

THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS, Editor and Owner.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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WHERE'S THE DISTINCTION?

When a half dozen or so members of the I. W. W. descended on Western Lane county with intent to create sufficient trouble to make for themselves a living without work they were quietly but firmly requested to leave the country. They did, and the Statehouse at Salem rang with denunciations by a Governor whose sense of justice and admiration of law and constitutional government had been outraged by the peace-loving citizens of Lane county, remarks the Portland Oregonian.

When ten times as many trouble-makers descended on Salem, pretending to want work but not wanting it, and stamped on the governor's doorstep, invaded the precincts of the Capitol and overran the streets and public places, they also were quietly but firmly requested to move on. They did not.

To deport is to deport. There is no law that authorizes a city or county to force non-residents to move on. They may be punished for law violations if guilty, but there is no legal sanction for insisting that undesirable remove their presence from one locality and inflict it upon another.

Reduced to hard facts there is no distinction between the Florence incident and the Salem incident. Yet there is no talk of martial law in Marion county. No threats of removal from office. All of which leads us to suppose that a close-range view of trouble and a little personal taste of its consequences cool off the hottest of long-distance fire-eaters.

BALBOA AND BEMIS.

If Balboa had not climbed a tree he could not have discovered the Pacific ocean. But many a good climber gets on a rotten branch and breaks his back instead of going to the top. In

fact Senator Balboa, pioneer that he was, realized little but hardship and discouragement is you left to posterity to know the size and value of the great western ocean and to make it pay.

Pioneering is perilous at best and the majority choose life and safety. But the pioneer of today becomes the great discoverer in history. He usually hits the masses following him.

Twenty years ago one Prof. Bemis, in the spirit of Balboa, announced the discovery of a great ocean of workmen who were not getting a square deal from the captains of industry.

Prof. Bemis was receiving his message from the Rockefeller university of Chicago. But his ruminations created an era of ill feeling among some of the men who were present or prospective patrons of the university. Prof. Bemis was allowed to resign. Prof. Albert W. Small, his superior, acted as spokesman in explaining Prof. Bemis' "unscientific" and therefore unprofessional mistakes.

Today it is Prof. Small who is the radical. At the Minneapolis meeting of the American Economic Association he condemned the whole capitalist system, picturing Uncle Sam as in the hands of Loan Sharks, and out denouncing Bemis in his denunciation of the increasing gap between the ultimate consumer's financial income and cost.

He called at "functional facilities" and social inefficiency like a genuine discoverer of a new idea.

Bemis was the Balboa who arrived ahead of his time. Small today seems small in caliber or comparison.

He is quite safe. For things have moved ahead in the twenty years. What was then only a popular demagoguery is now the voice of serious inquiry. The Rockefeller university has now pickled down about \$25,000,000 with which to meet the loan sharks. Not only some of the professors but even some of the financial angels, no longer afraid of the wolf at the door, are considering seriously what Prof. Small and others are saying.

FASHION SLAVES.

The latest thing in dress is the cork screw creation, which compels the dresser to go through some worm-like contortions to get into it. It sounds laughable at first, but in reality there is considerable pathos to it. Every person of self respect knows that dress is important in business and society, and makes the necessary efforts to keep well clothed. But when a silly know-nothing set of mortals such as Parisian fashion creators devote all their God given time to a thing which much of the world seeks to imitate, they are a bane to civilization.

Of course it is nobody's business in particular, but that of the purchasers. But when people, particularly women, seek to keep ahead of the fashions and are compelled to spend to something new in dress about every month, it is making demands upon men, who pay the bills, that are unreasonable, and unjust. True, this latest craze may be some time in reaching La Grande and we trust will never be shown on the streets of this city. But there must be a limit somewhere.

One of the big reasons why many people are able to make both ends meet, and why others are not is their one item of dress. Figure it out. Some people are able to exist and feed a family on \$40 a month. Instances of this are numerous. On the other hand family heads drawing in the neighborhood of \$150 cannot keep their collector satisfied. Where is the difference? In the first instance dress of good material.

But the latter article usually is vastly more expensive. Vanity is made to pay a heavy toll. Where a number of fancy dresses are loaded in the course of a year it is a big item in the yearly cost of living and sets a bad precedent.

Persons who are able to meet the bills have an obligation in this respect and it is well for them to seriously ponder over the situation. When they appear in their best regalia they not only excite the admiration of their friends but they create in them a want for a similar thing.

The desire for it is stimulated by seeing it on other persons. Some scheme is then concocted to get possession of it. Here is where the trouble begins. Many are not financially able to afford it. But they will hold up a good natured merchant for credit. By the time they have worn out the new frock, the bill still remains unpaid either in whole or in part. Again they are confronted with a new creation which some wealthier person has worn at a party. A new desire, a new gown and a new debt follow as regularly as the wheels of a watch. There you have it.

And that hundred and fifty dollar salary is checked out as regularly as getting a dinner. It is simply up to those people to curb their desire to follow every whim of fashion. It means endless worry to merchants who lay awake nights wondering whether the new customer is going to come through with the amount of the new frock. It means temptations to girls who have not enough courage to appear in public with something less conspicuous. Necessity, or what they call necessity becomes not only the mother of invention, but is the beginning of an immoral life. The gain of a few worthless rags, means the loss of their jewel of purity. It means too much credit and too much worry. It means loss of back bone. It means putting too much weight on exterior things. It means neglect of the things of the mind without which nobody is distinguished or aristocratic. It means in the end that many people make fools of themselves. Some women look dignified in calico. There's personality behind these that sets them apart from the rest. A vastly increasing class look like gilded puppets in their tinsel of fake gold and silver. They have a vacant stare and butcher the King's English. You don't have to pick them out they advertise themselves.

A London newspaper correspondent writes that China is being Americanized. Is it possible that they are dancing the tango over there already?

Cheer up. The new tariff has reduced the price of golf balls.

Read the advertisements too.

You Can Lower The Cost of Living

If You Take Advantage of the Savings Offered During this Month at WEST'S 16TH ANNUAL CLEARANCE SALE

Save \$3.70 to \$7.50 on Men's Clothing

Save \$5.00 to \$12.00 on Men's Overcoats

Save \$5.00 to \$20.00 on Ladies Coats

Take your choice of any Tailored Suit for \$9.90

Take your choice of a Large Line Coats for \$1.19

Save One-half the price on New Coats for children

One lot Children's Coats to \$10.00 for 69c

Special 9c Sale of Cotton Goods, Values up to 25c yd.

Save 1/4 to 1/2 Price on All New Dresses

35 Men's and Boy's OVERCOATS Values to \$15.00 \$5.00



Men's Heavy CLOTHING Reduced 25%

ADDITIONAL SOCIETY.

Mrs. Ella Rynearson and her daughter, Mrs. Scriber, were hostesses to the Ladies' Parkdale club, at their pleasant home in Fruitdale on January 14. The afternoon's entertainment consisted of a good program given by Mrs. Coolidge, Mrs. Lupper and Mrs. Chandler, after which dainty refreshments were served. The next meeting is to be held at the home of Mrs. Minnie Lupper in Fruitdale, January 28.

Mrs. J. G. Snodgrass was hostess to the Billiken club Thursday afternoon, this being the first meeting in the post-Yuletide season.

The South La Grande Neighborhood club was pleasantly entertained by Mrs. G. W. Farris yesterday. The next meeting will be at the home of Mrs. Wilson on Second street.

At the meeting of the Happy Hour club this week provisions to send flowers to patients at the hospital were made by the members.

ADDITIONAL PERSONALS

J. T. Williamson of this city, left today for Baker where he will transact business.

Walter Pierce was a passenger to Baker this morning. He will be gone a day or two on business.

T. J. Chandler of Baker, was in La Grande visiting with his brothers Warren and Charles. He left today for home.

Whit Coleman, of Clarkston, Washington, brother of C. N. Coleman of this city and uncle of Mrs. Dave Fitzgerald, arrived last night to be the guest of her niece for an intermediate period.

Attorney Finn, who has been in Portland for a number of weeks in St. Vincent's hospital, arrived this morning. He is doing fairly well

and his many friends will be glad to see him back. Mrs. Finn came with him.

Chas. McKean, of the Union Metal Cartridge company, was in the city a few days, leaving for Union this noon. He is one of those wholesome-souled salesmen whom every merchant wishes to see. He is a Walla Walla man and has a good trade in this valley.

FO SALE—Household furniture, almost new; must sell at once. Call by Tuesday evening, 1502 Second street. 1-17, 2t.

ESTRAY NOTICE—Came to W. V. Carbine, Fruitdale, about 60 days ago, one dark red heifer, under half crop in each ear. Owner can have same by paying expenses. 1-17, 2t

Federal Committee Leaves. Washington, Jan. 17.—The organization committee, created under the federal reserve act, left here today to give hearings to Chicago, St.

APARTMENT FIRE FATAL

Fire Department Keeps Fatalities Down—Others Will Die.

Brockton, Mass., Jan. 17.—Three men and one woman were burned to death and eight others were so badly burned that they will die, as a result of a fire in an apartment house early this morning.

Four were found dead on the second floor of the four-story structure, presumably from suffocation. The building was speedily gutted with streams of water and but for the timely arrival of the fire department the loss of lives would have been far greater.

Louis, Kansas City, Denver, Portland, Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Houston, Tex., New Orleans, Atlanta, Cincinnati, and Cleveland.

Georgetown Celebrates Birth. Washington, Jan. 17.—Founders Day at Georgetown university will be observed tonight with a big banquet.

La Grande National Bank

Organized in 1887.

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

Table with financial data: Capital \$100,000.00; Surplus \$140,000.00; 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

FORD Buy It Because It's a Better Car Model T Touring Car \$625 f.o.b. La Grande Smith's Garage La Grande

