

THE OBSERVER

BEUCE DENNIE, Editor and Owner

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GUESS WERE A "POST."

Dr. M. K. Hall's article in this issue arguing for a bond issue in Union county says "let us not become posts" and then he mentions the "moss gathering posts that are still with us."

After considerable thought on the subject the Observer is about to plead guilty to being a "post," to use the Doctor's own term, regardless of his closing paragraph which tells of our virtues in language woven only as the Doctor can weave it.

Yes, henceforth let us be known as a "post" in this attempt to put over a bond issue in Union county. We have learned to respect the people who are usually termed "mossbushers" in a community, for as a rule these people are the "energetic ones" from themselves in the end. They act as a brake on a line of action which might mean bankruptcy later, and therefore we respect these old "moss covered posts" and are willing to join them in their laudable work of salvation.

The Doctor delights in telling us that the land about hard-surface roads will at once increase in valuation. Maybe, but valuation of La Grande city property has not materially increased with the laying of Bialistic streets. If you think it has try to sell a vacant lot on a paved street. You have but to visit the city hall to find many pieces of property that have virtually suffered confiscation because of an over heated campaign for improvement in La Grande. Ask any real estate dealer in the city if he can sell a residence surrounded with pavement? Do we want to place the property of the entire county in the condition La Grande city property is now in? Surely hard-surface roads will not make land produce any more wheat and after all is said land is worth what it will earn and no more.

Farm lands in the county are not taxed in proportion to city property, according to the Doctor's statement. Perhaps not, for taxation is a complicated puzzle at best. But we submit this one proposition: If farming were as profitable as the Doctor's article seems to indicate there doubtless would be no complaint if the farm assessments were raised. But is the farm a profitable business venture? We will be willing to put any twenty Grande Ronde ranchers, whose word cannot be impeached, on the witness

stand and let them tell of their earnings in the past ten years, as an answer to the Doctor's complaint against land assessment, and as an answer to this question.

It would indeed be hard to conceive of a downright emergency covering a period of fifty years, as the Doctor indicates. The same as it would be hard to picture the site of the high school filled with children from the mortgaged homes; children with happy faces, full of glee, at the knowledge of the parental home facing an interest paying period when a paying company is demanding its title.

In speaking of the farmer's wives and daughters being "stunted in their narrow existence," we again cannot agree with our good friend, the Doctor. Some time ago we attended a Grange meeting in this valley and we have never seen more healthy, intelligent women than were there from valley farms. Perhaps they do not know the latest thing in Bridge Whist; perhaps the tattling auntie is not of their acquaintance; perhaps they have not acquired the latest slang, but believe us, when we say they are first-class people, enlightened in the things that tend toward making American homes, that tend toward becoming helpmeets in the full sense of the term. And they have been raised during the past fifty years on Grande Ronde farms and have been forced to travel these terrible dirt roads. But there is not one of those girls or women who will agree to put a mortgage on the old home in order that they may have a hard surface road in front of the farm—not one.

Everyone can guess—and usually does's guess is as good as another. The Doctor guesses that in fifteen years as a result of good roads alone, the advance in value would cause a decrease in percentage of taxation for road purposes rather than increase, and pay for the roads. In arriving at such a conclusion we must not forget that many honest men like Dr. Hall have been mistaken in their guesses on valuations in Oregon because of improvement in the last ten years. Look at the suburban property in Portland, much of which was sold a few years ago for more than three times what it is worth today, even though extensive improvements have been made. And land in the Willamette valley where increased values were predicted as soon as electric railways were constructed is today almost unmarketable.

The farmers are not the only ones interested in this bonding scheme. Every property owner in La Grande, Union, Elgin and the other towns must take on more debt and witness his taxes take a leap in advance of the present high figures. The people of Medical Springs, Catherine Creek, Starkey and other outlying districts must help pay for the hard-surface roads that will run past a few of the valley ranches.

We believe Dr. Hall and the others who advocate bonds for hard-surface roads are wrong, and that instead of thirty miles of road proving such a great benefit we will find, if their campaign is successful, that Union county instead of being free from debt, will be in the same unfortunate condition as Jackson and Columbia counties where the people looked

themselves for roads and now find they haven't much road, but a tremendous mortgage on each county.

Read the new traffic ordinance and study its provisions. John Gardner was still a member of the commission when this ordinance was passed and if there is a man in the country who knows what a self-propelled vehicle should do that man is John Gardner who has handled a throttle for these many years.

Enterprise is growing at a lively pace. This is evidenced by the strangers who pass through La Grande almost daily headed for the Willowa county seat seven Ees the front is on the pumpkin Enterprise will have added largely to her population.

Following the terrible snow in Portland which worried the scenic and climatic advertisers quite a little, a man is killed in a storm inside of the corporate limits of the Rose city.

Those bandits who held up the Southern California stage coaches may swear they were merely practicing a new "movie" act.

As last report Villa's "hiding place" was not clear" according to the remarkable news service of the different coast papers.

Guess Fred Funston is showing us how to censor war news. He has the Kaiser bested on this line of work.

Welcome home, Pat and Mrs. Foley. We know you had a good time and La Grande offers the glad hand.

RAILROAD NEWS

H. C. Oliver, traveling freight agent for the O. W. and E. P. Stanley, district representative of the Empire line, were in La Grande this morning and report freight business good everywhere. Mr. Oliver went out to Willowa county points to visit the chief towns there.

The main contract of hauling northwest wheat to La Grande where the La Grande Flouring Mill company is cleaning it and shipping it east in bulk, has about been completed by the O. W., but a new lot, unexpected, dropped in and that is now being cared for.

Crews on No. 17 this morning reported about four inches of snow between La Grande and Baker, the summit especially being blanketed.

A shift of clerks in the O. W. has taken place. G. W. Spencer goes back to the day baggage room shift from Division Foreman Thomas' office, and R. J. Jones, former day baggage man, becomes night baggage man. Mr. Charbonneau goes from Superintendent Bolles' office to Mr. Thomas' office.

A. W. Perley, who plugs the leaks in the Union Pacific system, was in the city this morning.

H. F. Perkins, revising clerk in the La Grande freight office, returned this morning from a trip to Portland.

W. B. Denny, the railroad warehouse man who has been in a hospital in Portland, has returned and feels like himself again.

Annual Flower Carnival.

Unless present plans mis-carry the ladies of Elgin will revive the annual flower carnival, which for a number of years was an annual feature of importance in Elgin, says the Recorder. Various ladies who formerly took much interest in that line have been conferring several days and preliminary steps will be taken at a meeting to be held at the home of Mrs. S. A. Tuttle Tuesday, March 21st at 3:00 o'clock to arrange tentative plans for the coming event. At present the members of the Elgin Cemetery Association are taking the initiative, but the presence of every lady of Elgin and vicinity is specially requested as it is the intention to make the movement one of general interest and use the net proceeds for civic beautifying. Ladies are reminded that whether or not they hold a membership in the local Cemetery Association, or are a member of any other organization, and all are asked to join and aid in the movement.

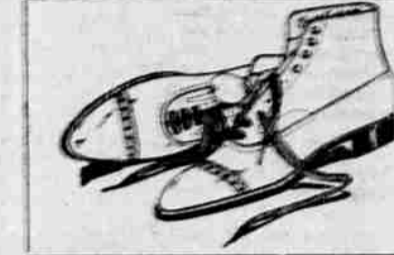
Usually the carnival was conducted for the benefit of some civic society and always resulted in a financial success, which however, was not the most important feature as the interest created among the many women in the growing of beautiful flowers was such that many of Elgin's yards were then veritable flower gardens and a beauty was added to our civic appearance that for general results far eclipsed the financial benefits. The carnival was successfully carried on for a number of years and that it was allowed to discontinue has ever been a regret, and it is sincerely hoped that the plans for a revival will mature. It will require immediate action and the ladies can rest assured that Elgin business men will provide plenty of suitable premiums for various winners.

Wickersham is Again Nominated in Alaska.

Juneau, Alaska, March 15.—Full returns from the Republican primaries held throughout the territory last Saturday indicate the renomination of James Wickersham as delegate to congress, and the election of two delegates to the national convention who will favor Hughes, but will

Look at West's \$15.00 Men's Spring Suit Display in the Window---

You'll see fabrics and styles that will cost you much more at other stores. Sturdy American woollens in some of the handsomest patterns for spring wear; checks, stripes, mixtures, blue serges, etc. Every suit finely tailored—we guarantee that; all the coats are made with shape retaining fronts. Come in right now and try on a few—you're bound to like them.



Here's a Shoe for Men That's all the go in the Large Cities

MADE OF THE FINEST OF TAN CALF UPPERS WITH WHITE RUBBER SOLES AND HEELS—ENGLISH WALKING SHAPE, COMFORTABLE ON THE FOOT AND A GOOD FITTER. PRICE \$5.00



We're Offering for WET WEATHER PROTECTION For Men and Women "KEYON" Raincoats in a big Variety



Table listing raincoat prices: Men's Rain Coats (\$10.00, \$12.50, \$17.50), Women's Rain Coats (\$9, \$10, \$12.50), Boys' Rain Coats (\$2.50, \$3.50), Girls' Rain Coats (\$2.50, \$3.50)

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The Careful Man starts a Bank account for his wife

A MAN'S WIFE ONCE PERSUADED HIM TO GIVE HER AN ALLOWANCE. SHE OPENED A BANK ACCOUNT. THE HUSBAND BECAME INVOLVED. THE MONEY THE WIFE HAD IN THE BANK, UNKNOWN TO HER HUSBAND, SAVED HIM FROM BUSINESS FAILURE. GIVE YOUR WIFE A BANK ACCOUNT. SHE IS YOUR BEST FRIEND AND BEST PARTNER.

BANK WITH US. WE PAY 4 PERCENT 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; C. C. Penington, Vice President; F. L. Meyers, Cashier; H. Zundel and H. E. Coolidge, Assistant Cashiers. DIRECTORS: Fred J. Holmes, J. G. Snodgrass, J. F. Conley, C. C. Penington, H. B. Brownston, F. L. Meyers, A. Hokland, A. T. Hill, H. E. Coolidge.

be unistracted. George Schofield, of Nome, or Louis P. Shackelford, of Juneau, will be national committeeman. The territorial convention will be held at Seward, April 19. Statehood for Alaska will be the keynote of the platform which will be adopted.

Plan to Form Militia Company Eugene, Or., March 15.—The return of Colonel Creed C. Hammond, of the Oregon National Guard, from Portland yesterday afternoon, after a consultation with Adjutant General George A. White regarding military training at the University of Oregon, has hastened the plans for the organization of a company here. The men interested in the movement, which has been promised the support of President Campbell and several members of the faculty, are planning a mass meeting of students interested within a few days at which Governor Withycombe is to be invited to speak and which will be addressed by Colonel Hammond and Adjutant General White. The plan is to organize an unofficial company here and later enroll it with the Coast Artillery of the Oregon National Guard.

Alcohol Provision of Dry Law to be Tested. Salem, Ore., March 15.—Proceeding on the theory that the provision of the prohibition law forbidding the importation into the state of ethyl alcohol for manufacturing purposes is in violation of the interstate commerce law, the firm of Wadhams & Co., of Portland, has instituted mandamus proceedings in the supreme court to compel the San Francisco & Portland Steamship company to deliver to it two barrels of alcohol. The firm alleges that it purchased the alcohol to be used in the manufac-

ture of flavoring extracts, and that the steamship company refuses to deliver it on the grounds that it would violate the prohibition law.

Youth Forced to Quit Living off His Parents. Centralia, Wash., March 15.—In the local police court Monday evening, J. E. Workman was fined \$10 and costs on a vagrancy charge, but sentence was suspended on condition that he leave the city. Evidence at the hearing showed that Workman, who is of age and able-bodied, has been living off his parents for the past two years, refusing to work, and abusing them when they remonstrated with him.

Big Celebration to Mark Completion. The Marshfield and North Bend (Ore) Chambers of Commerce have committees organized for the purpose of planning the celebration of the completion of the Willamette-Pacific from Eugene to Coos Bay.

According to the disposition in both cities, the event and entertainment will exceed anything ever attempted before on Coos Bay. Only tentative arrangements are now under discussion for the season of the year when the celebration can be held will control largely the class of entertainment that will be offered.

There are always promises received from the main boosting bodies in the Willamette Valley that big delegations will be sent officially, but everybody and his relatives will be welcomed. The Cherrians of Salem were the first to give assurance they were preparing to visit Coos Bay, and although the information came in a round about manner, they are expected to participate. Eugene and Albany are also among the cities that will send

excursions, while the way stations on the Willamette-Pacific will have a general outpouring of joy-seekers.

The visitors will have a great variety of sights to view, for trips will be arranged to beaches, the lakes, rivers and mountain. Resorts within easy distance of Marshfield and North Bend include Sunset Bay, Charleston Bay, the Arago lighthouse, the new lifesaving station at Charleston, the old Government works, the ocean beach, beautiful scenery on both branches of Coos river, and Golden and Silver falls on the Allegany trip.

There are a dozen roads by which people can get to the mountain streams for trout fishing, in the branches of South Coquille river, Myrtle creek, Rock creek, Millicoma river, Baker creek, Ocean fishing also can be enjoyed on gasoline schooners, several of which will be provided for the occasion.

The committees are arranging for amusements in the cities, taking various forms, including parades and music. A general carnival of good cheer will prevail and everyone who comes will go away with a feeling that the opening of a new territory by the new railroad is going to mark an important era for western Oregon.

Lumbermen Will Hold Meeting. Centralia, Wash., March 15.—Arrangements were made yesterday whereby the Commercial club auditorium will be used for the March meeting of the West Coast Lumbermen's association, which will be held in Centralia on March 1 for the first time in several years. F. B. Hubbard, president of the Eastern Railway & Lumber company, and treasurer of the association, estimates that 100 lumber manufacturers of the Northwest will be in attendance.

Judicial Opinion of the Press. From a legal decision rendered by the supreme court of Missouri: "The press disseminates practically all of the public news of the world and a large part of that which is personal; it imparts intelligence regarding the public health, public morals and public safety, and materially aids in the preservation of the two former and in the defense of the latter; it is the mouthpiece of the statesman and lawmaker, and proclaims to the world how governmental affairs are administered; it points to the capable and honest official usually with just commendation, and singles out the inefficient and those derelict in duty; and as a rule it is at the head of those collecting and disbursing public charity. Moreover, the press is a great educator in literature, art and science, and points out their beneficial influence upon the home, morality and religion; it enables the poor who earn their bread by the sweat of the brow to procure employment, to familiarize themselves with the best and cheapest necessities of life, and the most reliable places where they may be procured."

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