

THE OBSERVER

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AMERICAN TRACTORS AT THE FRONT.

The most terrifying implement of war is an armored car which climbs over trenches, crashes through barbed wire, and crawls over fortifications. It develops that it is our old friend, the American tractor. It gets there like all American inventions. If a wise government has men at the fronts of the European war gathering and assembling the experience of the combatants, the United States should be invincible against any foreign nation. How horrible it would be, though if America were unprepared and we were attacked by a well organized army, well equipped with our own inventions. Our own inventive genius might be turned against us.

A GOOD OFFICER.

Major M. B. Marcellus, city health officer of Portland, has departed again for the border. Major Marcellus is a good officer. The good health of the Oregon troops is a tribute to his ability and his knowledge of modern sanitation. His appointment is a credit to Adjutant General George A. White and to Governor Withycombe, the commander-in-chief of the Oregon militia.

TWO NOTED MEN DIE.

Death has taken Seth Low and Horace White, the former once mayor of Greater New York and the latter former editor of the New York Evening Post. Both men were reformers and led in the fight against Tammany. That they finally won is a tribute to their manhood and their courage. Their good deeds live after them.

THEY WATCH THE FARMER.

Prosperity is contagious. When the farmers are prosperous, everyone sits up and takes notice. Bankers and business men are hopeful now. Because the farmers have good crops and high prices. A. L. Mills, president of a big Portland bank, says: "With the intense prosperity of the farmers as a basis, I cannot for a

moment see anything but a very good business situation in Portland and in the Northwest during the fall and winter months. Just think of a wheat crop alone of about 60,000,000 bushels and farmers for the most part receiving from \$1 to \$1.25 a bushel at their farms. The wool growers received enormous values, from 25 to 35 cents a pound for the best of their fleeces. They are securing record prices for sheep and the entire interior is rolling in wealth.

"The coming of prosperity here would be much quickened if business men and others would for a moment study the situation and begin to realize the full meaning of all this farm wealth."

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

The Presidential Campaign.

(The Portland Telegram.)
What is the supreme test in this political problem? It is just one thing—how will the former Progressives cast their votes? If they cast their votes for Hughes, is there any doubt about Hughes' election? Absolutely none.

In the popular vote in the last election Wilson was credited with 6,293,019 votes, less by over 100,000 than were cast for Bryan four years before when he ran for the third time for the presidency. The vote of Bryan in 1900 and 1896 in round numbers was 6,300,000 and 6,500,000. Wilson's vote, therefore, represents somewhat less than the normal Democratic vote. No signs of growth of popular tendency toward the party is indicated by these figures. Four years ago the combined votes of Roosevelt and Taft exceeded that cast for Wilson by 1,300,000.

Outside of this there are two questions involved—where will the Progressive vote go and will it be effective where needed to produce the necessary electoral votes? The result in Maine is a sufficient and final answer to the first question. As to the second, 266 electoral votes are needed to land Hughes in the presidential chair. With the Progressives back in the fold, and those who doubt are willfully closing their eyes to patent facts, is there any doubt that Hughes will carry California, Connecticut, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Jersey, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia and Delaware? There are 255 electoral votes than can reasonably be regarded as certain to be cast for Hughes and Fairbanks. We have purposely left out New York, whose vote alone would thus insure the election of Hughes. Four years ago Wilson carried the state, but the combination of Republican and Progressive votes against him overtopped his vote by a little less than 100,000. Two years ago the Democratic candidate for the senate was defeated by 70,000 despite the fact that the Progressive candidate polled 60,000 votes. New York is Hughes' home state. It was there he did the work that attracted nationwide attention. He was twice elected governor despite the vigorous program he put through. Is it unreasonable to think he can carry it again for the presidential office?

In addition to this he has the following list to draw from, some of which, from personal knowledge, we regard as entirely safe: Arizona 3, Colorado 6, Kentucky 13, Maryland 8, Missouri 18, Nebraska 8, New Mexico 3, Oklahoma 10, Indiana 15, Wisconsin 13, Wyoming 3. If out of that list he couldn't get the 11 votes necessary to elect him, with New York thrown aside altogether, it would surely be

one of the marvels of our whole political history.

A Welcome Member.

(Pendleton Tribune.)
Press dispatches yesterday announced the purchase of the La Grande Observer by Clarke O. Leiter of Portland and associates. It is with regret that the Eastern Oregon Newspapermen note the loss of Bruce Dennis from their ranks, but there is reconciliation in the thought that his place will be taken by one of the most able newspaper men of the state and of the Northwest.

Mr. Leiter has a wide acquaintance throughout Eastern Oregon. He has been allied with the large newspapers of the state, as city editor of the Oregonian and lately of the Journal in Portland, for many years. He has been active in politics and will bring with him a prestige that will make the La Grande paper one to draw notice.

He will undoubtedly be welcomed in La Grande, since Mr. Dennis has been moved to retire from the newspaper field. He should be a power for good in La Grande and the Eastern Oregon country. The paper will be independent Republican.

A Leading Newspaper.

(Baker Herald.)
Bruce Dennis, who for several years has conducted the La Grande Evening Observer and Weekly Star, has sold his newspaper properties at La Grande to J. D. Myers and Mrs. O. C. Leiter. The consideration was not made public. O. C. Leiter, formerly city editor of the Portland Oregonian and Portland Journal, will be editor and publisher. His ability and success in Portland bespeaks a greater one here.

The Observer is one of the leading newspapers of the Northwest. Mr. Dennis having built it up from a small publication to its present success. He has not announced his plans for the future.

Congratulations From Baker.

(Baker Morning Democrat.)
In Saturday's issue of the La Grande Observer the announcement is made of the sale of that paper to O. C. Leiter and J. D. Myers of Portland, and that Mr. Leiter, late city editor of the Oregon Journal, and before that, city editor of the Oregonian, will be the editor and publisher, succeeding Mr. Bruce Dennis, who for the past six years has successfully guided the destinies of the Observer. Mr. Leiter is in every way a capable newspaper man and his advent into Eastern Oregon journalism means valuable aid to all the publishers of this section of the state in the work of building up the most resourceful part of Oregon. The Democrat extends to the new publishers of the Observer its best wishes for success.

Bright Future Predicted.

(Portland Oregonian.)
The La Grande Observer announces a change of ownership and editorship. Mr. Bruce Dennis, who for six years has directed the destinies of the paper, retires, and Mr. Clarke Leiter succeeds him as editor. Under Mr. Dennis the Observer has been a bright, readable and altogether complete newspaper, influential in its field and favorably known throughout the state. Mr. Leiter brings to his new position much experience and an exceptional adaptability, and there is no doubt that under him the Observer will continue to prosper.

Josephine. Republicans Celebrate Over Maine.

Grants Pass, Ore., Sept. 13.—The Republicans of Josephine county celebrated the victory in Maine by organizing a Hughes' alliance in this city with 360 members. It was a regular Republican rally held in the opera house, speeches being made by local Republicans and Walter L. Tooze Sr., who has been here this week perfecting the organization. Former Progressives joined in the celebration. The meeting was impromptu, all the arrangements having been made Tuesday and it was one of the biggest Republican meetings held in this city in years. Music was furnished by the Moose band. The organization was first perfected by electing temporary officers. Willford Allen was elected chairman; A. I. Roby, vice chairman; Mrs. V. A. Clements, secretary, and Mrs. M. L. Opdyke, treasurer.

Mr. Tooze made a rousing speech in favor of the Republican nominee and was followed by many local speakers.

Short on Cars.

Salem, Or., Sept. 20.—The Spalding Logging company is 45 cars behind on orders today. It is probable that on account of the shortage of cars at Newberg the plant will be closed the latter part of the week, at least for a few days until cars are received.

Does Prohibition Decrease Consumption of Liquor.

Mr. Fredric W. Thompson, a director of breweries in England and America, in his work on "High License," 1909, says, (page 45):

"There are absolutely no grounds for the assumption that the consumption of liquor per head in each state is the same as that in the United States as a whole—in fact everything points to very great divergencies indeed. For instance, some six or eight of the states (now nineteen—Editor) are under prohibition, more or less rigidly enforced. Temperance advocates, at any rate, cannot object to the argument that consumption in a prohibition state is but a fraction of what it is in a 'wet' area. The amount drunk in the remaining states must therefore be greater than the published figures. * * * Then again nearly one-third of the inhabitants of the United States live in 'no-license' areas included in 'wet' states, and, where these areas are large, it is to be presumed that the inhabitants consume less than the average. Thus, a state having few 'dry' areas would, other things being equal, consume more per capita than the average."



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