be added, and property is subject to the issuance of Delinquent Certificates thereon.

Statements were sent out last February and March, and no second statement will be sent out.

Call us up, or write this office, and we will gladly look up your tax account.

AUGUST HUG,
Sheriff and Tax Collector.
9-26 St.

Crawfish
Foley Grill

STATEMENT OF THE OWNER-SHIP, management, circulation, etc., of La Grande Evening Observer, required by the Act of August 24, 1912.

Name of Editor, Managing Editor, Business Manager and Publisher, Bruce Dennis, La Grande, Oregon. Owners: (If corporation give name and address of stock holders holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of stock) Bruce Dennis, sole owner.

Known bondholders, mortgagees and other security holders, holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities: Mergenthaler Linotype Co. of San Francisco, holds mortgage on linotype for purchase price which mortgage is paid with exception of \$120.00.

Average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the six months preceding the date of this statement, 1375.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 26th day of September, 1913.
J. F. PHILLY,
Notary Public.
My commission expires May 29, 1915.

Your job printing. Have it done at the Observer office.

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