

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 15c
Daily, per month 45c
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.

REV. EDWARDS LIFTED LID.

We have all heard about the lids being tight and the lids being lifted in municipal, county and state affairs. Well, last night at the Methodist church Rev. Edwards, the regular pastor, lifted the lid off the church and with a sharp pole he did the most systematic job of prodding of those whom he termed "the man or woman who only has God Almighty on his calling list."

He spoke with all the earnestness that a man who has grown gray in the ministry could muster, and his illustrations were of the kind that should make the church-goer look carefully about, and make the full-fledged sinner tremble.

Billy Sunday at his best never threw out sharper fanged sentences. He broke shells over the heads of the large number of church people "who merely go to church but can give no proof to the world that they are children of God."

Calling attention to Barbara Heck when she kicked over a card table and demanded that a sermon be preached instead of a card game played in the early days, Rev. Edwards reviewed the existence of the Methodist church, which was organized for the purpose of having some method in the worship of God, hence the name—Methodist.

It was quite a treat to hear Rev. Edwards as he called out facts and figures; demonstrated problems in human existence; shattered the folly of building churches, paying preachers, electric light and furnace bills in the belief that the "church will tide you over;" demanded from those who call themselves Christians to show to the world that they have been saved.

DAN BOYD FOR DELEGATE.

It is hoped that every Republican will keep in mind the importance of sending men as delegates to the National convention who are known to be square, and who are not addicted to the "tricky" habit.

Daniel Boyd of Enterprise is a candidate for this honor and Dan Boyd is a "square shooter." He proved that in 1912 for he was a delegate to the national convention at that time. There is nothing shady in his make-up; he has a conscience and his acts are such that his conscience is never stultified. There is no connection between Dan Boyd and ringster politics and everyone who votes for him can

rest in full assurance that Boyd will act as representative of Oregon Republicans in the national convention in a clean, honorable way.

He is the kind of a man for Oregon to get into public life and keep in public life for he knows the difference between right and wrong and ever tries to be right.

WHAT DID WEST SAY?

We have searched the Portland papers carefully for the full speech of ex-Governor West when he landed on C. C. Chapman as a man working in the interest of predatory wealth, but the metropolitan press only gives the story, refraining from printing West's words.

The state would like to know what was said. There is a lurking suspicion that some forms of "big business" are overworking this sympathy racket; that they are whacking away at this regulation and that regulation without just cause, and all the time holding up to the public a balance sheet showing they are losing money in operating their business.

This form of "public sympathy" may be overdone and we would like to hear what West said to Mr. Chapman. Also, was Col. Hofer present with his wall about protecting business; and was Bob Smith of Roseburg in attendance with his Tax Liberator?

Print it all, brothers, print it all. Eastern Oregon wants the information.

PEOPLE USUALLY CARELESS

One trouble with people is that they will not take time to look at figures. They prefer to trust to impressions. It is easier, and, as everybody is doing it, why bother? For example, when the mule is mentioned everyone thinks of the state of Missouri, says the Country Gentleman.

The Missouri mule is a phrase that is rooted into general consciousness. Therefore Missouri is the state that has the most mules. Probably nine out of ten Americans think that. But the statistics show that Texas has twice as many mules as Missouri and that Georgia has almost as many mules as Missouri.

There is a general idea that the southern states are the great producers of corn. It is hard to find how this impression could obtain even in a limited area, for the great Corn Belt of the Middle West is certainly far famed. Of course, those who look at the figures need not be told that in corn production the great corn states are Illinois and Iowa, and that except for Missouri, which is the third they are more than two hundred million bushels ahead of the others.

When we go to New York and take in some of the shows we are regaled with hayseed jokes and caricatures, which geographically are always from the West or South. Why import them so far? New York State is the greatest raiser of hayseeds in America. No other state holds a candle to it. Its hay lands reach 5,000,000 acres and produce \$80,000,000 worth of hay a year. The hay crop covers almost twice as much as the grain, truck and fruits combined, and is worth almost three times as much as the cereals and three times as much as the fruits.

Just now Southern Oregon towns are going wild on the "bonus" game. The city of Roseburg recently voted \$300,000 to assist in building a rail-

road but the Supreme court very kindly came to the people's rescue and killed the bond issue. Now Medford, the usual gambling Medford, wants to vote a large bond issue to lay some rails into the mountains. If those towns will stop for a moment and consider, they cannot help but conclude that with as much idle money as there is in the country at the present time any commercial enterprise that is worth while will be financed in their midst without the people bonding themselves.

Secretary Meacham of the Baker Commercial club has issued a folder on "co-operation," that is really of interest. On the front of the folder he has a bunch of calves. They are apparently not well fed calves, but wintered poorly. Hay crop short in Baker county, you know. Two calves are tied with a rope and they pull apart until the tail of each calf sticks straight into the air. They then trot loosely together and finally get their heads together and eat from the same bucket. The story would be fine if Walter had only selected some calves like Ed. Cole raises instead of those that went through a hard winter with little feed.

Our old friend, Joe Buckley of Baker, says he has found the famous Blue Bucket mine which has been known only in story for the past half century, but which makes the most thrilling story of mining and sudden wealth that one ever listened to. Here's hoping Joe has found it, for we would like to see him worth two million dollars before he dies.

Jess Willard had no trouble in defeating Moran Saturday evening in New York. Another demonstration that a lad raised on a wheat ranch, acquiring his muscle by good, honest toil is very liable to hold the title of championship much longer than the man who follows the primrose path.

Umatilla county now has a chance to build two electric roads by taxation. Nothing like it. Jim Hill says when the nation, state or county wants anything it buys it and gives its note, so probably Umatilla county feels that a couple of electric railroads would be very nice toys for a while at least.

Yes, times are getting better. Eastern Oregon has more town lot salesmen and stock salesmen at work now on her people than at any time for three years. When times get better you are sure to see this form of investment put up to the people.

Gus Moser has announced his candidacy for re-election to the state senate from Multnomah county, but it appears that Gus will have to fight harder this year than he has ever fought before.

Felice Lynn seems to have been the big card in grand opera at Portland last week. And La Grande smiles with considerable pride.

Villa is cornered, according to the news dispatches. Yes, he is cornered in a canyon 200 miles long; what do you think of that?

THE FORUM

MR. CARTER WRITES

Deals With Good Roads Bonds From His Viewpoint

Sandridge, March 27.—(To the Editor).—In the Observer of March 22d, the tenor of Dr. Hall's communication appears to be that there has been no advancement made in road betterment in 25, 30 or even 50 years. When the first settlers came here they found a valley where all the lowlands were subject to overflow, these bottom lands could not be crossed for the purpose of hauling loads in most years until about the first of July, the question of a few dirt roads that could be traveled the major portion of the years was a mammoth one. The first important step to improve the situation was the digging of the state ditches across the Sandridge about forty years ago.

This was a rather small affair at first, but the high water of many years has washed it wider and deeper until now it carries the principal part of the river water. Individual interests have dug other ditches of like character but of less importance. Levees have been built along the river.

Now will you stop and ponder for a moment over the task that confronted the people—a valley subject to overflow where the streams meandered all over it; bridges to be built, and high grades to be built across the low lands in order to cross. Standing on the mountain top even thirty years ago, during high water the valley looked as if there were only a few patches that stuck out above the water. Can you grasp the magnitude of the situation that Union county was up against? The immense amount of work or money, or both, that was necessary to even make any kind of a dirt road. It was nothing uncommon in those days to wade water two feet deep from the Sandridge to Phy's point. At the Morelock bridge at the north end of the valley, I have mired down in more than two feet of water and had to unhitch to keep from drowning the horses; took my wagon to pieces and boated it to the bank in a skiff. I have seen people put four horses on a hack in order to pull through the Sam Booth lane (now Walter Pierce's) and the road from Moss Chapel to Island City was

Simply Charming! Beautiful! Attractive, Dainty Styles! Striking Combinations! Largest, most complete assortment that has been shown this season!

The New Blouses

Just Unpacked. Fresh from New York Priced \$1.25, \$3.25, \$4, \$5, \$6, \$7.50 to \$10

There are so many different models that we can't begin to describe them all—

Beautiful styles in combinations of silk lace and chiffons—

Georgette crepes and crepe de chins in the new shades; the white, flesh, and maize crepe and silks are particularly splendid. One we're thinking of is a white Georgette crepe embroidered in a black and white effect, not "fussy" but a blouse that shows good taste. Other new crepes are draped, val. lace trimmed and touched with eyelet hand-embroidery and still other crepe blouses are in a tailored effect suitable for business and every day wear.

Pussy-willow taffeta, chiffon taffeta, etc., in plain shades and new stripe effects—such as a white ground with narrow black stripes or cross stripes.

Also, there are dozens of new dainty styles in bastiste, voiles and other sheer materials trimmed with laces, tucks, hemstitching, ruffing and touches of hand-embroidery.

We invite your inspection, the range of styles is so large and varied that every want can be satisfied. Pick your Easter blouse now. While the colorings in these new blouses just received are the prettiest we have even shown, later on because of the dye situation they will be scarce and hard to find. Also prices will be much higher.



little better, until we got the gravel road. This may not meet the approval of Mr. Howland, but to one who has braved the terrors of the Sam Booth lane it looked mighty good. As the country settled new roads were opened, new bridges and grades were built, and so on down through the intervening years, until today when they are grading, draining and dragging the roads all over the county, trying to give an equal show to all and special privileges to none.

To one who has known and experienced the road conditions from thirty to forty years ago and understands the improvement of the roads of the present, the change is wonderful for the better.

M. L. CARTER.

PRESS COMMENT

Maybe it would be worth while to send those nervous members of the House some foot-warmers.—Indianapolis News.

The civilization of Haiti has begun. Americans have been granted a concession for a soap factory.—Post-Standard.

Those who say this country can't raise a big standing army never saw our rapid-transit system about 6 p. m.—Boston Advertiser.

Senator Stone's idea of the international situation is that St. Louis, Mo., is one of the largest German cities in the world.—Boston Transcript.

The Republicans are worrying whether they should run after the Colonel or from him.—Florida Times-Union.

SAVE THE RAG

(New York World)

Have the American households lost the thrifty habit of saving and selling rags and old papers?

The Department of Commerce comes to the aid of the paper manufacturers by calling attention to the serious shortage of raw materials needed for the manufacture of paper. Fifteen thousand tons of paper of various kinds are produced in the United States every day. Much of it can be used over again to make more paper of one class or another. But the public nowadays appears to burn its old papers or let them go to waste.

The same with rags. The time was when every family saved its rags and every now and then the ragman came around to weigh them and exchange

good pennies for them. Does this form of thrift no longer appear worth while?

It may be that the paper makers, like many other industries are up against "war condition"—and prices. Powder concerns are said to be paying seven cents a pound for all the cotton rags they can get.

In any case the Department of Commerce points out if housewives everywhere will give a little more attention to the saving of rags and papers and get in touch with those who buy them, it will mean "genuine relief to the paper industry." Also it may turn out to be a not altogether contemptible item in household economy.

OLD AGE IN CIVIL SERVICE

(Minneapolis Journal)

The United States is the only im- to turn adrift its superannuated civil servants without provision for their old age. Years of effort to induce Congress to establish some adequate retirement system has failed.

Kind-hearted chiefs usually decline to turn aged clerks without resources out into the street, and the civil list portan civilized country in the world is cluttered with men who have become quite incompetent. At the present time there are in the civil service 137 persons over eighty years old, 462 over seventy-five, 1,563 over seventy, 4,357 over sixty-five and 6,816 over sixty. A large percentage of these are of little or no use to the government, and yet there is no retirement system that assures their comfort in old age.

In these circumstances the postal service has undertaken to insert the first wedge by a measure of its own, offered in the Senate by Senator Penrose and in the House by Mr. Griffin.

It provide that the postmaster general may grant in definite leave of absence to any superannuated postal employe with an allowance of six hundred dollars a year. Boards of retirement are to be organized to recommend such action, which may be taken with or without the consent of the employe.

It is estimated that the cost of putting such a measure into effect would be \$362,250 the first year or about three-tenths of one per cent of the salaries of employes who come under its provisions. There would be a saving to the government in lower salaries of those appointed to places thus made vacant, and in the increase efficiency of the service.

A comprehensive civil retirement scheme would be much wiser, but since that seems impossible of achievement

in one measure, perhaps the entering wedge proposed by the organizations of postal employes would in the end bring about the much needed reform.

LEISURE CLASSES TAKE TO WAR

(San Francisco Bulletin)

The leisure classes of Europe have had a good deal of credit for their willingness to get themselves killed. It seems a handsome thing to do, especially if one overlooked the possibility that without the leisure classes there would be no war. In peace, it might be admitted they were a nuisance, but in war they are a necessity.

A less glowing theory is suggested by Will Irwin, who in this war has proved himself the equal of any war correspondent that ever put pencil to paper or longed to assassinate a censor. Irwin writes of war as a delirium a madness, a gigantic jag, with all the unwholesome exhilaration of drunkenness. He does not embrace the contention of the stay at home militarists that war is a healthy re-toward noble ideals; to him "it is precisely like the action of a voluptuary who, a little faded from ordinary stimuli to his sensations, tries a wholly new stimulus—like hashish." "This is the reason," he concludes, "why the leisure class which has the monopoly of artificial means of intensifying life is the class which takes the greatest interest in the war."

If this diagnosis is correct it accounts for some truly American symptoms manifested upon the Atlantic coast and especially in the borhood of New York.

STUDENT WAITERS A SUCCESS

(Springfield Republican)

The establishment of student waiters in Princeton University is now, according to college authorities, an assured success. The students who have received the innovation naturally, the student waiters, earning a large part of their college bill, and the university prides itself on having better table service than ever before.

All of this has been done under the direction of the college bureau of self-help, which occupies what is probably a unique position in its particular field. Unlike most American universities, Princeton is not situated amid the business activity of a large city, and the problem of financial aid for the students is somewhat harder to solve. It is sedom that the Princeton is able to pay all of his bills out of his earnings, but there are about 250 students enrolled with the student bureau of selfhelp. Practically all of these are partially self-supporting and in their efforts they have exhausted practically every moneymaking opportunity the town or the university can offer.

COMFORT FOR CONSUMERS

(Chicago Herald)

Despite the unprecedented foreign demand for foodstuffs the last year the government crop report for March shows unusually large stocks of food grains still remaining on the farmers hands. A little more than three-fourths of the wheat and a little less three-fifths of the oats and corn, have passed on from growers toward the consumers. We go into new crop year with about 90,000,000 more bushels of wheat still in reserve than a year ago, and other grains in proportion.

A man will eat things out in company that if served to him at home would cause him to turn up his nose and quarrel with his wife for forgetting his gastronomic likes and dislikes.—Macon News.

In order to remain neutral a nation like an individual, is obliged to refuse to consider seriously a large amount of disingenuous gossip.—Washington Star.

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 E. C. HERZINGER District Manager La Grande Oregon

It's lost! It's lost! I wish I had been a Careful man and put it in a Safety Deposit Vault Put your valuables in our Vaults A SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX IS NECESSITY AND A CONVENIENCE. IT IS A SAFE PLACE TO PUT YOUR VALUABLE PAPERS AND JEWELRY; YOU ALWAYS KNOW WHERE THEY ARE; YOU CAN ALWAYS GET THEM WHEN YOU WANT THEM. THIS RELIEVES YOU OF WORRY AND YOU ARE FREE FROM DANGER OF FIRE, OR BURGLARS, OR OF LOSING THEM. BE A CAREFUL MAN AND COME IN TODAY AND RENT ONE OF OUR SAFETY DEPOSIT BOXES. IT WILL ONLY COST YOU \$2.00 PER YEAR. 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; E. Zundel and H. E. Coolidge, Assistant Cashiers. DIRECTORS Fred J. Holmes, J. G. Snodgrass, J. P. Conley, C. C. Penington, H. S. Brownston, F. L. Meyers, A. Blokland, A. T. Hill, H. E. Coolidge.