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### THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS, Editor and Owner

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#### THE COUNTRY NEEDS THEM.

Political fate this year has eliminated all political parties save the two old parties. There are no Progressives in name this year, but there are able men who were in the Progressive party who are at present like "orphans." Such a well rounded out man as Victor Murdock at the present moment feels he has no political home. He is mistaken. He should get in and support Hughes, as should the rank and file of the Progressive party. Roosevelt's advice is good advice, for by supporting Judge Hughes we believe we will have a president who stands firmly against the political graft and buccaneering that caused the Progressive party to form. In him we will have the independent man who does what he believes is right even though the man who worked for him the hardest and made

his success possible demands that he do otherwise.

The country needs this year in political life such men as Hiram Johnson, Victor Murdock, Henry Allen, William Allen White, Ben Lindsay and the other strong characters who battled for right in 1912. This is a patriotic year—a year when the country is passing through a crisis and every son should do his best, which cannot be done unless men stay in politics.

#### THE NEW FREIGHT RATES.

All trade centers where rates have been built on water competition got a body blow when the Interstate Commerce Commission ordered railroads to revise their schedules in order to give interior points an equal break with coast points.

This means that preferential rate heretofore applying to jobbing centers has been wiped out and that interior cities like La Grande can ship from the eastern markets on the same footing that Portland and Seattle can.

The reason for this radical change is given to be because at present there is no water competition due to the fact that all boats are at work on ocean trade and no coast shipping exists.

But once given to the people the Commission would have a hard time rescinding the order if it saw fit to do so. There seems to be a reasonably well grounded belief that the Commission has been waiting for the opportune time to make this ruling, and in doing so establishes for the interior country rates that will be permanent.

While the new order of things is bound to affect the coast cities and spread business from the extreme

trade centers, it will also be a strong tonic to business in the interior.

After all it may not be necessary for a state to put all of its eggs in one basket, commercially speaking, as Oregon has done to build up the city of Portland. It may be possible to spread things out, which all must agree would be a much better condition.

#### YOUR BLESSINGS.

Two men came down Adams avenue one day this week—one had both legs off above the knees; the other had one leg off at the body and the other off above the knee. They walked with short crutches and were boon companions. Of course they live on charity—but they see a lot of fun in life at that. They have become accustomed to their respective handicaps and they are plodding through life as best they can.

Have you stopped lately, as you left your home in the morning to go to work, and inwardly thanked God for health, sound limbs, a clear brain and something to do?

"Telling people what to do" is a fine thing if it is told by the right party. During the Chautauqua the number of automobiles entering the grounds has been very large both day and night, yet not a single accident—not even the scratching of a fender—has been reported. And this is due to "telling people what to do," and that telling was done in a nice way by William Day and his assistants who were in charge of the automobile parking. Police at the entrance also assisted materially at night in directing traffic. With the number of machines that gather for any public event in Union county it is positively necessary to have a traffic man in charge.

"We still do business even though the roof is removed from our heads," remarked Mr. Silverthorn, William Ash and Leo French as workmen slowly but surely took everything from around them but a thin layer of brick and the plate glass fronts. "Still we have more on," said Mr. French, "than some of the fairer sex on a summer evening." And they have.

Major Tap Thomas has had a very busy week. His tented city kept him up and at it both night and day. The snap of the soda pop corks and the finding of loose change in the park served to cause slight investigation, but he satisfied all that nothing but the highest decorum and correct and proper manners existed within his jurisdiction.

Hitchhacks for the farmers is a vital subject and has been neglected entirely too long. So vital is it in fact that a number of merchants have a proposition on at present to lease ground to install racks themselves. Such a movement will not reflect credit upon the city, and it is hoped an easier way may be found out of the difficulty.

"I have a fine time," remarked one Chautauqua lecturer. "I learn my speech before I start on the circuit and then I only have to work about two hours a day. The rest of the time I spend in reading, eating T-bone steaks and visiting with people." Can you beat it?

Lieutenant Adair, of Portland, who lost his life in the first Mexican war battle, was a man of courage—a good soldier. Too strong a eulogy cannot be paid him; too earnest praise cannot be given.

The Mexican ambassador who issued a proclamation to Americans telling a war with Mexico will be a long, bloody one should turn his megaphone across the line and shout his message into Mexico. Americans know it will be long and bloody but can we afford to stand more insult?

An Iowa cavalry company backed down when it became necessary to take an oath they would go anywhere and under any commander. An American soldier thinks a little farther ahead than some give him credit for doing.

The 1917 automobiles are being announced, which will add nothing to life's joys for the man who has finally made up his mind that he can spare the money for a second hand 1913 model.

Hughes and Roosevelt have dined, discussed national questions as only two big men can and now understand each other. All the wailing about ill feeling existing between the two in the past did not have a leg to stand on.

Chautauqua stopped business while everyone had a good time. It is a fine thing to have a few days among the trees and with the sky as your only covering. And Lou Beauchamp did not say this, either.

Carranza probably is looking for a chance to slip Villa's outlaws across the line in a raid while he detracts Uncle Sam's attention in delivering over the prisoners asked for.

There should be fifty families from Wallowa county encamped at Chautauqua next year. And they will come if we put forth the right kind of an effort.

The conductor who snatched the deaf man from the railroad tracks at Sheridan, Oregon, is entitled to the largest Carnegie medal Andrew has in stock.

Cove insists that her cherry crop is larger than last year, and we will agree that such is the case. Anyhow, the Cherry fair will be held on July 20th.

A sign telling where the city limits cease and the county road begins on the line to the city park would save some autoists fines.

The Roosevelt-Hughes visit probably was not over a "bottle and a bird," but it seems to have been a good visit nevertheless.

Judge Wanamaker urging the Golden Rule for the courts of the land might have asked for the millennium at the same time.

Now, America demands an apology from Austria. How long will it be coming?

Jefferson county is getting ready for a county seat war. They all have to have it—but one will be enough.

Chautauqua has grown strong enough to even buck the weather.

"Swat the speeders," is the slogan at police headquarters these days.

Are you going away to avoid the "hot" weather?

Good time for road dragging.

Second-hand furniture wanted. Do not sell until you consult Byers, on Farmers Telephone. 3-16-1m

#### MERGER PLANS ARE MADE

Large Eastern Machinery Companies to Work on Peace Orders

New York, June 16.—Plans are being worked out, and will probably be announced early next week, for a large combination of companies manufacturing machinery. The E. W. Bliss company of Brooklyn, which is working on large shell orders, and the Poole Engineering & Machine company, of Baltimore, also engaged in making munitions, were mentioned today as the concerns around which the consolidation would be built. Persons interested in the matter said there would be seven concerns merged, selected from a dozen or more which have been considered.

The sponsors for the plan said emphatically that the new concern would not be known as a producer of munitions of war. On the contrary, materials for peaceful purposes would predominate in the output. Both the Bliss and Poole companies are long-established concerns.

#### ALASKA LETTER TELLS OF NEW TOWN.

Conditions as Writer Found Them Tersely Told.

An intensely interesting letter from Anchorage, the new government-boomed town in Alaska, has come forward to C. E. Happersett, from his brother Will, who is running a pile driver for the railroad builders there. The letter says in part:

Anchorage, Alaska, June 18.—I arrived here a week ago last Thursday but did not go to work until last Monday.

Had a nice trip up the first three days out of Seattle. The weather could not be beat. We came the inside passage most of the way but when we struck the open sea she was pretty rough. It took us 10 days to make the trip.

We had a good time on the boat, a good live bunch, every one knew each other and anything went. I would not have missed the trip for anything under the conditions I came on. I got my meals free too and everything was first class. Of course a person don't want to start out broke on a trip like that for you can spend money on the boat.

They issue meal tickets 21 meals for \$7.00 and commissary books cost \$5.00. You can get anything you want out of the commissary. I spent 60 cents out of my book in a week.

These fellows all seem to be here for a stake spending just what they have to and I am doing the same.

This is a great country; it never gets dark; you can read without a light anytime. A person has to go to bed by his watch. If he figured on the darkness he would be up all the time. It doesn't seem right to me and they say it is just the opposite

in the winter, when they get about five or six hours of daylight.

They claim they worked all last winter here, had between three and four feet of snow and it got about 40 degrees below. I don't know whether I care to take any of that or not.

We struck several good towns (small ones) on the way up. Seward and Juneau were lively but everything was overdone.

They are booming this place but I cannot see what is going to make a town out of it. Some think it will be the terminal of this road but it looks to me like Seward would be. They are building on that end of it too.

I saw an article in the local paper a day or so ago stating there was an average of two building permits issued daily, but the most of them are tents with the exception of the main street.

They claim 3000 inhabitants here. There are between 600 and 800 idle men here; most of them are "bo-hunks"—Uncle Sam's favorites—and they wonder why the Americans are not as patriotic as they used to be. Isn't it a joke? They are not doing much on the road at present. Claim they are going to start the ball rolling next month. Fellows that have been working did not get a pay-day this month—the money has been appropriated but they cannot touch it until July.

I started Monday setting up the driver I am going to run and am going to try her out tomorrow. It is a brand new machine, like O'Mara has only a little more up to date; has all the latest improvements. After we try it out as a driver we are going to take the leads off and make a derrick car out of it and go to the front. They have 10 Howe truss spans to raise the first thing. There is about 30 miles of this road built.

We are sleeping in tents. The weather has been cloudy and we have had several light showers. The weather is about the same as it is in the states in the summer and a person can get along without an overcoat.

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