

THE OBSERVER

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SOMETHING TO CONSIDER.

Our sister city, Pendleton, has about concluded to make a decided reduction in the price of city water for lawn sprinkling. It is argued that men do not keep up lawns entirely for themselves, but with the additional idea of beautifying the city as a whole. According to this argument it is about to be decided by Pendleton if a man will keep a good lawn he is to have consideration in the matter of water.

This thought is of interest to La Grande people for undoubtedly lawn owners here have never been given the encouragement they should receive. Not only is the rate for water the same as the commercial rate, but no concession is made to those who spend their time and money to keep up the city's parking strips throughout the town.

We have an abundance of water now—more than the city can possibly use, so why not think over Pendleton's good intentions and see if La Grande as a municipality cannot offer some inducement to have a city beautiful instead of forcing every individual to considerable expense, if he has sufficient civic pride to make and maintain a lawn.

CHAIRMAN McNARY.

Republicans of Oregon, through their representatives on the state committee, elected Judge Charles N. McNary to lead the campaign in Oregon at a meeting held in Portland Saturday. The choice is a good one and the meeting from which this choice came was an ideal meeting of Oregon citizens.

It was noticeable that dark lanterns were not a part of the equipment; that caucuses were few, and that no self-styled leader paraded through the lobby of the Imperial buttonholing committee giving instructions. The absence of these things was refreshing. The "old guard" was not working

neither were the extreme progressives who are accredited as being fire-eaters, displaying any sky-rockets. There was a solemn, earnest intent on the face of every man there to select a man who would represent a clean type of Republicanism free from any dangerous alliances, or fraught with a possibility of developing into a schemer.

We can say to every reader of the Observer that this year the Republican party is working under state leadership of a man who has no political spavin, who has not the slightest stringhalt in his step, who looks every man straight in the eye and has nothing to conceal.

The campaign this year will be made upon national issues and it will be clean and square. The re-election of Ed. Baldwin as secretary of the committee was a wise act, for Mr. Baldwin has more information from the national capital at his fingers' tips than any other man in the state. With this to be strictly a national campaign Mr. Baldwin's fund of information and his ability to procure anything he desires from the capital will have its advantages.

HOW DO YOU FIGURE IT?

The writer has been in Portland for several days. On every hand the wail of no business is heard. Business men openly proclaim that Portland is getting no better; if there is any change things are slower.

Yet—Portland banks are loaded down with money. So much money is on hand that the rate of interest on time deposits has been reduced from four to three per cent and money is a drug on the market.

If you have feed for live stock and want money you can get a basketful of it in Portland, but not many people have no feed for cattle nor the place to raise it.

What is wrong? Plainly Portland will no longer play her own game. She fostered the promoter for years when outside coin was pouring into the state; she encouraged the city addition game and loaned money on houses for a time. But no more. The building of a home in Portland now means that it must be financed otherwise than through the regular financial circles. Portland has over built in every way and now the slack in the rope is choking her. But that's the fault of Portland people.

Business will be but little better in Portland, apparently, until that slack in the rope has been absorbed by careful, regular every-day business. The lumber industry when it comes back will aid materially, but until that comes back if you have property in the metropolis you had just as well sit tight and smile.

No one will now say that a flying machine cannot fly in the Grande Ronde valley on account of the air currents. It flew and did a beautiful job of it.

MOSBY'S PRESENT

A Gift and Message That Ticked Lincoln's Sense of Humor.

RETURNING THE COMPLIMENT.

An Equivalent That Was Appreciated and Treasured by the Confederate Colonel—An Episode Born of the Capture of General Stoughton.

Colonel John S. Mosby, the southern cavalry leader in the war between the states, accumulated many mementos of that long and bloody struggle, but none which he treasured more jealously than a lock of dark hair wrapped in a faded yellow scrap of newspaper. The hair was cut from the head of Abraham Lincoln. It was Lincoln's own hand which cut it, and the great war president himself who sent it.

In the spring of 1863 the Army of the Potomac lay along the north bank of the Rappahannock, about fifty miles south of Washington. The intervening country was, of course, in the possession of the Union troops. Off in the recesses of the Blue Ridge mountains, about thirty miles westward, was Colonel Mosby, with a body of picked southern cavalymen, seeking to do what injury he could to the Federal outposts and lines of communication.

About the middle of March there encamped at Fairfax Court House, a village of about 500 inhabitants, halfway between Washington and the army on the Rappahannock, a force of several thousand Union troops under General Stoughton.

From a military point of view, his camp at Fairfax was nearly as safe as Boston. Between his own force and the southern army, under General Lee, lay General Hooker's great Army of the Potomac. Even Colonel Mosby's small force—less than a hundred men—was thirty miles away.

Nevertheless, Colonel Mosby determined to capture General Stoughton. Selecting twenty of his best troopers, he started one drizzly March afternoon for Stoughton's camp. It was after midnight when he ran into the first picket, who was easily captured in the darkness. And thus, taking picket after picket in the black night, Colonel Mosby made his way without alarm into the village, until he entered General Stoughton's bedchamber.

The unhappy officer was compelled to dress and accompany his captors. The pitch black, rainy night and the fact that the men of both commands wore rubber capes of the same style rendered it impossible for the prisoners, Stoughton included, to determine the number of the enemy. With half a hundred prisoners and a hundred horses, Colonel Mosby quietly made his way out of the camp and was soon beyond reach of pursuit.

The adventure created a stir in military quarters. Stoughton was roundly censured for allowing himself thus to be stolen from the midst of his troops, although he was in no wise to blame.

President Lincoln, whose sense of humor nothing could quench, remarked, when told of the affair, that he did not mind losing the general, but the hundred horses were a serious matter. "I can make a general with the scratch of a pen," he said dryly, "but I can't make horses."

Shortly afterward Colonel Mosby, with a few companions, was reconnoitering in the vicinity of Washington. On the road he encountered an old Dutch market woman taking her garden truck in her cart to peddle it through the Washington streets. Colonel Mosby stopped and questioned her. Noticing a pair of scissors at her belt and having heard of President Lincoln's comments on General Stoughton's capture, he said:

"Do you know Mr. Lincoln?"
 "Yah," replied the old woman. "Seen him often, I have."

Taking the scissors, Colonel Mosby cut off a lock of his hair, and wrapping it in a piece of paper handed it to the old woman, saying:
 "I'm Colonel Mosby. When you get to Washington go to the White House and tell the president that Colonel Mosby sent him this lock of his hair and say also that he is coming over into Washington some night to get a lock of the president's hair."

The old market woman went her way, and Colonel Mosby rode back and forgot the incident. Some weeks later, however, when making another reconnaissance in that neighborhood, the old woman halted him from a roadside cottage. Hurrying into the cottage, she brought forth a scrap of newspaper and delivered it to Colonel Mosby.

"Here iss a lock of President Lincoln's hair," she said. "He tolt me to say to you that he bat rather you would not come ofer to see him and that he send it to you by me. Here it iss!"—Youth's Companion.

As She Saw It.
 "What is the meaning of specter, Lizzie?"
 "Please, sir, I don't know."
 "Now, think. What is the specter that usually frig' tens people?"
 "The school 'specter, sir."—Pall Mall Gazette.

An Example.
 "The evil that men do lives after them." Even when the amateur cornet player dies he leaves the fatal instrument behind.—London Tit-Bits.

Hold all the skirts of thy mantle extended when heaven is raining gold.—Eastern Proverb.

There's no Question About it----

Men, if you're looking for good High Grade Suits at an honestly reduced price, this is the one store for you.

"Benjamin" "Hirsch-Wickwire", and "Fidelity" makes. Every suit guaranteed by the maker and by us—The largest stock in Eastern Oregon to select from. Sizes for every build of man—tall, short, stout or regular. Sales Prices in effect only during July:

Reg. \$15.00 Men's Suits	\$12.00
Reg. \$17.50 Men's Suits	\$14.00
Reg. \$20.00 Men's Suits	\$16.00
Reg. \$22.50 Men's Suits	\$18.00
Reg. \$25.00 Men's Suits	\$20.00
Reg. \$27.50 Men's Suits	\$22.00



N. K. West & Co.
 THE QUALITY STORE

A Washington Farmer Answers the Railroads.

Tells them they can expect no sympathy from class of workers they have robbed for years.

(From Pamphlet issued by Transportation Brotherhoods.)

C. R. Cottrell, of Kent, Wash., who is a farmer and incidentally national marketing and rural credits commissioner of the Washington State Grange, received a circular from the Western Railway Managers' association, recently asking for sympathy and assistance for the railroads and attempting to show him the injustice of the demands of the workers for an eight-hour day. Mr. Cottrell's reply follows:

"Kent, Wash., March 12, 1916
 To the Executive Committee of the Association of Western Railways:
 Gentlemen:

"In reply to your circular letter (a perusal of which leads me to believe that you seek sympathy from farmers in your adjustment of wages with your employees) sent to me, I presume, because of the fact that I follow farming as an occupation, I beg to state that if your committee imagines it will strengthen its cause by appealing to that class of people (the American farmer) who have felt the oppression of excessive freight rates for the past 20 years, they will be somewhat surprised to learn that the farmer of today is not permitting himself to be used as a cat's-paw to pull chestnuts from any corporation fire.

"I note in your circular letter that you very neatly sidestep the real cause why your employees are demanding an increase in salary, but elaborate upon the new inventions added to your equipment which makes the occupation less hazardous than in former years.

"In adding your automatic couplers and other labor-saving devices, have you thought that by so doing you deprived certain former employees of the right to sell the only commodity they have to sell—labor? Have you considered that your present employee pays a certain per cent taxes towards the maintenance of this unemployed brother? Did you say that he could take up land and become a farmer? Perhaps that would be feasible if you would assist in eliminating the waste between himself as a producer and the consumer, but at present any railroad man on the continent would starve as a farmer.

"If I have been correctly informed, it takes combustible material, properly placed, to make the various parts of your iron monsters do the bidding of man and transport the farmers' crops to market at a price sufficiently large to guarantee a certain per cent to your bona-fide stockholders and large enough to pay dividends on the watered stock. The only added cost to you from former years is the increased cost of labor to produce, as you own your own mines of fuel.

"Has it occurred to you gentlemen that it takes combustible material properly placed to cause the human machinery to move and do your bidding? Your employe does not own his mine, but must purchase in the open market at a price from 50 to 200 per cent in excess of what he had to pay 20 years ago? Do you know that \$1 today will possibly purchase the same article that cost 30 cents 20 years ago?

"No, Mr. Railroad Owner, instead of using such methods to keep your employes down to the lowest level, you should seek the cause of this high cost of his living. Open up your closet door and there you will find the skeleton of high freight rates between producer and consumer. Go farther on and upon opening other doors you will find other skeletons that will explain to you why your employes ask for an advance in wages. You have one of the strongest organizations on earth. Why antagonize your employe because he has seen fit to follow the example you have set him? Rather seek co-operation.

HENDERSON CORSETS

Smart Styles for One Dollar and Stylish Women Above

N. K. West & Co.
 THE QUALITY STORE
 Exclusive La Grande Agents

"I take pleasure in informing you that the farmers of Washington State are thoroughly organized and in harmony with organized labor.
 "Good luck to your employes.
 (Signed) "Yours truly"
 "C. R. COTTRELL,
 "Farmer."

PRICE OF GAS TO DROP

Overproduction of Oil Is Forecast by Witnesses

Washington, July 1.—In the gasoline hearing before the Federal Trade Commission it was predicted that the price of gasoline is destined to drop soon because of the recent discovery of oil fields which, it was contended, will produce an overproduction. It was brought out that the price at the Kansas refineries had already, within the last few weeks, fallen from 21 cents to 17 1/4.

The witness who startled the commission with these statements was T. J. James, secretary of the Association of Refiners of Kansas and Oklahoma. A large part of today's testimony had to do with the system of bookkeeping by which the volume of crude and refined oil and the gasoline supply in sight were determined.
 Mr. James explained that the drop in the price of crude oil, owing to the uncovering of oil fields in Kansas, had not yet had time to be reflected in the prices of the jobber and retailer. He said the fall in the price must eventually take place.

PRISON REFORMS ENACTED

New York and Virginia Pass Progressive Legislation
 New York, June 29.—The reform of prison and charitable institutions was

an item this year of progressive legislation in a few states, notably New York. The way was paved for the practical abolition of the antiquated and unsanitary Sing Sing prison, and the cell block system of prison construction, and the building of a new \$2,000,000 prison along modern lines, remodeling Sing Sing for use merely as a receiving and distributing center.

The New York legislature also adopted a plan under which long-term prisoners by faithful performance of their work and good behavior may earn a commutation amounting to one-fourth of their minimum sentences.
 Virginia took its first step toward abolishing convict labor by repealing an act which permitted contracts to be made for the employment of prisoners. A law was also passed increasing the good-behavior allowance of prisoners. Another new Virginia law provides for the segregation of the feeble-minded.

Singing Evangelist Found Dead

Hillsboro, Or., July 10.—George A. Webb, of this city, was found dead at his residence yesterday afternoon, having apparently died from apoplexy about two days before. He leaves a wife, who was absent visiting relatives in Baker county. Deceased was born in Illinois about 65 years ago and he and his wife were professional singing evangelists and both have traveled quite extensively over the country holding meetings for the Christian church, of which they were members. They have resided here about 10 years. Funeral arrangements will not be made until Mrs. Webb's return.

The money which the careful Man puts in our Bank is his real harvest.

WHAT IS THE USE OF REAPING A HARVEST UNLESS YOU REAP A "RESULT" FROM YOUR HARVEST. BEING CAREFUL IN GROWING YOUR CROP WILL NOT BENEFIT YOU UNLESS YOU ARE "CAREFUL" WITH YOUR MONEY WHEN YOU GET YOUR MONEY.

REGULARLY BANKING THE MONEY YOU EARN FROM YOUR WORK OR IN YOUR BUSINESS, IS THE ONE SURE WAY OF GROWING A FORTUNE. TRY IT.

BANK WITH US
 WE PAY 4 PER CENT INTERES:
 6 1/2 % Money for Improved Farm Loans

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.
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