

THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS, Editor and Owner.

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MATERIAL SATISFACTIONS OF PEACE.

An eastern paper, overjoyed with money-getting, speaks this way of the United States:

The United States has broken all previous records during the past six months in the volume and value of its foreign trade, and its domestic trade is also feeling the upward impulse.

The exports from New York alone in a recent week amounted to over \$67,000,000. Is there not more satisfaction contemplating these figures than there would be in spending that amount of cash in a week of war?

Especially when we are told that the pay rolls in the industrial districts of this country are record breaking in the number of persons employed, and in the average pay of the great army of workers.

Our transportation companies never before had such a total of men employed, never operated so many cars as now, never carried such tonnages of freight, never equaled in gross or net earnings so much money as since the first of September.

The farmers of the United States never before had such sums of cash as will be at their disposal when their crops are sold; and the mines of the country—gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc and coal—never before yielded to their owners such large returns from the sale of their outputs.

The financial affairs of the nation are in prime condition, and for the first time in its history, the east has not been called upon to furnish money to help move the crops.

The farmers have the call upon the cash of the world from the yields of their acres; the manufacturers have the demand of their own country, and many of them a huge demand from foreign countries, for their products.

The most optimistic would not have believed, a few months ago, in such a rapid transformation from depression to prosperity, if they had been told of it, and the most pessimistic are silent in the presence of an

almost endless procession of a prospering people.

TRIBUTE TO MR. YEON.

John B. Yeon, of Portland, was greeted last night with a large crowd of interested people when he addressed Union county folks on the good roads question.

It was a proper tribute to a man of state size who sincerely believes the road question is the vital one of this commonwealth. Mr. Yeon is serving as county road master in Multnomah county without pay hence his position may be clearly understood.

Our people were pleased to meet the road advocate and were very glad to hear his ideas concerning a subject which is now of vital importance from coast to coast.

Union county may not follow Mr. Yeon's advice regarding road building, but everyone who attended the meeting was delighted with the opportunity of meeting John B. Yeon because of genial personality.

Wait Mason, the celebrated rhyme writer, refused fifteen hundred dollars from a cigarette factory a short time ago. This sum was offered to him if he would write some catchy verse advertising the cigarettes. Wait thought the matter over and decided, inasmuch as the schools of the country were fighting cigarettes, states were passing laws against their sale and the general public seemed to be against them, not to accept the money and wrote his refusal to work. That is conscience for you, for Wait Mason could have earned that fifteen hundred dollars in three hours.

LOW BROW AND HIGH BROW

When David Starr Jordan exclaimed with all his might, "there are too many 'low brows'," William Allen White listened attentively and then wrote:

If you are a low brow do this: Buy a Lit'ry magazine, read the dope on books, and talk books.

Read the theatrical notices in the papers and talk show.

Get a phonograph and play the classical pieces, and talk music.

Get a dictionary and read it backwards, and people will think you are talking philosophy.

And then who will know but what you are a high brow?

It has been tried a million times and never has failed.

The Charity ball to be given tonight is an event of merit, as the entire proceeds of the evening will be turned over to the Salvation Army for relief of the poor. Those who attend are assured of a pleasant occasion as well as contributing to a good cause.

DOES SILENCE GIVE CONSENT?

Recently in a letter to a Virginian

Justice Hughes declined to be a candidate for the Republican nomination to the presidency. He did not say he would not accept the nomination. He hardly could say such a thing before it is offered to him.

He maintains a perfect silence on the subject except when forced to answer questions, and in this silence many believe is consent.

The letter to the Virginian proves little and what he will do when the convention is in session is yet to be known.

Judge Lowell of Pendleton never could be rightfully called a pessimist. He sees the silver lining of every cloud. In the Astoria rate decision he folds sobbing Portland in his arms and with a pretty lullaby gives assurance that there is room for all at sea ports, and that very shortly there will be wharves and docks from Portland to Astoria.

SUFFER LITTLE CANDIDATES.

This is the way a middle states newspaper puts up its political sign board for 1916: This is the year when we will take the announcements of all the candidates of all the parties. Time was when we took only the Republicans. This year we are going to enlarge our sphere of influence and take Democrats, Socialists, Prohibitionists and Independents. We have no desire for tainted money. But there is only one taint about the five dollars of the candidate. Taint enough.

Hon. Joe Hinkle, representative of Umatilla county, has traded for the Bohnenkamp home on Second street and the Grande Ronde valley extends the hand of fellowship and the hailing sign of welcome to this man if he decides to live among us.

Constable I. W. Faulk, who has been constable in La Grande since the days of yore, hastens to correct the initials in his announcement for re-election. Really he does not need initials to his name to run for constable in La Grande since his habit of voting for him whether he is on the ticket or not.

The old Virtue mine in Baker county is to be re-opened this year. This goes to show that idle money is seeking the investments of the west once more, for Baker's mines are one by one working.

The Germans are at it in earnest once more on the western front. They know what they have to go against this time and it looks like the bloodiest battle of the war is to be fought within the next few days.

Swift & Co., will put 10,000 cattle on a ranch in Umatilla county. This is probably just a small experimental farm the packing company is trying out.

A North Dakota farmer is storing wheat in his parlor. This is maintaining the old custom of keeping the parlor for the best.

Nothing makes a millionaire contributor more tired than to have a reformer keep up the habit after he is elected.

Ike Stephenson now claims that Senator LaFollette was the largest item of his patriotic campaign munificence.

What an auto looks like coming, and what it smells like going, are two different things.

Are not the satisfactions of peace vastly better than any possible satisfaction of war?

Wheat dropped six cents yesterday—a matter of some regret.

SWISS BEST DEFENDED PEOPLE IN THE WORLD.

Proportionate to population the Swiss are the best defended people in the world. In two days they can mobilize a trained citizen army of 200,000 men; within a week 300,000 more—every man of the 500,000 trained to shoot, to march to maneuver and take care of himself in the field.

Yet the Swiss are intensely non-militaristic, intensely devoted to love of justice and peace. Their constitution expressly prohibits the maintenance of a standing army; specifically forbids a war of aggression. They are essentially armed and trained for defense and peace.

With what poignant regret must the unhappy Belgians now lament that they put their trust in treaties of peace instead of their own defensive prowess! With approximately twice the population of Switzerland could have thrown 1,000,000 trained defenders upon her German frontier, and history would record a different and less tragic story of this war. Against that heroic and determined array the German armies would not have marched to strike at France. They would have deemed it wiser to

move directly against the French on the Franco-German boundary.

Belgium stands today a frightful warning against the folly of inadequate defense. It had been better for the Belgians if they had maintained no army at all, for then a futile sense of honor need not have driven them to throw their weak forces against the mighty German military machine. They could have saved their country from ruin by yielding to Berlin's offer to treat them well and compensate them for a granted right of way.

The danger of inadequate defense hangs over the United States—inadequate defense and a false sense of security springing from an ignorant belief in many minds that we are big enough and rich enough to whip any other nation on the globe.

With our present preparedness we are not. Grandiloquent Fourth of July orators and certain office seeking politicians have declared that error until many of them believe it, and too many voters are authority on military matters, and practically every officer in the army and the navy, knows it to be foolish and false.

A century ago President Jefferson, apostle of democracy and peace glimpsed the republic's need of preparedness approximating the Swiss plan. Though European armies then were small, Japan a hermit nation with no imperial designs and the United States far more secure in isolation than now, Jefferson urged the maintenance of a citizen army with only a twentieth of the population of today and not a fiftieth of its present wealth. Proportionate defense now would mean a trained force of 6,000,000 men.

Convicts Ill With Smallpox.

Salem, Ore., Feb. 24.—Discovering that three more cases of smallpox had developed at the penitentiary, Warden Minto yesterday afternoon ordered the prison physician to vaccinate all the prisoners and to take every precaution to prevent the spreading of the disease. Although the prison has not been quarantined, no visitors will be admitted until the epidemic is over.

The disease was introduced at the institution several weeks ago by a convict who had violated his parole and had been returned from Albany. At that time Warden Minto was in the East, and Deputy Warden Sherwood ordered all prisoners who had come in contact with the sick convict vaccinated.

Farmers to Be Guess.

Montesano, Wash., Feb. 24.—Montesano is to have a real "at home" for the farmers of the county, Saturday. It is to start at noon with a band concert, musical program and dinner, and is to last the balance of the day. Eldridge Wheeler will be toastmaster and President Mock, of the Chamber of Commerce, says that as the town people have been telling the farmers how to run their business for years, and have even sent out of the state for "little tin experts" to tell them how, the farmers shall now have a chance to get back at them. The visitors are to be invited to tell the Montesano business man how the latter should run their town to make it a better one. Everybody, including picture shows and bowling alleys, will be free to farmers all the afternoon. They are to be guests of honor and their money will not be honored.

St. Paul Minn. Feb. 25.—School children of St. Paul have \$90,386.39 in the keeping of their teachers. This is twice as much as they had a year ago. Every school teacher is a bank cashier who teaches frugality and assists by taking care of the youngsters' savings. Approval of the state banking department for this plan has been given.

Just Received The Loveliest of Charming New NECKWEAR for the Spring Season 1916

A large express shipment right direct from New York, of smart, new styles for Women and Misses—See them, you will want several of these Chic, Fresh, New Spring Collars.

The New Styles center chiefly on the large flat collars of the Spanish, cape, sailor and Puritan order, also there are a large number of small collars in new styles. Dainty Embroidery trimmed effects and pretty Lace trimmed neckwear, etc. All kinds of Collars, Vestees, Collar and Cuff Sets—in a word every new style that will be worn this Spring. See the new "Chevilles" Collar. We specialize on moderate prices. Collars, Vestees, and Sets, all priced at 25c and 50c

New Goods are Coming in Rapidly

Every day we are busy unpacking new goods—New Suits, New Coats, New Dresses, New Wash Goods, New Underwear, New Silks, Men's Wear, Etc. Come in and see the New Arrivals.

N. K. West & Co. THE QUALITY STORE

Don Caps and Gowns.

Baker, Feb. 24.—Acting as tailor's models for the edification of the members of the high school senior class, Jack Coyne and Miss Madge Powell appeared in class meeting held yesterday afternoon wearing caps and gowns sent to Baker for the approval of the graduates-to-be.

Caps and robes are of a smoky gray blue, and were generally liked by the seniors. While the matter has not been definitely decided, the class expects that the school board will defray rental expenses.

Seniors are now wearing the official 1916 class rings, which are being used this year in place of pins. The emblems bear in raised letters, the numerals of the class, with the letters, "B. H. S."

Non-Suit Motion Denied

Circuit court is concerned today with the damage case brought by Dryman Buck for the loss of a horse last year while crossing the track in East La Grande. A motion for a non-suit was denied by Judge Knowles.

UNION COUNTY BOY.

(Continued From Page One)

North Island military aerodrome yesterday morning by Floyd Smith, chief pilot of the Martin Aeroplane Company, when he ascended 9603 feet with three passengers. The hydroaeroplane weighed, with its pilot, three passengers, fuel and oil, 3300 pounds.

Captain Arthur S. Cowan, head of the signal corps aviation school and Aero Club of America representative, pronounced the record official after examining and calibrating the barograph strapped to Smith's seaplane.

Smith's flight yesterday stamps him as one of the greatest air pilots in America. He now holds the world's seaplane altitude records for pilot and passenger, pilot and two passengers, and pilot and three passengers, and this remarkable string of records was made in less than a month.

January 16 Smith, piloting a Martin hydroaeroplane and carrying Donald Douglass as passenger, ascended 12,362 feet; last Friday he soared in the same type of machine, carrying Robert Blair and O. E. Strahlmann as passengers, 9554 feet. Yesterday Blair, Strahlmann and Corporal Albert Smith of loop-the-loop fame made the flight with Smith.

Flight Made Over the Sea

Ascending at 10:50 a. m. Smith found the air above the city and harbor too puffy for rapid climbing and headed fifteen miles out to sea. Here the air was swirly and puffy in spots, but Smith kept the huge hydro pointing skyward. He made the first 8000 feet while climbing at an angle of eleven degrees. The last 900 feet was made at an angle of fourteen degrees.

Smith said that the terrific wind pressure on the wings at 8000 feet caused the seaplane to roll around in the air like a bobbed in slushy snow. The terrific driving power of the Hall-Scott motor proved too much for this resistance, however, the plane continuing to mount skyward at every thrust of the propeller.

"These flights have demonstrated that the United States leads the world in seaplane construction," said Smith. "There is no machine of this type in Europe that can equal the flying ability of this hydroaeroplane nor carry the load per square foot of supporting surface. It was

a wonderful advantage to be able to climb at an angle of fourteen degrees. Many aeroplanes, even of lighter construction or build, would have stalled at this angle."

Skill of Flyer Shown

Smith said that the flight yesterday was the hardest he has made during his short career in the aviation game. The sliding around of the big plane compelled him to continually work the control wheel, and he was very tired when he landed at 1:10 o'clock. In spiraling to the water he pointed the nose of the hydro straight down and never straightened the machine until within less than 500 feet from the bay. It was a wonderful exhibition of skill, and army aviators were not slow in extending their praise when he brought the machine up to the hangars.

Another Record Aim

Smith said last night that Glenn Martin, builder of the hydroaeroplanes which bear his name, is designing an aeroplane with which he hopes to bring to San Diego soon the world's altitude record for pilot alone now held by Heinrich Oelrich, a German aviator, who ascended 26,242 feet. Smith will pilot the machine on this flight, and if he succeeds in smashing the German's record he will perform the wonderful feat of smashing four world's records within a year. Martin also is constructing another fast military biplane with which he hopes to fly more than 1200 miles in ten or eleven hours' consecutive flight breaking the world's record now held by Jules Vedrines, a French monoplane.

The world's altitude record for land aeroplanes for pilot and three passengers is held by the Austrian aviator, E. von Lossi, who ascended at Trieste June 27, 1914, to an altitude of 15,650 feet.

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