

THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS, Editor and Owner.

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WHO WILL BUY AIR FLEET?

The aeroplane as a peace agent has been introduced to the public by the National American Aviation association, an organization which has undertaken a propaganda to increase the air resources of the army and navy in time of stress. It is explained that the superiority of other nations in aeroplane equipment endangers the Panama canal, the battleship squadrons and the seaports. The remedy for this condition, according to the aviation association, is to raise a million dollars by public subscription for the construction of an air fleet to be presented to the United States government. So equipped, this nation, it is inferred, would be so thoroughly prepared for war that no other nation would challenge us.

By the way of encouraging the public to empty its pockets, the examples of France gave their government 200 aeroplanes; the people of Germany presented the kaiser with three dirigibles. It is not recorded how many of the three have followed the Zeppelins to glory. However, the statement is made that France has 1,000 aeroplanes, Germany 800, Great Britain 700, Russia 900 and Japan 800. To offset this the United States has a miserly 20.

While no doubt exists that this country has been backward in providing itself with a powerful air fleet, the question remains whether popular subscription is the best way of providing it. If the national interest demands an enlarged air fleet, the duty of the congress to provide it from the public funds is obvious. In general the rule can be laid down that the subscription game is overdone; and that in this particular case it is an undignified method of providing the army and navy with the necessary tools.

When congress spends money, furthermore, there are debates and publicity which the nation could not exact from the National American Aviation association, an extra-governmental organization. Except for Mr. L. Rodney Berg, secretary pro-tem, the names of the association's officers are not published in its appeal for funds. Mr. Berg's name does not appear in Who's Who. For all we know he may be entirely free from suspicion of boosting the aeroplane business as much for the profits of the manufacturers as for the protection of the nation. But stranger things have happened.

Forming an association to do the government's work is a habit we Americans have, and a costly one. It means a duplication in machinery, a waste of time, money and efficiency, even if worse features are absent. If the aviation association cares more for the public defense than for the business of producing aeroplanes it will confine itself strictly to propaganda, and let the United States government buy its aeroplanes at first hand, just as it buys its battleships and hardtack.

NEW YORK STATE REPELS INVASION.

The state of New York has been invaded. Alarm is felt in Albany. Reserves have been hurried from the capital to three places on the eastern border. No meditation will be offered the enemy. It is war to the death between the state forestry department and the gypsy moth. The foresters are armed with spirit guns and arsenate of lead; the moths rely on their marvelous fecundity and the voracious appetites of their larvae. The prize at stake is the life of the Empire state's shade and forest trees.

Here is a conflict worth while, success in which is more important by far to this country than anything we could hope to gain by invading Mexico. Huerta can do us far less harm than can the gypsy moth, an immigrant from Europe, with which New England has been struggling for years. And now New York is invaded by the ravenous insect. Reports from Long Island and the Massachusetts border indicate that the pest has established itself on several estates.

The direct attack of the foresters resolves itself into the spraying trees with arsenate of lead, and introducing into the threatened territory certain insect enemies of the gypsy moth which prey upon the larvae. In addition tree owners everywhere are urged to band their trees with a sticky substance in order to prevent the ascent of caterpillars.

In other days the maraudings of this great insect might be counted a plague in itself; but with organization and science at the command of the defenders the likelihood is that the gypsy moth can be isolated within narrow bounds and eventually eliminated altogether.

We are convinced now that Huerta, in addition to his accomplishments with the bottle, has also considerable ability as a poker player, otherwise he wouldn't be such an adept at a bluff on such a hand.

Five cent operas are near, is a promise from Mr. Edison. He cannot, however, expect them to supplant chewing gum in the affections of the girls.

Ambassador Page is criticized for comparing literature as a profession with gambling. Literature is not a game of chance—merely a dead sure thing against you in most cases.

It is said the Ringlings will go out of business because there are no boys in the family. Go ahead with the circus. The audience will borrow boys enough to make a showing.

If Colonel Roosevelt were turned loose in Mexico he would quickly bring a stuffed Huerta to the Smithsonian institution.

A Chicago man is suing his mother-in-law for \$50,000. Wonder if they shook hands before going to their corners?

A new world's record is made in the high jump. Long jumping is more practical in helping to dodge automobiles.

The habit of throwing out of church everybody who interrupts suggests that perhaps New York should have a don't go to church Sunday.

Parish Society to Meet.

The ladies of the Parish and Missionary society of the Lutheran church will meet at the home of Mrs. N. Nelson 501 Washington, Thursday night for a combined business meeting and social time. Husbands and gentlemen friends of the parish members are urged to attend.

PERSONALS

Father Huel of Joseph who has been in the city some time, left this morning for his parish.

Professor Armstrong went to Imbler this morning to give instruction in instrumental music.

O. F. Olson, road master for the O.-W. left this morning for Joseph on company business.

J. A. Cates of this city went out to Alicel this morning to visit with his son, C. C. Cates, who ranches in the vicinity of Alicel.

Mrs. George Grey left this morning for Pendleton where she will visit with relatives for an indeterminate time.

Mrs. D. H. Jesse and son, left this morning on 17 for Walla Walla, Spokane and Seattle, where they will be guests of relatives for some time.

Roy Schaeffer left this morning for Wallowa, where he is engaged in shearing sheep. He states shearing will be in progress another month.

Father Bernard O'Callaghan and Father Casimir Butler of Hermiston who were in the city on ecclesiastical business, left this morning for their parishes.

Geo. H. Currey, Jr., left with a party of land seekers this morning who will inspect some of the logged off land of the Palmer Lumber Company.

Mr. and Mrs. Carthales of San Diego, Cal., passed through La Grande today enroute to Alicel where they have bought a farm and where they will live in the future.

Miss Hilma Gustavson and brother Oscar, who have their home in Zumwalt for the last six months or more, left this morning for Seattle, where they will live in the future.

Arthur Underwood, son of Dr. Underwood of this city, left for Elgin this morning where he will spend the summer on the ranch of his uncle, W. R. Underwood.

Mrs. N. N. Carder of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, passed through the city this morning on her way to Summerville, where she will be the guest of her son, Alva and her daughter, Mrs. Iola Cantrell.

Roy Wolf of Joseph, who has been in Indiana for the last six months, passed through the city this morning on his way home. Winchester, Indianapolis, and adjoining places were visited during his stay there.

Mrs. Cull Smith and son Dean, who has just returned from St. Louis, where he attends Principia college left this morning for Wallowa, where Mrs. Smith conducts the Wallowa hotel.

Mrs. Michelod and daughter Grace of Walla Walla, who had been in the city several days visiting friends, left this morning for Joseph, where they will spend the summer on the sheep ranch owned by Mr. Michelod.

R. Falconer of Enterprise returned last night from Portland where he has been with his wife who is recovering from a serious operation performed at the Good Samaritan hospital. He states that she is recovering nicely.

Ethel Blakely of College Place, Washington, where she has been attending the Adventist college passed through the city this morning on her way home to Enterprise where she will spend the summer. During her stay here, she was the guest of Mrs. Jerry Rusk.

M. B. Donohue, secretary of the Geo. Palmer Lumber company went to Enterprise this morning in the interest of the company. Mr. Donohue was up bright and early in spite of the late hours he was obliged to keep on account of the Elk's performance in Cove last night.

Mr. and Mrs. Xavier Neumann ar-

CLEVER CLOTHES For Men

Do you know the new styles for summer? No man does unless he has been to this store recently and seen the new models and choice of patterns we are showing here in

Society Brand Clothes

\$20.00 and up

Benjamin Washington

Fidelity \$15.00 Suits

All the world of satisfaction in selecting one of these brands to know that they are backed with a name that always "make good."

For Rainy Weather New Balmaccan Rain-coats for Men\$22.50 and \$25.00

J. E. Tilt, Shoes. Fidelity Trading Stamps Given.

N. K. West & Co. THE QUALITY STORE

HALF MINUTE TALK

A well known railroad man remarked last Thursday, as he selected 3 new Union Suits: "You certainly have a fine line of Union Suits. I was in every store in town, but could not find anything that suited me until I came to this store." There are lots of stocks of underwear, but for variety, quality, comfort and service at fair prices, you'll eventually come here.

Why not do so this week?



Society Brand Clothes

rived in the city today from Waukesha, Wisconsin, to be the guests of their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Habelman, recent arrivals in La Grande.

Burl Conley of Cove, and Irwin Hess of Union are registered at the Sommer hotel.

Mrs. Frank Phy left this afternoon for Baker where she will be the guest of her mother Mrs. Chambers for a week or ten days.

Mrs. C. E. Washburn and daughter Edith left today for Boise, where they will visit with Mr. Washburn's parents for an indefinite stay.

Mrs. G. H. Rush and son Roger, left this morning for Nampa where they will visit with Mrs. Rush's brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. McPherson.

G. L. Larrison, manager of the La Grande Grocery company, in La Grande, left this morning for Baker, where he will transact business for the firm.

Mrs. P. J. Theisen left this morning for Portland where she will meet her daughter Miss Hazel, who has been teaching in Tillamook the past winter. Miss Hazel is coming home to spend the summer here.

Visits Valley Friends.

Mrs. T. J. Scroggin and daughter, Alledaine have left for the Willamette valley to spend six weeks or two months with relatives and friends at McMinnville, Portland and as far south as Medford.

LONG RUN RESULTS.

Department Called to North Third and Crook by Alarm.

A threatening chimney fire in a small home owned and occupied by Mrs. Ole Olson and her daughter, necessitated the calling out of the fire department on a long run this forenoon. To Crook and North Third, where the fire was located, and back to the station made a run of 2.5 miles, at an average speed of 35 miles an

hour. The fire itself was trivial, being nothing more than a bad chimney fire. Chemicals did the work.

Show Hours Set.

The first performance of "Antony and Cleopatra" opens at 7 at the Arcade, and the second and last at 9 tonight.

FOR SALE CHEAP—Coal heater, 505 Jefferson Ave. Phone Black 251. 5-27-tf

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 years, in all kinds of financial weather, we have successfully catered to the monetary wants of the people of La Grande and the Grand Ronde Valley.

We respectfully solicit your business.

La Grande National Bank

La Grande, Oregon