

THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS, Editor and Owner.

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Address all communications to THE OBSERVER, 1710 Sixth Street.

LA GRANDE CAN BUT SMILE.

Looking at things from any angle it would seem that La Grande can but smile a smile of satisfaction at the business year before her.

The lumber market is better and shows a strong tendency.

There never has been as many men on the pay roll at the railroad headquarters in La Grande as now.

The snows and cold weather are proof of a big crop in the valley the coming year, and prices of grain do not seem to be doomed to much of a depression.

Then, why should not La Grande feel joyous at the outlook?

With all of her resources on the advance is it not good reasoning to assume that business generally will respond to the added number of men, and the greater yield from the valley?

THE BEST MEDICINE.

According to the state health department of North Carolina, printer's ink is the best medicine. "It prevents illness, builds hospitals, controls epidemics and reduces the death rate, corrects insanitary conditions and relieves the public of many ills."

And this particular health department knows what it's talking about, for it practices what it preaches. It has one of the most energetic and efficient publicity bureaus in the country. The bureau sends daily and weekly articles to all the newspapers in the state willing to print them. And a large and increasing number of editors do print them, because they know that anything dealing with questions of health clearly and intelligently is "good stuff," eagerly read and highly appreciated. Besides this newspaper publicity work, the bureau sends a monthly health bulletin free to more than 50,000 families, and additional literature to anybody that wants it.

That the North Carolina health de-

partment knows how to impress the average man or woman may be seen in these hints on "How to Get Sick," which it has scattered over the state: "Hurrying through meals, gulping down poorly cooked food, never smiling, overeating and under exercising, hurrying, fretting, striving to keep up appearances, sleeping with closed windows, reading medical ads and diagnosing your own case, taking every old medicine recommended by your neighbors and enjoying poor health."

With such a liberal and medicinal use of printer's ink, it's no wonder that North Carolina's health average is rising and its mortality rate sinking.

RAILWAY LEGISLATION.

A special committee maintained by the railways, known as the committee on relations of railway operation to legislation, has completed an analysis of laws passed in the forty-three state legislatures which report is offered by the Railway Age Gazette. Bills introduced number 1,037. Of these 137 were passed. In point of smallness of volume, although not necessarily in character, this legislation was more satisfactory than that of some years to the common carriers. In 1914 fourteen legislatures were in session, passing 27 bills out of 236 introduced. In 1913 the forty two legislatures considered 1,395 bills, approving 230. Nineteen general assemblies passed 48 out of 292 bills introduced in 1912.

Some idea of the persistency with which railroad legislation accumulates may be had by examining the character of the new laws. Most of these pertain to minor miscellaneous matters of operation. Many of the acts deal with service, employees in general, train crews, hours of labor, features of employment, passenger and freight trains, speed, car movement, storage and demurrage, signals, clearances, crossings, grades, stations, trespassers and accidents. It is not contended that all of this legislation was unnecessary or undesirable, but the tabulation gives cause for belief that much was superfluous and it shows how complicated the relations of the railroads and the various units of government have become. Bills relating to railway operation were enacted in thirty seven states. None was passed in Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Utah, Washington or Wyoming. California, however, passed more than enough to make up for the apparent deficiency of other western states. Crossing protection was the subject of much debate, 26 bills being introduced. Two became laws—one in Indiana and one in New York. The problem of railway regulation has lately given the railways and the states much trouble, complicated by questions of where state powers end and the powers of the federal govern-

West's 18th Annual January=Clearance=Sale Every Article Reduced

200 Pairs Women's & Misses' Shoes \$1.49 Pair "Pingree" and "Utz & Dunn" \$3.50 and \$4.00 Values Now Yours at less than 1/2 Price

The greatest shoe offer a store ever made. The greatest shoe opportunity of the year—all excellent styles and in a large range of good sizes and all widths—patent leather button shoes, patent leather lace shoes, vici kid lace shoes, tan calf button shoes, Suede button shoes and many other good styles with low or high heels—genuine Goodyear welt soles or turn soles—all are either "Utz and Dunn" or "Pingree" makes which sold formerly at \$3.50 and \$4.00 pair. Clearance price \$1.49 Many Women Will buy 2 or 3 Pair at This Extraordinary Low Price

Men Who Know Values are Taking Advantage of the Actual Savings on High Quality Clothing at This Store

Make your selection today—These prices are in effect only during this month and include every Suit and Overcoat in the store. "Benjamin," "Society Brand," "Hirsch-Wickwire" and "Fidelity" makes.

Regular \$15.00 Suits, now \$11.75 Regular \$22.50 Suits, now \$16.90
Regular \$17.50 Suits, now \$13.15 Regular \$25.00 Suits, now \$18.75
Regular \$20.00 Suits, now \$15.00 Regular \$27.50 Suits, now \$20.65

Entire Stock \$20.00, \$22.50 and \$25.00 Men's Overcoats Now at \$9.90

"Benjamin" and "Kenyon" Overcoats—good styles—warm and snug—good fitting, good looking, your choice for any \$20.00, \$22.50, or \$25.00 Overcoat at \$9.90; all \$12.50 Overcoats \$6.25 and \$10.00 Overcoats at \$5.00.

Largest stock in Eastern Oregon of High Grade Furnishings, Shoes, Hats and Work Clothing to select from—Every article now at Annual January Clearance Sale Prices.



Mail Orders Promptly Filled

N.W. West & Co. THE QUALITY STORE

3 Separate Phone Lines

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
Resourees \$1,000,000.00

Fred J. Holmes, President
F. L. Meyers, Cashier

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

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ment over interstate commerce supersede state regulation.

The man who was being taken to ride by an automobile demonstrator was asked where he would like to go, he suggested a drive to the almshouse, which was not inappropriate, considering the high charges for depreciation, gasoline and tires.

Just a word: Did Mark Woodruff, of the Portland Chamber of Commerce, include in the great letter writing campaign the information that a man froze to death in Portland last week? Of course not. Why should he?

After all the Columbia highway which is now the subject of song and story, is not located so that it facilitates the farmers of the lower country in marketing their hogs and grain and logs.

Good roads is the live topic of the nation from coast to coast. Everyone wants them, and the difference of opinion that exists is what should be spent to acquire them.

Perhaps the dancing craze would not have died down quite so quickly, if there were not so many men willing to let a nice girl remain a wallflower all the evening.

The fact that white stockings are conspicuous does not seem to be any obstacle in the way of the people who are trying to make them more popular.

The man who was thrown from his wagon when it was being hurled over a 1700-foot precipice in the Blue Mountains is one lucky man.

Portland has developed the "ginger jar" which is in a way complimentary to some of the slow movers of the mild climate.

Discharging policemen who have nothing to do would indicate that the peacefulness of the city is improving.

There is little difference in effect between exploding dynamite and an exploding stove.

Europe's war began in the Balkans and it is to be hoped it will end there.

Advertised Letters.

List of letters remaining uncalled for in this office for the week ending Jan. 21st, 1916:

Gentlemen:
Boren, Mr. F. D.
Briggs, J. A.
Deneen, Simon
Dennie James (2)
Evins, Mr. Bill
Fisk, James H.
O'Dell, Harm
Rogers, B. A.
Warner, J. C.
Watson, C. W.

Ladies:
Cates, Mrs. S. F.
Boswell, Mrs. C. E. (2)
Bonnell, Carrie
Davis, Mrs. Helen
Simmons, Mrs. J. B.
Starks, Mrs. Eva
Stafford, Mrs. L. J.
Thomas, Mrs. Dorothy
Peck, Margaret

These letters will be sent to the dead letter office on Feb. 4th, 1916. If not delivered before, in calling for the above please say "advertised" giving date of list. E. E. BRAGG, P. M.

Up to Councils.

Lostine, Jan. 20.—(To the Editor)—Will you please answer through your paper if it is going to be lawful for cities to license soft drinks or can a person sell soft drinks or temperance drinks without a license, and what have they done in La Grande? A SUBSCRIBER.

The power to license soft drink sales (including near beer) is vested solely in respective city charters. The state law has no application in the matter. Most lawyers think that the passage of the prohibition law nullified existing state near beer laws. However the soft drink license question is exactly in the same condition

that pool hall, dance hall and other municipal licenses are—in the hands of the council.

In La Grande the soft drink and near beer question has not come to a focus. It is assumed that previous ordinances are operative, and if any legislation in this respect is enacted, it will be prompted by conditions yet to arise. Until municipalities declare otherwise soft drink counters need no license.

JO-DAY at SILVERTHORNS Bed Warmers For the Zero Weather The New Metal Hot Water Bottles and Combination Syringes Everything in Light Grade Rubber Goods