

# THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS, Editor and Owner.

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## THIS PROSPERITY TALK.

There is a tremendous lot of prosperity talk going on in all newspapers, including those of standpat Republican faith. This is really remarkable when a Democratic administration fills the White House. Lately this talk has fairly "spurred out" much like the bubbling of an uncapped gas well.

From whence does it all emanate? The cattle and hog market is anything but good, considering all other conditions. Real estate will not move at any price, and there is no one who can see through the tall timber in this line of business. Some think the beef trust is at work again taking all the cream of the live stock business and plunging many raisers into bankruptcy.

Then the prosperity talk comes evidently from one source. The munition makers are coining money and eastern cities where they are spending this money show an unmistakable sign of reckless "prosperity" or better yet reckless overspending. Their money, having come so easily, prompts them to spend it in jewelry houses, for automobiles, in fine hotels, dry goods stores and places of

amusement. This makes great surface showing and the report that the east is spending money like drunken sailors is without doubt true.

But such a condition cannot be called good, safe business. It is more of a drunken and disorderly condition, from a financial point of view, and the reckoning is sure to come.

Then why these repeated newspaper stories about "general prosperity"? Why not tell everyone the truth about conditions and urge them to keep the economy brake on and not get foolish over the immense amount

of money that is streaming into the country through one artery and one artery alone?

## A SURE SIGN.

There is a never failing political sign in Oregon. When John Manning begins to talk about rural credits for the farmers, it is a cinch John is not out of the political game. Recently he revived his old-time argument for a rural credit system backed by the state with bonds redeemable at one-half of one per cent over so often, etc.

And this reminds us of an occasion when Judge Henry McGinn cross questioned John regarding some acreage within automobile distance of Portland. Judge McGinn held that "farmers" such as John Manning could not urge improvements that would be confiscatory to the man who made his living by raising and selling strawberries and pie plant.

Whether Manning's farm credits will include the man who actually farms has not been determined, but before his plan is adopted we will all want to see it briefed out in such a way that it will at least be as readily understood as the proposed changes recently suggested for La Grande's city charter.

## CUT IT OUT, BROTHERS.

Pendleton is still boiling over her recent city election. Some who opposed Dr. Best want to go to court in an effort to show fraud, and some of Dr. Best's supporters who got hit over the head with a policeman's club want to go to court to have the officers punished.

Our advice to Pendleton is "cut it out, brothers, cut it out." The fight was a fierce one and the business element of the town lost to Dr. Best. The majority was decisive, so why not let it drop?

The astute Doctor Best showed Judge Lowell and the Furnish crowd that they never had taken the first lessons in municipal politics. Then why prolong the rough stuff?

As a sure way of settling Pendleton's differences for all time to come it might be well to crown Dr. Best municipal king and instructor in the past master degree of city politics.

To add to his income he might start a night school for the purpose of teaching those who cared to learn in the art of getting votes where there seemingly was no votes to get.

## AMERICAN RAILWAYS ARE SUPERIOR.

The superiority of railways in the United States over those of the rest of the world is shown in a bulletin issued by the Bureau of Railway Economics, presenting statistics for the United States and 38 foreign countries covering 606,000 miles of line, or seven-eighths of the total railway mileage of the world. With one exception, the railways of the United States pay a higher average wage than prevails in any other country, yet with one exception, freight rates per ton per mile in the United States are lower than the rates in any other country. In most other countries freight rates are 50 per cent higher than in the United States, and average wages are 50 per cent less than in the United States. The one important particular in which the railways of the United States are surpassed, from the viewpoint of the

public, is in the rate per passenger per mile and even in this respect, taking into account the accommodations furnished and the service performed, rates in the United States are lower than in any of the countries with which comparison is made. The low fares in many countries are shown to be due to the different character of the service, which is indicated very clearly by the figures showing the great density of low class passenger traffic, such as we do not have in this country, and the average number of passengers per train.

Dan Kellaheer is meeting the ministers of Portland in joint debate in an endeavor to convince the clergy of the state that he should be permitted to keep his family grocery store open on Sunday. There is no task too big for Daniel to tackle.

Really flax culture is too new in Oregon to justify such a controversy as is now in progress between the state house and a Portland newspaper.

Washington state was never in danger of having her prohibitory law declared null and void by the supreme court, and that shows just how strong rumor can get.

The North Powder bank has again changed ownership. Good things are sought after, even in this Eastern Oregon country where everyone has plenty.

It is very evident that the price of hogs and wheat are not going hand in hand.

## LA GRANDE MAN INVESTS.

A. Combes Purchaser of Wallowa Picture Show.

On last Friday A. Combes of La Grande closed a deal with J. P. Morelock whereby he became the owner of the Morelock Opera House and moving picture show, says the Wallowa Sun. The purchase price is not given out but it runs up in several thousands of dollars. The deal was made through L. Couch, the real estate man.

The opera house is one of the landmarks of the town having been erected seven years ago for a play house and dances, it having the only hard wood dance floor in the city. Six years ago Mr. Morelock, the retiring proprietor and manager, installed moving pictures and since then has entertained the public two and three nights a week with some of the best films made. The last three months especially when he has been running the Paramount features which were appreciated by the general public.

**Town Lot Swindler.**  
Nearly every day some swindle is worked on the good people of Joseph and vicinity by traveling fakery, says the Herald of that place. The latest swindle was pulled off by one Hoisington, of Portland, who sold five of our schoolmams each a lot near the mouth of the Columbia river for \$800 per lot, collecting \$235 from each in cash. When it was learned that the "lots" were not worth 8 cents and that the only time the land can be seen is when the tide is down, the fellow was arrested and is now in the county jail, awaiting the action of the grand jury—and perhaps a long term in the penitentiary.

"Love took up the glass of Time and turned it with his glowing hands; Every moment, lightly shaken, ran itself in golden sands. Love took up the harp of Life, and smote on all the chords with might; Smote the chord of Self, that trembling, pass'd in music out of sight." —Tennyson.

# STUNNING NEW COATS

## 5 BIG EXPRESS SHIPMENTS JUST RECEIVED FROM NEW YORK

Bought at a  
Special Price

# -ON SALE

At Big  
Reductions

The newest winter models—an opportunity for the woman or miss with her winter coat still unchosen.—It was quite unexpected to us, but many women in La Grande have been looking for coats and along came our garment manufacturer with a special lot of winter models—we offered him a low price—he took us up—and now the coats are here and we are offering this special saving to you—all these coats are made in all the most wanted coat materials of the "Seigel" make which are famous for style, fit and tailoring, thus coming up to the high grade standards in every way for which this store has a reputation.

**M. West & Co.**  
THE QUALITY STORE

## CASH SPECIALS FOR WEDNESDAY.

Eagle brand Macaroni and Spaghetti, 3 boxes for ..... 25c  
Standard tomatoes, corn and peas, per can ..... 10c  
Six bars Crystal White soap ..... 25c  
Six small cans Carnation cream ..... 25c  
Two pounds bulk peanut butter ..... 25c

Don't forget the special on Royal Club Coffee.

## Joel's Grocery Store

Corner Cedar and Washington, Main 759  
Main 759 Our Own Free Delivery.

**Resolve To put money in the Bank all next year**

*bareful man*

**MERRY XMAS.** YOU SHOULD SEE THE HAPPY FACES THAT COME INTO OUR BANK TO GET SOME OF THE MONEY THEY BANKED DURING THE PAST YEAR TO BUY PRESENTS FOR THEIR FRIENDS.

SOME COME IN TO START BANK ACCOUNTS FOR THEIR CHILDREN (THE BEST PRESENT OF ALL). SOME START BANK ACCOUNTS BEFORE THE FIRST OF THE YEAR SO AS TO GET A GOOD RUNNING START.

THEY WILL BE HAPPY NEXT YEAR.

**BANK WITH US.**

WE PAY 4 PER CENT INTEREST ON TIME DEPOSITS

## La Grande National Bank

LA GRANDE, OREGON  
Capital \$200,000.00 Surplus \$50,000.00  
Resources \$1,000,000.00

Fred J. Holmes, President C. C. Pennington, Vice President  
F. L. Meyers, Cashier E. Zundel and H. E. Coolidge, Assistant Cashiers.

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Fred J. Holmes J. G. Snodgrass J. F. Conley  
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THERE ARE MANY REASONS WHY EVERY HOME IN LA GRANDE SHOULD HAVE ELECTRIC LIGHT.

## Eastern Oregon Light & Power Co.

Always at Your Service Telephone Main 43

## Christmas News

### of Importance to Housewives

Only Ten More Days in Which to Make That Plum Pudding, Mince Meat, and Fruit Cakes.

Better make out your list and order now—Call Main 80 and you will receive the best of attention.

"LOOK OVER THE FOLLOWING LIST:"

|                          |                       |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Bleached Sultana raisins | Eastern lard          |
| Seeded raisins           | Home lard             |
| 12 oz. currants          | Crisco                |
| 15 oz. currants          | Cottolene             |
| Lemon peel               | Wesson Salad oil      |
| Orange peel              | Columbia Salad oil    |
| Citron                   | Dromedary dates       |
| Sweet cider              | Figs                  |
| Boiled cider             | Shelled pecans        |
| Jonathan apples          | Shelled walnuts       |
| Spices                   | Swansdown cake flower |
| Unsweetened chocolate    | Grape juice           |

YOU SAVE FORTY CENTS IF YOU BUY A FIVE POUND CAN OF ROYAL CLUB COFFEE THIS WEEK.

## Pattison Brothers