

THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS, Editor and Owner.

Entered in the Post Office at La Grande, Oregon, as second class matter.

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 Street,

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

Daily, single copy5c
Daily, per week15c
Daily, per month65c
Daily, six months in advance.....\$3.50
Daily, per year in advance.....\$7.00
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Weekly Observer, per year in advance.....\$1.50

THE GULLIBLE PUBLIC.

The exposure of a fake press bureau in Washington calls attention once more to the swindling and get rich quick schemes which week by week are being exposed by the Post-office department. This particular fraud, known as the "Washington Press Bureau," had for its "managing editor" a suave young man who raked in above \$600 a week. He offered to train anyone, no matter how dull or backward into a brilliant newspaper correspondent. "Big money" ran the spirit of his advertisement, "awaits you as a newspaper writer. Easy money—fame and fortune." All of which fame and fortune the managing editor offered to his clients for the sum of \$2—cash in advance surely. It is the opinion of veterans in the postal fraud service that this young man was a "piker" at the game—that he could have charged twice as much or possibly five times as much in fees, and secured them.

Like similar schemes, this fake press bureau has been unable to stand the light of day and has disappeared. How many other such fakes there have been may be judged from the reports of postoffice investigation. In the last official record at hand it is shown that during the year ending June 30, 1914, more than 4,000 cases involving fraud were investigated. During that year and the two years preceding, losses to the public aggregating \$120,000,000 were uncovered by the department.

And yet in spite of the vigilance of the officials and the scope of the laws, these get-rich-quick schemes still flourish. Estimates of public losses through swindling by mail during that last 12 months alone place the figure at the tremendous total of \$53,000,000. Thus the gullibility of the public would appear to be on the increase. The Postoffice Department has not left its energies relax. There are more fools and suckers this year, evidently than there were two years ago. Postmaster General Burleson is said to have remarked once; "The great trouble is there is no law that can keep a fool from spending his money."

When a swindler's game is put forward it offers "easy money." It may be interest on loans at a dangerous rate, it may be training as a writer, it may be the purchase of gold mines. But be sure that the substance of each swindler is "We will give you a lot for a little; we know how to get rich quick and we will take you along with us." Often the pretense of "absolute honesty" is made, but more often one may read between the lines of the circular the invitation to take a chance and get "your share." Dishonest get-rich quick schemes would not thrive did they not appeal to a desire among humanity to get "something for nothing" Until human nature loses its greediness we prob-

ably shall have to contend with these grafters who prey on the weakness of the people.

It happens that in the get-rich-quick class of schemes there is an overabundance of so-called schools in journalism and there is a logical reason for this, though the cause is decidedly illogical. The reason for it is that in the minds of a vast majority of the people there is a lurking conviction that given even a slight opportunity they could run a newspaper better than the editor does. They are familiar with his product, but they are anything but familiar with the manner—the difficulties, the trials, the effort and the closest of application, based on years of experience—of properly managing it. The most recent exposure is proof of this. Tens of thousands, possibly hundreds of thousands of persons have actually believed that for \$2 they could learn all there is to be learned and believed it so thoroughly that they parted with the \$2 to get the information.

It is a matter greatly to be regretted that Harvey Wells, of Portland, did not permit his name to be used as a candidate for Republican national committeeman for Oregon. He is a Republican who stood by the old ship even through the last national campaign, yet he is square, clean, honorable and progressive in his ideas. Such a man at the head of Oregon Republicanism would have left nothing to be done in the way of reorganizing the party, for all elements would have known under his leadership there would have been the proverbial "square deal" awaiting everyone of them. It will take men like Mr. Wells to heal the political break and why Republicans cannot see this is a thing to be wondered at.

Thomas McCusker made a speech a few days ago before the Lincoln club of Portland urging party harmony. Shades of darkness. Does Tom McCusker think the people of Oregon are feeble minded? Does he think they can forget his recent "harmonious" political action? If such men as McCusker were kept in the background there would be more chance of a united Republican party in Oregon.

The woman in Portland who registered as "bridge" player as an occupation should be investigated by the Federal Grand Jury. The jury might find some evidence of race suicide.

There is said to be no money in aviation now without looping the loop, but even before that stunt was introduced, the public was provided with a good number of fatalities.

"Watchful waiting" may be re-

AWAY WITH CATARRH A FILTHY DISEASE

Instantly Relieves Swollen, Inflamed Nose, Head, Throat—You Breathe Freely—Dull Headache Goes—Nasty Discharge Stops.

Try "Ely's Cream Balm." Get a small bottle anyway, just to try it—Apply a little in the nostrils and instantly your clogged nose and stopped-up air passages of the head will open; you will breathe freely; dullness and headache disappear. By morning the catarrh, cold-in-head or catarrhal sore-throat will be gone.

End such misery now! Get the small bottle of "Ely's Cream Balm" at any drug store. This sweet, fragrant balm dissolves by the heat of the nostrils penetrates and heals the inflamed, swollen membrane which lines the nose, head and throat; clears the air passages; stops nasty discharges and a feeling of cleansing, soothing relief comes immediately.

Don't lay awake to-night struggling for breath, with head stuffed; nostrils closed, hawking and blowing. Catarrh or a cold, with its running nose, foul mucus dropping into the throat, and raw dryness is distressing but truly needless.

Put your fate—just once—in "Ely's Cream Balm" and your cold or catarrh will surely disappear.

Adv.

warded after all. Huerta is said to be out of finances, and if this be so then he can buy no more champagne and brandy and this means capitulation.

All the women's magazines are having articles on how to solve the servant problem. The writers always solve it very easily by doubling the amount paid out for domestic service.

Owing to the shortage of Pullman cars, the "unemployed" had to give up their plan of marching from California to Washington.

New York janitors get more than school teachers, but it takes some ingenuity to get a good janitor job.

Meteors and Meteorites.

A meteor is any luminous or fiery object that traverses space, as shooting stars, falling stars, etc. A meteorite is a mass of mineral matter which reaches the earth from upper space. The fall of a meteorite is often preceded by the flight of a fireball through the sky and by an explosive sound, but not always, for they sometimes reach the earth without any previous notice. They have been recorded ever since the world began, and, of course, some fall which are never recorded. The British museum contains a collection of 506 meteoric stones, of which twelve fell within the British Islands and the rest in other parts. Almost every museum of any note has a collection of them, ranging in size from a few pounds to hundreds of pounds. Lieutenant Peary brought one from Greenland that weighed thirty-six and one-half tons. There are authentic cases of narrow escapes from meteorites, but only one in history of a person being killed, and that man was in India, in 1827.—Philadelphia Press.

"I Must."

"I must," said Lord Nelson at Trafalgar; "I must," said Washington at Valley Forge; "I must," said Lincoln at Gettysburg; "I must," said Mark Twain, with bankruptcy clutching at his heart; "I must," says every great man and woman, sensing duty, opportunity, crisis and the larger success.

"I must" is God's vest pocket formula to you who breathe his free air and work in his workshops.

Daily every one of us faces tasks that we didn't expect and that we had rather not do. It is the order of circumstance. But just the minute that "I must" comes along our program clears up and our work proceeds plainly and according to plan. That man is most satisfied with life who is most satisfied with doing what he feels is his best.

"I must!" All right, proceed.—Toldeo Times.

The Imitative Chinese.

A Chinese officer told an interesting story of the first visit of the representative of Vickers Sons & Maxim to Shanghai. After fetching his sample Maxim gun to the arsenal at Shanghai and demonstrating it thoroughly to the Chinese, he was taken in to a sixty four course Chinese feast that lasted until the small hours of the morning. Meanwhile a large party of the best Chinese mechanics in the arsenal minutely subdividing the labor, quietly took the gun entirely to pieces and either duplicated or took templates of every part. The following day the sample, reassembled, was handed back to him with thanks and the remark that China was not in the market for Maxims just then. The Chinese imitation failed, however, to work properly.—World's Work.

Adhesive Eggs of Fishes.

Among the fishes which produce adhesive eggs are the little black head minnow (Pimephales promelas) and the goldfish. The male blackhead deposits the fecundated eggs singly upon the under side of leaves of water plants and watches them unceasingly until hatched. The eggs of the goldfish are deposited singly upon the weeds and mosses in a similar manner by the male fish. The eggs of the yellow perch are held together in narrow strips or ribbons of a glutinous character. Adhesive eggs of other species, as the black bass, sunfish, catfishes, etc., are deposited in masses in shallow nests or depressions on the bottom, and still other species deposit their spawn in variously shaped adhesive masses upon water plants, roots and submerged objects.

Beats the Carpenter's Record.

The discovery of a carpenter whose father, grandfather and great-grandfather practiced the same craft has been commented upon in several newspapers and at Lamberhurst, in Kent, there is a family who have been innkeepers for four centuries. In countries where the caste system prevails such a record would be thought utterly insignificant. Grant Duff notes in his diary the answer made by a pun-

20 New Spring Dresses

In Values From

\$15.00 to \$20.00

Will be Placed on Sale Beginning Monday f. r

\$9.90

The season's newest models and materials in this assortment of special values for next week. Plain and Plaid Ratines, heavy Messalines and Silk Poplins in the popular new shades. Each dress is one of this season's new styles and are good values at the regular price.

\$9.90 For your choice. See them in our window on \$9.90 Easter day.

N. K. West & Co. THE QUALITY STORE



kan puller in Madras to an English lady who suggested that he might improve his position. "Memsahib, my father pulled a punkah, my grandfather pulled a punkah, all my ancestors for 4,000,000 ages pulled punkahs, and before that the god who founded our caste pulled a punkah for Vishnu."—London Chronicle.

The Wearying Chase.

Tommy could not understand why his teacher thought that the following paragraph from his composition on "A Hunting Adventure" lacked animation and effectiveness:

"Pursued by the relentless hunter, the panting gazelle sprang from cliff to cliff. At last she could go no farther. Before her yawned the chasm and behind her the hunter."—Youth's Companion.

Adding to His Offensiveness.

The man who told us so is always doubly offensive if he comes around after the arrival of our troubles and tries to look us if he had forgotten all about it.—Chicago Record-Herald.

It is a wise man who knows his own business, and it is a wiser man who thoroughly attends to it.—H. L. Wayland.

MAKES RAPID HEADWAY

Add This Fact to Your Store of Knowledge

Kidney disease often advances so rapidly that many a person is firmly in its grasp before aware of its progress. Prompt attention should be given the slightest symptom of kidney disorder. If there is a dull pain in the back, headaches, dizzy spells or a tired, worn-out feeling, or if the kidney secretions are offensive, irregular and attended by pain, procure a good kidney remedy at once.

Your townspeople recommend Doan's Kidney Pills. Read the statement of this La Grande citizen:

Mrs. Isa Triplett, 1307 Jackson ave., La Grande, Ore., says: "About a year

E. RIESLAND, Plasterer and Contractor. Cement work of all kinds, Foundations and Flue construction. Cement block a specialty. Call and see these blocks at E. C. Davis' Marble Shop. Phone Red 371.

THE TELEPHONE

By furnishing quick service in communication multiplies a man's capacity and makes it possible for the business man to transact more business.

EVERY TELEPHONE A LONG DISTANCE STATION

HOME INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE SYSTEM

La Grande National Bank

Organized in 1887.

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

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

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La Grande, Oregon