

# THE OBSERVER

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### WALTER'S LEAGUE.

Through the efforts of Robert Smith of Roseburg a meeting of taxpayers was held in Portland a few days ago for the purpose of organizing a state taxpayers league. Walter Pierce of La Grande happened to be in the lower country and blew into the meeting. Now, when it comes to taxes Walter is long, and he at once took charge of the meeting for he could give those Willamette valley fellows cards and spades regarding taxation and beat them out at the first sitting.

They made Walter temporary chairman, then permanent chairman, then they thrust further honors on him by making him president of the state taxpayers league.

And when they did that we said to ourselves, now Walter has got a taxpayers league, what is he going to do with it?

That is the question, what will he do with it?

We have never known it to fail, when a little excitement was sprinkled around the edges taxpayers would immediately climb to the center of the stage with long speeches and fiery statements, and in two days time you could not get the executive committee together to have a meeting. We are very much afraid that is what will happen to Walter's league. It has met, spouted, proclaimed unjust taxation, railed at this and that, whacked away at useless commissions, expensive colleges and adjourned to meet no more.

One thing was rather pleasant, besides Walter's election as head of the show, and that was the way they all took a bite out of Tom Richardson when he very unwisely entered that meeting and began trying his hypnotic powers to whip the "taxes" in line for a big bond issue. How they did bite Tom while he ran. Even our old friend C. E. Spence socked his teeth deep into Tom's trembling flesh.

And then came C. C. Chapman, who publishes Oregon Voter, trying to make a few remarks about taking off restrictions from big business and let it loose to eat the choice bunch grass from the public pasture. But he did not last long. It was apparently one time when Chapman's sonorous voice failed to stop the "mob" in its

madddening career, which is about the way some of the high brows around the Chamber of Commerce would put it.

It was a first rate vaudeville show; must have been. But it has met, had its say and adjourned. That is all until someone else uses the needle that Bob Smith used and injects another shot and then there will be more meetings and more speechmaking and another adjournment.

Ladd Canyon is gushing her share of water at the present time. The sun is melting the snow very rapidly and the mountain brook is now a stream of some consequence. All of this will not affect seriously the crop situation for if the warm weather continues the water will be well along in a few days and then farming can still come into its own in that section of the valley.

### WRIGHT GAINING STRENGTH.

The candidacy of Ed Wright for Public Service commissioner from the Eastern Oregon district, is rapidly gaining strength. The fight has narrowed down between Jim Kyle of Stanfield and Ed Wright of Union county with odds strong on Wright.

Ed Wright has been making a clean campaign, appealing to voters on his merits and it is winning. Mr. Kyle's strength is largely in his home county, according to reports, and even there he will find his vote divided with Wright, as many of the substantial men of Umatilla county have openly proclaimed their allegiance to the Union county man.

Hugh McCall, the Cove banker, was over yesterday and he said: "Now, speaking of cherries, a column could be written on that cherry crop that Cove is going to have this year. No mistake about it the bloom is on the tree and all storms are declared off until the cherries have ripened and been properly cared for. This is Cove's year and don't forget it. We gave way to Jack Frost and a few more disreputable citizens last year and cancelled our expectations but this year, there's nothing to it but the biggest crop in Cove's history."

### DOCTOR TAPE IS "PEEVED."

"Why don't you newspapers be more explicit?" demanded Dr. Tape of Hot Lake yesterday when the Observer offered its customary greeting to him.

"I have suffered, yes sir, suffered, deeply from your news stories," continued the doctor, "and I feel that I have a good case for damages against this paper."

When we finally got our breath we asked our friend, or once was friend, what particular damage we had done him. We could not remember of ever having been unethical with him or any other doctor. We have been a good fellow with the medical profession and have never reported their errors, mistakes or entanglements, no not us; but have always given praise. Still the doctor would not be comforted. Finally in his blunt California way he said:

"You sent out broadcast to the

world that Hot Lake was to be gold under the hammer. That the sheriff was to take possession and in loud tones call to the crowd assembled, 'how much, how much, how much am I offered; going, going, gone and sold to whoever might buy,' and in so doing you have caused a wrong impression to spread over the country. I have had my mail deluged with letters from men wanting to buy this and that from the institution. One man slept in a certain brass bed in room so and so eight years ago and he writes asking me to bid that bed in for him, another wants to know if the adding machine is in good working order and if it is to be sold by the sheriff, too. While others want to know if the furnishings will be sold as a whole or in pieces, some want to know if the tiling and lavatories are to be disposed of by that heartless creature called the sheriff. I have overworked my stenographer who is crying for more pay because of the burden, I have used an excessive amount of stationery, and I have had to work entirely too hard myself. It would seem there should be some relief from these newspapers. But I suppose if I should go into court and get relief in the form of a judgment then the press would unite for a recall of judicial decision and precipitate anarchy over the country. The better thing, after sober second thought is to take the bitter with the sweet and I therefore bid you good morning, and God bless you."

And with that the doctor left us to ponder over the damage we had done.

This week has been a Hot Lake week in court and many of the seats in the court room have been filled with prominent men from Portland who were here testifying to the merits or demerits of a bill held by Woodard-Clarke Drug Co. against the big sanatorium.

The band concert was just the thing last night and now we can have some idea of the pleasures that await us this summer.

Chautauqua is but a short time off. Better see about the tent now before the rush is on.

### THE MOB LAW.

Lynching was among the subjects considered at the recent Southern Sociological congress held in New Orleans. It was argued by several speakers that lynching is a by-product of illiteracy, and that a campaign of education would help toward eradication of this evil.

There may be some truth in the contention that illiteracy is responsible for the prevalence of lynching in the southern states. But illiteracy is not the only factor in the growth of the mob spirit. Any educational campaign against lynching to be appreciably successful must take into consideration all the major factors in the problem.

Mobs are not always raised or led by illiterates, north or south. There were clever, educated men in the mob which a few months ago lynched Leo Frank in Georgia, it is admitted. And clever, educated men apologized for that mob and excused its action. Clearly, the Frank lynching was not wholly chargeable to illiteracy. Race prejudice, anti-Semitism, bore a share of the blame. Political animosities and agitators were connected with the matter, and contempt for the orderly processes of law had been generated in the minds of lynchers.

In another lynching affair of recent date prejudice against Negroes and competition between Negro and white labor were noticeable influences. Roots of bitterness remaining from the Civil war period remain to be dealt with in some districts. In others economic conditions must be considered.

Lax enforcement of law, inadequate punishment of crime, inefficient police control and other items intimately related to these must also be considered. When mobism is checked it will be by the removal not of one but of all its root causes.

### WHEN AND HOW WILL IT STOP?

The momentous effects of the war on prices of commodities have been felt in every business and every household of the land, but their impressiveness takes on new aspects when the advances are gathered together and presented in collecting form as the work has just been done by the New York Sun. That paper prints statistics in several columns that almost stagger the reader. Hardly an article of ordinary use in the home or factory but appears in the list, and the increases are fairly enormous in many instances.

Food supplies of all kinds, metals and metallic products, wearing apparel, chemicals and drugs, building materials, oil and gasoline, even the paper that carries the day's news or records the authors' thoughts in books, have advanced in cost from occasional minor increases up to percentages that are astounding. The dollar today purchases less of almost anything one buys than ever before, at least since the inflation period of the Civil war and its immediately succeeding years. The situation presents a grave problem for many a household; where income has expanded as in cases of wage increases it is less acute than for those unfortunate ones whose income is fixed and who cannot stretch receipts to some approach to expansion commensurate with the outgo, but the pinch is un-

Just Received----Young Women's  
**SNEAKER SHOES**  
 Lace Styles, English Last, with white soles and low white rubber heels. Chocolate Tan Priced \$4; Black Calf \$3.50.

All the New Styles Here in  
**BOYS' WASH SUITS**  
 Billy Boy--Tommy Tucker--Middy Styles--Etc.  
 The prettiest little models--pick a supply now while the sizes are complete. At the store there's an array of the smart new Styles to gladden every Mother's heart. Good, durable qualities, too, such as galetea, repp, poplins, panama cloth, Etc.--colorings unusually bright and effective--see the new belted styles here in a great variety. Sizes 2-12 to 8 years.  
 Prices ..... **75c to \$2.50**

**MEN'S NECKWEAR**  
 New Assortment Just in Beautiful Silks, Special Values at 50c

**N. W. West & Co.**  
 THE QUALITY STORE

versal and carries only in degrees at the best.

Where will it end? Will prices go on rising and rising until people are simply unable to pay them and force them downward by their sheer cessation from spending money? Or with some sudden climax come to the upward tendency from a now unforeseen event? It is impossible to answer the questions. Human experience is the only guide to the future and human experience does not include a parallel to the stupendous forces of this unprecedented war. The best one may hope is that when the change comes it may come gradually so that humanity may adapt itself in time. If the end of the rise should be a sudden drop the consequences would be incalculable. The effect upon business would be catastrophic.

A Philadelphia judge refused a divorce to a six foot man on the ground that his five foot wife was too small to be cruel. A lot he knows about women.

Digging a garden is no longer a sweet, delightful dream, but a hard, back breaking reality.

### DEER VISIT ROCKEFELLER

Two Animals Are Killed On Tarrytown Estate  
 Tarrytown, N. Y., March 23.—Two deer were killed by train recently on William Rockefeller's estate. Deer are so plentiful in this section that at one time a herd of 12 was seen on the ice on the river. Mr. Rockefeller recently lost 46 pheasants which were killed by a fox.

A trap was set yesterday, a red fox was caught, a rope was tied around his neck and it was given free rein until it came back to its hole. There four small foxes were found. The mother and youngsters are now part of Mr. Rockefeller's menagerie on his estate. The pheasants were very valuable specimens and were recently shipped here from Bay Pond, in the Adirondacks.

### BANKS DO NOT FEAR WAR

Clash With Mexico Would Not End Prosperity, Is View  
 Chicago, Ill., April 26.—Officers of banker's associations in the Central States in convention at Hotel La Salle declare that a war with Mexico could not disturb this country's condition of general prosperity.

In statements made in answer to a question as to the effect which armed intervention South of the Rio Grande by the United States would have on business condition the bankers agreed that nothing short of a cataclysm could stay the wave of prosperity which is sweeping the country from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

"The country is on a solid financial basis now and it would take something which is now beyond imagination to shake it," declared Fredrick E. Farnsworth, general secretary of the American Bankers Association, of New York.

"Every line of business is in a healthy and growing condition. Money is plentiful."

### DEAD DOG CASE IS HEARD

After Everyone Testifies, Owner Announces Animal Is No More  
 Minneapolis, March 25.—A mighty

legal battle was fought in Municipal Court.

The courtroom was crowded. George Jacobs, 25 California street Northeast, was there with his relatives. John Kronas, 26 California street, his eight year old daughter, Mary, and six other little girls of the neighborhood sat solemnly between bluecoats and detectives listening to the trial.

Jacobs was accused of keeping a vicious dog which had bitten Mary

Kronas a week ago.

Everybody testified. There were examinations and cross examinations and character witnesses for and against the dog.

When everybody else had finished Jacobs was called to the stand. "Do you own a dog?" he was asked. "Not now," he said. "He was shot three days ago."

Everybody got up and went out.

Use our Want Ad column.

The  
**Sanitary Grocery**  
 306 4th Street  
 WILL BE READY FOR BUSINESS THURSDAY, APRIL 27.  
 THE GROCERY WILL BE JUST WHAT THE NAME IMPLIES.  
 COME AND SEE. WE INVITE YOUR PATRONAGE.  
**E. Woods, Prop.**  
 Phone Red 1851

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 Why waste time and energy when a telephone will save both.  
 The greatest amount of work accomplished correctly, with the least amount of energy, in the shortest possible time is—EFFICIENCY—  
 A Telephone will do this. See us about it.  
**HOME INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE CO.**  
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The careful man puts his money in the bank. If he dies he won't leave helpless children.

ARE YOU A DADDY?  
 YOU LOVE YOUR FAMILY; PERHAPS YOU WASTE A LOT OF MONEY IN "DRIBS AND DRABS" THAT IF PUT INTO THE BANK NOW WOULD GROW TO A BIG SUM.  
 IF YOU LIVE "YOU" CAN ENJOY YOUR MONEY, IF YOU DON'T IT WILL PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN.  
 YOU ARE SETTING YOUR BOYS A GOOD EXAMPLE WHEN YOU PUT MONEY IN THE BANK.  
**BANK WITH US.**  
 WE PAY 4 PER CENT INTEREST  
**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. Cooldige, Assistant Cashiers.  
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