

THE OBSERVER

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

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Weekly Observer, per year in advance	\$1.50

EIGHT HOURS AND A DEFICIT.

This continual endeavor to do something for limelight attraction which has been going on for some time by the politicians in Oregon was bound to sooner or later bring on a condition that would attach enormous expense to the state. The eight-hour law for all state employes was the

vehicle that finally brought on the climax.

The state now faces extraordinary heavy deficits to be caused by the operation of this law in state institutions. These deficits added to the tremendous tax recently announced for this year means that the state of Oregon is getting herself into such shape that outside money will shun her; that property will drop in price because of the tax burden; that foreclosures will be common, and the cry of calamity will be heard throughout the commonwealth.

It takes no imaginative powers to figure this out. Not at all. It is a plain mathematical problem.

Chasing rainbows in private life is very expensive, as all will admit, yet the state as a state has been chasing rainbows for the past 10 years.

Politicians have been playing to the non-producers and the non-tax-payers in order to get their votes. As a result we have laws that are unfair to property owners and more than unfair to the tillers of the soil.

Eight hours a day in state institutions is foolishness, for if you will notice the large percentage of state employes in every institution and in every capacity work mighty little while they are on duty. If theirs

were similar cases to the man working on construction work, or under constant supervision where results were demanded and every moment of time was utilized then the eight-hour law would rightfully apply. But the state employes do not work that way.

Suppose Union county ranchers worked but eight hours a day—suppose it took two shifts to do what one shift is now doing on the privately owned ranches; well, you would pay more than 50 cents a dozen for eggs and more than 80 cents a bushel for wheat, and then it is quite likely almost every rancher in this valley would be broke because of the labor cost.

What the state needs is more production from her employes rather than a less production and shorter hours.

But until the days of sanity prevail; until the days of electing too many irresponsible men to office disappear, Oregon may expect to have almost positive confiscation of property prevail at times.

CITY ADVANTAGES FOR THE COUNTRY.

A new league has just been formed. No, not a baseball, football or basketball league, popular as these are. A league for the enrichment of community life. A league to fertilize dormant minds.

The heads of the extension departments of several state universities, each of whom has as part of his job the task of providing lecturers, instructors and entertainers for hundreds of localities, have pooled issues in a kind of circuit riding arrangements, whereby they hope to get for respective communities better talent with more varied offerings at reduced cost.

This is more important than maybe you realize. It is important to the city man as well as to the folk directly concerned. To keep folks who live in the country and in the small towns from wanting to rush into the already overcrowded cities and become consumers instead of producers of food is about as big a problem as we have. Its solution is helped when some of the attractions of the city—its concerts, its "shows" its lecturer—are carried to the rural districts.

If all the state universities were to do what the institutions in question are planning to do, life in the village and on the farms convenient to the villages would soon develop new points of interest. The craving for the city is a wholesome craving, born of the desire for fellowship, amusement, culture. But the cost of gratifying it in the city is usually great, involving loss of neighborliness, curtailment of freedom, sacrifice of identity.

Put into the country, so far as possible, the best of the attractions of the city, alongside the country's peculiar advantages, and get a result to be preferred.

It is a good work which the new league is undertaking and it deserves success.

They fear that grave robbers will steal the remains of Asahel Bush, the Salem deceased banker. And yet we boast of our advanced civilization.

The mayor of Portland has finally refused to listen to the appeals of I. W. W. men for free speech on the street corners. Portland should have refused this three years ago and a lot of trouble would have been averted.

Croup and Cough Remedy.

Croup is a terrible disease, it attacks children so suddenly they are very apt to choke unless given the proper remedy at once. There is nothing better in the world than Dr King's New Discovery. Lewis Chamberlain, of Manchester, Ohio, writes about his children: "Sometimes in severe attacks we were afraid they would die, but since we proved what a certain remedy Dr. King's New Discovery is, we have no fear. We rely on it for croup, coughs and colds." So can you. 50c and \$1.00. A bottle should be in every home. At all druggists. H. E. Becklin & Co., Phila. St. Louis.

HOUSEKEEPERS Must be Watchful

For great efforts are being made in this vicinity to sell baking powders of inferior class, made from alum acids and lime phosphates, both undesirable to those who require high-grade cream of tartar baking powder to make clean and healthful food.

The official Government tests have shown Royal Baking Powder to be a pure, healthful, grape cream of tartar baking powder, of highest strength, and care should be taken to prevent the substitution of any other brand in its place.

Royal Baking Powder costs only a fair price per pound, and is cheaper and better at its price than any other baking powder in the world.

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

JANUARY

Clearance Sale!

Our Entire Line of Men's, Women's and Children's

SHOES

all included in this great sale--nothing reserved.

No Job Lots Bought for this Sale. We are putting on this sale to reduce our stock before inventory. Nothing but our regular stock at Reduced Prices.

One lot of Misses' shoes, patents, kids and gun metals, in button and lace shoes, up to \$3.50, sizes up to 6, \$1.00 Pair.

One lot, Boys' shoes, gun metal and kid; good serviceable shoes for winter; sizes up to 5½; regular prices up to 3.00, at \$1.65

One lot of Ladies' patent kid and gun metal shoes; button and lace, all sizes; regular prices up to 3.50, at \$1.45.

One lot Ladies' button shoes in black and tans; all good lasts, some high tops; mostly 4.00 grades, Special \$2.75.

These are only a few of the BARGAINS you will find at our store during this SALE, which STARTS JANUARY 2nd. Don't fail to take advantage of this sale and SAVE MONEY.

10% Off on all Men's, Women's and Children's Hosiery.

NO SALE ON RUBBERS.

L. J. French Shoe Co.

La Grande's Exclusive Shoe Dealers