

THE FORUM

OBJECT TO RUBBISH

Fruitdale Doesn't Relish Being Rubbish Receptacle, at All.

La Grande, May 6.—(To the Editor of the Observer)—La Grande's clean-up week is commendable and we share in the pride of La Grande's people in all laudable endeavors.

But we object to the practice of dumping rubbish in our lanes and highways as is frequently the case. Plainly, we object to being the receptacle of La Grande's back yard.

Loads and loads of tin cans, discarded clothing, decayed vegetables and other refuse have been dumped in some of the lanes in our neighborhood. This off-fall is unsightly, and possibly laden with disease germs.

There is a place provided for depositing rubbish, and why should our premises be defiled with this stuff from town?

A SUBURBAN.

HUMAN SIMILITUDE DRAWN

J. B. Stoddard Propounds Gospel of Bonds as He Sees It

La Grande, Oregon May 6.—(To the Editor)—Since writing you the last time about the deplorable condition of the rural population of La Grande I am disposed to take a more cheerful view of the situation.

Ist. Because my gloomy effusion was used as a black border around Senator Allison's poetic and optimistic greeting for his middle store in the middle of the middle block.

2nd. Then we have assurances of a cannery to utilize our surplus products.

3rd. The merchants of La Grande say they will buy home grown products in preference to shipping from Walla Walla or Portland and will pay us our money whenever we need it.

4th. The people generally are disposed to lend a helping hand in the development of our local resources.

5th. The Government has taken it in hand to organize and control the marketing machinery to dispose of our fruit in the eastern and foreign markets, and last but not least.

6th. We are to have our taxes materially reduced.

Assuming that the troubles of the small farmer are in a fair way to be adjusted, I will proceed to the discussion of one of the live questions in which people of Union County are interested,—Viz, Good Roads and the Bond Issue, which incidentally includes the question of taxation.

It is hardly a debatable question as to whether we should have good roads. It is undoubtedly conceded by all citizens that we should have them. The only difference is in the manner of getting them.

Some say "pay as you go" on an annual millage tax. Others say "Bond the County for \$400,000.00" and the question is on the ballot to be answered "yes" or "no".

We have already had several communications on this vital issue on both sides of the question but as I am for bonding I shall only consider the arguments of those who advocate the negative side. One writer acknowledges himself to be a moss-grown hitching post, which he considers a safe anchor for the young people to tie to, to avert the shoals of debt and disaster. Another characterized the movement as a scheme of boosters and floaters. The next one had been a victim of eight per cent and wanted it inscribed on his tomb-stone. Hitching posts are good things but they don't serve any useful purpose when we want to travel, and since this is an age of steam, gasoline and electricity all we have to do is to close the throttle and apply the brakes when we want to stop. Instead of floaters being an opprobrious epithet it is more in the nature of a compliment. A fossil don't float much, it lays quietly in its bed for ages. A floating population is the life of a nation. It is like the circulation of blood in the body. It makes the people cosmopolitan and is the worst foe to provincialism. Pioneering and migration are the live branches on the tree of civilization. Society would stagnate and rot were it not for the "floaters;" water in motion purifies itself.

As to being a victim of eight per cent and considering it a proper epitaph, I wish, like yourself, Mr. Editor, to quote Dr. Tape. A certain operator in Baker county was expatiating about what it required to be a successful mining man. Dr. Tape replied that about the only difference he could see between the successful and the unsuccessful mining man, was that one "struck it" and the other didn't. This holds true of promoters as well as mining men. Because Hot Lake didn't "pan out" is no reason why bonds are a bad thing. Great promoters and operators, in fact, nearly all the great captains of industry, use other people's money until "O P M" has become a hackneyed phrase. Jim Hill opened up on Empire greater than an oriental despotism, but he did not use as his slogan, "pay as you go." Harriman cemented together the greatest system of railways in the world and he used O P M to the limit. Field cabled the Atlantic but he drew on the capital of two continents. Leaving out the larger affairs of the world and coming down to local matters as they concern us, we will try to show the system of bonding is the best method of securing funds to build roads. In any community you will find certain men and institutions whose function in society is to save money or to accumulate funds. They are not in a position to use this capital or have not the power or ability to do so, therefore they lend it to others who perform this function in society. Now, if these accumulations were not utilized, money would

go out of circulation, labor would be idle and we would have hard times generally.

A question in economics can readily be proven by using a similitude in nature. The blood flows to the heart and is pumped back again through the arteries. All the water flows to the ocean, and by evaporation and the prevailing winds is redistributed over the continents. There are some deserts caused from lack of water. There is high water, there are floods and droughts, but this is owing to the seasons and the prevailing winds, but through it all there is a perfect balance maintained in all the works of nature. And this principle of equilibrium applies with equal force to human affairs. Applying this similitude to finance and industry, we find that money flows to certain centers and subcenters. When it is accumulated it is necessary to redistribute it to prevent droughts, famines and deserts in the affairs of men. Those charged with the custody of accumulated or trust funds have not the power under their charter to utilize these funds directly, so they resort to loans, discounts and the purchase of bonds.

How are these funds created and whom do they belong to? Besides the state and nation, we have for the creation of funds life and fire insurance companies, fraternal and beneficial lodges, trust companies and savings banks, and other kinds of societies have loan associations.

For the sake of argument let us assume that Union county is a complete financial institution in itself, the same as a nation or the whole world. The men who belong to fraternal order pay their dues into the lodges, members and customers pay their premiums on policies of fire and life insurance, the savers make their deposits in banks and in post offices. The question is, what is the best way to utilize these accumulations and the best way to put the money into circulation. Why not lend it to ourselves in a political capacity as a county? We need not burn our property in order to get the benefit of fire insurance, nor need we die to get the use of life insurance premiums, and it is the same with money paid into lodges, savings banks and trust companies or any other depository. The money can be used and still be held in reserve to meet the purposes for which it was intended. It will continue to employ labor and make a market for the product of farm and factory. Applying this to the nation or the world at large it is the same in principle. Prosperity simply means keeping the money in circulation. We exhort men and children to save money. What for? To lay idle in the vault while business and industry languishes? One of the lodges, the Woodmen of the World, invests its savings in bonds and thereby derives a profit from the premiums paid in by its members. Others invest their trust funds themselves and employ their capital for public purposes. The trouble with us is that we have the individualistic idea in our minds so strong that we lose sight of the many benefits to be derived in mass.

It is claimed that hogs, cattle, grain and produce will be of no more value on account of bonds for good roads than they are now. There are a thousand and one things that men need and use that don't add to the value of anything, but if all counties, enterprises and transportation lines would take the same position as those opposed to bonding these would be no price at all for hogs, or cattle, or anything else.

In ancient times when they built the pyramids of Egypt, the Appian Way and the aqueducts of Rome, they did not do as we do, but would send out their legions and capture the people of some semi-barbarous country for slaves to do the work, and the kings of such captives would drag at the chariot wheels of the conquerors "whose ransom would the general coffers fill". We have adopted a more refined and humane method of securing men and means to do our work.

The bugaboo they make of bonds is about the only evil any one can make of it. The benefits that flow are so numerous that no bugaboo can be made large enough to scare those who understand the question. They always picture Shylock as a monster to be shunned because he demanded his pound of flesh from off the merchant's heart, but Portia changed the whole situation when she expounded the law, so we need not be afraid as we will always have our Portia to save us from the bugaboo of bonds.

Bonding a county is no new thing even out west. Weber county of which Ogden is the county seat, bonded itself twenty-two years ago for the purpose of making hard surface roads twenty feet wide even through the rocky canyon. A large number of Oregon counties have bonded for road building. Some of them secured money from the Woodmen of the World,—a case of neighbors lending to themselves their own money.

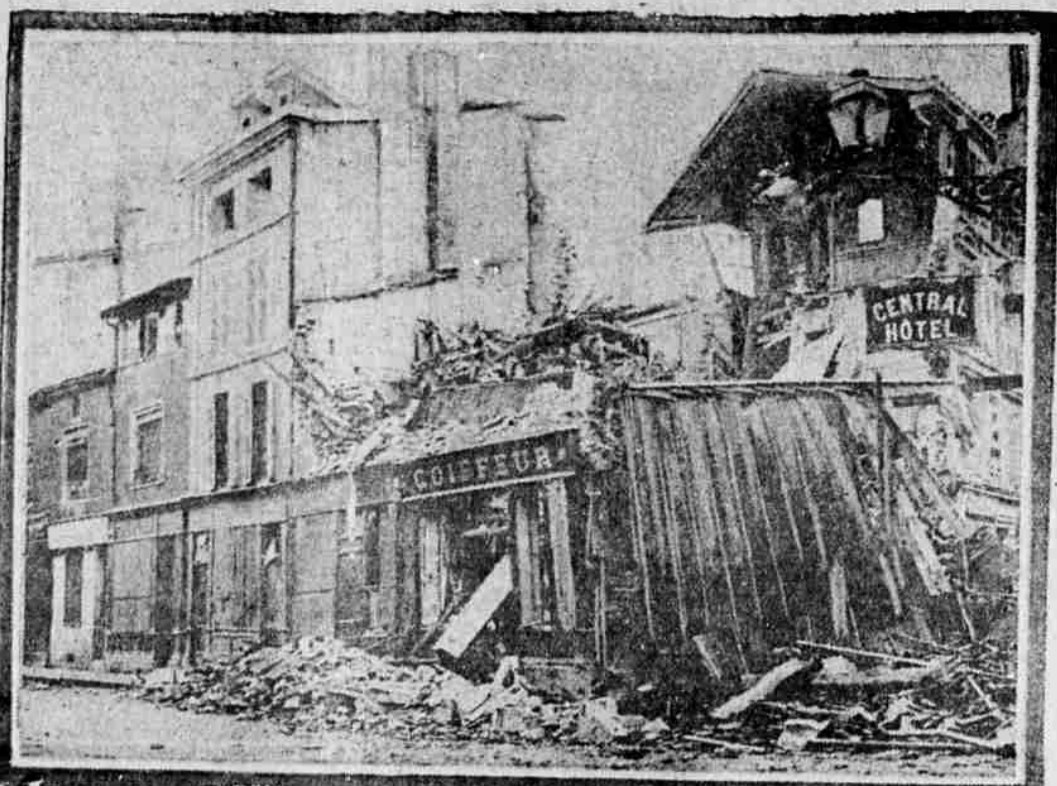
Some say bonds will never be paid. It is true that bonds in the ultimate will never be paid, any more than the last insurance policy will be paid. A growing thing takes no account of death, and the ultimate never comes any more than to-morrow arrives.

Suppose that if such a thing were possible, that the question on the ballot to be voted for May 19th were as follows:

Shall the streets of La Grande be changed to mud, dust and frog ponds, the side-walks to ramshackled boards, the sewers to water ditches, the fire department to a bucket brigade and all other things reduced to the conditions of ten years ago, money paid on improvements refunded and the unpaid balances cancelled?

How many votes do you suppose would be polled to reduce La Grande to such a condition, yet in going out into the valley for a load of hay just such a question was presented to me.

FIRST VIEW OF RUSSIAN SOLDIERS IN FRANCE



On each end of the hard surfaced pavement in Boothe Lane the grumbo mud was nearly axle deep while on the pavement the wagon chattered along without an effort. I wasted more time and horse flesh on that trip than would be necessary to pay my share of the interest on the bonds for at least a year.

The "pay as you go" system is a very slow and obsolete method of developing the resources of a new country. We are not isolated, we are not unto ourselves alone, as a county or a town. We are simply the outer growth of a world-wide civilization, dating back to the intellectual awakening of Europe after the dark ages. We must keep abreast of the time; in fact we must be in advance as the new shoot on the tree is the most vigorous growth and the top-most bough.

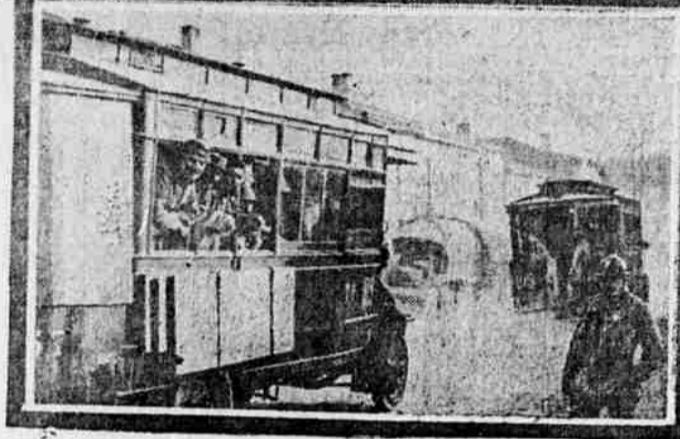
Do you suppose that by this "pay as you go" policy we would see a continent conquered and developed in the ordinary life time of one generation of men.—A continent belted with eight transcontinental lines of railway, with cities, wealth and population that rivals those of other times, that was a thousand years in the building? No. It is by using the accumulations of other times and other peoples, of which we are a part, that we extend the growth of that civilization which has its roots in Europe. The old adage used to be, "there is nothing sure but death and taxes," but the new version of this old adage is "there is nothing sure but bonds and taxes" because bonds have come to stay, as they are the foundation of all governments, economic and financial institutions, and civilization itself would be a failure without them.

J. B. STODDARD

ENTERPRISE SCHOOLS PRAISED.

La Grande Sojourns in Sister Town and Museums Thereon.

Enterprise, May 4.—(To Editor



Here is the proof that Russian soldiers reached France at least two weeks before the news of the arrival of some at Marseilles was permitted by the censor to be made public. These photographs were taken during the first part of April. They show detachments of 10,000 Russians, who reached Toulon from Dalny and Vladivostok. They were taken in Paris where they drilled for some time before they were sent to the front, about 100 miles east of Paris.

The two views show the Russians drilling in Paris barracks while French marines look on. It is understood that on their arrival in Toulon the government said they were Serbian refugees. The Russian uniforms were made for them in Paris, and uniforms for 300,000 more are believed to have been made.

Evening Observer)—After sojourning in a strange town for some weeks the mind naturally turns to home and home comforts, not the least of which is the Observer at supper time, with the latest war news and local items. This town is very much alive just now. Everybody seems awfully happy and it seems that a saw mill is at the bottom of it all and has set the whole town a-humming and a-buzzing. Although they have a range of most magnificent mountains here—really wonderful in beauty and grandeur—yet the question never is, Have you seen our mountains? but, Have you seen the mill? That mountain is not built yet that could out-class a sawmill from a financial standpoint. And yet there is something above mountains that needs explaining, viz: The nearer the mountain top approaches the sun, the source of heat, the longer it takes to melt the snow thereon. Does this prove the truth of some modern philosophy that hell lies below the surface of the earth?

Nothing in this town seems to be more worthy of praise than the public school facilities for the physical development of the children. Every conceivable appliance for the child's amusement and the development of the muscles is seen on the grounds here. It is not grass and flowers that they are cultivating here; it is boys and girls—seeking not only for

beauty but for strength. First the useful and then the ornamental, and they are turning out physical giants. And their school tax, I understand, is considerably lower than in La Grande. A hearty invitation is extended the La Grande school board to visit the Enterprise school recess time.

Respectfully,
L. GARRICK.

MAXIM IS BLAMED

"Battle Cry of Peace" Says Mr. Eastman of Trust Origin

La Grande May 6. (To the Editor)—Have you seen the moving picture "Battle Cry of Peace" that was played in La Grande some weeks ago? Every true citizen should read Henry Ford's article "Humanity and Sarcasm" in the Literary Digest for April 23, 1916 at page 1256. Who was back of the "Battle Cry of Peace" but Henry Maxim and his \$10,000,000 munition corporation organized for the purpose of selling munition supplies to the government and to the warring nations.

After that moving picture, I heard dozens of people remark that the outlook for America was dark and that we just had to have more battleships, soldiers and guns. Strange to say a lot of people did not even stop to consider that possibly big corporations might be behind that picture.

When the government-owned armor plate bill was introduced in Congress what did the big corporation Senators threaten? They said "That if the bill was reported favorably the armor plate corporation would raise the price \$200 a ton."

What does this mean, that the monopolistic corporations of the United States shall dictate to our great government what the government shall pay for supplies needed by it? If Congress should pass bills absolutely prohibiting private corporations from manufacturing war munitions and that hereafter the government would make all its own supplies from its own government owned plants there would be no more "Battle Cry of Peace" pictures and howls for war and preparedness. Did you every stop to consider that it is the "business" heads of our nation that are clamoring for preparedness and did you ever take into consideration that the biggest preparedness talkers are the big corporations that are dealing in war munitions? These corporations want a fight for preparedness so the government will appropriate large sums of money for war munitions so these corporations can make the sales and thereby build up big fortunes.

Government experts say we are the best fortified nation on the globe, considering our position between two large oceans. We don't have to take the corporation newspapers for our guide, just read what is testified to by Brigadier-General Erasmus Weaver and General Nelson A. Miles. The congressional Record is full of real facts on the issues.

As American citizens we should read more and on more subjects, and not take the picture shows for our medium of education; the exclusion of our great dailies, magazines and books.

E. W. EASTMAN,
La Grande Oregon.

Senator Cummings—Somewhere between the armed camp of William of Germany and the open dovecot of William of Nebraska there must be an honorable abiding place for a great nation which is prepared to head the world toward peace.

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