

THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS, Editor and Owner

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

Daily, single copy 5c
 Daily, per week 35c
 Daily, per month 95c
 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. All copy for display advertising must reach the office the day before the ad appears.

Address all communications to THE OBSERVER, 1710 Sixth Street.

WATCH UMATILLA.

Here in Union county we are repeatedly told that no question exists about Umatilla county voting bonds for hard-surface roads. We are appealed to by the enthusiastic bond people to get in line and continue the great highway east from Umatilla county.

Let us offer a little suggestion right now. Umatilla county people are not solid for the bond issue by any means, and our guess is that with proper agitation Umatilla will defeat the bond issue by a decisive vote.

Over here in Union county we have heard only from the supporters of the bonds across the mountains. There are a lot of people over there who are against the measure.

THE END OF STATE BONDS.

The Salem meeting of the Irrigation Congress put an end to any possibility of state bonds for any purpose for another five years at least.

By this we do not mean that some energetic organization may not get a bonding measure on the ballot, for that is not difficult to do. Only recently in some New England state a very large petition was obtained to "shorten the road to Tipperary," the signer paying no attention whatever when asked for their signatures. And so it may be possible that a bonding measure would get sufficient signers to appear on the ballot, but that is as far as it would get, for the sentiment shown in the Salem meeting plainly indicates Oregon's firm and unwavering attitude against heavy general indebtedness to procure credit for special purposes. The wisdom of the state on this subject is very well balanced, for under our form of government the cost of public improvements is too great—the dollar buys too little value to justify the state entering into large industrial and development undertakings.

Those who have land needing irrigation and those who have land needing drainage still may take advantage of the district bonding law which has been on the Oregon statutes for many years, and under its provisions they may bond their lands and engage in just such improvements as the state was asked to father. If the district has land that will show increased value after such improve-

ment and its settlers possess integrity and thrift the securities will sell. Otherwise they will not and should not, and the state should never be put behind anything that is not perfectly good as a district proposition. There will be improvement in Oregon. This is no time to feel discouraged, for improvement will come through individual endeavor and from investment of idle capital by the individual.

The result of the Salem meeting was very good, but the meeting did nothing. There was nothing to do. There was no occasion for the social feature and the numerous oratorical efforts which fell on appreciative ears.

IT HAD TO COME.

The American army is in Mexico. It had to come. A great portion of the American people felt it was a certainty long before President Taft left the White House, turning over a chaotic condition in Mexico to the present executive to deal with.

We have always felt the charitable way to view President Wilson's attitude toward Mexico was to take into consideration that prior to breaking out of the European tragedy he was familiar with what was very liable to happen, and did happen over there, which would quite naturally have a bearing and cause hesitation in entering Mexico.

We repeat, this is the charitable way to view our attitude toward Mexico during the past three years, but now all possibility of keeping out of the Southern Republic has been removed by Villa's acts of violence.

Our guess is that Mexico will unite against us; that their local differences will be temporarily patched up while they put up a national fight against us. This will mean a war of considerable length and one that will give us a taste, to say the least, of what a war looks like. And this is to be expected. Every American who has thought the Mexican situation over calmly surely has long ago come to the same conclusion.

But, it is the only thing to do, and it should have been done long ago.

CALIFORNIA RAISES AN ISSUE.

In former times it was in Kansas that national issues were raised. But in the passing years Kansas has become comparatively calm and has changed from a political storm center to a land of corn and content. Nowadays it is the Pacific slope states which devote themselves to raising issues of national, even international, importance. And in this line of hopeful endeavor California is becoming distinguished. Fresh in public memory are California's suffrage and Japanese, oil lands and other issues. Now a new problem is likely to prove important and interesting to not only every politician but to every producer and consumer of food articles in the United States, and to have a bearing on the great subject of national preparedness.

It appears that California fruit growers, tiring of haphazard marketing of their crops, are desirous of uniting to handle their products from orchard to market. Their annual crop of fruits is conservatively valued at more than \$50,000,000. Bankers have agreed willingly to finance any combination of growers which will stand-

All Thoughts Are Now For Spring

and of New Suits, Coats, Dresses, Waists—New Silks, Wash Goods, Dress Goods, New Underwear, Neckwear, Men's Suits, Shirts, Etc. --- Come See the New Arrivals.



Charming New Coat Styles

Every woman will be fascinated with the new Spring Coats we are now showing. All the latest style tendencies are here. You will want one of these New Coats that we are offering at attractively low prices. \$10.00 Up

White Chinchilla Short Coats

A dozen new styles just received, one of them pictured here with velvet trimming on collar and cuffs and buttons to match. Best grade white bone buttons. Priced \$15.00

New Spring Suits \$15.00 to \$50.00
 New Spring Dresses \$10 to \$35.00
 New Spring Skirts \$4.00 to \$15.00
 New Spring Waists \$1.25 to \$7.50

Fascinating New Silks. A New Shipment Just in

All indications point to silk as a leading factor in women's apparel this Spring. Taffetas are more in evidence than ever, especially large plaid and wide striped patterns, with changeables and plain colors a close second.

See these new silks just arrived.

New Tub Silks, smart stripes in many combinations 36 inches wide, yard \$1.15, \$1.25
 New Taffetas, stripes, checks, plaids, 27 and 36 inches wide, yard \$1.25, \$1.50, \$1.75
 New Plain Black Messaline, good weight, 36 inches wide, yard \$1.00
 New Black and White Check Silk with the new 1-4 inch wide checks, 36 inches wide, yard \$1.25

New White Goods

An extensive assortment of the new weaves in sheer, medium and heavy weights—the most attractive white goods values we have shown in many a season. Advance orders enable us to quote unmatched offerings at 12 1/2, 15c, 18c, 20c, 25c, 35c, 45c

SHEER STYLES ARE Plain voiles, splash voiles, check voiles, lace voiles, English voiles, flake voiles, crepe voiles, crapes, swisses, etc.

MEDIUM WEIGHT WHITE GOODS in the fashionable white garbardine and poplins in plain weaves and stripes—madras in plain stripe and check styles, also pique in all sized cords; linen and Palm Beach suitings at the yard from 15c to 50c.

HEAVY WEIGHT WHITE GOODS in a great assortment of Piques, Gaberdine, Serge, Repp, Poplin, Waffle Cloth, Goffine Cords and other popular weaves for skirts and suits. Moderately priced 18c to 50c yd.

Spring Weight Munsingwear

Light weight cotton unionsuits for women in Spring styles, tailored and trimmed. All sizes. Priced 50c

Boy's "Kaynee" Tapeless Blouses

These Tapeless Blouses are being bought by boys' mothers all over the country. No draw-strings to be pulled out in the laundry. Guaranteed colors 50c

Another Shipment New Neckwear

Just received Saturday—New effects in Collars, Collar and Cuff Sets, Vesteers, Etc. Very pretty and very becoming styles, all priced at 25c and 50c

New Curtain Scrims

New Seeded Voiles with Colored Embroidered Figures, very new, yard 25c
 New Medium Mesh Scrim with Self Border edges. Priced, yard 20c

Service in Corsets Mean A Saving to You

We have a large and varied assortment of the newest, reasonable styles of Henderson corsets in stock which we offer for your inspection. They are among the best corsets manufactured and you make no mistake when you buy one. Henderson Corsets are known in our city, as throughout the country

FOR THEIR

- Exquisite Style.
- Economy of Wear.
- Graceful figure line.
- Excellence of all materials:—boning, supporters, trimming and fabrics.

BECAUSE THEY

- Are comfortable and need no tedious "breaking in."
- Correct irregularities of the figure.
- Are guaranteed not to break or tear.
- Are made for all types of figure and at the price you want to pay.
- Give a dollar's worth for every dollar spent.

PRICES \$1.00, \$1.50, \$2.00 and upwards



Spring "MANHATTAN" Shirts are Here. They are Beauties, Priced \$1.50 and \$2.00

N.M. West & Co.
 THE QUALITY STORE

ardine products, provided such a combination can be legally effected.

It is the object of the proposed union to prevent gluts of fruits which many times entailed heavy loss to producers with no particular gain to the mass of consumers. But the majesty of existing anti-trust legislation seems to stand frowningly, threateningly, in the way, forbidding such combinations as that proposed by the Californians. And a great white light is beginning to beat on the product of recent years of anti-trust legislation and on the makers and advocates thereof.

As matters stand, the cost of food products is increasing in the United States. Whether this is due in part to increasing population, to foreign demands, or in part to all of these causes combined, two facts stand out prominently. The cost of food is increasing; American systems of food distribution are so faulty as to be positively stupid, being far beneath the level of efficiency known in ancient Egypt in the days of Joseph of the coat of many colors. Year after year in one section there is a great surplus of potatoes, corn, wheat, fruit or what not, while in another district there is a shortage, with the result of wastage and ruinously low prices

to the producer in the one region and scarcity and high prices to the consumer in another. It is perfectly evident that with any sane system of marketing the surplus of one section might easily be made to supply the scarcity of another. But when the

first attempt is made to take a step toward this conservation of food products, it is thwarted by a law made in defiance of economic progress, made by half-baked theorists, forbidding combinations without respect to their objects or character.

Already the boys running for the legislature are beginning to line up strength for presidency of the Senate and speaker of the House. Quite a little early boys. It is such movements that helps in forming a belief that the state needs no legislature.

Our treaty with Mexico permits us to cross the border and capture the entire Mexican army without officially declaring war. Some old hard-head framed that treaty who knew the Mexicans as they really are.

Baby week in La Grande was worth while and some excellent educational features resulted. What the Grande Ronde Valley needs now is more babies.

Irrigation meetings as well as politics, make strange bed-fellows. Think of Lair Thompson and Oswald West chewing on the same piece of locic.

Felix Diaz may be a trifle late with his new insurrection.

Little Holland finds compensation for its troubles as a neutral country. The Holland-American Steamship company's dividend for 1915 was 50 per cent. In 1914 it was 17.—Boston Herald.

DISCRIMINATING BUYERS GIVE PREFERENCE TO

Oregon Life
 OREGON'S SUCCESSFUL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

Combination of Attractive Features:

- The New Policy Contract
- The Superior Service and
- The Low Premium Rate

Home Office: CORBETT BUILDING Fifth and Morrison Sts. Portland, Ore.

A. L. MILLS President

L. SAMUEL General Manager

C. S. SAMUEL Assistant Manager



After a Careful man has worked hard for his money he puts it into the Bank

Your money is safe when it is in Our Bank

WHO GETS THE MONEY YOU EARN? DO YOU GET IT, OR DOES SOMEBODY ELSE WHO DOES NOT EARN IT.

YOUR "EARNING POWER" CANNOT LAST ALWAYS. WHILE YOU ARE MAKING MONEY BANK IT AND BE FIXED FOR OLD AGE?

JUST DO A LITTLE THINKING

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
 Pres. J. Holmes, President; C. C. Penington, Vice President; F. L. Meyers, Cashier; 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. Blockland, A. T. Hill, H. E. Coolidge.