

### THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS, Editor and Owner.

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#### THE WASTE OF A NATION.

When man builds an international exposition, he spends money and energy with a lavish hand. Nations vie with each other in the erection of buildings and spare no expense, and states, using public money, go to the limit in the erection of the imposing structure. The pity of it all is that these buildings are merely temporary and when the exposition is over, the buildings become a drug on the market. A structure that cost thousands, can be bought for hundreds. The depreciation in the value of an automobile is not in it for a minute with the loss in a building used for temporary exhibition purposes.

At the present time you can buy at your own price in San Francisco any style of a building you may desire. You can get a small building or one big enough to house the town in.

New York appropriated two hundred thousand dollars for a building at the Panama Pacific exposition. The other day, in order to get rid of it, it sold it for three thousand dollars. A professional wrecker got it. He will tear it down and sell the material for what he can get for it. He does not expect to get rich out of it either.

Conditions prevailing at San Francisco are not unusual. The same were prevalent at the time of the world's fair in Chicago, Ill. Buildings went for a song and those that were not sold, were afterward destroyed by incendiary fires. St. Louis, at the close of its exposition, saw the same waste in exhibition buildings. Countries and states which erect show buildings take it for granted that the first cost will largely be lost in depreciation and for that reason much of the work is superficial.

#### THE COST OF REGULATION.

In the fiscal year ending June 30, 1915, the interstate commerce commission spent \$3,933,925. Of this

sum, \$2,131,925 went to defray the expenses in physical valuation of the railways. For the fiscal year 1916 the commission's needs are estimated at \$5,090,000. Of this amount, by far the greater portion will be spent on physical valuation. Four more years will be required to complete the total mileage of about 250,000. The ultimate cost may be a great deal higher. There is no exact way to tell, for appropriations appear to increase between \$300,000 and \$350,000 a year. In its annual report, the commissioner asks for wider authority. As it stands today, the commission is the most powerful of all regulatory bodies established by the national government. From small beginnings it has developed a degree of control little dreamed of when the original appointments were made. For this no one has been directly responsible. Once having granted the possibility of regulating interstate commerce, the spread of control became only a matter of time. The commission, consisting of seven men, is not only "the supreme court of the railroads," but of the express companies and certain other activities as well.

The report is being more closely read this year on account of President Wilson's suggestion that a commission be designated by Congress to look into the needs and efficiency of the railways. "The question," said Mr. Wilson, "is not, what should we do? It is, whether there is anything else we can do." The commission asks access to letter files of the railways, and wants Congress to legislate more clearly along the lines of safe equipments, and hours of service. Month by month it is getting first hand information as to the physical condition of the railways. If any further transportation legislation is contemplated by the administration it would mean as though necessary information could be obtained from the interstate commerce commission.

The Kaiser is said to be seeking an artificial palate in Paris. This seems to be one war order that the United States overlooked.

European censorship has turned some of the belligerent nations into a guessing contest.

The fellow interested in dime novels generally finds a bank balance too heavy reading.

Some folks confuse the grouch with the pessimist. A grouch may be an optimist with the toothache.

To United Artisans Lodge No. 38  
 All dues to the above organization should be paid to the Secretary on the first day of each month. The Secretary, Mr. John Cochran, may be found at Smith's garage. If it is not convenient for you to call in person, please mail dues to him, or notify him of your whereabouts and he will call on you.  
 JOHN COCHRAN, Secretary.  
 1-15-16.

## Have You Seen the Bargains at West's January Clearance Sale

### Every Article Reduced

### Your Choice of Any Ladies' SUITS in the Store Values to \$35 \$9.90

Thing of it—values to \$35.00, every one new this season; fine tailored suits of the famous "Siegel" make in blacks, blues, browns, homespuns, etc., get an extra suit now at the very little price of \$9.90; 5 or 6 months of good stylish wear ahead. Sizes 14 to 18 years, and 34 to 44 bust measures.

### Entire Stock DRESSES Now At 1-2 PRICE

Including every Silk Dress, every Wool Dress, every Evening Gown, every Afternoon Dress, every Street Dress, and everyone new this season. Your opportunity—Everyone half-price. Regular \$10.00 Dresses \$5.00; \$12.50 Dresses \$6.25; \$15.00 Dresses \$7.50; \$17.50 Dresses \$8.75; \$20.00 Dresses \$10.00; \$25.00 Dresses \$12.50.

### All Ladies' COATS Marked Now At 1-2 PRICE

"Only \$6.25 for that \$12.50 Coat, and only \$7.50 for this charming new, stylish regular \$15.00 Coat,—Oh, and this \$25.00 high grade Coat at only \$12.50—And everyone so new and stylish with so many months yet that you can wear a Coat;" is just a sample of the many exclamations from Coat customers when they see the one-half price reductions on every coat. And no wonder when many of these coats were only received shortly before the sale.

### READ! Here Are BARGAINS With Every Price Way Below Cost

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| One lot of \$6.00 Fur Neck Pieces ..... \$1.49   | Belmont Percales, one lot gingham at, yard ..... 8 1-3c | One big lot of dress goods, every yard all wool, in plaids, checks and plain colors, American broadcloth, granite cloth, serge, fancy suitings, dress materials, etc., former selling prices \$1.00 to \$1.50 yard, width 40 to 52 inches, choice of any in the lot at 65c yd |
| One lot of \$1.50 House Dresses ..... 98c        | All 25c Fancy Windsor Crepes at yard ..... 15c          |   |
| One lot of \$2.00 Flannellette Kimonos ..... 98c | Regular 15c Ripplettes very best patterns, yd ..... 11c |   |
| 50c Fancy Neck Ruffs at ..... 29c                | 15c and 18c Fancy Flannellettes at yard ..... 10c       |   |
| One lot of \$1.25 Waists all sizes at ..... 49c  |   |   |

### Note These Big SPECIAL SHOE OFFERINGS

Not just a bunch of ODD sizes but a big assortment of the best selling sizes and widths—of Utz and Dunn and Pingree makes—Black Swede Shoes, regular \$4.00 values are going at \$1.98; Women's \$4.00 patent leather, kid top Shoes now at \$2.75; \$3.50 Gun Metal button Shoes for women at \$2.95. Women's vicci kid lace in low or Cuban heels, regular \$3.50 values at \$1.49; one lot party slippers satin or patents, choice \$1.95.

### Entire Stock of \$20, \$22.50 and \$25 MEN'S OVERCOATS Your Choice \$9.95

Lots of good ones left—good styles—snug and warm—"Kenyon" and "Benjamin" makes—perfect fitting—finely tailored—all less than one-half at \$9.95; All \$10.00 Overcoats \$5.00; all \$12.50 Overcoats at \$6.25; entire stock of Boys' Overcoats at one-half price.

### Small Boys \$5.00 SUITS Now At 98c

Russian Blouse styles—all wool—in browns, grays, tans, and mixtures, regular \$5.00 values—most all sizes—choice 98c; also all Boys' new Oliver Twist, middy, and vestee style, all wool and velvet suits now at one-half price—\$4.00 Suits at \$2.00; \$5.00 Suits at \$2.50—Boys' heavy two-piece winter underwear at 11c garment, is fleeced lined and sell regular at 25c and 35c garment at 11c.

## W. W. West & Co.

THE QUALITY STORE

### Just Received SPRING GINGHAMS Clearance Prices

150 new choice Patterns just received—the entire lot now on display and marked at January Clearance Sale Prices—All sorts of pretty and dainty new stripes, checks, etc., in color combinations that have never been shown before. The best grade of fine zephyr gingham with best dyes to withstand washing—also, a new lot of percales just received.—The finest choice gingham at Clearance 11c yard.—Percales 8 1-3c and 12 1-2c yard.—One lot of gingham at 8 1-3c yard.



The Careful Man hides his money behind the thick walls and strong locks in our Bank

WHEN YOUR MONEY IS IN OUR BANK IT IS SAFE FROM FIRE, BURGLARS AND YOUR OWN DESIRE TO SPEND IT.

THE WAY TO HAVE MONEY IN THE BANK IS TO "PUT" IT THERE, LET IT "STAY" THERE AND ALWAYS ADD TO IT.

JUST SAY, "I AM GOING TO HAVE MORE MONEY" AND BANK IT. THIS IS THE ONE SURE WAY TO GET AHEAD.

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  
 F. L. Meyers, Cashier

C. C. Penington, Vice President  
 E. Zundel and H. E. Coolidge,  
 Assistant Cashiers.

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