

THE OBSERVER

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THE INNOCENT BYSTANDER NATIONS.

One hears and reads a great deal regarding the rights of belligerents and soldiers in time of war but very little as to the rights of neutrals and noncombatants. Apparently the "innocent bystander" has no rights except such as the man with a gun is willing to concede him. Hall's international law is one of the standard treatises of long recognition, but even that is rather vague. It says "a belligerent has, in a general sense, the right to use all forms of violence against the person and property of his enemy that may be necessary to bring the latter to terms; so that violence, when used to that end, ceases to be permissible only when it is shown to be wanton or grossly disproportioned to the end to be attained."

The existence of a fortification, however obsolete or useless, in proximity to a large city is held to justify an indiscriminate bombardment of the city. The presence of 1,000 soldiers in a city of half a million people, a munitions plant or a supply of military stores of unknown location serve as an excuse for dropping explosives and incendiary bombs upon the town, regardless of the peril to women, children and other noncombatants, zeppelin and aeroplane attacks are made almost invariably by night. Preference is given to foggy and cloudy nights and therefore their bombs cannot be dropped with any degree of accuracy. No matter which side makes such an attack, the chances of killing armed enemies, amid thousands of civilians, or of destroying government property, are very small. It is comparable to firing a volley into a crowd of 100 people in the hope of hitting a single enemy. In any such case the innocent noncombatant is sure to suffer severely and the object aimed at very little if any damage.

The people of Holland have lost 28 ships in the attempts to injure British commerce. Norway and Sweden have each lost a still greater number, yet these weak nations must bear the inflictions of a war in which they have no part as patiently as they can and hope for future reparation. None of them dares show resentment because they are all in peril of attack from either side should they do so. Hol-

land has been compelled to keep a force of 400,000 men in arms to protect her neutrality. She has been almost equally fearful of an invasion from the German or Belgian border and of an attempt to make use of her territory by armed forces of the western allies for an attack upon Germany.

If she were to array herself on the side of Germany, she would invite the destruction of her commerce and her shipping, the bombardment of her ports and the loss of her colonies. Should she array herself with the other side, she would invite an overwhelming invasion from Germany. Such a situation cannot fail to keep the blood of the Dutch people near the boiling point, but the inevitable consequences of any act of resentment on her part are so manifest that she is compelled to hold her peace. It is a trying ordeal of cruel injustice, a pigmy nation being trampled and buffeted by mischance in a battle of giants, and as yet there is no thoroughly organized society of nations for the protection of the weak and innocent against the strong.

ROTTEN LITERATURE.

We are all very careful what kind of food our children eat. We are mindful of sanitation, exercise and a hundred and one regulations that help to raise the child as he should be raised, but how about his reading?

We have just been looking over a magazine called "Hearst's" and for rotten, licentious, suggestive and immoral stories it is a wonder. One story deals with the lives of two working girls and the scenes described leaves little for the morbid to guess at.

And after looking over this Hearst magazine we pondered over the tremendous circulation, for Hearst never prints anything that is not widely circulated. We wondered how many boys and young girls had been "thrilled" by such filth; how many young women and old men had doted on the contents of this story of the underworld published in the name of morality.

To further add to the crime the magazine publishes a passage from the bible over the headline of the story, and with that bible inscription it is undoubtedly hoped to unlock the door of the home and when once in it will create a fevered desire for more of its kind.

If your boy or girl is reading Hearst's magazine stop the practice at once. Burn every copy you come across for it is always a safe guess as to its contents.

FIGHTING SCARLET FEVER.

Drs. F. B. Mallory and E. M. Medlar, of Boston City hospital, are reported to have discovered the bacillus which causes scarlet fever, the dreaded scourge of childhood, and which has claimed many an adult victim. This discovery, however, does not mean that scarlet fever is conquered. Far from it. It is only one step on the road.

Having found the primary cause, the physicians must next find the

method or remedy for removal or cure. Not until this is done can it be said that victory in a contest of centuries has been achieved.

Scarlet fever has always been dreaded as much for its possible after effects as for its immediate perils. Often it is followed by ear and other troubles almost immediately. Drugs may later pave the way for white plague and other destructive ailments. Removal of its terrors and powers will do much to elevate the general level of health and happiness. So, here's hoping, doctor.

TAKEN IN LIFE'S PRIME.

The sudden death of Dr. L. R. Bryan of Union is a shock not only to the people of Union but to many in La Grande who knew the doctor. He was in life's prime with every reason to anticipate years of active life. Yet he was called almost without warning.

Union people came in large numbers to La Grande when it was learned from the hospital that Doctor Bryan was no more. They were his friends and associates who hurriedly drove across the valley, and they came with saddened hearts and tears of regret.

The standing of the deceased in the town of his adoption was of the highest. He was beloved by the entire community, and were the people of Union blood relation to the departed one their grief could not be more intense.

The best commodity always comes back first after a financial depression, thus it is seen that the first indication of real active business on a large scale for some time past is the activity in Grande Ronde lands. The sale of the Hill-Coolidge-McKennon ranch is a gigantic transaction, as business is done in this part of the world, and it shows the abiding faith in the soil of this valley. No misplaced confidence in the deal, either, for the land will make good. The Dr. Vaughn sale, while a lesser transaction, also goes to show the desire of substantial investors to plant their money in good lands, and here is where they find such investments.

Forty-three Princeton seniors affirm that they have never kissed a girl. Does Princeton neglect this important branch of education, or is it included in a post-graduate course?

Continental statistical societies disagree as to whether Enver Pasha or the Crown Prince of Germany has been killed the more frequently in this war.

We don't feel half as sorry for the first robin that's caught in an April snow storm as those poor silk clad legs unprotected by the short skirt style.

La Grande is living within her means and cutting down her debts. Very commendable for the municipality or the individual to do.

The cost of chewing gum may be increased, but can it really be raised to such a point that it can be classed as a luxury.

THE SPICE OF LIFE

Alas Prof.—"What three words are used most among college students?" Weary Fresh.—"I don't know." Prof.—"Correct."—University of Michigan Awgwan.

Usually Efficient "Now said the professor of chemistry, "under what combination is gold most quickly released?" "Marriage," declared the bright student.—Dallas News.

In 2016 "Who is that haughty and aristocratic dame?" "She. A real personage. Regent of the Descendants of the Ford Peace party."—Louisville Courier Journal.

His Little Surprise Fair Hostess (entertaining wounded soldier)—"And so one Jack Johnson buried you and the next dug you up again and landed you on the top of a barn! Now what were your feelings?" Tommy—"If you'll believe me ma'am, I was never so surprised in all my life."—Punch.

Durable. The admiration which Bob felt for attributes. "I don't care much for plain teeth like mine, Aunt Margaret," said Bob, one day, after a long silence, during which he watched her in laughing conversation with his mother. "I wish I had some copper-tooth ones like yours."—Youth's Companion.

Where They Failed Napoleon never voted on the prohibition ticket. Oliver Cromwell never rode in an automobile. Jeanne d'Arc never rode on the rear seat of a motorcycle. Cleopatra never wore a union suit. Julius Caesar could play anything but pinochle. The Queen of Sheba never had to stand up in a street-car. Nero never tried to blow out the gas.—Cincinnati Inquirer.

Buy Your Boy's Easter Suit Here N. K. West's & Co. Boys' Suits are Best Made PRICES TO FIT EVERY POCKETBOOK

"Best Ever" Brand Tailored Suits Special \$5 to \$10



All the style that can possibly be put in any suit you will find in "Best Ever" suits—Norfolk or Belted Coats smartest, all-wool fabrics—Note the 16 Special features. Sizes 6 to 17 years.

Our Special \$5 Suits are Wonders

Some have 2 pair of pants and there never were better suits sold for \$5 than these new Spring models for Boys. Made by "Best Ever" Boys' Suit Manufacturers. Pants are lined and taped. Extra quality linings and materials. Sizes 6 to 17 years. Special \$5.00

Boys' Hats 50c

A complete showing of Spring styles for Easter Sunday. Real style hats, the kind they are wearing in New York. Also caps for boys who prefer them. Entirely new styles this season in wash fabrics, etc. 50c up

Boys' Blouses 50c

Boys' all want these Blouses they are so good looking. New styles in sport or military collars. New Spring patterns in stripes and plain colors, all guaranteed fast. All sizes, 4 to 15 years. Priced 50c up Boys' Black Hosiery, pair 25c

For Women and Misses

Spring Coats Spring Suits Spring Dresses Spring Millinery With the Bloom of Easter



Right here and right now you will find an almost limitless assortment of Fashionable Spring Apparel, introducing the very latest style-motifs in cloth, color and cut.

Our styles are authentic. It isn't a case of guess-and-grope. See our large showings where every style is individual—no two alike—even at the most moderate prices Unusual quality of materials, man tailored garments that are always a little better than the ordinary.

- Newest Spring Suits \$15.00 up
Newest Spring Coats \$ 7.50 up
Newest Spring Dresses \$10.00 up
Newest Spring Skirts \$ 5.00 up
Newest Spring Blouses \$ 1.25 up

N. K. West & Co. THE QUALITY STORE

Prodigal Returned

One morning the "Black Maria" arrived at the police court to take to jail the prisoner who had been arrested the previous night. As they filed into the van they were very much amused to hear an old woman, who was the last of the string, shout out to a young prisoner up in front—"Now then come out of that, you've got my corner!"

stepped up behind, she put her face to the bars and said to him in delightfully dulcet tones: "Home, James."—Tit-Bits.

Realistic

"I sleep like a log." "With the saw going through it." Boston Transcript.

Far Worse

He—"One thing is sure I don't intend to be criticized and censured because I didn't realize your expecta-

tions." She—"You misunderstand me completely. All I have done is to express my conviction that you have more than justified my fears."—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

A Bargain

"How much was those collars?" "Two for a quarter." "How much for van?" "Fifteen cents." "Giff me de odder vun."—Yale Record.



The Careful man does not carry a load of debt. He is a careful man and instead of wasting his money he puts it in the bank where it is safe and where he can get it.

DEBT IS A HARD MASTER. THE WAY NOT TO HAVE A DEBT YOU CANNOT PAY IS NOT TO MAKE IT. THE "CAREFUL" MAN NEVER MAKES A DEBT, UNLESS BY DOING SO HE COULD SAFELY SEE A BIGGER "INCOME" THAN "OUT-GO". THIS IS HOW HE GROWS A FORTUNE. ARE NOT YOU GOING TO PUT YOUR MONEY IN OUR BANK AND ALSO GROW A FORTUNE? BANK WITH US.

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. F. Conley, C. C. Penington, H. S. Brownson, F. L. Meyers, A. Blokland, A. T. Hill, H. E. Coolidge.

Semi-Monthly AUCTION SALE

AT FAIR GROUNDS IN LA GRANDE, OREGON, EVERY TWO WEEKS COMMENCING

Saturday April 22nd

AT 1 O'CLOCK SHARP

This is the Great Exchange for all kinds of articles in the Grande Ronde Valley.

Anything offered will be sold at auction and the highest price obtained. If you have anything you do not need turn it into money. List your property free of charge at the Observer office or with Ed. Stringham, any time during week and have it at the Fair Grounds by Saturday noon.

These are regular and permanent sales and the entire public is invited to come.

Here the farmer and stockmen of the valley will gather together every two weeks and we will hold an old-fashioned get-acquainted meeting as well as public sales.

ED. STRINGHAM, AUCTIONEER