

## THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS, Editor and Owner.

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## MR. HORNIBROOK'S QUALIFICATIONS.

Editor Hornibrook, of the Albany, Oregon Democrat, has been appointed minister to Siam which office carries a salary of \$10,000 a year. There is nothing remarkable about this appointment except the cry of Democratic papers about Hornibrook's special fitness and qualification for the place. He is no doubt ordinarily qualified, just as any man thirty years of age who has read considerable and led an active life is qualified, but the one qualification that gave Hornibrook this place was his activity in Chamberlain's behalf during the last senatorial campaign in Oregon.

He was the man who raised the question on Mr. Booth. He was the man who coined the expression, "where did you get it?" meaning Booth's fortune and timber holdings. For the Democratic press to attempt to mislead the people, claiming qualification instead of political service, gave Hornibrook the job is but another instance of the duplicity of that section of the Oregon press. Hornibrook got his job because he rendered valiant service to Senator Chamberlain, and no one is complaining. But why can't the Democratic papers of Oregon admit a fact for once, and not try that old game of two-faced political methods that has marked their career in Oregon for a number of years?

## NEVADA.

The state of Nevada has passed laws permitting horse racing—that is she has legalized race track gambling. She has also returned to her easy divorce laws and in a general way invited all the sporting element of the country to make their home with her. While it is a bad precedent to establish; it is an action that will make Nevada the sought for place by all who wish to do shady acts, yet the spirit of the state encourages gambling, for her wealth is obtained through gambling with nature. Nevada will never be a state of homes and agriculture. She never will be a state that will boast of her schools and her babies, so, if there must be a spot in the United States for the sporting element to congregate in, should it not be Nevada?

Senate Bill 312 which became a law at the close of the legislature passes everything up to the governor. It provides that he shall have sole power to appoint and discharge employees of the state, which is all right. No business concern in Oregon tries to run without a head. In enacting this law Oregon will have one man to hold responsible for the acts of

state employees, and that man will be the governor. Governor Wilbycombe can now go through the list of employees and weed out the incompetents and useless ones and retain those who have made good and who are needed. It would now be a good plan for the governor to have a complete investigation of every department of the state and apply the law of efficiency with a vengeance.

Miss Hobbs has resigned. Which means that the state of Oregon after May 21st will not be paying a fifty-dollar-a-month stenographer the magnificent salary of \$3600 a year. And in this remark we do not mean that Miss Hobbs is not a fine little lady, for she is, but she probably knew that the state was going pretty strong on salary for a girl employee and her conscience may have had something to do with her resignation.

Portland had better keep the money in the treasury that she intends to spend for the interstate bridge, for a while at least. This is a poor time to undertake gigantic improvements and new business ventures.

You will be surprised what a fine supper the Commercial Club will spread made from Grande Ronde valley products. The market basket can be filled from this valley, then why send your money away?

Major Bowlby is to be retained on the highway engineer's job indefinitely. Now, what will the cohorts say who screamed so loudly about Bowlby's resignation meaning a conspiracy to rob the great state of Oregon?

Carter Harrison was beaten for the nomination of mayor of Chicago after holding that position almost a lifetime. The political goddess is very fickle, after all.

## TO INVADE INTERIOR.

Excursion to Be Run to the Cheaper Lands Soon.

W. B. Sargent of the La Grande Investment company, is planning an excursion to the Harney county interior on March 18th at which time there will be reduced railroad fare and hotel accommodations free to all who wish to go and look over the great domain about which so much has been said and written. "It is a country of cheaper lands," said Mr. Sargent, "and we find that many people want to go on land but they do want cheaper homes than can be offered in an old established country."

## TURNS BACK THE PAGES.

Jay Van Buren Recalls Memories of Twenty Years Ago.

This morning when the snow was blowing, Jay Van Buren wanted to cover a short distance and did not want to take out his prize Hudson car. A bicycle was handy and he grabbed it. Although it had been many years since Jay won the prize at the county fair for being the most graceful bicyclist, still he managed the wheel very well, and cut a few capers with the "bike" on the slippery pavement. "It turns back the pages of history all right to ride, one of these variants once more," said Jay and then the bystanders told how Jay used to ride in the days "When Knighthood was in flower," or something to that effect.

## LIEN ON ELKS' HOME

New Building Made Joint Defendant With Plumbing Concern.

John Melville, plumber, has filed a mechanic's lien on the new Elks' home alleging that tools to the amount of \$45 or thereabout, were borrowed by Hulme & Spaeth, plumbers on the building, and Mr. Melville seeks to recover through the lien procedure.

## ALL STEEL CABOOSE

Wooden Caboose Too Much Factor in Railroad Fatalities.

The wooden cabooses attached to the rear end of a freight train for the housing of a crew has always been a factor in railroad fatalities. In a rear end collision it usually happens that it is smashed to splinters and the crew killed; often fire is started by a broken lamp or lantern and employees who might otherwise escape serious injury are burned to death. Distressing accidents on passenger trains stirred a public sentiment which is forcing the railroads to the abandonment of the wooden coach, but until quite recently nothing has been done to remove the same dangerous conditions on freight trains. A short time ago, influenced, perhaps, by the Nation-wide "safety first" movement the Pennsylvania Railroad built the first all-steel caboose. It is without posts above the floor, the necessary rigidity having been accomplished by means of sheet steel bulkheads. The car should be noncollapsible and fire-proof.

## Quiet at Land Office.

"You see it is snowing, and that's about all that is doing today," remarked the boys at the land office this morning when asked if there was an army of people hunting for Uncle Sam's domain. While this morning happened to be quiet, there has been much activity in the public land business of late, and indications are that as soon as good weather is assured the activity will be prolonged indefinitely.

## Corvallis Visitor Here.

Miss Ina Chesley, a linotype operator in the Corvallis Republican office, is in the city, the guest of the E. D. Graves family, 1911 Cove avenue and Mrs. L. M. Oliphant, 2006 Cedar street.

## Two Cars Appear to Denver.

Pat SeCor of the Eastern Oregon Produce Co., is shipping two carloads of apples from La Grande to Denver today.

## Deputy Superintendent Home.

Miss Eileen Peare, who has been acting as secretary to Senator Chas. A. Barrett at the recent session of the legislature, returned today noon from Salem. Miss Peare will immediately return to her duties in the county school superintendent's office where the Spring grist of business is now at its height.

## Motorcycle Show Opens.

Indianapolis, Feb. 25.—Indianapolis motorcycle and bicycle dealers began their first independent show today. It will continue until the end of the week.

## FORMER RESIDENT WRITES

VISIT TO OLD HOME INSPIRES J. S. FULLER

"After Life Is Over" Is Theme Upon Which He Musings.

J. S. Fuller, for several years a resident of La Grande but who moved to North Yakima, writes an interesting letter and contributes a very readable bit of poetry as the result of a visit to his old home in Iowa. In a letter to Olaf Gruppe of this city, written at Thornton, Iowa, where Mr. Fuller was raised, he says:

I am now walking over the soils once more of my own native land, the land of my birth where I spent my childhood days, but all has changed ever so much. So much that one has to stop and think whether this is the same old spot that it was, as many old friends now sleep in the little cemetery that I passed many times in life in a thoughtless way. It is one of the most beautiful spots on earth to me. That is where my dear old father and mother now sleep. It is a mat of flowers surrounded with red fir trees, located on a nice dry sunny hillside sloping to the sun. I was down there in early fall and past by many old friends' last resting place, that were here when I was here fifteen years ago. A short time makes many very sad changes, doesn't it? And we sometimes don't understand just what is before us, but we all know next is our future home that as I understand is where the seal of all mysteries will be broken forever and all will be made plain to our understanding. I believe this is true.

## AFTER LIFE IS O'ER

Day by day the birds are singing in the high and lofty trees,  
 Day by day the Lord is watching you and me and birds and bees.  
 Soon to call us home forever, to that bright and happy shore,  
 Where the birds sing on forever, where we meet to part no more.  
 If we only love each other, love our fellow-man and king,  
 We shall meet beyond the river, where the birds forever sing.  
 We may part, but not forever, far beyond this land so fair  
 To the home that God has promised, will you kindly meet me there?  
 Soon we are going home forever, to meet our fellow-man and king;  
 We shall meet beyond the river, where the birds forever sing.  
 Far beyond this land of sorrow, to that land so pure and fair,  
 To the home that God has promised, will you kindly meet me there?  
 Soon we shall ford the sparkling river, where we meet to part no more;  
 To the home that God has promised, on that bright and happy shore.  
 If we are only true and loyal, to our country, home and king,  
 We shall meet beyond the river, where the birds forever sing.  
 Some have gone on long before us, far beyond the cloudless sky.  
 Where we meet and know each other, where we live and never die.  
 If we are only true and loyal to our fellow-man and king,  
 We shall meet to part no more, where the birds forever sing.  
 Soon He will call us home forever, to that home so pure and fair.  
 To the home that God has promised will you kindly meet me there?  
 Soon He will call us home forever, soon our spirit will take its flight,  
 At the noon-time or in the morning or at the darkest hour of night,  
 After years of dear experience, after life's tolls are o'er,  
 We shall meet and know each other as we have never known before.  
 We shall join our hands together, family circles, large and small.  
 Some have gone on long before us, they are waiting for the call  
 That will call us home forever, where we meet to part no more,  
 We shall meet again together on that bright and happy shore.  
 —J. S. FULLER

## "Dividend" Day Next Saturday

Bring Your Book Next Saturday to the Premium Parlors and Receive FREE 10 Fidelity Trading Stamps—Bring Your Book.

## New Spring Merchandise Now On Display in all Departments

Every day we have been opening up new goods and displaying them throughout the various departments, thus giving everybody a chance to see the new things as fast as they arrive. We have received case after case of new Spring merchandise, including beautiful new silks and dress goods, wash materials, ribbons, men's and women's shoes, men's clothing, men's hats, men's shirts, women's ready-to-wear apparel, millinery and various other lines. Visit the store daily—you'll enjoy seeing what is new.

Ready! Scores of Womens

## New Spring Suits, Coats, Dresses and Waists

Authentic styles that will appeal to the woman that is looking for distinctiveness in dress, because here we have only one garment of a kind. Also, this store is always new, not a single suit, coat, dress or skirt left from a previous season. What other store is there in La Grande that can say as much?

Spring Suits ..... \$15.00 to \$35.00  
 Spring Coats ..... \$8.00 to \$25.00  
 Spring Dresses ..... \$10.00 to \$30.00  
 Spring Skirts ..... \$4.00 to \$11.00

Select Your Easter Apparel  
 Now. Only 5 Weeks From  
 Sunday Till Easter.

**NK West & Co**  
 THE QUALITY STORE

## Scouts Find Wheel.

La Grande, Feb. 25.—(To the Editor.)—In your paper yesterday appeared a news item which should be slightly corrected, and supplemented to complete the story. I refer to the reported stealing of a bicycle at Lane Memorial Chapel Tuesday night. Your notice stated the police were still looking for same, while as a matter of fact the bicycle in question was in possession of its rightful owner long before you went to press, and that through no effort on the part of the police force. It seems that some one attempted an unwise joke, with no intention of stealing, by removing the bicycle and standing it against a fence not far from the chapel where it was found the next morning by boys of the neighborhood on the way to school. They took it along to school and there delivered it to the owner. Incidentally these boys were members of the Lane Chapel Boy Scout troop. This is a newly organized troop of about 15 enthusiastic boys. You may hear from them again.

J. E. CLARK,  
 Scoutmaster.

Attorney in Enterprise Today.  
 Attorney Chas. Albert Small went to Enterprise this morning on business matters.

## JOHN MINTO DEAD

Pioneer, Aged 92 Years. Called by Death at Salem.

Salem, Feb. 25.—John Minto, one of the most revered pioneers of the state, died at the age of 92 today.

## Predicts Boom in Great Lake Traffic.

Milwaukee, Wis., Feb. 25.—Harvey D. Goulder of Cleveland, O., the dean of marine attorneys, predicted that the recent business depression will result in the 1915 navigation season being one of the best in the history of the Great Lakes.

"The wheels of industry will have to revolve doubly fast to make up for lost time he explains. "As more machinery is manufactured, more material mined, more goods in general demanded and produced, so also will it be necessary for the increased amount of tonnage to be shipped from port to port."

Goulder made this prediction while trying a case in the local United States district court.

## Safety First Convention.

New York, Feb. 25.—To make "safety first" a national slogan the Safety First society of New York today opened its first convention of na

tional importance. It is proposed to organize various independent associations into a strong national body. Moving pictures showing what safety means in factories and elsewhere will be utilized.

## Talk Domestic Problems.

St. Paul, Minn., Feb. 25.—How to set up a stove without cussing, how to sell a range without a panful of biscuits for your prospective customer and how to extract a bill from your debtors and still retain their good will, were slated for lively discussion at the sessions of the Minnesota Retail Hardware association, in session here today.

## Damage Money Received.

Baker, Feb. 24.—County Clerk Combs has just received a sight draft for \$1298.40 in favor of Kidwell and Caswell, stock buyers, as the outcome of the suit recently decided for the plaintiffs in the case of Kidwell and Caswell vs. the Oregon Short Line. At the time the decision was rendered here in the circuit court, judgment was four for the stockmen to the amount of \$1000. The remaining sum of \$298.40 represents costs of court and disbursements.

## 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.-Prest.  
 F. L. Meyers, Cashier  
 Earl Zundel and H. E. Coolidge, Ass't Cashiers

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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.

KING OF THE ROAD  
MIAMI BICYCLES

HERE IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SELECT THE HIGHEST CLASS BICYCLE IT IS POSSIBLE FOR MONEY AND SKILL TO PRODUCE. DOUBLE AND SINGLE TIRES. FULLY GUARANTEED. SEE MY SHOW WINDOWS THIS WEEK.

**F. D. HAISTEN**  
 Furniture on Easy Payment