

THE OBSERVER

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

Daily, single copy 5c
Daily, per week 15c
Daily, per month 65c
Daily, per six months in advance \$3.50
Daily, per year in advance . . . \$7.00
Daily, by mail per year, in advance \$4.00
Weekly Observer-Star, per year in advance \$1.50

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

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CANDIDATES' PRIVATE CHARACTER.

The list of candidates now making entry in the political arena prompts us to urge fairness on all sides. While there is probably no disposition for any candidate to attack another on personal grounds, yet if such be the case we would ask that such a movement be forestalled in the name of reason and decency.

The fight on candidates should be and usually is made on public records of the candidates. And the reason for this is:

No one knows the exact truth about any act of another man's private life. No one knows exactly what any other man's private character is. It's largely a guess. To say that he did such and such a thing, and to prove it by evidential facts, really proves nothing. Each heart knoweth its own bitterness. Each human being has his "side" to the story of his personal wrong doings. Each episode depends largely upon the one preceding it, and all are woven into the woof of life. To judge a man's life as a whole is impossible. To judge one or two episodes is unjust. As a matter of fact, when it is known that this candidate stole a horse, wrecked a bank, eloped with his neighbor's wife and burned an orphan asylum, it would seem as though those facts should damn him, and defeat him. But it always happens that this man is running against another human being, who as a man may be just as wicked, but more discreet. So as between men, the private life of candidates is the worst possible criterion by which to form judgments that make votes.

A man's public record if different. That is determinable. That is defin-

ite and certain. Here one is safe in forming judgments. Assuming that as between the candidates one is as good personally as another, one may examine the public records of the men and make his decision. Upon public records honest differences may occur.

LUMBER, OUR BIGGEST INDUSTRY

It may be interesting to many to know that lumbering is our biggest industry, yet in the face of this fact what protection was given this gigantic employer of labor has been removed by the present administration causing stagnant conditions in the northwest.

The Nation's Business says of the lumbering industry:

This industry has 48,000 saw mills, \$1,000,000,000 investment in these plants and 605,000 men employed. The standing timber brings the total investments to \$2,500,000,000.

This industry furnishes railroads a traffic income of \$200,000,000 a year. Yet lumbering is one of the most depressed of industries and seems to be the victim of its own helplessness because of uncontrolled competition. In the yellow pine industry, which comprises more than half the lumber production, chaos has resulted from ouster proceedings of the Missouri supreme court, bringing prices down 35.75 per cent. The past few years have entailed an estimated loss to labor, carrier and manufacturer of \$89,000,000.

WILLIAMS TALKS OF T. R.

Strange things do happen in politics. Listen to Ralph Williams, Republican national committeeman from Oregon, talk in New York. He says:

Any good Republican can win, but the preference seems to be for a Progressive Republican. There is a good deal of talk about Justice Hughes, not because he has any personal following but because it is felt that he can win. There is also talk of Col. Roosevelt, but chiefly among his personal followers.

It has been but a short time since the mere mention of the timid man from Oyster Bay would have thrown Ralph Williams and a few more stand-pat Oregonians into a fit.

TO PROMOTE SAVING HABIT.

C. D. Emahizer, manager of the Oregon Grocery Company of La Grande, remembered a number of men during the holidays with a gift of a very fine bill folder with annex for stamps, pictures of the family etc. And on the outside it had the name of the receiver engraved in gold.

The present is nice, and the idea is

a good one. While Mr. Emahizer did not enclose a motto, "save your money," the gift in itself carries that message. He could have called attention to the foundation of every big fortune in the country as being started through the savings habit, but he did not for Emahizer is no lecturer, neither is he one to find fault with his neighbor's actions. He just issued his holiday gift and let those who receive them take what they lesson they may see fit from the remembrance.

THE FIGHT ON BOOZE.

There is a feeling prevalent that King Alcohol has been beheaded and forever killed in Oregon by the enactment of the prohibition law. Such is not true. Booze will be here for some time to come. The private supply will last for a time and then the shipping in process will begin. This latter feature of the law is wrong, for if it is a crime to make liquor in Oregon, as has been demonstrated by a majority vote of the people, then it is also a crime to use and have it within the confines of the state.

If it is not fit to sell as a commodity in Oregon, and the vote shows plainly that the people believe it is not, then it is not fit to be sold in other states and shipped into Oregon. The fight on booze has just started.

WHAT KIND OF LETTERS?

Mark Woodruff, who is now operating the accelerator of the Portland Chamber of Commerce machine, has proclaimed a letter writing period in Oregon from January 17 to 22, at which time he asks that everyone write letters to friends and relatives telling of Oregon.

Not a bad idea. But here comes an interview with some potentate of the Chamber of Commerce (not Mark) saying, "the letter writing is not intended to attract working people to Oregon, but tourists and people of means."

The same old story in the same old way; the same old folly; the same old short-sightedness.

Will the Portland Chamber ever learn "sick 'em"?

Does not want working men? Bless the hearts of these dear dejected city brothers, working men are exactly what Oregon needs, wants and must have.

We continue to be overloaded and burdened with a class who will not work, with speculators who are still trying to live off their wits; with thread bare promoters who would starve for six months rather than get in and earn an honest "two and a half" by labor.

If the Chamber of Commerce intends to build up Oregon on tourist travel a new start should be made at once.

The letter writing plan of Mark's is all right, but in those letters tell the people who receive them that Oregon has been in the past a mecca for the green goods man, the never-works and the sharp eyed schemer; that the state has shaken off these vampires and is giving attention to its farm lands; that Oregon has a wonderful undeveloped area capable of making thousands of men wealthy who will stay with the land; that the state as a whole has come down to earth and written "back to the soil" across the seal of the commonwealth, thus obliterating the words "wildcat" and "easy money."

THE NEW YEAR.

J. D. Gillilan, D. D. The New Year comes into our life As comes the babe Within our home— A volume blank, Each page untouched. We write therein Just what we will. Then we go on— The record stays: It is our own. What shall it be? Boise, 1916.

Flivver Meets Limousine

New York, Dec. 31.—The flivver met the giant limousine on common ground today when the National automobile show began at Grande Central Palace with eighty-seven makes of cars on exhibition. The smallest one-lung—a much improved vehicle affecting some of the upholstery and springs of the bigger cars, shone in its place beside the \$15,000 peramulating palace.

Notable in the exhibit was the prominence given the "poor man's car." The smaller machines, automobile men said, are becoming more popular, enabling families of moderate means to enjoy motoring who heretofore found the price of a car prohibitive. The rise of the small machine, however, has not diminished the popularity of the more expensive makes, according to automobile authorities. In addition to the exhibits of automobiles, 250 accessory firms are showing their wares in booths in the palace.

The show will end January 8.

Hundreds on Farms Dying.

Washington, Dec. 31.—Rural planning which will do for the great stretches of the open country what city planning has done to preserve and extend the beauties and comforts of urban communities, was advocated before the American Civic society today by Prof. Frank A. Waugh of the Massachusetts Agricultural college. Country people in every state, he declared, are living in uncomfortable and inconvenient homes, using unsightly and inefficient roads and schools and dying of tuberculosis because there has not been adequate planning of country resources. "Why should anyone care for hy-

drange, paniculate grandiflora in the front farm yard," he asked, "while the side yard, where the family ought to live, is strewn with rotting farm machinery, the back yard reeks and the pestilential well gives up water succulent with the drainage from the kitchen sink?"

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