THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS, Editor and Owner.

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DANGER GREAT, LOSS SMALL.

The season of 1914, according to the officials of the Forest Service, carried greater danger from fire to the National Forests than any year since the establishment of the Forests. A long dry season, sustained periods of high temperature, recurring hard and steady winds, and, in some places, unusually hot, dry nights, rendered the forests exceedingly inflammable. In fact the weather conditions were said to be worse than in 1910, when the disastrous Idaho fires occurred.

The total number of fires during the season of 1914 which threatened the National Forests and had to be handled by the protective organization of the Forest Service were 6,112, or 1,000 more than in 1910. Of this 6,112 fires, 81 per cent were extinguished before they had covered 10 acres. The percentage that burned over more than 10 acres was smaller than in any previouse year. The most serious of these fires ocurred in Western Montana, Northern Idaho, and the Pacific slope. In the central and Southern Rocky Mountains conditions were more normal, and only 15 per cent of the total number of fires occurred in this region. A preliminary estimate shows that the total loss of merchantable timber will probably not exceed $400,000. In 1910 the corresponding estimate was nearly $15,000,000, although later estimates materially reduced this amount.

It is estimated that the value of the timber threatened and saved in Idaho and Montana alone aggregates over $59,000,000. In Oregon and Washington, experts estimate the value of timber saved at $24,000,000. This does not include the value of non-merchantable timber, young growth on about five million acres of land, or several million dollars worth of ranch and other private property which lay in the path of the threatening conflagrations.

The figures given represent the number of fires reported up to December 1. When the complete figures are in, it is expected that they will add large amounts to the total value of property threatened and saved.

SHALL THE HIRED GIRL EAT WITH THE FAMILY OR IN THE KITCHEN?

In the December American Magazine George Fitch, the Illinois humorist, writes an amusing article about the servant question in small towns. The title of his article is "The Servant Question in Homeburg." He says that in Homeburg only one family, that of Mrs. Singer, has any servants. The rest have hired girls. On the question as to whether the hired girl should or should not eat with the family Mr. Fitch writes:

"Abut the only hired girl problem we have is the following: "Shall the girl eat with the family or in the kitchen? Mrs. Singer wished that on us. Ten years ago there was no question at all. The girl ate with the family, and waited on the table when something was needed which couldn't be reached. Then Mrs. Singer came to town and made hers eat in the kitchen, since which time the question has raged with more or less fury and the whole town has chosen up sides on it. Half of us want the girl to eat in the kitchen, and the other half have her at the table.

"As for the girls, they are divided too. Half of the girls who come to see about places ask us, 'Do I have to eat in the kitchen?' and the other half ask, 'Do I have to eat with the family?' And of course its just our luck that the people who wish to dine by themselves never can find girls who prefer the kitchen, and the people who insist on associating with their help usually lose them because said help has been spoiled somewhere else."

PECULIARITIES OF WAR.

(By WILLIAM G. SHEPHERD)

On the Hungarian Frontier, Nov. 6.—(By mail to New York)—Our little newspaper party, numbed with cold, climbed out of the car today and were led by a sentinel through a great double door into the muddy passage way of a building. A side door opened and we entered a huge long room, warm and well lighted with oil lamps. Three long tables ran the length of the room. There were the remnants of a giant dinner on them, which soldiers were clearing away. A piano was banging. A huge man with a jolly face was singing. Men sat about the tables in small groups drinking beer and listening. It was my introduction to the Austro-Hungarian press headquarters.

In this little town sixty newspapermen are lodged. I t requires a small army of officers and soldiers to care for them. The town is set aside entirely for the press and every soldier to be seen, every horse, every one of the scores of supply wagons, every automobile, every officer—all have as their duty or purpose the convience of the correspondents who are mostly Austrians and Hungarians. In addition to the comforts which the writing men have, there are two autobusses at their disposal which make regular trips between this little town and headquarters. And, on the road, you often see a train of four or five small wagons carrying beer which will be consumed, in large part, by the newspapermen. The correspondents pay for their beer but their food is furnished them free. In this great room where I ate my hot, belated supper the correspondents do a great deal of their writing and here the censors, who are appointed to deal in various languages, talk over the copy of the journalists, read out news at mealtime and give instructions as to postal and telegraph arrangements.

An auto was waiting for me and I was whisked to a whitemashed house on the outskirts of the town where a room had been reserved for me. The family was Polish. All about the walls of the little room were pictures of the Christ and the Virgin Mary. It was the parlor, and three clocks were ticking away merrily. I have been in scores of such houses in America. I remembered that one time in a Massachusetts town, during a strike, I had slept for four nights in just such a Polish home waiting for the deputy sheriff to come and put the family out into the street but the sheriff had not come and I had missed my story. There had been two clocks in my room in that house in America. Poles seem to run clocks. I locked two of the clocks in my valise to muffle them and went to bed. It looked to me just as I was dropping off into slumber as if I had been pocketed by the Austro-Hungarian war department. Here I was in a small town, a hundred miles from the front and no way to get there except by army trains and the Polish woman rapped at my door to tell me it was seven o'clock in the morning. At breakfast time in the big room I found that my status was absolutely military. I received instructions that I was to go to the headquarters town at 9 o'clock. I took the long ride over the hills in a coach in a wintery sunshine. I met Colonel Von Hoen, who has entire charge of all the field forces of correspondents and he had a pass ready for me.

"Tomorrow," Col. Hoen told me, "You are to be started for the front, but first you will be received by General Count von Hertzendorf, the chief of staff."

This was far more than an American or any correspondent could have expected in the way of Austrian courtesy. The Archduke Frederick is the commander in chief of the entire Austro-Hungarian army and General von Hertzendorf is next in command as chief of staff. The next day Col. von Hoen escorted several correspondents including myself to the field headquarters and we were shown into a room which was entered shortly by a grey-haired quiet appearing gentleman of slender stature who greeted us with as much ease as if the occasion were a reception instead of an incident in the world's supreme war. He spoke to a German correspondent in German, to an Italian in Italian, to a Swiss in French and I do not know how many other tongues he commands. There was not even crepe on his arms for the son who was recently killed in battle. Another of his sons had just been wounded. He asked me about my country and its feelings toward Austria and I told him that what the United States wanted was the truth.

"We want you to have the truth," he replied. Then he told us—there were six of us—that we must be very careful of our health when we went to the front and carefully regard all the regulations and precautions that the doctors would impose on us. Then he went back to his maps and his duties of directing millions of men on his million mile chess board and we went back over the hills to pack up.

Cotton Seed for Sheep.

Pendleton, Dec. 21.—An innovation that gives promise of being very profitable to eastern Oregon sheep men consists in the use of cotton seed cakes for feeding purposes. The cakes are being used here for the first time this winter and some of the biggest growers are trying out the new method with good results. The idea was picked up last winter by J. N. Burgess and he is feeding the cakes to the Cunningham company's sheep. Smythe Bros., R. N. Stanfield and K. G. Warner are some of the other growers who have taken up with the plan.

The cotton seed cakes come in nut form and are what is left of cotton seed after the oil is taken out. The cakes cost from $38 to $40 per ton delivered here and come, of course, from the cotton belt in the south. Four ounces makes a full feed for one sheep and the cakes have 10 times the strength of alfalfa and four times the strength of barley or corn. The cakes are thrown upon the grown and the sheep pick them up.

The feeding of the cotton seed cakes strengthens the sheep generally and make them produce more wool and the ewes give more milk for the lambs. Last winter a prominent grower in Idaho divided a band of sheep, feeding one half the band on alfalfa and the other half upon cotton seed cakes. He found that the band to which the cakes had been fed produced an average of two pounds of wool per head more than the band that had been fed in the customary manner.

The profits in the sheep business depend largely upon the ability of the grower to keep his sheep in good physical condition. Sheep that are "not doing well" do not bear heavy fleeces and the fleeces are always off grade. When ewes are not in good shape they do not raise the normal number of lambs and are unable to take care of twins when they have them. It is the belief of Dan P. Smythe that when sheep are in fine shape it is normal for a ewe to have two lambs and on the Smythe Bros. ranch vigorous work is done to save all the twins. It is their intention to mix 25 per cent of syrup with the cotton seed cakes and feed the ewe bands this winter.

DOGS ARE NOW USED AS CADDIES IN ENGLAND.

Retriever Has Been Trained to Do the Work of Boys.

From London comes the report that an innovation has lately been made by a player on the Tyneside golf course at Rytown which may be adopted on the golf courses in the United States. In order to overcome the difficulties created by a scarcity of caddies the player in question trained his Labrador retriever to carry his clubs and hunt for lost balls. The experiment has been so successful that it may not be many months before the professional caddies on most of the golf courses will find their occupation gone. The inventor of the idea first taught his dog to hunt for balls. After a few days this proved so successful that the retriever not only brought in the balls he had been bidden to find, but others which had been missing for months.

The dogs were next taught to carry the clubs. A strap four inches long with a hook in the end was fastened to the mouth of the bag. The hook was then attached to the dog's collar, and the bag was hung in place by a girdle incircling the dog's body and the bag.

In speaking of his dog caddy the golfer said:

"It is curious that the idea has never been developed before. There is no question that my dog's caddy work is much superior to that performed by any human I have ever used. The dog, being used to shooting, keeps well in 'at heel,' so that I can snatch the various clubs from him without any difficulty. When I lose a ball I merely have to order him to 'dead bird.' If he has to range a good deal I give him more freedom in his movements. From my point of view the dog is so much the superior of the boy as a caddy that I expect to see dogs used universally in the future."

The N. K. West Store will stay open Wednesday and Thursday evening only

Of Course You Want a Gift for Some One

You'll Find it at the N. K. West Store

and priced lower than you anticipate—hundreds of appropriate and desirable gifts are always acceptable.

Take a Tip from Santa

It will be the useful gifts that will be more appreciated this year and they are exactly what most people are buying. Smoking Jackets, Ties, Bath Robes, Combination Sets, Hosiery, Sweaters, Suspenders, Leather Goods, Caps, Gloves, Shirts, etc. for the men folks. Furs, Waists, Petticoats, Gloves, Boudoir Caps, Bath Robes, Kimonas, Slippers, Handkerchiefs, etc. for the women. All displayed for easy selection.

N. K. West & Co.

THE QUALITY STORE

SHOP EARLY IN THE DAY AND AVOID THE AFTERNOON RUSH.

American Shipping Suffers.

New York, Dec. 22.—At least fifty gigantic ocean liners representing a total value of a billion dollars are lying idle in American ports today as a result of the European war. The loss sustained each day by the various steamship companies through the idleness of their costly vessels is almost incalculable.

The Atlantic coast ports of the United States in nearly every instance contain one or more ships either interned or laid up through lack of trans-Atlantic travel. Boston and New York are harboring the greatest number.

When the war first broke out, many big German liners were forced to put back into American ports to avoid raiding by British cruisers. Others were ordered to disband crews and lay up in our ports until the end of hostilities.

The two great German lines, the North German Lloyd and the Hamburg American own forty three vessels now enforcedly idle in American ports. The White Star line was forced through lack of business to discontinue the sailings of the Cedric, the Celtic and the Cymric. The White Star Dominion Line discontinued the sailings of the Laurentic, Canada and Teutonic.

The big piers in Brooklyn present some disconsolate scenes of suspended activity. At one pier are tied three big ocean greyhounds, their sides dirty from lack of paint and with winches and brass work rusted from disuse. They are the Kaiser Wilhelm 11, the Grosser Kurfurst and the Friederich Der Grosse. A small crew of men are kept aboard to guard the big liners and a wisp of smoke coming from one of the attacks on each vessel tells that fires are being kept to prevent freezing.

At another Brooklyn dock stands the mighty Vaterland of the Hamburg American line. At the time of launching, the Vaterland was heralded as the last word in ocean liners. Her cost was estimated at over $,-000,000. Her tonnage is greater than that of any liner afloat. Today she is worse than useless to the Hamburg American line because every day of idleness is piling up huge costs on idle investments.

In one of the long warehouses at the Bush Terminal docks in Brooklyn, nearly one hundred sailors, members of the German vessels interned there are being housed. The Hamburg American line and the North German Lloyd has fitted up the warehouse with bunks and small stoves and all day the men sit idle waiting for a chance to either work around the docks or smuggle themselves out of the country. They all want to fight for the Fatherland but the laws of neutrality prohibit them leaving the United States unless they are American citizens. To get around this law, a thriving trade has sprung up among naturalized foreigners who sell their naturalization papers for amounts up to $100. With these papers, the Germans pass the port authorities and reach the Fatherland as American citizens.

The fleet of the North German Lloyd line, the proudest Trans-Atlantic fleet in history has been decimated by the war. Tied up at docks in the port of New York are six of the line's biggest vessels. They are the Kaiser Wilhelm 11, the George Washington, the Grosser Kurfurst, Friederich Der Grosse, Barbarossa, and Princess Irene. Many of the North German Lloyd and Hamburg American vessels have also been taken over by the German government and are converted into scouts and cruisers.

At Boston lies the Kronprinzessin Cecilie whose palatial equipment is known to thousands of Americans. Alongside her is the Wittekind, the Willehad and the Koln, vessels of lesser size.

The idleness of the big liners has increased the business of the smaller neutral lines tremendously. The freight departments of the Uranium line, the Russian Norwegian and the French line are working night and day handling their increased business.

England having control of the seas, her big Trans-Atlantic lines are still doing business but travel and trade have diminished to such an extent that all are suffering. The Gunard line is operating all of their vessels either in commercial business or for the Government of Great Britain. The White Star line is also operating all of its steamers.

Notice.

NOTICE OF THE RECORDER, of the City of La Grande, Oregon, of the assessment of Improvement District No. 97 of the City of La Grande Oregon.

NOTICE is h ereby given that the assessment for the improvement of the west side of Walnut street, from the north curb line of Main Avenue to the south curb line of Washington Avenue, being district No. 97 of the City of La Grande, Oregon, under the provisions of Ordinance No. 806, Series 1914. "An Ordinance declaring the cost of improving the west side of Walnut street, from the north curb line of Main Avenue to the south curb line of Washington Avenue by gradng the same to a proper subgrade and constructing thereon a standard five-foot concrete sidewalk, determining the property to be benefitted thereby; levying an assessment thereon to defray the costs and expensesof said improvement; providing for an assessment roll for the same, and directing the entry of said assessment roll in the Docket of City Liens; providing a time when the same shall become delinquent; and requiring the City Recorder to prepare a special assessment roll in accordance with the assessment levied herein; and to collect such assessment, the same being in improvement District No. 97 in said City of La Grande, Oregon, is now in my hands for collection and the same may be paid to me at any time within ten (10) days from the 21 st day of D[illegible] 1914, without penalty, interest or cost; and each property owner is hereby notified that on application to the undersigned within ten (10) days from the 21st day of December 1914, which is the first date of the publication of this notice, they will be allowed to pay such assessment in ten (10) annual installments, the first installment thereof being due and payable on or before the 21st day of Dec. 1915. If application is not made as above specified, the whole amount is due, payable and will become delinquent on the 2nd day of Janu. 1915. The assessment roll is as follows:

ALL IN BLOCK 12, ROMIG'S ADDITION.

OWNER	LOT	BLK	COST
Mrs. L. E. White, E 1-2 of Lots 7 & 8	12		$146.34
J. A. Whitby, ... 9	12		54.45
L. D. Howland, ..10	12		62.09
L. D. Howland, S. 16 ft. of 11	12		32.15
Robert Eakin, N. 32 ft. of 11	12		43.66
Robert Eakin, ...12	12		121.93
			$460.42

By order of the Commission.

LEE WARNOCK

City Recorder.

—Adv. 12 21 30

MEAT INJURIOUS TO THE KIDNEYS

Take a tablespoonful of Salts if Back hurts or Bladder bothers—Meat forms uric acid.

We are a nation of meat eaters and our blood is filled with uric acid, says a well-known authority, who warns us to be constantly on guard against kidney trouble.

The kidneys do their utmost to free the blood of this irritating acid, but become weak from the overwork; they get sluggish; the eliminative tissues clog and thus the waste is retained in the blood to poison the entire system.

When your kidneys ache and feel like lumps of lead, and you have stinging pains in the back or the urine is cloudy, full of sediment, or the bladder is irritable, obliging you to seek relief during the night; when you have severe headaches, nervous and dizzy spells, sleeplessness, acid stomach or rheumatism in bad weather, get from your pharmacist about four ounces of Jad Salts; take a tablespoonful in a glass of water before breakfast each morning and in a few days your kidneys will act fine. This famous salts is made from the acid of grapes and lemon juice, combined with lithia, and has been used for generations to flush and stimulate clogged kidneys, to neutralize the acids in urine so it is no longer a source of irritation, thus ending urinary and bladder disorders.

Jad Salts is inexpensive and cannot injure; makes a delightful, effervescent lithia-water drink, and nobody can make a mistake by taking a little occasionally to keep the kidneys clean and active.

Adv.

W. E. McClure & Co.

Transfer and Delivery Piano Moving a Specialty Rock Springs and Hiawatha Coal. Yellow Pine Wood. Phone Main 10.

An Honorable History

FOR 27 YEARS THE

La Grande National Bank

has ministered to the wants of clients through good times and through hard times, doing its best always to render substantial and efficient service. Its reputation for solidity and progressiveness has attracted a powerful clientele.

You are invited to identify yourself with us as a depositor, and grow with us.

La Grande National Bank

La Grande, Oregon, Designated Depository of U. S. Government Postal Savings Depository. Capital $200,000.00; Surplus, $50,000.00; Resources, $1,000,000.00.

FRED J. HOLMES, President; C. C. PENINGTON Vice-president; F. L. MEYERS, Cashier; EARL ZUNDEL and H. E. COOLIDGE, Assistant Cashiers.

Try Birnie's Jewelry Store For

those belated ideas in Christmas presents. We will be pleased to suggest, but you will have to hurry, Christmas is very near.

Engraving free and we deliver when promised—no delay.

G. S. BIRNIE Phone Black 971 La Grande Oregon