

THE OBSERVER

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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.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Daily, single copy . . . . .5c Daily, per week . . . . .15c Daily, per month . . . . .65c Daily, 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

INSURED AGAINST LOSS OF WORK.

Norway and Denmark, according to a recent article in the Survey, have insurance against unemployment. While theoretically it covers both organized and unorganized labor, as a matter of fact it is practically limited to the former. Of the 75,000 unorganized laborers in Norway, for instance, only one has applied for membership in an unemployment fund. By the terms of the Norwegian law, passed after a period of depression in 1906, it is stipulated that no benefit will be given until a man has paid dues in the state unemployment fund for twenty-six weeks and never within the first three days after he has given notice that he is out of work. In no case are payments made for more than three months in any one year. The law also provides that the unemployment must be involuntary; that is, it must not have been caused by a strike, drunkenness or bad temper.

As an example of how industrial panaceas that measure up well from a distance fall short it is interesting to note that, while the law is a success as applied to the stronger trade unions, it utterly fails to reach the weaker unions and unorganized labor. In Denmark about 60 per cent of the workmen are insured in a fund provided partly by the state and partly by the unions. In fact, 111,000 persons carry insurance under the law. In Denmark there is an "unskilled laborers' union" and through this the unorganized men share in the benefits.

Unemployment, like sickness and death, is a risk carried by almost every individual in the wage earning class. The effects of any wide unemployment are felt, however, by all classes. The idea back of all insurance is that it equalizes the shocks which come to individuals or families by distributing it over large groups. It is coming to be held that lack of work, when one is willing and able to work, is a shock which society should share with the victim. Some day, perhaps, the United States will be obliged to consider some such scheme for this country, but it is a risky thing and unsafe for present day politicians to handle.

RUMORS WITHOUT REASON.

Just to show how little some people reason for themselves, the following sequel to yesterday's unimportant mishap to No. 17 east of here, may be cited. About thirty minutes after the wreck whistle had sounded some anxious woman called the Observer over the telephone and wanted to know if it was true that 400 persons were killed and wounded in the wreck. Think of it, 400 persons on one train. How often does that happen, that one train carries 400 passengers? Seldom, if ever in the West and we doubt if it ever occurs in the East. Such a wreck would be the worst thing that ever happened on a railroad. She had a right to verify the report from the Observer, but no one had the right

to spread such an alarm to her. Somebody started a rumor. Somebody else gave it wings, and a third somebody gave it feet, and somebody else started it going and a fifth supplied gasoline, and the explosion was on. And a lot of needless worry and anxiety and all about nothing but a simple derailment. Why make excitement? Why make things worse than they are? For the information of the public the Observer will state that in all cases of wreck the information will be given this office by the officials of the road. It will be reliable information and will state the facts just as they are. Hence what ever is said about a wreck may be taken as the absolute truth.

Yesterday's information given a reporter for the Observer was the same information that was being sent to the railroad officials in Portland. More than that he could not get, because that official didn't have it to give. He told the truth about the affair and that was all there was to it. The reading public should stop and think for a moment before committing itself about a happening that might be serious enough, and might be of no consequence. And what is true of this case is equally true of any other situation. If people thought three times about a certain morsel of gossip they would not say anything at all and that is good policy.

Chicago threatens to send husbands who don't support their wives to a laboratory where they will be treated for "mental disease." Fine, now they ought to have an X-Ray examination for the female who runs her husband in debt by means of the installment plan route.

Mrs. Ernest Thompson Seton has become a zealous suffraget leader. It was long before that though that Mr. Seton wrote "Little Savages."

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE.

In every pursuit of life we acknowledge the necessity of planning for the future. Preparedness is just as necessary for large groups of people as for an individual. City planning simply means getting ready for the future in city growth. It is the guidance into proper channels of a community's impulses toward a larger and broader life. On its face it has to do with things physical—the laying out of streets and parks and rapid transit lines. But its real significance is far deeper. A proper city plan has a powerful influence for good upon the mental and moral development of the people. It is the firm base for the building of a healthy and happy community.—George McAneny.

PLAYGROUNDS IN STREETS.

Washington Has Been Following a Plan Successful in European Cities. There is a movement on foot in Washington among those interested in the welfare of the school children which bids fair to solve in many instances the problem of lack of playground during their recesses for the pupils of the public schools, a problem which, owing to the neglect of the school authorities of former years to provide sufficient space for the increased number of scholars, has in many cases become a most serious one.

The solution of the trouble, as provided by the movement, is to appropriate a certain portion of the street during the recess time. At the outset the method of closing a public street against vehicles for ten or fifteen minutes during the busy portion of the day seemed impracticable, but on limiting the application only to those schools that are not in crowded business sections and applying it specially to those in the residence quarter—where, indeed, most of the scholars are—it has been found that, as far as removing any objections that can be raised to the plan are concerned, the project is feasible.

The proposed plan is to set aside a block of the street roadway during the recess time by means of ropes that can be readily adjusted to poles set in the curb in a few seconds. The barrier could thus be erected or removed by some of the older pupils almost instantly. It would not extend across the sidewalk. The matter of making to dwellers within the inclosed area some compensation was found readily adjustable by a plan of granting them certain privileges over other blocks. Thus a greater number of street lights, a more

thorough police supervision, the keeping of the sidewalk and roadway in a special state of cleanliness and the immediate removal by the city of all snow were found privileges for which the residents would gladly put up with the inconvenience of a crowd of children playing in the street, a condition which, as several of the residents affected declared, existed anyhow.

The Washington plan has been tried in many of the leading European cities, and the citizens have been unenthusiastically enthusiastic in praising its success.

Mexico City's Beautiful Avenue.

The Paseo de la Reforma, in the city of Mexico, the almost realized dream of the unhappy Empress Carlotta, is an avenue which, either in conception or accomplishment, will bear comparison with any in the world.

From the central plaza of the city, around which the government buildings are grouped, runs the old Calle de San Francisco. This broadens out into the Avenida Juarez, which runs past the Alameda, and its end is the starting point of the Paseo.

From this point it stretches in a straight line for three miles to the executive mansion on the heights of Cha-



PASEO DE LA REFORMA, ONE OF THE FINEST STREETS IN THE WORLD.

pultepec, a broad, faultlessly paved thoroughfare. At each of five places on its length is laid out what in France would be called a rond point or in London a circus, but which, in his vivid speech, the Mexican has called a "glorieta." In the first of these is a statue of Charles IV.; in the second, one of Columbus; the next is dedicated to the Aztec heroes, the fourth commemorates the independence of the nation, and the last awaits the hero of the future. Moreover, this great avenue is not a simple boulevard. At one side, passing across a narrow, tree-lined road lawn, a paved footway is reached, along the far side of which, facing the main boulevard, are numerous monumental stone seats. Back of this is another road lawn similar to the first and then the roadway upon which the buildings face.

NOTABLES IN THE LIMELIGHT

Sir Edward Henry Carson, Leader of the Ulstermen.



Photo by American Press Association.

It may be of interest to observers on this side of the Atlantic to know that Sir Edward Henry Carson, leader of the anti-home rule faction in Ulster province, Ireland, is not an Ulsterman. He is a native of Dublin and for many years has represented a south of Ireland constituency in the British parliament. A lawyer by profession, Sir Edward has won fame and wealth in the ancient Irish capital. His enemies say that his interest in anti-home rule is selfish and that he poses as a cham-

panion of political and religious liberty purely as a politician. He aspires to the premiership of the British empire. If the Liberal government should be routed he feels sure of attaining his object. Even should he fall in the present instance he has made himself so prominent that he is almost certain to attain the premiership should the Tories eventually come into power.

Sir Edward was born in Dublin sixty years ago and after passing through Dublin university was called to the bar. He got his chance through former Premier Balfour, who made him solicitor general of Ireland. He is one of the best lawyers in Ireland.

An American Diplomat.

William Woodville Rockhill, who recently accepted the post of foreign diplomatic adviser to the Chinese government, is one of the most experienced diplomatists of his time. Since 1884, when he entered the diplomatic service of the United States, Mr. Rockhill has had a wide experience. He has enjoyed the confidence of five presidents—Harrison, Cleveland, McKinley, Roosevelt and Taft—and is splendidly equipped for his new duties. He has



Photo by American Press Association.

WILLIAM W. ROCKHILL

served for many years in the far east and is said to know as much about Chinese character as it is possible for any westerner to know. He has made several expeditions into Mongolia and entered Tibet when it was almost impossible for a foreigner to do so.

From 1897 to 1899 Mr. Rockhill was minister to Greece, Roumania and Serbia; then for six years he was director of the bureau of American republics, going thence to China as minister in 1905. After two years in China he went to Russia as ambassador, serving until 1911, when he was sent in the same capacity to Turkey. Mr. Rockhill was born in Philadelphia sixty years ago and was educated in a French military school. He spent several years as an officer in the French Foreign legion in Algiers.

A Young Secretary.

Of all the cabinet private secretaries the youngest in point of years is Herbert A. Meyer, private secretary of Franklin K. Lane, secretary of the Interior. He is twenty-seven years old. Mr. Meyer is the product of the civil service. He was born at Chillicothe, O., and was educated at the Staunton (Va.) Military academy.

Memory.

If it should be asked what possession I most valued I would say some beautiful memory. Memory is possession. It is the only thing on earth that is absolutely ours, which no one can take from us. We can produce and enjoy it in a crowd of uncongenial people as easily as if we were alone. No noise can drown its voice; no distance can dim its clearness. Strength, hope, beauty, everything else, may pass. Memory will stay.—Selected.

Hardened Lead.

Metallic sodium hardens lead without changing its color. Two per cent of sodium will harden lead so that it will ring when struck; a larger amount causes it to become brittle. The lead sodium alloy is sometimes used as a bearing metal.—London Express.

Just Got It Out.

"Why in the name of goodness," exclaimed a man to an acquaintance, "do you keep taking out your watch? Going to catch a train?" "Well, no," answered the other. "To tell you the truth, I haven't seen my watch for a long time."

Domestic Economy.

When a woman wants to economize she likes to cut it out of what the family eats, and when a man proposes economy he wants to take it out of what his wife wears.—Galveston News.

Puritan Underwear Garments in Many Dainty Fabrics and Pretty Styles. The Puritan trade mark on muslin underwear gives the assurance of perfect fitting and well made garments of high quality material. We're showing a beautiful line of new Gowns—Combination Suits—Chemise—Slips—Petticoats and Drawers. Prices, qualities and styles to meet the requirements of every fastidious woman. "Have You Seen the New" Marcella Skirt Drawer Suits? All the advantages of these garments are included in this new combination of Open Drawers, Short Skirt and combination Suit. All qualities and weights in the new garment at our muslin underwear section. Prices—\$1.25 to \$2.50. NK West & Co THE QUALITY STORE. New Shipments of Elite Petticoats. in all qualities and shades. Prices from 90c to \$7.00.



CAIRNSGRAPHS.

"Truth is unchangeable." "The words of Christ are the words of God." "When Christ said the rich man was in Hell, he was in Hell." "Nine-tenths of the people do not read their Bibles; they read Christian men and women."

"The supreme argument for the truth of Christianity is the godly life of a true Christian." "If every church member in La Grande was true to God, and lived religion, it would be so warm here for sinners that they would either get right with God or take to the hills, or go to Spokane, or Seattle."

"This old world is dying for godly men and women,—not mere church members." The meetings at the Baptist church will continue tonight. The interest is good. Mr. Cairns illustrates his sermons with interesting stories, many of which are taken from his own experience in this and other countries.

Leonard Billings Better. Leonard Billings of Imbler who was operated on at the Grande Ronde hospital recently for appendicitis, is much improved and will soon be able to return to his home.

E. H. Leonard Dead. E. H. Leonard of Elgin died in this city today and his body will be shipped to Elgin for burial tomorrow.

They seem to take the sun from the world who would withdraw friendship from life.—Cicero. His Card Tricks. Mrs. Stryver—We had a most enjoyable time at Mrs. Hunter's tea. Count Tedout was there and kept us mystified for an hour with his tricks with the cards. Mr. Stryver (dryly)—He kept us mystified with 'em for three months at the club, but we're on to him now.—New York World. Used the Soft Answer. "So Dick and Daisy have made up." "By George! After the way she laid him out I never expected it. How did he pacify her?" "He told her that he'd rather quarrel with her than kiss any other girl."—Puck.

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. La Grande National Bank La Grande, Oregon