

THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS, Editor and Owner.

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THE STATEMENT OF MR. O'BRIEN.

A few evenings ago J. P. O'Brien, prominent official of the O. W. R. & N. Co., gave out an interview that has a bluish cast. Yes, it makes the business end of Oregon rather shudder and wonder what has happened, when things will change, and how long can the present conditions stand. In brief the railroad man, who is well known personally in La Grande, raises the flag of distress. He sees an epoch of rather barren commercial history and he appeals to the people for fair treatment from a railroad viewpoint.

Fair treatment is something all railroads are entitled to and it is a matter of common knowledge that the desire for stringent reform the past few years has been very expensive to railroad companies.

While in many cases the railroads deserved a spur in their flank to bring them to a realization of right, yet that spur did not cease operation when it should have ceased.

The recent five per cent increase in freight rates on all eastern roads was evidently necessary else the president would not have advocated it. Now the western roads which operate under greater difficulties than those in the east are facing a situation that is alarming. There is not only an additional freight charge apparently needed in the west, but there is a strong necessity for a closer relationship between the people and the railroads thus inspiring a loyalty to the rail enterprises rather than a disposition to always stick the knife in the transportation companies.

It is hoped the legislature which convenes in Salem next week will resist from any drastic railroad legislation, and it also hoped that legislature will also resist from any experimental legislation that will effect the railroads. Let them have peace for a while. They have had their licking and now they want to be good. Let the people meet them half way.

The Pender murder case still attracts attention. Since the confession of the crazy boy Shierka at the insane asylum a doubt has been raised as to the guilt of Pender, which cannot well be cast aside without proper investigation. The people of Oregon will endorse a complete investigation of this nefarious crime regardless of the expense or time consumed, for if Pender is innocent it would be a crime upon the state's name to keep him in prison.

No more important meeting to the state of Oregon has been held than the Irrigation meeting at Portland this week. While our brothers down in the Willamette valley hardly realize it, the future of Oregon's growth depends to a large extent upon what shall be done toward bringing under the sage brush land. The man who puts an acre of the volcanic ash soil under water has done an act for future generations and he should be praised by his countrymen.

Judge Messick in Baker county refuses to grant any more widows pensions, but he still intends to take care of the destitute ones. Messick's opinion may be shared in the future by many county courts of the state for the margin in favor of putting one over on the county is considerable and quite often the law that was intended to be an extremely charitable one is abused.

Senator Strayer of Baker county will attack the Blue Sky law during the coming session of the legislature. The attack on many points of the law is justified and Baker county can never hope to have her mines developed unless those who invest take some sort of a chance on their investment. That is the way all mines have been developed.

Baker people think France is going to spend three million dollars in Eastern Oregon for horses. Hope they are right, for if that is true the Grande Ronde valley—home of the perfect horse—will have more money than her people can spend in the next year.

Great Britain has issued a proclamation acceding to your Uncle Samuel's wishes regarding commerce of this country, but just the same England never forgets and it is possible that behind the clock on the mantle shelf she has this chalked down for future consideration.

Each day, one hears of some of the ranchers in the Grande Ronde who have not yet sold their wheat. This is a year when the speculation of the farmer is bringing results to him.

Villa has a fine way of showing his "friendly" relations. He proposes to shoot a few thousand shots across the border to convince the United States that he is our friend.

Chicagoans will eat day-old bread. We can see nothing remarkable about this for day-old bread is not bad for anyone to eat even though he lives outside of Chicago.

With the opening of the year Germany seems to have taken another hitch in her suspenders and passed some determined resolutions.

And the Cuban tobacco crop is ruined. Hard luck comes in chunks, eh?

Marriage always changes people, but unfortunately it doesn't always alter them for the better.

Most of the criticism comes from those who have no interest in the matter, one way or another.

The fact that Spanish is the mother tongue of Mexico does not exert any perceptible sentimental appeal.

When a fellow discovers that he has no balance in the bank it's time for him to take a tumble to himself.

Never tell a man who has failed how he might have avoided failure; tell him how he may become successful again.

Twenty million baseballs are made annually in this country. Somebody must hit 'em out of the lot occasionally.

That American Posture league will have less work to do perhaps than it would had it chosen to be an imposture league.

You Hear it Every Day, "If You Can't Find What You Want at West's, No Need to Look Elsewhere"

17th Great Annual January Clearance Sale

Where the Lowest Prices of the Year Prevail--Every Article Reduced Drastic Out-cleaning Women's Ready-to-Wear Every Suit and Coat at One Half Price

All new this season, Tailored Suits and Coats, at a saving of just one-half to finish out five months of wear.

\$ 9.00 Suit or Coat	\$4.50
\$10.00 Suit or Coat	\$5.00
\$12.50 Suit or Coat	\$6.25
\$15.00 Suit or Coat	\$7.50
\$17.50 Suit or Coat	\$8.75
\$20.00 Suit or Coat	\$10.00
\$25.00 Suit or Coat	\$12.50
\$30.00 Suit or Coat	\$15.00
\$35.00 Suit or Coat	\$17.50

Furs Now Selling at Cost

\$5.00 Furs, now	\$3.40	\$15.00 Furs, now	\$10.00
\$7.50 Furs, now	\$5.00	\$17.50 Furs, now	\$11.70
\$10.00 Furs, now	\$6.70	\$25.00 Furs, now	\$16.70
\$12.50 Furs, now	\$8.40	\$30.00 Furs, now	\$21.40

One lot Children's and Misses Wash Dresses, values Clearance 58c
12 Women's Silk and Wool Dresses, Remainder of last Season, values to \$25.00 now\$5.90
30 Women's \$4.00 to \$7.50 Silk Waists at one-half price. Blouse and basque effects.

Always As Before In January OUR EXTRAORDINARY SALE OF WHITE



Bountiful Stocks of Fine New Undermuslins for Women at Splendid Price Economies

Piles and Piles of Snowy New Garments just received and placed on sale at January Clearance. Every item is offered at considerably less than regular and bear in mind that all the N. K. West's garments are made of the best materials, well finished all seams turned, all embroideries and laces dainty and of good quality, well made well cut; all charming Undergarments at lowest of prices.

Gowns, 55¢ to \$3.00.
Corset Covers, 25¢ to \$1.25.
Combinations, 85¢ to \$3.00.
Slips, 85¢ to \$3.00.
Pants, 25¢ to \$1.25.

Made of the daintiest of materials, Crepes, Silks and Muslins.

Opportunity Month for Household Needs

By opportunity we mean not only greatly reduced prices but an immense stock and the greatest varieties to be found in Eastern Oregon. Every thing that a complete Dry Goods Store should offer a woman is here—and at unusual savings—Linen, Sheets, Pillow Cases, Towelings, Embroideries, Etc. Many economical women are supplying their needs a year to come at the January Clearance prices.

Parents! Bring Your Boys to This Sale

You know the kind of Boy's Clothing West keeps. Only that kind that is absolutely sure of giving the best of service and guaranteed to be satisfactory in every respect. 'Extra Good' and 'Best Ever' Brands—Lined Knickers—Serge Linings—all wool—Reinforced Seams and—Every Boy's Suit Reduced 25 Per Cent.
Boy's Pants Reduced 25 Per Cent.
Boy's 50c Bell Blouses now38¢
Boy's 25c Blouses, now20¢
Boy's Hats Reduced One-Third.
Boy's Sweaters Reduced One-Third.
Boy's Gloves Reduced 20 Per Cent.
All Small Boy's Buster Brown Suits now at ONE-HALF.
Regular \$4.00, \$5.00, \$6.00 and \$7.50 Buster Brown Suits, now\$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.00, \$3.75



Entire Line of Men's Suits Reduced 25 per cent

Regular \$15.00 Suits now	\$11.25	Regular \$22.50 Suits now	\$16.90
Regular \$17.50 Suits, now	\$13.15	Regular \$25.00 Suits now	\$18.75
Regular \$20.00 Suits, now	\$15.00	Regular \$27.50 Suits, now	\$21.15

N. K. West & Co.
THE QUALITY STORE

EXTRA SPECIAL
One lot White Goods, values to 25c, Embroidered Lawns, Swiss, Etc., now at Clearance.....7c
Flannelettes, Regular values to 15c, clearance, yd.7c
15c Percales, now yd.10c
\$1.25 Tab Silks Clearance 85c
75c Tub Silks, Clearance 58c
24-in. Cheney Foulards 65c
36-inch Silk Poplin at .75c
40-inch Silk and Wool Poplin\$1.09
Curtain Scrims13c to 42c
Wool Dress Goods per yd.19c to \$2.75
One lot Women's \$4.00 Shoes, now\$2.75
One lot Women's \$3.50 Shoes, now\$2.50
One lot Women's \$3.00 Shoes, now\$2.00

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.