

THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS, Editor and Owner.

Entered in the Post Office at La Grande, Oregon, as second class matter.

Advertising rates on application. All copy for display advertising must reach the office the day before the ad appears.

Address all communications to THE OBSERVER, 1710 Sixth Street.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

Daily, single copy 5c
Daily, per week 35c
Daily, per month 1.00
Daily, six months in advance 5.50
Daily, per year in advance 10.00
Daily, by mail per year, in advance 11.00
Weekly Observer-Star, per year in advance 1.50

HOW GOVERNMENT COST INCREASES.

Public expenditures—national, State city, county, and village—are increasing heavily throughout the country, both actually and relatively. Growth in taxes has outrun growth in population. There are compensations, however, provided taxpayers can and wish to stand the increase. Of these a writer in the New York Times Analyst says:

"When you drive your automobile over mile after mile of smooth macadam and compare the new roads with those which you remember existed a few years ago, you are enjoying only what you are paying for; and if you do not happen to own an automobile you are paying just the same. When you send your children to a new steel and marble schoolhouse and call to mind the crude facilities offered you as a child you are but giving them comforts for which you are charged; and if you have no children you are paying just the same.

"Or when you pause to reflect on the advantages of living under a beneficent national Government which carries much of your mail and most of your parcels at less than the bare cost, which forecasts the weather that you may not suffer from storms, regulates the railroads that you may not be overcharged, and supplies you with literature on almost every subject under the sun, your reflection, if carried far enough, will arrive at the conclusion that you are getting more comforts than formerly because you are paying more."

So far as there being any mystery attending this increase, it is a thing that may be easily understood, once taxpayers consider what they have been getting in return for their money. There are better roads, better hospitals, better hospitals, and better postal service, because more money has been spent for them, and the spending of this increase of money has made taxes higher. All our State governments—forty-eight in number—are declared to have "vied with the national Government in devising new ways of spending public money."

are contained in the Analyst's article: "The Federal Government expended in 1913 nearly \$2,000,000,000, of which \$952,600,000 was applied for governmental cost payments and \$1,045,271,000 for non-governmental cost payments. Under the former head are included expenses of all general departments, public-service enterprises, and interest; under the latter the amounts spent for purchase of investments and supplies redemption of debt obligations, trust, and agency transactions, and counterbalancing transactions. Ten years earlier the aggregate expenditures were \$1,256,871,000.

"The aggregate expenditures of the states amounted to \$506,847,000 in 1913 and to \$300,937,000 in 1903. The population was estimated at 98,815,000 in the latter year and at 80,688,000 in 1903. The per-capita cost was \$3.80 in 1913 and \$2.34 in 1903.

"In all but one of the forty-eight states the per-capita cost of government has gone up compared with ten years ago. The single exception is South Carolina, where the per-capita expenditure decreased from \$2.55 in 1903 to \$1.46 in 1913, a difference of 70 per cent., entirely due to a decrease in payments for the expenses of the State dispensary. South Carolina has the smallest per-capita government cost, and Nevada, with \$10.45 in 1913, the largest.

"The Bureau of the Census has classified the expenditures of the several states. Of the \$6.93 which was expended for each man, woman, and child in New York State, 66 cents went for general government, 33 cents for protection to person and property, 7 cents for conservation of health and sanitation, 43 cents for highways \$1.19 for charities, hospitals, and corrections, 56 cents for schools, 7 cents for libraries, 2 cents for recreation, and 9 cents for miscellaneous and general purposes. The apportionments for education were 51 cents; other apportionments, 17 cents; public service enterprise, 13 cents; interest, 37 cents, and outlays, \$2.33.

"Taking up only the items in which the greatest increase occurred in the decade, it is found that in 1903 the cost of general government was 54 cents, against 66 ten years later; 11 cents for protection, against 33; 32 cents for highways, against 43; \$1 for charities against \$1.19; 77 cents for education, against the total of \$1.07 spent directly and apportioned, and but 4 cents for interest, against 37.

"Taking the forty-eight states as a whole, the expenses of the general departments increased from \$2.12 to \$3.27 per capita, an increase of 54 per cent. This item of governmental cost was higher for every state in 1913 than for 1903 except in the case of Massachusetts.

"In 1913 taxes constituted 82 per cent. of the total revenues of the forty-eight states. The percentages from this source of revenue for the several geographic divisions varied from 69 per cent. in the West North Central division—embracing the States of Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, the Dakotas, Nebraska and Kansas—to 91 per cent. in the Middle Atlantic division—embracing New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. The only States realizing only 60 per cent. or less of their revenues from taxes were North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Wyoming.

"The tendency toward larger outlays for public buildings, education, roads, and other public enterprises is well shown by the fact that while the population of the forty-eight States as a whole increased from 20 per cent. from 1903 to 1913 and the revenues increased 94.3 per cent., the

government cost payments advanced 106 per cent."

TWO GREAT AMERICANS.

By ANDREW MARKER. The birthdays of our two supreme Americans, coming as they do so near together, naturally invite comparison of the two men.

Washington's power consisted in a certain high and dignified attitude of supremacy.

Lincoln's influence resided in his patience, sagacity, tact, humor and consummate knowledge of human nature.

Washington's demeanor does not have the calm tranquility of Lincoln's. He was capable of terrible outbursts of rage, as when he all but brained a negro slave with the oar of a row boat. It must be said of him, however, that he kept his fiery temper under very excellent control.

Washington did not understand human nature as Lincoln did. But he judged the large outlines with almost unerring insight and was a great chooser of men. His sagacity was the ability to calmly consider every alternative and then to choose the right one.

Washington was never gifted with the power of literary expression like Lincoln. His diary and some of his letters read like the labored compositions of a college undergraduate. His noblest state papers, like his farewell address, are said to have been outlined or even written by Alexander Hamilton. Lincoln was not only a great thinker but he had the power not always possessed by great thinkers, of clothing his thought in consummate language. His Gettysburg address, universally admired as a classic, was written during his journey to the battlefield. His letter to Mrs. Bixby on the sacrifice of her five sons to the service of the Union will never be surpassed. Lincoln's occasional letters will be remembered when Washington's more pretentious and ponderous state papers are forgotten.

Washington is more difficult to understand than Lincoln. Like the moon he is distant, dark, cold, without atmosphere. He is merely great.

His strength was colossal, his integrity limitless, in all circumstances he had the ability to act with dignity and grandeur. The insidious temptation to pander to popular clamor, which has lured many a public man to destruction, he flung from him as a lion shakes the drops of dew from his mane. Washington would never be elected to public office today. The meanness of our modern politics, with its mouthy demagogues and truckling office seekers, makes us glad that Washington is so long dead and forever safe.

Though Washington is the first great democrat, the founder of the greatest democracy the world has ever seen, there is still the air of an aristocrat about him. He is stark, solitary, remote, reserved. There is little about him that appeals to the popular imagination.

Lincoln, on the other hand, is a glorified common man, democracy personified. Lincoln embodies the humanity, the ideals, the longings, of the plain people. His greatness is not unique and lonely, it is diffused throughout the general mind. He has in him the color of the ground, the mellow soil, the tang and odor of the prairies of Illinois. Through life he carried with him a reminiscence of the log cabin in which he was born.

There are conspicuous traits, however, which are common to both Washington and Lincoln. One of these is the characteristic of humility.

Washington happened to be present at the congress when his name was broached for the supreme command of the continental army, and unable to endure public praise, he retired into a cloak room to hide his embarrassment and confusion.

When a Springfield paper first mentioned Lincoln's name for the presidency he wrote a personal letter to the editor begging him not to mention him in that connection, pleading that he was unworthy to be even thought of for that exalted station.

I have noticed that the boughs which bear the most fruit always hang the lowest. And these two great fruitful boughs, bending beneath the vast accumulated weight of character and genius, always hung near the ground. The greater a man is the more simple and unaffected he is. And in this trait of humble self-esteem Washington and Lincoln were supremely great.

Both Washington and Lincoln were the simplest, most unpretending of men. The integrity of both was thorough, all-controlling and uncorruptable. They were of goodness all compact. Their rectitude was the rectitude of rocks which the fretful surf cannot shake, which affront and reprimand the foaming fury of the sea.

A wondrous gentleness suffused and softened all their rugged strength, a gentleness which was not weakness, for only giants can be truly gentle. It was the gentleness which comes from chastening, from monarch energies harnessed and subdued, and which in reality is power in repose.

The sympathy of both was as universal as the charity of the snow that hides all scars, or as the compassion of the rain that loves all leaves. Not a "ragged regimental" left his bloody footprint on the frozen fields of Valley Forge, but drew a corresponding

NOW ON DISPLAY. Scores of New Spring Suits, Coats, Dresses, Waists and Skirts. The New Spring Suits show many striking changes from last season. High empire effects and full skirts again have their day. Smart coverts in the new putty and sand shades, black and white checks, navy, green and grey are the approved colors. New Spring suits \$15.00 and upward. New Waists Now Here Many pretty models in sheer materials and daintiest of trimmings, long or short sleeves, high or low necks. See window display of these new waists—All priced at \$1.25 and \$3.00. The New Spring Dresses are of quaint designs and are very charming looking along old fashioned picturesque lines—There are pretty silk models and also ones in heavier materials priced \$10.00 and up. Smart New Spring Coats Many women are tired of wearing that heavy old winter coat and these new smart, jaunty, airy looking coats we are showing are now a welcome sight. New checks, stripes, coverts in sand and putty shades, and greys are the principle new colors. Priced \$8.00 to \$25.00. N.K. West & Co. THE QUALITY STORE. SPRING MERCHANDISE NOW ON DISPLAY IN EVERY DEPARTMENT.

drop of blood from the great heart of Washington. And not a shell plowed its way through the ranks of blue or gray in the great Civil War, but left a furrow in Lincoln's careworn cheek and craggy brow. A solemn regard for spiritual and eternal things is an indispensable element of all the greatness. And both Washington and Lincoln were, in the best sense, profoundly and devoutly religious. When I think of the Revolution, I call up before my mind's eye the picture of Washington kneeling in the snow beneath the tree wrestling in agony with God in behalf of his distracted country. And when I think of the Civil War, I remember the lank and haggard form of President Lincoln, bent beneath the weight of his responsibility, pacing the floor of his room through the dreary vigils of the night, his sleepless eyes often lashed in tears, and often heard in solitary communion with the Invisible. Called to be the Captain General of our two great wars, the grandest figures in the Valhalla of our heroic dead, these men have, nevertheless, bequeathed to immortality a memory as gentle as the evening air when summer zephyrs stir the tasseled corn or bow the nodding plumes of the ripened harvest. Their lives are like twin bows of peace that overspan the lowering clouds of war and prophesy the promised glory of the thousand years of peace.

OBSERVATIONS OF OTHERS. "Billy" Sunday is "reviving" Philadelphia; but she may faint again.—St. Louis Globe Democrat.

Turkey has not yet published a book explaining the war. Turkey has no imagination.—Chicago News.

With so much peanut politics about the navy one would think there would be more shells.—Boston Transcript.

CORNUCOPIA OFFICIAL HERE. Man Thought Mysteriously Missing Recently Completes Visit.

Finishing a visit which a few months ago led to much speculation, N. D. Bolley, postmaster at Cornucopia, is in La Grande visiting relatives today. Several months ago, immediately after the election, he went to Baker, intending to come to La Grande but changed his mind and went east. As he is quite old, and his Eastern trip was not confided to others, his absence created much speculation and considerable worry. He returned however, eventually, in good health, and is now here carrying out the visit he had in mind at that time.

Sheriff Goes to Salem. Sheriff August Hug left this morning for Salem on official business.

French Admit Losses. Paris, Feb. 22.—Heavy German losses in savage fighting in Alsace is claimed by the war office. It is admitted that the Gallic forces were compelled to retire from strong positions near Hohroth, northwest of Munster, when attacked by a force

numerically superior. The Teutons advanced in massed formation the statement says, fighting their way forward despite great gaps torn in their ranks by French artillery and finally drove the French out. French gains are claimed, however, at Argonne and along the Meuse.

Russians Admit Reverses. Petrograd, Feb. 22.—Russian forces have retreated after their defeat at the hands of Austro-Germans in the lake region but they are now making a stand again and have checked the enemy, dispatches from the front assert. The Slavs are said to have assumed the offensive at several points.

New Operator Comes. E. H. Egghart, formerly of Pendleton will be the operator at the Western Union office after today. C. H. Kesler who has the position under Manager Sprinkle, will leave tomorrow for San Francisco where he expects to take up telegraphy though likely the wireless sort, with which he has had four years' experience.

IN PENDLETON.

Statements of Pendleton Citizens Are Always of Interest to Our Readers.

To many of our readers the streets of Pendleton are almost as familiar as those of our own town, and we are naturally interested to read of happenings there. The following report from a well-known and respected citizen will be helpful to numbers of men and women here in La Grande.

William McGregor, prop. blacksmith shop, 711 Lillet St., Pendleton, Ore., says: "Kidney complaint came on me suddenly and I got so bad that I couldn't bend my back to shoe a horse. The kidney secretions were filled with sediment and painful in passage. I had no strength at all and my back was lame and sore. One of my family who had been cured of kidney trouble by Doan's Kidney Pills, advised me to use them and I did. In a short time, all these troubles left me and I was able to work all day with ease. My health is fine now and my back is strong."

Price 50c, at all dealers. Don't Doan's Kidney Pills—the same that simply ask for a kidney remedy—get Mr. McGregor had Foster-Milburn Co., Props., Buffalo, N. Y.—Adv.

OUTBURSTS OF EVERETT TRUE—BY CONDO.



LA GRANDE NATIONAL BANK. Capital \$200,000.00 Resources \$1,000,000.00 Surplus \$50,000.00. OFFICERS: Fred J. Holmes, President; C. C. Penington, V.-Pres.; F. L. Meyers, Cashier; Earl Zundel and H. E. Coolidge, Ass't Cashiers. DIRECTORS: Fred J. Holmes, A. T. Hill, H. E. Coolidge; C. C. Penington, J. F. Conley, A. Blockland; F. L. Meyers, J. G. Snodgrass, H. S. Brownton. 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.