

THE OBSERVER

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FOR CHARITY.

It was pleasant to note the manner in which La Grande people turned out to the Charity ball last evening and what a remarkable social event it proved to be. This is the first entertainment of any kind where the proceeds go directly to the Associated Charities and as a beginner it has set the pace for what may follow. The ladies and gentlemen composing the Wednesday Bridge Club, under whose management the event was held, are to be commended and congratulated for the success of the occasion, and a suggestion is herewith offered that the Charity ball henceforth become an annual event in La Grande.

JANUARY THAW CONTINUES.

La Grande is very liable to be up against a serious water problem next summer. Lack of snow in the mountains affects the city as well as the country.

After leasing the two lakes the legislature is getting to earnest action again. While it looks as though the lake lease was a matter of promotion it is well that it is over and that the transaction is closed.

And the wheat acreage increases. Next year will show just what can be raised in this valley in the way of grain.

 THE CONTRIBUTION LEVIED AGAINST BRUSSELS.

(From "German Atrocities and International Law." By James G. McDonald, Assistant Professor of European History in Indiana University. Published by the Germanistic Society of Chicago.)

Very important is the charge of illegally levying vast assessments against the city of Brussels and the province of Brabant. The amounts, \$40,000,000 and \$90,000,000, respectively, are named, but practically nothing has been given as to the exact terms of assessment or collection. The second assessment has been denied. The first has been admitted, though the exact amount, it is said, has not yet been fixed.

The international law of such "contributions" was defined in 1907 by The Hague Convention, regulating the "Laws and Customs of War on Land," as follows:

Article 49. "If, besides the taxes referred to in the preceding article, the occupant levies other money contributions in the occupied territory, this can only be for military purposes or the administration of such territory."

Article 51. "No contribution shall be collected except under a written order and on the responsibility of the Commander in Chief. The levy shall only take place, as far as possible, in accordance with the rules in existence and the assessment in force for taxes.

For every contribution a receipt shall be given to the payer."

These articles seek to limit the amount of "contributions" to what is needed within the territory actually occupied, either for military necessities or for administrative purposes. Contributions so limited are undoubtedly legal.

This war-right has been held "to be peculiarly unjust and wanting in that spirit of sympathetic concern for the national feeling, which informs the modern usages of war so largely." It is true that "it seems cruel" to allow the Germans occupying Belgium to make Belgians contribute to the support of that army which is holding them in subjection. It is true that "contributions" are "a relic of the vested rights which an invader once possessed to money, goods, and labor of the people he had temporarily conquered." But is war itself not a relic of barbarism?

In reality, "contributions," if not extortionate, and if levied in lieu of requisitions (demands for supplies, e. g., horses, cattle, etc.) and to supplement or substitute the regular taxes, may be the most humane method of supporting a conquering army in an enemy country. A concrete case, cited by a German representative at the international conference at Brussels in 1874, will illustrate how "contributions" may be a valuable method of equalizing a heavy military burden: "An army arrives at a rich town, and demands a certain number of oxen for its subsistence. The town replies that it has none. The army would be compelled in that case to apply to villages, which are frequently poor, where it would seize what it is in want of. This would be a flagrant injustice. The poor would pay for the rich. There is, therefore, no other expedient but to admit an equivalent in cash. This is likewise the mode which the inhabitants prefer. Moreover, it cannot be admitted that a town which is unable to pay in kind shall be exempted from paying in money."

The last edition of the British Field Service Regulations echoes this same defense, when it authorizes commands to raise "contributions in order to distribute the burden of levying the supplies more evenly over the whole population," for otherwise it is only the inhabitants immediately or near the line of march who feel it. "By levying contribution," this article continues, "in large towns, which are principal administrative centers or districts, and, by expending the sums so obtained in the purchase of supplies in outlying districts, the latter may be made to bear their share as well."

"Contributions," then, are normally legal, as a measure of necessity to meet administrative or military needs within an occupied territory. If levied as a supplement to or as a substitute for other and sometimes more onerous means of support these money assessments are perfectly legal. One authority on international law has argued that these levies were illegal because, "according to The Hague rules, it is forbidden to penalize by pecuniary indemnity or personal punishment any general body of people for violation of the laws of war by a few. So that even if the Belgians had violated the rules of war, unless you can show that the entire population of Brussels was, as a body, responsible, it is illegal to levy a heavy fine upon them."

This is true. But the German military officers seem not to have levied a fine upon Brussels. Rather they seem to have imposed these levies, "in place of taxes," and "in place of requisitions in kind." Hence their system of "contributions" may prove to be highly commendable.

PERTINENT REMARKS.

"Keep 'em on," the wise man cautioned. As he sniffed the vernal breeze, "Though the Springtime is upon us, 'Tis too soon for B. V. D.'s."

Using a neutral flag has been called a ruse de guerre. Printing a picture of the occasion might be a ruse d'aguerreotype.

The Ohio river is at the high mark.

Henceforth everything should be live on the Ohio.

Neutrality—An Irishman addressing an anti-Bryan meeting where they closed by singing "Deutschland über Alles."

"Flies to show lawmakers," says an Olympia dispatch. A few ants might set a good example also.

If the legislature takes up the bill to provide aeroplanes or the militia will it be referred to as the fly paper?

The song sparrows have arrived, says a country correspondent. The next thing will be rhubarb pie!

The German navy will follow the 'safety first' plan—and, of course, submarines second.

Around the sawmills, where work has started: "Just tell them that you saw me and you also saw me saw."

In the spring the pullet's fancy. Lightly turns to thoughts of chicks. And her soul is bent on setting. And her wits are full of tricks.

JOBLESS PROBLEM SOLVED

Yeakum Believes Government Aid to Railroads the Panacea.

New York, Feb. 11.—The best possible solution of the unemployment problem lies in government ownership or co-operation in the restoration of railroad construction and the opening up of new lands, said Benjamin F. Yeakum, chairman of the St. Louis & San Francisco Railroad company in a speech before the Republican club.

"If a way can be found to do this, every other class of business will respond and flourish from the time such a fixed policy is assured," said Mr. Yeakum. "In the days when this kind of construction work was going on in different sections of the country, with thousands of new homes, new fields and industries, nothing could head off prosperity."

He said that railroad construction has been arrested since 1912 and that the prospects are that there will be no such work for two years more. Meanwhile the country has 3,000,000 additional mouths to feed without any additional products to feed them.

The cessation of railroad construction for four years, Mr. Yeakum said, would mean that the country had failed to invest more than \$1,000,000,000.

"Before all this important work of new railroad construction can be resumed," he continued, "a method must be found by which the government, the bankers and the builders can co-operate. The government must give material encouragement to this necessary work."

GOVERNMENT GIVES AID.

Expert Tells How Poison Can Be Used to Kill Coyotes.

In view of the prevalence of rabies among the coyotes in eastern Oregon, the district forester at Portland, has announced the results of some very effective work that has been done by the Forest Service in destroying these animals. Of all the predatory animals killed in the district last year by Forest officials, 31 per cent were killed on the Malheur National Forest by a method which Supervisor Bingham has found very successful. In one month last winter Mr. Bingham killed 32 coyotes in the vicinity of John Day, devoting only half his time to the work. For the benefit of those who have been the victims of these mad animals, an extract from Supervisor Bingham's report on his method of dealing with the coyotes is given herewith:

"A poison should be selected that will lose its effectiveness in a short time after being placed, so that in case it is not picked up by a coyote it will do no damage. The North-west Hide & Fur Co., Minneapolis, Minn., sells a poison of this character in the shape of a small capsule containing enough poison to immediately kill a coyote. The price is \$1.75 per 100 capsules. In ordering these capsules it must be stated for what purpose they are intended so that the proper size will be secured. Different sized capsules are required for different animals. These capsules are called 'Suredeath poison capsules.'"

"To prepare capsules for use, take a roll of old butter, preferably a little rancid. Warm it until it is soft enough to handle well, but not enough to melt it. Care must be used not to touch the butter with the hands. Use a small wooden paddle that has no human scent to it. With this paddle cut off a piece of butter about the size of a marble; lay it on an unscented board and flatten it out; place the capsule on the strip of butter; roll the butter around the capsule, leaving it as nearly round as possible. Take a small pair of wooden pinchers and place the butter-rolls in a jar that is free from scent. Never use metal to handle the butter-capsules—always wood."

Then let the butter roll freeze or harden and keep them in a cool place until used. The carcass of an old cow or horse should be used as bait—a fresh carcass preferred. Place the bait on top of knoll or hill, such as coyotes frequent. Avoid ground covered with brush. Do not kill the bait by shooting, but by severing the main arteries in the neck. All operations must be done from horseback, so that no odor will be left on the ground to keep the coyotes away.

Remodeling and February Cleanup Sale

The remodeling at the N. K. West Store starts today—They are busy tearing out on the Men's section getting ready to make this department the most modern Men's section in the country.



Men's Suits and Overcoats Reduced

Clothes of real quality and style at a Special price during this remodeling and February clean-up sale. Stop in and let us show you either a "Society Brand," "Benjamin," "Hirsch-Wickwire" or "Fidelity" suit.

Reg. \$15.00 Suits now	Reg. \$22.50 Suits now
\$11.25	\$16.90
Reg. \$17.50 Suits now	Reg. \$25.00 Suits now
\$13.15	\$18.25
Reg. \$20.00 Suits now	Reg. \$27.50 Suits now
\$15.00	\$20.65

One Lot Men's Overcoats Values to 17.50 Reduced \$4.98

These Prices Now on Dress Pants, Work Pants, Corduroy Pants

Reg. \$2.50 Pants.....	\$1.90	Reg. \$4.00 Pants.....	\$3.00
Reg. \$3.00 Pants.....	\$2.25	Reg. \$5.00 Pants.....	\$3.75

Entire Line Boys' Suits Reduced 25%. Cleanup Prices in Every Part of the Store

N. K. West & Co.
 THE QUALITY STORE

Throw two or three dozen capsules around the carcass, either in the snow or under natural debris. In conclusion, Mr. Bingham says:

"Too much emphasis cannot be laid on the necessity of leaving no human scent either on the poisoned rolls of litter, or on the ground about the carcass. Firearms should never be carried. One might occasionally be able to shoot a coyote if he had a gun along, but in doing so he would do more harm than good. Everything used in the preparation and placing of the bait should be absolutely free from scent. One should never dismount within half a mile of the carcass for any purpose, nor leave anything about the bait that could possibly carry a human scent."

Students Begin Debate Series.

Baker, Feb. 11.—The first of a series of high school debates was held at the high school auditorium last evening, when an interested audience heard a well prepared discussion of the question, Resolved that the State of Oregon made a mistake in abolishing capital punishment. The affirmative side of the question was upheld by Roy Allison, John Homewood and Wm. Langrell, while those on the negative side were Levi Coles, Sam Murray and Mm. Stuart. The judges—Superintendent Strange, Dean Jackson and Thomas Fisher—decided in favor of the affirmative side. The next debate will be held next Wednesday evening.

The new officers of the high school debating society are: Levi Coles, president; Sam Murray, vice president; and Roy Allison, secretary.

Try This for Neuralgia.

Thousands of people keep on suffering with Neuralgia because they do not know what to do for it. Neuralgia is a pain in the nerves. What you want to do is to soothe the nerve itself. Apply Sloan's Liniment to the surface over the painful part—do not rub it in. Sloan's Liniment penetrates very quickly to the sore, irritated nerve and allays the inflammation. Get a bottle of Sloan's Liniment for 25 cents of any druggist and have it in the house—against Colds, Sore and Swollen Joints, Lumbago, Sciatica and like ailments. Your money back if not satisfied, but it does give almost instant relief.

To Catarrh Victims.

To surely and safely rid yourself of catarrh get a Hyemid outfit from Newlin Drug Co. There is no better remedy, yet harmless, pleasant and easy to use—you breathe it.—Adv.

BANKING SYSTEM IS PRAISED.

Corrective Methods of New Institution Are Illustrated.

Chicago, Feb. 11.—It is refreshing to get such a statement of the position and functions of the Federal reserve banks as that set forth in an address by E. D. Hulbert, vice-president of the Merchant's Loan & Trust Company. The subject was made perfectly clear to the lay mind and almost clear to the banker mind, enriched as the latter is in the details of business and the theories and practicalities of the profession.

"We have been on thin ice for so long it is hard to realize we are now on solid ground," expresses Mr. Hulbert's satisfaction in a financial device which he himself does not consider altogether above criticism. In some sense this utterance is complementary to or corrective of the rather fiery address of Charles G. Dawes, recently delivered in this city. Neither of these bankers being in the National system, both are in a better position to pass on the Federal reserve law than most of the National bankers.

After reviewing the history of the two banks of the United States, which was saturated with the evil of politics, Mr. Hulbert declared that the system which immediately preceded the Federal reserve act furnished for normal times banking facilities "perhaps the best in the world," but "the intolerable evil was that every once in so often our financial machinery broke down," because in the time of stress it was every bank for itself and financial accommodations were rudely curtailed.

The great evil under those conditions was that the banks were keeping their reserves largely in one another's vaults. A bank in Minnesota sent \$100,000 to a bank in Chicago. This could be counted as legal reserve for the Minnesota bank, but the Chicago bank could lend \$75,000 of this money, and the result was that 75 per cent of what the outside bank was counting as legal reserve had no existence anywhere in available form.

NO PRECEDENT.

(From the Milwaukee Sentinel.) A London paper remarks that in view of our own high handed and illegal act in the Trent affair during the civil war, we Americans might consider ourselves estopped from complaining of the comparatively moderate and not illegal British exercise of the right of search and detention in this war.

That might be a sounder argument but for the omission of an important factor.

It will be remembered that the British mail steamer Trent was forcibly stopped on the high seas by the American war vessel San Jacinto and boarded by an armed party, who seized two passengers, the confederate envoys, Mason and Sildell, who were Nippur.

carried as prisoners to the San Jacinto and thereafter imprisoned in one of the forts in Boston harbor.

Certainly a most high handed act on the part of that blunt sailor, Capt. Wilkes, which has had no parallel as yet in the exercise of the right of search for contraband in the present war.

But it just as certainly forms no precedent against our government. For our government recognized the illegality of the act, President Lincoln saying: "We cannot abandon our own principles. We shall have to give these men up and apologize for what we have done."

In short, the United States government was as ready to repair the wrong it did in the Trent case as it was firm in claiming redress for the wrong it suffered in the Alabama case.

COURTS BUSY IN 2000 B. C.

Professor Ungnad Tells How People Fought for Possessions.

Philadelphia, Feb. 11.—People who lived 4000 years ago were as human in business and legal dealings as those of today, according to Babylonian business and legal records deciphered at the University of Pennsylvania by Dr. Arthur Ungnad, professor of Assyriology in the University of Jena.

Last summer Professor Ungnad translated the records from ancient tablets in the university museum, and has described the results of his research in a book just completed. He now is reiving as a private in the German army.

One of the letters translated by Professor Ungnad was written by a Babylonian, who complained that his brother, following a law of the land, had seized a female slave of great value and had kept her after the debt was paid. He pointed out that he had a receipt for the money and insisted that his brother return the slave. Judgment was ordered in the case.

Another letter was from the Mayor of a city to the authorities at Babylon. The letter complained that the Mayor had not paid his taxes. The Mayor, however, insisted that the money had been paid and had been receipted for in the Babylonian temple of Marduk. He suggested that the authorities "let closer home for the trouble," plainly intimating that some grafting official might explain the absence of the record of the payment.

Another citizen started legal proceedings against a man to whom he had lent a pair of oxen to cultivate his soil. One of the oxen died while working for the neighbor. The defense was that the ox went outside the field and ate some poisonous substance. The defendant declined responsibility and his case was upheld. The complainant appealed the case to the Supreme Court at Nippur.

LA GRANDE NATIONAL BANK

Capital \$200,000.00 Resources \$1,000,000.00
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What This Bank Aims to Do

To promote our customers' interests as we would our own;
 To do all we can to make their relations here profitable and agreeable to them;
 To contribute to their enterprises, the co-operation, foresight and timely assistance which a good Bank can properly bestow.