

THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS, Editor and Owner

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THE PRICE OF GASOLINE.

The head of a corporation which has offered the most persistent opposition to the Standard Oil company predicts that by midsummer the price of gasoline will have reached 40 or 50 cents. He says that there never has been a greater supply available in this country and that while the price has increased 205 per cent in five years, facilities for the extraction of gasoline have been radically improved. The war demand, and the extortion of a monopoly, are given as the reasons for exorbitant prices.

While the gasoline problem, in this day of the internal combustion engine, is a grave one, it is not quite as desperate as some would have us believe. If the prices are arbitrarily controlled by a monopoly it is certain that farsighted financiers will not permit the screws to be put on too hard. The demand could be permanently reduced by too much price boosting, which would lead to cutting down the use of gasoline to its minimum thus inflicting a permanent injury on the market. Cars and engines of light consumption would be manufactured in larger quantities to offset the expense of fuel.

Therefore, at about the time the foreign need lets up, a sharp slump may be expected.

Furthermore, the cost of gasoline is not the chief factor of expense for a motorist. At the present rate an average expenditure of \$100 for a year might be assumed for every car owner. Car depreciation exceeds that item by a large margin, while tires and other necessities of upkeep are considerably greater. If gasoline prices are being artificially juggled, as is generally taken for granted, they are being juggled by experts who, for the sake of their own profits, will not go beyond certain limits.

CHILD TRAINING.

A police raid on a Chicago flat interrupted lessons in pocket-picking which were being given to a boy

three years old. His grandmother described how her sons would take his doll away from the child and compel him to practice the art of larceny from the person for several hours every day. It was the family's ambition to make the child the world's greatest pickpocket.

Environment in this case would seem to have a strong advantage over any inherent impulses toward respectability which might exist in this baby. In an atmosphere of criminality, with honesty reviled as a weakness, with lawful success held up as an aim of the stupid and insincere and feats of outlawry extolled, his training was the positive reverse of what is attempted for the average child in an American home. Early impressions, we know, are lasting. The habit of taking what was not his own might easily be fastened on a child, one might suppose, since the distinction between "mine" and "thine" is feeble in the first years.

Society has interfered and everything possible will be done to offset the effect of the crime kindergarten in which his father and two uncles labored to train Jack as a thief. And yet common observation teaches us that the aspirations entertained for him might easily have collapsed in the natural course of events. There is a strong streak of contrariness in most children. They incline strongly in the direction of the forbidden and adventurous. Probably many successful pickpockets came of estimable families. A little too much emphasis in piety, temperance and chastity gives a tempting color to the opposite of these virtues. The law of reaction operates likewise to cause youth to discover a glamour in decency, a fascination in conventionality if they become surfeited with wickedness.

Small boys who believe in preparedness have begun to pray for fair weather on the opening day of the baseball season.

Billy Sunday saved 2200 souls in Trenton, N. J., at a cost of \$384 each, but with no guarantee against backsliding.

PENSION BILL DEFENDED.

(Continued From Page 3.)

sons of the North and the courage and patriotism of the sons of the South, as they fought shoulder to shoulder at San Juan and Malabon, became the common heritage of the American people. The Spanish-American war was a war for humanity and we must not forget the brave boys who fought under our flag in that war and as a tribute to their valor and patriotism, I trust that the pending bill will pass without a dissenting vote.

Disposal of Timber Lands.

Washington, Feb. 28.—Whether 2,400,000 acres of timber land containing 70,000,000,000 board feet and worth \$60,000,000, shall go to settlers or into the forest reserve is the question over which congress and three

government department are now struggling.

The property is that contained in the old Oregon & California Railroad for disposing of it as there are chipmunks on the land itself. The land is all located in Oregon. The supreme court recently decided that the railroad had violated the terms of the grant, so the government could have the land back by paying the railroad at least \$2.50 an acre. Congress was to decide what must be done with the land.

Senator Chamberlain proposes to divide the land into three classes—mineral, agricultural and timber lands—and then dispose of the different tracts under present laws relating to those classes of land.

Representative Hawley doesn't think the government has a right to claim absolute title to the land now.

Representative Raker of California in a joint resolution proposes to pay the railroad company more than \$2.50 an acre and have the United States resume full possession.

Senator McCumber in a joint resolution proposes to give all settlers a preferential right if they made application for any of the land before the beginning of the government suit. The matter now is before the house committee on Public Lands.

To neglect one's liberty is to lose it. To neglect one's country is to perish with it.

THE BATTLE CRY OF PEACE

"BUSINESS DOCTOR" TALKS

Dangers of Bad Accounting and the Boomerang "Wildcats" Described

University of Oregon, Eugene, Feb. 29.—Five reasons why there have been many failures among factories in Oregon were stated by Fletcher Linn of Portland to students in the State University school of commerce. The reasons were:

Lack of Capital; bad accounting; too little collecting and too much buying; poor locations; bad organization.

Mr. Linn is a business organizer and an efficiency expert—sometimes called a "business doctor." He is member of the board of advisers of the school of commerce.

He emphasized good accounting "Many worthy enterprises fail because the owner is without statement of sufficient accuracy and in sufficiently good business form to produce backing from a bank. Vest pocket accounting is successful sometimes, but not usually," he said.

Legitimate enterprises are much hampered these days by the remembrance of the many "wildcats" that have been floated in the state, Mr. Linn says. Even reliable companies in first class financial condition and with a going business are often unable to get capital for enlargement because swindles of recent years have destroyed public confidence.

Two fundamental requirements for success in business in Oregon today are righteous training said Mr. Linn.

Washington's Denial Effects Society

Washington, Feb. 28.—Pittsburg and Cleveland and Chicago and other newly established cities may have a fad for buying orchids since Mrs. President Wilson started it on her recent tour with the president, but not Washington. Catch Washington society, which dates proudly back to the days when the first citizen fled to the Maryland cornfields to escape the British and the first government jobs were established, bowing to any fad started by anyone. Certainly not Florists said tonight that Washington has been conservative buying orchids for several years and that no recent increase in sales has been noted.

Russia Likes New Premier

Petrograd, Feb. 28.—Russia's new premier, M. Sturmer, is making a good impression. His appointment as M. Goremykin's successor was a surprise. He is 68 and has passed his whole life in government office. Those who knew him regarded him simply as a bureaucrat. The public knew him hardly at all. He was understood to be a close friend of Goremykin. This was not a favorable advertisement for him. Goremykin has been blamed freely for lack of energy and initiative. The Russian press did not disguise its satisfaction at his retirement but it had few words of welcome for his successor. Nevertheless, Sturmer's initial statement of his policy was well received. Evidently he did not want to be considered a reactionary. He spoke in friendly terms of the duma and hinted that he expects it to take an active part in affairs when it resumes its session late in February or in March. Of the war he said: "We must win. There can be no talk of a separate peace for us, nor can the threat of exhaustion alarm us. How can this great country, so rich naturally and every day disclosing fresh treasures, be exhausted?" If words count, it is the growing opinion that the new premier will be a success.

Many New Rifle Clubs Around Boston

Boston, Feb. 29.—The Spring tournament of the Massachusetts association of the National Rifle association begins here today with special matches at the Bay State school of Musketry's new ranges. The matches will continue for seven or eight weeks, and with the increasing number of clubs joining the association, promises to produce some hard fought contests. Massachusetts has had a revival of rifle clubs this year, because of the preparedness spirit which has swept the state. Hundreds of new clubs have been formed, and plenty of trophies have been offered for the marksmen. Special interest

"Hirsch-Wickwire" Spring Suits for Men are Here. You have seen these clothes advertised in the magazines—now come here and try on the new Spring Models. We sell them because it is the policy of this store to supply the best in every line of merchandise, and we know how these clothes are made. The splendid styles made of fine quality, hard finished and soft finished woolsens, combined with the best tailoring and fitting qualities—win all who come to see them. They will win you too. You who know what is what when you see it. Let the clothes themselves prove it. Try them on. PRICES RANGE FROM \$20 TO \$30.00. Sold in La Grande Only at West's. Men's Interwoven Hosiery 25c, 35c, 50c. Men's "Big 4" Hosiery Two pair for 25c. Men's "Tilt" Shoes all styles \$3.50 to \$6.00. Men's "Bergman" Loggers \$8.50. Men's "Manhattan" Shirts \$1.50. Men's "Gordon" Hats \$3.00. Men's "Keiser" Neckwear 50c. Boy's "Best Ever" Suits \$5.00 Up. Boy's "Kagne" Blouses 50c. Boy's "Eagle" Brand Caps 50c. Small Boy's "Koveralls" 75c. Boy's "Boss of Road" Overalls 50c and 60c. Men's "Boss of Road" Overalls \$1.00. Men's "Bell" Brand Suspenders 50c. NK West & Co THE QUALITY STORE.

Every Woman is Interested in the New Spring Styles--- and almost every La Grande woman planning a Spring wardrobe has been in during the past few days to see the NEW SPRING SUITS, DRESSES, COATS AND SKIRTS which are now arriving daily. They have all the dash and chic—with just a touch of quaintness—that make the Spring Styles so charming. We invite you to see them today. SPRING SUITS \$15.00 to \$50.00. SPRING COATS \$10.00 to \$35.00. SPRING DRESSES \$10.00 to \$35.00. SPRING SKIRTS \$ 4.00 to \$15.00. SPRING WAISTS \$ 1.25 to \$ 7.50. NK West & Co THE QUALITY STORE.

is shown in the individual matches held at the new ranges of Gainsborough street Boston, and a table of figures kept by Major Portal, who has been one of the leading factors in the newly popular sport, shows that the standard of efficiency has been greatly increased. The department stores of Boston have taken up the rifle club idea and nearly all have teams made up from among their employees. Colleges and schools R. around the city also are showing interest in Rifle teams, and many have applied for membership in the N. A.

SYNOPSIS OF THE ANNUAL STATEMENT OF THE MUTUAL BENEFIT LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY. Newark, in the state of New Jersey, on the 31st day of December, 1915, made to the Insurance Commissioner of the state of Oregon, pursuant to law: Income. Total premium income \$ 26,509,013.71. Interest, dividends and rents received during the year 8,847,626.24. Income from other sources received during the year 806,820.59. Total income \$ 36,163,460.54. Disbursements. Paid for losses, endowments, annuities and surrenders 18,844,371.37. Dividends paid to policy holders during the year 8,502,769.06. Commissions and salaries paid during the year 3,128,207.76. Taxes, licenses and fees paid during the year 620,522.95. Amount of all other expenditures 1,406,688.39. Total expenditures \$ 24,502,559.53. Assets. Market value of real estate owned 2,062,924.23. Market value of stocks and bonds owned 44,967,824.85. Loans on mortgages and collateral, etc. 96,328,586.80. Premium notes and policy loans 37,464,375.75. Cash in banks and on hand 2,458,594.36. Net uncollected and deferred premiums 2,355,623.61. Other assets (net) 8,594,311.52. Total assets \$ 190,380,153.12. Total assets admitted in Oregon \$ 190,380,153.12. Liabilities. Net reserve \$ 110,586,811.00. Total reserve admitted in Oregon \$ 110,586,811.00. Contingency reserve funds 7,593,629.46. All other liabilities 11,887,289.89. Total liabilities \$ 129,067,720.35. Total insurance in force December 31, 1915 \$ 78,439,167.00. Business in Oregon for the Year. Total insurance written during the year 848,393.00. Gross premiums received during the year 172,642.00. Losses paid during the year 18,901.00. Losses incurred during the year 18,901.00. Total amount of insurance outstanding in Oregon December 31, 1915 6,880,512.00. THE MUTUAL BENEFIT LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY. By J. W. JOHNSON, Secretary, Statutory resident general agent and attorney for services, Arnold E. Rothwell, Portland, Oregon.

Willard Very Informal. We don't believe in frills and formalities. Our battery service goes to the bottom of things, tells you in plain language what is wrong, and corrects the fault. Johnstone & Reisdand 1515 Adams. Free inspection of any battery at any time.

Been Thinking About That Go-Cart for baby? I have received a large shipment of 1916 models in the SIDWAY and RAMBLERS line of Carts and am showing the most attractive patterns brought to La Grande. Prices are most reasonable—\$4.50 to \$25.00. I will take your old cart as partial payment on a new cart or sulky. Come in and I will show you the exclusive features that make the SIDWAY the most desirable cart for baby. F. D. HAISTEN, FURNITURE ON EASY PAYMENTS.

HOW ARE YOU FIXED? MONEY IN THE BANK. The Careful Man builds and supports his home with a Bank account. Who is getting the money you earn? IF YOU WANT TO BUY A HOME IT IS BEST TO FIRST HAVE ENOUGH MONEY PILED UP IN THE BANK TO BUY IT. THEN YOU CAN BUY IT, AND IT WILL REALLY BELONG TO YOU. YOU MUST HAVE MONEY IN THE BANK TO SUPPORT ANY ENTERPRISE YOU MAY UNDERTAKE. WE WILL KEEP YOUR MONEY SAFE FOR YOU. 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. DIRECTORS: Fred J. Holmes, J. G. Snodgrass, J. F. Conley, C. C. Penington, H. S. Brownston, F. L. Meyers, A. Blokland, A. T. Hill, H. E. Coolidge.