

THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS, Editor and Owner

Entered in the post-office at La Grande, Oregon, as second class matter.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

Daily, single copy 5c
 Daily, per week 35c
 Daily, per month 95c
 Daily, per six months in advance \$3.50
 Daily, per year in advance \$7.00
 Daily, by mail per year in advance \$4.00
 Weekly Observer, per year in advance \$1.50

Advertising rates on application. All copy for display advertising must reach the office the day before the ad appears.

Address all communications to THE OBSERVER, 1710 Sixth St.

GIVING GIRLS A CHANCE

La Grande business men have clearly demonstrated that they are advanced in opinions on the labor question. None, in conferences held Saturday, objected to the minimum wages for working girls, or for a general improvement in conditions, but they do object to the 6 o'clock feature. Further than that, they demonstrated their concern for the girls themselves and urged that the working girls discuss the problem for themselves, and this was done this morning. The conclusions reached from La Grande, in this way, is not the biased opinion of employers, but the well thought-out conclusions of both the employer and the employee.

WHAT MAKES GOOD GOVERNMENT.

"So far as any conception of government is concerned, there is a pleasing fiction that the people have a clear and distinct standard, but are prevented from putting it fully into effect by what are known as the 'Bosses'."

This sentence occurs in an article on the Boston city charter, published in the October issue of the National Municipal Review. The author adds: "Like many such fictions, this is a half truth. It is true that the 'machine' must be disposed of before the will of the people can find expression, but after the machine has been disposed of there must be something to express."

Boston, under an advanced charter, has accomplished some reforms and failed at others. The charter has not proved a cure-all. It provides no short cut to ideal city government. The people voted to adopt it but, on the other hand, voted into renewed power the mayor whose administration has caused the demand for a new system.

It sometimes seems as though there is a tendency to go too far in insisting on mere forms of government. We are inclined to forget that ultimately the success or failure of any form rests on the good sense, knowledge and patriotism of the average citizen. The "people" are supposed to be for progress and efficiency and yet often the "people" are too lazy, too indifferent or too ignorant to demand either or to know when they are getting or not receiving good service.

One's faith in democracy may get a severe strain at times but, after all is said about the neglect and indifference of the voters, it is apparent that we must stand or fall on popular rule. When the men and women who compose a city make mistakes they must suffer for them just as individuals do. By and by they will learn better.

In addition, failure to secure ideal results from a reform system of government is no reflection on the system. The object of such forms is simply to provide paths to betterment and leave it to the good sense of the people to use these paths. All a charter can do is to make right easy and wrong hard.

EFFICIENCY VS. LOW WAGE.

One of the world's greatest students of industrial efficiency is Hon. Wm. C. Redfield, United States secretary of commerce. Mr. Redfield maintains that the high cost of labor in American factories as compared with this commodity in foreign shops is not a factor in the production of manufactured products to be offered to the trade in competition with like products from the factories abroad. If American manufacturers pay twice the wages that foreign manufacturers pay, American workmen produce three times the value for their employers and the latter are able thus not only to compete with, but to underbid successfully their foreign trade rivals, even in the latter's own field, he argues. Actual experience has taught him this and his familiarity with the methods of production in the shops in nearly all of the countries of the world has thoroughly convinced him of the truth of the contention. It matters little, he says, what may be the character of the product. American or Yankee ingenuity is constantly far in advance of its foreign competitor.

And yet, he asserts, the movement for industrial efficiency in this country has only just begun. There are from a dozen to a thousand avenues of expense in the American factory, according to the character of that factory and the nature of its product, of which a thorough study of costs and relative efficiency would bring to light needless expenditures which, relatively so slight that the hue and cry raised by some manufacturers over the item of wage expense is reduced to a minimum. Tariff reduction and the argument that tariff reduction will necessarily mean wage reduction is farcical in most instances, in his opinion.

Secretary Redfield tells the story of one manufacturer who made this assertion to him and he asked the manufacturer how a reduction of 10 per cent in wages would affect the cost of the factory product. The manufacturer guessed it would mean about 9 or 10 per cent, but the secretary wasn't satisfied with a guess, so they looked up costs and discovered from the cost department records that a 10 per cent wage reduction meant only a 2 per cent reduction in the cost of the product. The manufacturer was amazed and so other manufacturers would be similarly amazed if the factory heads would give the question their serious thought and attention, the secretary says.

It is because of his knowledge of these matters that his department has

taken a decided stand on the wage question as the new tariff affects it or fails to affect it and it is because of this that the threat of the department of commerce to investigate general wage reductions in any line of manufacture in which it is attempted holds good. In his new book, "The New Industrial Day," Secretary Redfield characterized wage reduction as the most brutal, barbarian and inhuman method of cutting costs and it is evident that he quite thoroughly believes it.

NOTICE TO WATER USERS.

Notice is hereby given that Monday, 10th day of November, 1913, is the last day for paying water rents, without penalty, if the water rents are not paid by the night of the 10th the same will be shut off on the 11th, and \$1.00 penalty will be added.

L. M. HOYT.
 Water Supt.

11-8 2 t.

ADDITIONAL PERSONALS

J. C. Kennedy of Island City went to Union this morning on business.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Shipp of North Powder were in the city this morning between trains, returning on No. 10.

Mrs. J. L. Orton, who was visiting Mrs. Abbott over Sunday, left this morning for her home. She is a resident of Haines.

E. D. Gaskill, father of Fred Gaskill, departed for Portland this morning, where he will remain an indefinite time. E. Jones of the Sand Ridge country was also among the passengers to Portland.

Mrs. John Girdler and son John Jr., wife and son respectively of John Girdler, superintendent of the La Grande public schools, left this morning for Illinois, where they will remain until after the holidays.

Mr. Strong, representing the Oregon Life Insurance Co., was in the city a number of days conferring with local agents. He departed this morning in company with his wife for Pendleton, where he will transact similar business.

Mrs. George Curry left this morning for Forest Grove, where she will be the guest of her son, George H. Jr., who recently purchased the Forest Grove Press. From there she will go on to Eugene to visit her daughter Helen, who is attending the state university.

DR. BIGGERS' NEW OFFICES

Has Leased Three Rooms on Second Floor of New Building

Dr. G. L. Biggers has recently moved into his new offices on the second floor of the new West-Jacobson building. The rooms are on the Elm street side next to the Y. M. C. A. property and are fitted up in the most modern manner. Almost every appliance known to the profession has been installed, making the equipment complete for diagnosis and treatment of patients. A reception room, handsomely furnished, opens from the main hall and from that opens the other two rooms.

Women's Missionary Meeting

Mrs. Ellen Hunter, the Oregon field worker and secretary of the Women's missionary work in the Christian church, will meet all ladies interested in missionary work Tuesday afternoon. It is hoped many ladies will be present. A pleasant surprise has been planned. In the evening Mrs. Hunter will speak again on the topic, "The Women's Secret."

FURS FOR SALE—Black Lynx set, made of European skins, consisting of beautiful pillow muff, with elegant animal scarf, handsomely trimmed with head and tails, shirred satin lining. Will sell for \$20.00; foreign value, \$80.00. Magnificent sets are seized and confiscated by United States government from international smugglers for non-payment of duty. Will send by express C. O. D. Privilege of inspection. All expense prepaid. Address Sales Manager, Mr. Keene, 334 West 23d St., New York. 11-10-11

Notice to Owners of Pianos

Having pretty nearly finished this season's campaign of tuning for the year, I expect for the next four months to be at work in the western part of my territory, returning on or about March 1st. Any one desiring their piano tuned, or regulated in any way, will kindly leave orders at the Richey Piano House within the next two

weeks. C. M. Henderson, Expert Tuner and Repairer. 11-10-11

WORKING GIRLS MEET

(Continued from Page 1.)

land in ample time to be considered at the meeting tomorrow night.

Signatures Obtained

The meeting this morning developed into something very tangible when a committee of girls was named to obtain the signatures of all working girls before 6 o'clock this evening. This committee was made up of one representative from each business establishment present and as the meeting adjourned the girls combed the city for signatures, and every application for signatures was gladly granted. So far as known, not a single girl favors the 6 o'clock clause.

Attorney Colon R. Eberhard, representing the committee which met Saturday, Mrs. Fred Schilke and Mrs. J. T. Richardson were in attendance at the meeting.

The conference tomorrow night will see gathered the industrial welfare commission, and a committee of nine representing labor, employer and the public.

COMPENSATION ACT MUDDLES

Insurance Expert Points Out Fallacies and Features of New Bill

F. H. Humphrey, representing the Aetna Casualty and Liability company, is in the city conferring with the local agents, Logan & Davis. In speaking of the workmen's compensation act Mr. Humphrey had a number of things to say concerning the operation of the bill which is giving the governor, the attorney general and the commissioners who are appointed by the governor to enforce the same, much trouble. Mr. Humphrey made it clear that the insurance companies are in accord with the fundamentals of the bill, but do not, from their experience, believe the state ought to administer the system. In other words they believe in jurisdiction, but do not believe in administration. One of the chief points he wished to make was the one pertaining to the taxes paid by the farmer and others who would not be eligible to share under the insurance. "At the present time," said he, "\$56,000,000 of wages will be taxed for purposes of the fund and one-half of one per cent which the state will have to contribute to this fund will amount to \$280,000. As the act allows only men engaged in hazardous occupations to take advantage of the act, large portions of the state would be paying taxes and would not be entitled to share in the rights created by the act. He points out that the act was rather by Governor West, whipped into shape by nine men, three of whom were farmers, three laboring men and three employers of labor, and put into legal form by Attorney John Kerr of the Hill railroad system. But the law defeats its own purpose by reason of the fact that no provision was made for the act taking effect in case it was referred to the people. The attorney general explains the act in one sense and the commissioners in another. Furthermore the state treasurer cannot sign drafts by reason of the fact that he does not know when the law is in effect. In the whole, governor and the courts and the commissioners disagree as to the essential features of the bill and in this event it is up to the supreme court to clear matters," he admits.

Effect of a Dream.

"The happiest dream I can recall," said a successful business man, "was one I had ten years ago. In it I was with my good mother again, seated in the old home church. She placed her hand on my head and whispered, 'Son, I am proud of you.' That little statement has kept me out of wrongdoing more than all the sermons I have ever heard and, I think, has made me a better man."—Philadelphia Record.

SOLITUDE.

In the dark night.
 Thine eyes:
 In the still room,
 Thy voice;
 In solitude,
 Thy presence and thy touch.

But when the daylight comes
 And dreams are flown
 It is the world surrounds me.
 Then—I am alone.
 —Author Unknown.

There's a corset model to fit you perfectly in our corset department



New Corset Designs

ALL the latest corset designs are now shown at our Corset Department. You can get an intelligent conception of the figure requirements that the new styles necessitate if you will study these new corsets.

Many new and very practical innovations that greatly aid in correct figure-building are features of the new *Henderson Corsets*.

We strongly recommend these corsets to our patrons; these models produce shapely, fashionable figure-lines, fit accurately, comfortably and easily and give lasting wearing service.

You are invited to visit our Corset Department and examine the many new designs that are now on exhibition.

Prices, \$1.00 to \$4.50

WE are introducing a new corset for stout women, which is not only the greatest figure-reducing corset yet produced, but is a very remarkable value, simply as a corset, saying nothing of its splendid new style-feature. It is the new—

Nemo LASTICURVE-BACK SELF-REDUCING

—as shown in the picture. One glance tells what this corset does. You have an extremely long corset which is made perfectly comfortable by those wide gores of Lastikops Cloth—the new and durable elastic fabric that will outwear the corset.

Two models—No. 322 (low bust), and No. 324 (medium bust). Unheard-of value **\$3.50** at the price



Other models in Nemo corsets, priced from \$3.50 to \$5

An Expert fitter to assist you in selecting the proper model for your figure.

West
 THE QUALITY STORE

Installing Dry Kiln

The new dry kiln for the George Palmer Lumber Company is completed and is in operation. The dry shed adjoining the steam drying plant is also the same as completed and seasoned lumber of all grades is now in stock. The band saws in the big mill are kept going on full time and the company is ready for orders, large or small. The new logging road which branches from the O.-W. R. & N. near Minam has rails laid for several miles and the entire road will be completed next year in ample time for furnishing the usual log supply after the district near Looking Glass is exhausted.

The Parkdale club members met Wednesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Wm. Anson where they enjoyed a social time and a fine luncheon. The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Zach Chandler in Fruitdale.

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Attention

Now is the time to make your Mince Meat for Thanksgiving.

We have just received a fresh supply of Lemon, Orange and Citron peel; also Raisins and Rants. Just received, some very nice Sultana Figs and Caravan Dates.

Yours for Quality and Service.

Berry Bros. Grocers
 PHONE MAIN 721.

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