

THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS, Editor and Owner

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FRAMING LAWS MORE CAREFULLY.

"One of the greatest needs in every state is a bill drafting department. The benefits of such a department are shown in Wisconsin. Its state laws are more intelligently expressed than ever before."

Thus remarked Allen G. Hoyt, of New York, chairman of the legislation committee of the investment bankers of America, recently in session in Chicago.

At this convention the so-called "blue sky" measures passed in Michigan and other states were discussed. Mr. Hoyt is on record as in favor of the principle of this legislation.

"I am in sympathy," he says, "with any suggestion that may prevent the distribution of wildcat securities. I oppose crude laws which interfere with responsible dealers in high grade securities."

The point made in Michigan against the "blue sky" legislation on the statute books is that it is just this crude and aimed at responsible dealers. The controversy has been carried to the courts, where the constitutionality of the law will be passed upon.

It would be far better if we had fewer and better laws passed at the sessions of the legislature. It takes a lawyer to keep track of new legislation and not all of them can accomplish the job.

When a man builds a house he does not calmly brush aside the experience of others who have built houses. Instead he finds out how they went about it and what mistakes, if any, they made. A state when it passes laws should follow the same rule. It should see what other states or countries have done and try to improve on their work. It should study the whole subject in advance, so that when the time comes for enforcing the legislation there will be no chance that it can either be called crude or attacked on the grounds of unconstitutionality.

A LAND OFFICE BUSINESS.

The land office business is somewhat of a seesaw business. If one new of all of the transaction in detail which are represented by the data that follow, no doubt the story would be an interesting one. That every one who enters upon land or makes the necessary steps to entitle him to claim from the government, gets what he wants, is not by any means the case. For the requirements of the land office are stringent and no one is

going to get anything for the mere trouble of signing his or her name to a sheet of paper. During the last month there were 97 applications for homesteads, five for timber, one for desert claim and one for mineral claim. Twelve applications for public sale of isolated lands was made. Forty-two proofs of homestead were received, which finally entitle the homesteader to claim patent from the U. S. Government. Seventy-two notices for publication to prove up were made. Twenty-nine persons relinquished their rights to land on which they had filed.

Twelve new contests were filed against homestead entries, and in six others conclusions were reached and decisions promulgated. This means that in cases where prior entry had been made or some one claimed perhaps by reason of having cultivated the land office according to the rules laid down by the secretary of the interior. In all of these cases the entry is held for cancellation pending the decision of the case. In the event the case goes against the person filing on the land it reverts to the general list of land capable of entry.

At the present time there are 58 of such cases pending for decision. During the month 35 entries were cancelled, either where parties relinquished their claims or where some contest ended adversely to the entryman.

All of this business entailed the writing of 1451 letters of all descriptions and to all parts of the north-west and to the general land office. It is the duty of the receiver of every land office to send in to the commissioner of the general land office a list of all the transactions for the month, showing in full every preparation of the local office.

The common expression "doing as much business as a land office," has application even to the business of today and is not altogether an allusion to the days when land was parceled out to settlers by thousands of acres for the purpose of rewarding some daring seeker of a new location.

It is announced women under thirty, or more than forty years of age need not apply for position on the Chicago police force. It seems that too many old women are in the department there now.

Christopher Columbus' bones are to be taken to the Panama exposition, and the old fellow was such a good traveler that he is not expected to complain.

When a young man quits carrying cigars in his vest pocket he may have several reasons. He may be in love or he may not have the cigars.

The football field is one place where kicking is desirable.

MERCHANT AND FARMER

(Continued from Page 1.)

For many it must have been a revelation, inasmuch as the idea is prevalent that only the American farmer is capable of doing things on a large scale. True, there were no pictures of great ranches, save those relating to the animal farms of Austria and Germany, where the government is directly concerned in the breeding of fine stock for army purposes. But it must have been a matter of considerable interest to most of the assembled visitors when he spoke of the

manner of handling all of the products raised on the small farms, and the co-operation which this industry receives from the government itself. It rather reminded one of the fact that co-operation in this country is rather an unknown element compared to the far reaching work that is carried on in most of the nations of the old continent. To judge by some of the pictures one would conclude that we were vastly in the lead in America, but it will not be forgotten, as the speaker aptly pointed out, that the acreage of the old country is not as great as that of the United States and has been farmed for centuries, while much of our American soil may be called virgin soil.

The interest which the government takes in the breeding of the best animals and the care that is exercised to distribute the fanciest sires among the farmers is one of the features of this industry which Americans may copy with good results. As a matter of fact the remarks made by the speaker showed conclusively that foreign governments are more concerned about the proper selection of seed and the maintenance of pure seed than Americans have been. He made the statement that many of the laws are made by the government and are carried out to the letter, without the co-operation of the farmer himself. He touched somewhat passingly, owing to limited time, on the credit system, showing to what extent the government was willing to help the farmer to absolutely the best that could be accomplished with a given piece of land.

He could not go into detail concerning the manner of co-operation but did in the allotted time amply explain that we have many things to learn from the old mother countries in the way of progressive marketing and handling of products. A deep analysis of this big subject has been billed for another meeting.

FOR RENT—Modern furnished rooms, 1508 Fourth street. 12-3tf

Californians Return.

Mrs. Jane Putnam and daughter, Miss Olive, who have been visiting C. D. Putnam, a local druggist, leave tonight for their home in San Francisco. Mr. Putnam goes to Portland on the same train to transact business.

A Dream Superstition.

I heard what was to me at least a new piece of superstition the other day, and when I think of the risks I've run all these years because I did not know of it my blood runs cold. I met a woman from Virginia in market, and the talk falling on dreams I recalled a most blood curdling nightmare I had had the night before.

"I must tell you what I dreamed last night," I said. "Let me ask first whether it's a pleasant or an unpleasant dream?" said the lady from Virginia. "Decidedly unpleasant." "Then for mercy's sake don't tell it!" said she. "Never tell a bad dream on Saturday, for we say in Virginia: Friday night's dream on Saturday told is sure to come true, no matter how old." —Washington Post.

Curious Fish Spearings.

In spite of the march of civilization there remains much that is still primitive in Sicily, and a curious sight at Palermo is to see the fishermen spear fish in the harbor by the aid of glass bottomed buckets. There are many corners of the world where fish are speared, but perhaps the use of the glass bottomed bucket in this connection is to be seen only at Palermo. The fishermen lean far over the side of their boats and hold the bucket on the water with one hand, poking their heads into it as if engaged in the Halloween game of ducking for apples. They hold a spear poised in the free hand and thus await the arrival of their victims, who are sighted through the glass bottom of the bucket, which acts as a kind of telescope.

Migrating Birds.

During many of the nights in September the inhabitants of the island of Helgoland are astir with big lanterns and a kind of enormous butterfly net, the former to attract and dazzle the migrating birds when they come to earth to rest, and the latter to secure them. Mr. Seeborn, the great authority on bird migration, states that he has known as many as 15,000 skylarks to be caught on the island in a single night. The migrating birds are always interesting to the ships that ply across the North sea and the Baltic. In September they settle on yard arm or on deck, rather tired, and the seamen catch flies and collect them into receptacles for the benefit of the birds.

One Mind.

"Henry," called Mrs. R. over the partition in the voting booth, "how are you going to vote on amendment No. 5? He—I am going to vote 'yes.' She—No, you're not; you're going to vote 'no.' I have changed my mind. —Life.

Human experience, like the stern reality of a ship at sea, illumines only



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The finest line of High Grade Toys ever shown in La Grande has just been opened up. This is the only store in the city offering this famous make of unbreakable Toys and Dolls.

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Consists of hundreds of useful and attractive articles. Never have we shown such an extensive line of Holiday Goods.

See the Windows and Interior.

Millinery Half Price.
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THE QUALITY STORE

Entire Line Ladies' Ready-to-Wear at Sacrifice Prices.

BEAUTY OF WORK.

The beauty of work depends upon the way we meet it, whether we arm ourselves each morning to attack it as an enemy that must be vanquished before night comes or whether we open our eyes with the sunrise to welcome it as an approaching friend who will keep us delightful company all day and who will make us feel at evening that the day was well worth its fatigues.—Lucy Larcom.

O LITTLE MOTHER OF MINE.

Sometimes in the hush of the evening hour,
When the shadows creep from the west,
I think of the twilight songs you sang
And the boy you lulled to rest:
The wee little boy with the tousel head
That long, long ago was thine—
I wonder if sometimes you long for that boy.
O little mother of mine!

And now he has come to man's estate,
Grown stalwart in body and strong,
And you'd hardly know that he was the lad
Whom you lulled with your slumber song.
The years have altered the form and the life,
But his heart is unchanged by time.
And still he is only thy boy as of old.
O little mother of mine!
—Walter H. Brown.

SAGE SAYINGS.

The making of friends who are real friends is the best token we have of a man's success in life.—Edward Everett Hale.

Give to a gracious message a host of tongues, but let ill tidings tell themselves.—Shakespeare.

Solomon says, "He who answereth a matter before he hearth it is a folly, and shame unto him."

THE OLD HOME.

There, there, 'mid clustering leaves,
Glimmer my father's eaves,
And the worn threshold of my youth beneath—
I know them by the moss
And the old elms that toss
Their lithe arms up where
Winds the smoke's gray wreath.
—Benjamin Bussey Thatcher.

OREGON IS WEALTHY

Bank Statements Show Excellent Financial Condition in State.

Providing conclusively that the State of Oregon is in excellent financial shape, a message from Salem says:

That financial conditions in Oregon are healthy is reflected in a report of the conditions of the banking institutions at the close of business October 21, as announced by Will T. Wright, State Bank Superintendent. Mr. Wright says the statement is one of the most gratifying ever made in the history of the department. It will be the last one this year, and virtually is a report of the conditions for the year.

In comparison with a statement of November 20, 1912, the one nearest to the date of the call this year, material increases are shown in all departments, that in cash and bank balances being \$3,286,519.25. The increase in deposits is \$7,840,558.24 and in bank savings is \$1,874,465.10. In postal savings the increase is \$307,140.76. The combined savings are \$2,181,605.86. The total resource are \$169,462,838.08.

"The report shows," said Mr. Wright, "an unusually healthy financial condition. Substantial gains have been made by all the banks, the increase in cash and reserve being especially large. With only two new banks established during the year, the banking capital has increased nearly \$1,500,000."



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We have just received a fresh shipment of SNOW FLAKE SODAS, in bulk and also in 10c and 25c boxes. These soda crackers are very crisp and they have a flavor that can not be compared with any other kind of crackers.

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