

THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS, Editor and Owner

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COMMERCIAL CLUBS.

The man who gives of his time for the public good; the man who will drop his own business and go out to solicit funds for some worthy cause, who will sit up nights thinking something of importance to help a town along; who never tires when defeat after defeat marks efforts at public work; such a man should be respected and respected.

But is he? Oh, no, the world does not show the work in a collective way as an individual does. A man can Commercial club himself to death. We have known good men who Commercial clubbed themselves out of communities where they had lived for many years.

The Commercial club is a necessity. Everyone admits that. But few men are willing to serve a second time at the work, and when they do finally consent, they do it under protest. If a Commercial club does not bring a big pay-roll to the city every three months a number of people will complain and ask, "What's the Commercial club doing?"

Well, that club is meeting—a few are meeting, and worrying over what

can be done for the community as a whole. And they continue to meet until one by one the board of directors become tired and quite and then it is time to have an annual election and raise a fund of enthusiasm, which is done. Another year passes with the same results, and so it goes on year after year.

The need of some kind of an organization is very apparent, but how to get at the problem in a sensible, sane and equitable way is puzzling.

It has been suggested that the city should foster the Commercial club, and we believe in the theory. We believe the city hall should contain a publicity department where all letters of inquiry might be answered under the seal of the city, thus inspiring confidence in what is written, and that the expense of this department should be borne by the city. Thus, every piece of property would pay its minute share in this work, and the work would be done. It would eliminate committees appointed to solicit funds and would take away the burden from the few who feel that someone should throw himself in the breach and make the sacrifice for the many.

Immediately we hear, "but it will raise taxes." Let us raise. It is a just obligation and the man who will object to paying three cents a year for this work is a piker and has no right to live in a well organized community. He should go back to the hills where farmers were never heard of, and where people raise their own tobacco. If the Commercial club was something we could do without we would be in favor of abolishing it entirely, but it is essential and therefore it must be paid for.

Our idea is to place a publicity department in the city hall and have the city manager make the official letter writer and question answerer for the community. If he needs a stenographer part of the time or all of the time to assist in the work let the city hire such person and pay the expense from the general fund.

It takes no vote to do it, for it is

a part of the overhead expense in running a city. Perhaps the city commission will object, and perhaps not. The manager may register a protest because it will add a little more expense to his department, but he will soon see the equity of such a plan. Merchants who now are forced to carry the entire expense, which is not very large but is nevertheless an expense, will favor everyone paying his part, and after the plan has been in operation for a year we do not believe anyone would think of returning to the present hit and miss system.

FISHING SEASON IS HERE.

Of course it is here. Yesterday Frank Brunwell stood in front of a sporting goods store for half an hour looking at the hooks, lines, sinkers and bait. Much like the small boy looking at Christmas toys the Register of the Land Office gazed on the display evidently forgetting the world. Finally he was heard to say, "I can buy hooks, I can buy bait, but can I catch the fish?"

Surely the fishing season is with us.

Mayor Ben Pendleton, was arrested a few days ago for an alleged use of improper language. This will appeal to everyone as very small politics, and the Pendleton fight will not quiet down if such things are followed. Mayor Ben is simply unable to care for himself and we are offering no suggestions, but we are sure we will clean things up as they go down as they go up since the Mayor is in charge that way.

The Editor adds that the country is neutral and that Sinnott has opened a question in congress.

Baker is preparing for the big time next Monday and Tuesday. Bankers and Stockmen meet in that city and the world will look bright to all who may attend, according to the committee in charge.

Bob Stanfield turned a little real estate deal this week by purchasing a fair sized sheep ranch in Montana for \$125,000. Not much of a deal for Bob, but to some of us this would have been a lifetime event.

Lightning played a lot of pranks in the Willamette valley a few nights ago. Evidently nature has taken it upon herself to awaken some of those sleepy brothers of the lower region.

A party was given at "Peaceful Acres" in Umatilla county a few nights ago. It must be understood that "Peaceful Acres" is no where near the city of Pendleton.

"Paradise Ditch Bonds Sold to Kaiser," was a newspaper headline a few days ago. It was Henry J. Kaiser and not William who bought the bonds.

The press dispatches say that Kaiser Wilhelm will write President Wilson a letter. But he does not start it with "My dear Woodrow."

GEMS FROM THE BIBLE
Mark 7:31-37
And again, departing from the coasts of Tyre and Sidon, he came unto the sea of Galilee, through the midst of the coasts of Decapolis. And they bring unto him one that was deaf, and had an impediment in his speech; and they beseech him to put his hand upon him. And he took him aside from the multitude, and put his fingers into

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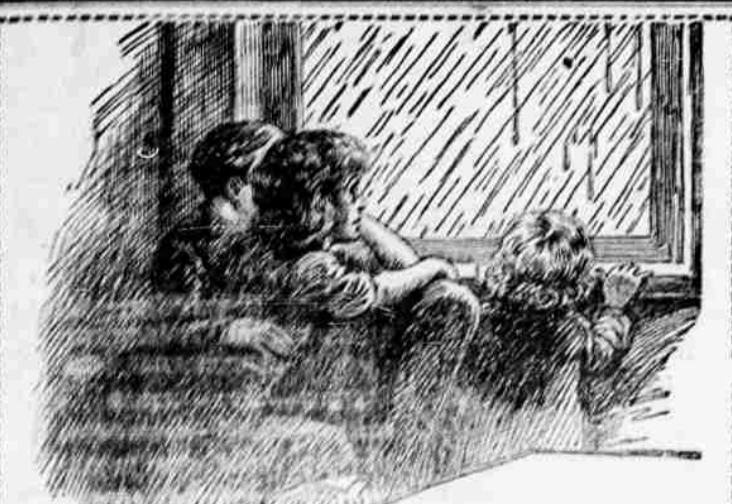
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his ears, and he spit, and touched his tongue; And looking up to heaven, he sighed and saith unto him, Ephphata, that is, Be opened. And straightway his ears were opened, and the string of his tongue was loosed, and he spake plain. And he charged them that they should tell no man: but the more he charged them, so much the more a great deal they published it; And were beyond measure aston-

ished, saying, He hath done all things well: he maketh both the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak.
Advertised Letters.
List of letters remaining uncalled for in this office for the week ending April 28, 1916:
Gentlemen—Spker, A. E., Butcher, V. E., Biglow, Wm., Buts, D. M., Downs, J. J., Herman, H. E., Harder, J. J., Labreche, Charles, Lee, R. E., Luis Taylor, Luddon, J., Macintyre, J.

C., Miller, J. R., ohnson, Martin (2) Andrew, Jack, Naughton, Frank M., Ross, J. T., Williamson, Emma W.
Ladies—Compton, Margaret, Lincoln, Mrs. Burt H., Murry, Jennie, Nelson, Mrs. Mary, Percley, Miss Eduthe, Scheetz, Mrs. E. J.
These letters will be sent to the dead letter office on May 12, 1916. If not delivered before, in calling for the above please say "advertised" giving date of list. E. E. BRAGG, P. M.



Prices and qualities are what the public are interested in, and an examination of our pianos will convince the most observing buyer, that we buy our goods right, as our goods are shipped direct from factories and not Portland retail houses. We have no worked over or culled over pianos shipped from other towns. CALL AND SEE A REAL STOCK OF PIANOS OF THE CHOICEST MAKES. RICHEY BUILDING OPPOSITE ELKS' HOME