

THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS, Editor and Owner.

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THE BEGINNINGS OF FREE JUSTICE.

Concluding a short review of the spread of free legal aid, organized in bureaus, Law Notes (a magazine for lawyers), says:

"In any case free legal aid to the deserving poor appears to be in the line of progress and social betterment. It will be a step toward a more ideal administration of the law when justice shall not wait upon the longest purse but will be meted out with an even hand to rich and poor alike."

Free justice, thus prophesied will probably be of a more or less slow growth. An established wrong system, which has many roots, is not easily uprooted. But already it is generally recognized that the poor who cannot pay fees to trial advocates would nevertheless have access to the people's courts. And from that point it is easily seen that everybody should have the service of courts without having to pay advocates for it or having, substantially, to gamble for it.—Kansas City Star.

THE USE OF COFFEE.

Interesting figures with regard to the production and consumption of coffee are contained in a booklet just published by the National Coffee Roasters' association. Consumption of coffee in the United States is found to have increased from 2,988 pounds in 1830 to an estimated 10,311 pounds per capita consumption in 1914. The yearly consumption for each person averaged by periods of twenty years, and compiled from reports of the United States department of commerce, show the following ratio: 1854-1873, 5,786 pounds; 1874-1893, 8,118 pounds; and 1894-1913, 10,256 pounds.

The production of coffee in the crop year 1913-1914 is estimated at over 18,000,000 bags, as compared with a production of 16,373,000 bags in the corresponding crop year, 1912-1913. The booklet concludes: "Thus it is shown that coffee drinking by the people of the United States has increased with the increasing greatness of the country, and that coffee is more and more universally beloved as the national beverage of a strong nation."

CANADIAN VIEW OF THE WAR CAUSES.

"The United States is sure to suffer tremendously from the present struggle. Absurd is the claim that the nations not involved are going to gain commercially from the war," says James A. McDonald editor of the Toronto Globe. He continues: "There may be a few temporary gains. But when enormous wealth is destroyed it is lost. And those enormous losses are going to be severely felt by all nations."

"After this war is over, taxes are

going to take the life's blood right out of the unfortunate peoples in the contending nations. The war debts will be so great that it will be possible only to pay the interest.

"This immense sum used for paying war debts cannot be used for anything else, so, of course, fewer goods can be bought by the nations of Europe from this country.

"A person is foolish who talks about prosperity on a large scale at a time like this. The United States is perhaps the most self-sustaining of the nations. Russia is another that can produce the greater part of what the people need. Yet the United States to be prosperous must do a great deal of business with foreign nations.

"With half the homes of Europe bleeding at every pore, we cannot expect and we cannot ask our homes and our counting-houses, and our nation, and our continent, alone in all the world, shall be spared the results of the world's awful baptism of blood.

"Should you say the nations will win which have the largest resources to draw from, regardless of the bravery of the men doing the fighting?"

"It will not be decided without regard to bravery. The nation will win which uses its money most judiciously to make that bravery count. It depends largely on how the enormous resources are handled. It would be unfair to the soldiers to say that they will not play a tremendous part in the result.

"Could the United States at this time do anything to bring about the end of the war?"

"No, brute force must be put down with brute force. But the time is coming when the United States and Canada can together point the way to perpetual peace.

"No matter who is responsible for it, the lining up for mutual slaughter of millions upon millions of men from the foremost nations of Europe, for the alleged purpose of settling some international dispute, is a blank denial of civilization, a crime against humanity, an apostasy from Christ.

"Yet, over against that ghastly failure, America is just now ending 100 years of unbroken peace between the greatest empire the world ever saw and the world's greatest republic.

"Moreover, America is teaching the world that a boundary line does not have to have forts and battleships.

"The policy the United States and Canada live under on the Great Lakes on the St. Lawrence, on the Niagara and on the sweeping plains should be adopted by, and can be adopted by, the fathers in Britain, in France and in Germany relative to the North Sea and the Channel. It can be done on all the continents of Europe.

"The North American continent is going to keep peace. There is a great deal said about Canada's attitude on the Monroe doctrine. If any other nation attacked the United States, Canada would be ready to do its utmost to back up the provisions of the Monroe doctrine.

"Mr. Bryan's peace treaties are all right so far as they go. They are mostly with small nations. Their greatest good is that they create a world sentiment against war and blood.

"There is a better way than by treaties to end further wars in Europe. Business men get together to discuss business. They say such a man is crooked. We will not sell him anything and we will not buy of him. Let the nations do the same. When they see such a nation is crooked, then the same methods are applied to the individual will work out quickly. Every nation is dependent on every other nation."

A Sale For Thrifty, Economical Men and Women
 Now in Full Swing, N. K. West's 17th Great
Annual Jan. Clearance Sale

Cost Entirely Disregarded in Mark Down of all Ladies' Suits, Coats, Dresses Waists, Skirts & Furs
At One Half Price
All Women's Tailored Suits and Coats



Entire line of new Fall Suits and Coats—now at just One-half Price. The best styles of the season. The newest and most popular materials, and shades.

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|----------------------|--------|----------------------|---------|
| \$9.00 Coat or Suit | \$3.50 | \$20.00 Coat or Suit | \$10.00 |
| \$12.50 Coat or Suit | \$6.25 | \$22.50 Coat or Suit | \$11.25 |
| \$10.00 Coat or Suit | \$5.00 | \$25.00 Coat or Suit | \$12.50 |
| \$15.00 Coat or Suit | \$7.50 | \$30.00 Coat or Suit | \$15.00 |
| \$17.50 Coat or Suit | \$8.75 | \$35.00 Coat or Suit | \$17.50 |

Our Entire Stock of Waists At Drastic Clearance Prices

50 Women's Silk, Crepe De Chine and Net Waists, new blouse and basque effects—low and high necks—now

At One Half Price

| | |
|--|--------|
| \$4.00 Silk Waists | \$2.00 |
| \$5.00 Silk Waists | \$2.50 |
| \$6.00 Silk Waists | \$3.00 |
| \$7.50 Silk Waists | \$3.75 |
| One lot white Waists, regular \$1.25 values, now | 39c |

Every Waist in the Store Reduced

Afternoon Street Dresses Big Reduction

Every Dress right up to the minute in Style and Cloths.

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|---------------------|---------|
| \$10.00 Dresses now | \$6.70 |
| \$12.50 Dresses now | \$8.35 |
| \$15.00 Dresses now | \$10.00 |
| \$20.00 Dresses now | \$13.35 |
| \$25.00 Dresses now | \$16.90 |

Entire stock of Furs selling now at cost, One lot to \$3.50
 Children's and Misses' wash dresses now 59c
 One lot 12 dresses values to \$35.00 remainder of last season now \$5.90

A sale that surpasses all others in point of Economy, Variety and Quality.

Big Savings Now on all Our Immense Stocks of Piece Goods, Linens, Sheets, Pillow Cases, Spreads, Towels, Embroideries, Laces, Draperies and White Goods.

Many economical women are now supplying their needs for a year to come at the very low prices now in force at this Big January Clearance Sale.

Men's High Grade Clothing Now 25% off

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|---|--|
| One lot Men's Overcoats one-half price. | Boy's Hats Reduced One-third. |
| Every Shirt in the store reduced 20 per cent. | Trunks and Suit Cases Reduced 20 Per Cent. |
| Men's Sweaters Reduced One-third. | Men's Mackinaws Reduced 25 per cent. |
| Boy's Clothing Reduced 25 per cent. | Men's Pants Reduced 25 per cent. |

Sale now on **N.K. West & Co.** Sale Closes Jan. 30, 1918
 See Windows **THE QUALITY STORE**

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.