

THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS, Editor and Owner.

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Address all communications to THE OBSERVER, 1710 Sixth Street.

OH, FOR A PLANK!

It's gone beyond a joke now. Last night the Elks' band rendered a concert that all agree was the most finished program of its present career—well mixed with light fantastic airs and a sprinkling of classics such as Verdi's "Il Trovatore" and the "Poet and the Peasant" overture, a beautiful cornet duet with Mr. Loney and Mr. McManus delivering it. The organization is hitting its stride beautifully, and is a credit to any Oregon city in its present stage of perfection. It will be better and more letter-perfect as rehearsals come and go. But that isn't the point so much at stake. It's seating facilities that worries. True, most people can afford an automobile from the comfy upholstery of which to listen to these soothing strains of high-class music—but there are some that can't. Some that must sit, stand or lean while the band plays. For these the city could, without seriously warping its credit in Wall street or with bond buyers, provide some planks to lay on the horses the city already owns and thus provide temporary seats at band concerts. There were close to a thousand out last night and among the thousand were some afoot. Some leaned against buildings, others trampled on nearby lawns, some sat on the cement curbing, others propped themselves against telephone posts, still others didn't come at all for lack of facilities. As stated before, if the city of La Grande were to buy a couple dozen long planks the populace would be greatly accommodated. True, the taxes would be run up some, and high cost of living become even higher, and there would have to be provision to handle this unanticipated outlay of cash. That's all true enough but on second thought we venture the guess that the taxpayers themselves would not seriously grumble at this luxury. As a matter of fact the city has to buy planks for cross walks this fall anyway, and we can't see why planks used to seat people at band concerts this summer can't be utilized for cross walks this fall when there is no further use for them.

If Billie Shakespeare were alive and was able to muse as of yore, and was a citizen of La Grande appreciating

the need of said planks, forsooth we think it would thrust in the mouth of that famous king not a wish to trade a kingdom for a horse but for a plank.

ADVANTAGES OF DEPOTISM.

Germany's well-developed system for the regulation of her subjects in time of peace has been strengthened and expanded until that state is in complete charge of all matters affecting the body politic. Since, in time of war, the nation as a whole is concerned even with the daily diet of individuals, there is no department of private life in which the authorities do not exercise power.

An interesting condition is brought about. As in a modern army the private soldier needs only to attend to the small details close at hand and to obey orders, without the expenditure of initiative, so the citizen of Germany is relieved of all responsibility regarding the chief material issues. He has only to abide by the code, and he will be cared for so long as the government endures.

Among the new departments organized in Germany is one which searches out all attempts to exploit the public by the adulteration of foods, by seeking excessive profits and by other swindles which are often counted within the law. The government has access to all books and accounts, and visits drastic punishment upon those whose business policies are inimical to public welfare.

Public health safeguarding by rigid supervision of sanitation. Frugality is enforced.

Crime is minimized through a constant watch put upon the movements of everyone.

The ideal of a strong centralized state is realized, and conditions for which Americans yearn in the way of social reforms are maintained.

This form of government is one of the outgrowth of war measure of national defense, yet it brings out clearly an advantage of intelligent autocracy over our loose democracy. The United States is governed by a great multiplicity of laws, and what is legal in one city may be outlawed in another city, a few hours' journey distant. Municipalities struggle against the obstacles to self-government interposed by commonwealths; federal laws override local enactments; city ordinances attempt to fill in the chinks. Meanwhile it is almost impossible even to keep a large American city decently clean in a physical sense.

Yet the free and easy system, under which the individual is left largely to his own devices, is an outgrowth of the very spirit of freedom in which this nation was conceived. With its many faults and shortcomings, it places on the citizen all the responsibility he is capable of handling, and in many cases, more than he can handle.

Democracy stumbles, but it progresses. It does not drag the individual reluctantly after it, but is advanced as he advances. Unlike an intelligent despotism, it is not static,

but dynamic; fraught with infinite possibilities of good and evil.

WHO PAYS?

The grain crop, it is predicted will be a billion bushels less than last year's. Flour is selling at higher figures this month than last month. At the National Association of Master Bakers' meeting in Salt Lake City, it was the general opinion that the price of bread would be ten cents a loaf throughout the United States within a short time.

There are two plainly apparent reasons for the prospective increase in the price of bread—the grain shortage and increased demand, actual and probable abroad. The economic machine works with precision; restricted supply and enlarged demand produce a large cost. In addition, we have come to suspect always that those who dwell within the interior of the economic machine regulate its workings for their own profit, as much as they dare.

It would be interesting to draw a line dividing a city's population, or the world's population, into the classes which will and will not be noticeably affected if a ten cent bread comes to pass. The wealthy, of course, are removed from any immediate personal concern with the matter. There is also a large group of those whose incomes vary from several hundreds to a few thousands a year who will be unable to detect in their daily lives the pressure of ten cent bread. On the other side of the line lies the great mass which exists only through a constant struggle to circumvent the rules of simple arithmetic; to make a dollar go a few cents more than it normally would go. Extra expense of five cents a day means that much less to eat, that much weaker grip on life.

If those to whom ten cent bread means only a mildly interesting newspaper item could project their imaginations behind that announcement, they would behold a story of tragic possibilities.

STATE NEWS.

Albany to Have Round-Up Show.
The Albany Round-Up association has been incorporated with a capital stock of \$5000. Grounds have been leased and stands are to be erected and other arrangements made for a round-up exhibition October 12 to 14.

S. P. Short 995 Cars.
The Southern Pacific is short 995 cars according to the reports to the state public service commission. The shortage is just about the same as that reported last week.

Second Hand Dealers in Oregon.
Labor Commissioner Hoff estimates that there are 178 second hand goods dealers in the state of Oregon; that they pay out \$712,000 a year for goods, \$52,200 for help and \$85,000 a year for rent.

Oregon's Fire Losses Heavy.
The fire losses in Oregon for August totaled \$72,000 and on \$20,000 not

CANADA GETS NEW GOVERNOR-GENERAL



NEW GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA AND WIFE.

Cavendish, the ninth duke of Devonshire, is to succeed the duke of Connaught as governor-general of Canada. He is one of the most influential nobles and one of the richest men in England.



MEN!!

They Have Just Arrived

FALL SUITS

At \$15.00

These Suits at \$15.00 represent the highest worth it is possible to put into Clothes at this price. All wool, good tailoring, perfect in fit and finish. Satisfaction always assured. A big Portland store sells these Suits at \$16.50. Come in and see them—All sizes are here in desirable Fall weaves, mixtures, checks, stripes and blue serge. Priced\$15.00

N.W. West & Co.
THE QUALITY STORE

insurance was carried, as shown by reports sent to the state insurance department.

Linn County Good Roads Move.
Petitions are being circulated among the Linn county granges asking for a vote on the proposition of building 200 miles of hard surface roads through a period of five years, the work to be paid for as completed instead of payment through bond issue.

Sommer Hotel Guests

J. H. Bratton, Wallowa; N. P. Peterson, Jos. B. Welch, Portland; E. W. Barnes and wife, R. L. Lilly, Joseph; R. D. Ratman and wife, M. N. Hoswell, San Francisco; A. M. Sanborn, Portland; H. D. Martin, Bradford, Pa.; J. H. Temple, Portland; Lawrence H. Sunion, San Francisco; R. M. Wilson, Talent, Ore.; H. W. Hicks, W. M. Hartford, B. M. Kimley, Portland; Guy Hillman.

Advertised Letters.

List of letters remaining uncalled for in this office for the week ending August 25, 1916:

Gentlemen:—
Atchison, A. H.
Briley, C. F.
Brown, Beryl
Cowden, Teddy
Ellis, John
Gillman, J. D.
Griggs, S. E.
Newman, Mr. Muir
Neal, Sam (2)
O'Brien, Wm.
Parker, C. L.
Shanks, D. E.
Weis, Morris

Ladies:—
Carlson, Miss Lillian
Granger, Mrs. Ray
Knuxall, Miss Laura
Young, Mrs. Lon

These letters will be sent to the dead letter office on September 6, 1916. If not delivered before, in calling for the above please say "advertised" giving date of list.

E. E. BRAGG, P. M.

Artist Blacklock, Leaves Asylum

Middletown, N. Y., Aug. 26.—Ralph Albert Blacklock, the famous artist who has been confined in the state asylum here ever since he went insane over the poverty of his family 11 years ago is gone today to a private sanitarium at Lynnwood Lodge, N. J., where his returning faculties are expected to become completely normal. It was not until many years after he came to the asylum here that Blacklock was elected to membership in the National academy. When he lost his mind he had been selling what he could of his now world famous and extremely valuable moonlight scenes for scarcely enough to buy food for a few days. About a year ago Blacklock showed signs of returning sanity and unmistakable evidences of the return of clouded geniuses. His fellow American artists started a fund to provide for him at a private sanitarium with a cottage in which he would paint the picture marking his election to the academy.

PRISON REFORM HAS BUSY FIELD

T. J. HAZELTON



Prison Reform League Representative Who Speaks Thrice Tomorrow in This City

On three occasions tomorrow T. J. Hazelton, financial secretary of the Oregon Prisoners' Aid society will speak in La Grande. In addition to his sermon in the L. D. S. church at night, and at the Lutheran church in the morning Mr. Hazelton speaks to a union meeting at 3 p. m. at the Presbyterian church tomorrow. On this particular occasion he will take as his theme the Brewers' amendment.

The society Mr. Hazelton represents is an active one. The Society does constructive work by investigating cases and reporting the causes of crime and prostitution as indicate in the histories of individual delinquents.

During the past year the society has had the hearty co-operation of District Attorney Walter H. Evans of Multnomah County in making such investigations of individual criminals with the plan of submitting the facts to the legislature, in the hope of securing legislation to detain permanently all mentally defective persons who show by numerous convictions of crime, that they are incurable. Such permanent detention will tend to stop the constant reproduction of criminal defectives.

Feeble-mindedness in persons who are above the grade of the actually imbecile is found to be the greatest single cause of the various kinds of stealing, rape, sexual delinquency and illegitimacy, and occasionally of murder.

Mental aberrations, stopping short of such a degree of insanity as may be cause for detention in a hospital, are also found to be the cause of many crimes ranging from indecent acts to murder.

Report of the Oregon Prisoners' Aid Society for 1915 shows:

83 State prisoners cared for.
159 City and County prisoners supplied with temporary homes.
27 were returned to their families and friends as follows:

2 to Kansas, 2 to Idaho, 1 to Nebraska, 8 to Oregon, 2 to Washington, 6 to California, 1 to New York, 2 to Scotland, 1 to England, 2 to Illinois, 1 to Ohio, 2 sent to hospital, and 2 sent to sea.

47 prisoners' families were assisted. 8 husbands and wives were reunited. 2000 letters were written to prisoners and families.

292 investigations were made in the interest of justice.
296 visits to prisoners in jail were made by the superintendent and his assistants.

60 religious services were conducted in prison.
56 prisoners received legal advice.
43 were defended.
60 discharged prisoners were provided with work that proved to be of a permanent character.

199 odd jobs were secured.
Mrs. R. E. Bondurant and Miss Sadie Friendly have acted in the capacity of friendly visitors and advisers to the families of prisoners.

Our National Bank is a member of the Federal Reserve System of Banks.



THE "FEDERAL RESERVE" SYSTEM OF BANKS, OF WHICH OUR BANK IS A MEMBER, WAS THOUGHT OUT BY THE BEST BRAINS IN THE BANKING AND BUSINESS WORLD.

THIS SYSTEM DEMANDS THAT A BANK BE SOUND BEFORE IT CAN BECOME A MEMBER BANK.

WE CAN TAKE CARE OF YOUR BANKING BUSINESS, AND SHALL BE GLAD TO HAVE YOU COME IN AND "MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME."

BANK WITH US

WE PAY 4 PER CENT INTEREST

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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HOME INSTITUTION

RICHEY PIANO HOUSE

FACTORY TO CUSTOMER

Have Sold Goods In Your Midst 32 Years

Fly by nights come and go, locate and relocate, make big noises about buying from One (mostly One) to Five Thousand Pianos at a time, this statement alone should discredit all other statements. Few people fall for offers of something for nothing, and afterwards to awaken to realize that they have been loaded up with worked-over, second-hand stuff shipped from other points, we perhaps can give you some references if you care to investigate.

We have no pipe dreams about selling pianos with lessons thrown in, or lessons with pianos thrown in. These so-called big houses taken from short range appear differently, refer to Bradstreets or Dunns commercial ratings.

Get prices examine goods, and we will convince the most skeptical buyers that we sell goods with merit, pianos that need no prize packages in order to sell. Here to make good and look you in the eye after goods are tried out.

OPPOSITE ELKS' HOME

RICHEY PIANO HOUSE

RICHEY BUILDING

