

THE OBSERVER

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Address all communications to THE OBSERVER, 1710 Sixth Street.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1916.

EMBARGO UPON FOODSTUFFS.

The American Federation of Labor has gone on record as favoring an embargo upon the exportation of foodstuffs.

The resolution says: "The American Federation of Labor urges upon President Wilson and Congress the necessity of placing embargo upon the exportation of wheat and other foodstuffs, as far as our international, legal or treaty rights will permit, until prices are restored to normal."

The resolution declared the department of agriculture estimates that the 1916 wheat crop and the surplus from the 1915 crop are barely sufficient to provide bread for our own people for the coming year and that it is alleged agents of foreign countries have contracted with American grain speculators for two hundred million bushels of wheat.

"Flour is higher now than at any time since the Civil war," the resolution said and all other staples are advancing in proportion, so that it is rapidly becoming impossible for a great portion of the working people of this country to obtain sufficient and proper food for their families.

Declaring an illegal conspiracy exists to keep the price of print paper up, the federation by resolution called on the department of justice to investigate through federal grand juries in the larger cities to obtain the evidence of such conspiracy "to the end that the printing industry may be rescued from those who are successfully manipulating prices and success."

Many union men in the printing industry have been forced out of employment, the resolution said, through the suspension of publications "hit by the exorbitant paper prices." The great increases in prices, it was declared, were in the face of the fact that the cost of production is lower than ever before.

Both these topics are important. The high cost of living will drive

many poor people to desperation unless relief is given them in some way and the high cost of paper will do the same thing for the publishers.

The fact of the matter is that trust after trust and combine after combine are raising prices of all foods and manufactured articles in the United States by taking advantage of the fact that there is an European war. What we need is a few jail sentences for the men who are conspiring against the people of the United States.

The farmer is not one of these. While he is getting high prices, he is a victim too. Here is what the National Grange says in answer to the plea for an embargo:

"In many countries with cheap labor and high-priced lands the yield per acre exceeds that of the United States. The American farmer, with cheap lands and high-priced labor, produces many times as much per man as does the farmer of any country in the world.

"The high price of farm products is due to several causes. Some of the more important ones are: The climatic conditions of this country during the past year were perhaps one of the leading causes of crop shortage. A long, cold, wet Spring, followed by very hot, dry weather, extending over a larger area of country than is usually the case, reduced acreage and yield to a lower degree than has been the case of any previous year. For example, the wheat in the Northwest was a crop failure; the corn crop was in many sections a partial failure, as well as the potato and vegetable crops.

"It must be borne in mind that the high prices have struck the farmer in whatever he buys, as much as they have the city consumer. Farm labor is scarcer and higher than ever. Everything the farmer buys, whether machinery, fertilizer, fencing, clothing or the necessities of life, has increased in price by leaps and bounds. This is also true of taxation, the increase being in many sections 50 per cent or more, during the last five years.

"In former days everything the farmer needed was produced on his farm or in his immediate neighborhood. This is all changed and the farmer of today is the largest consumer of manufactured products, even in too many cases, buying his meat and flour.

"Our city cousins have changed their method of living quite as much as we have. Instead of buying in quantities, as formerly, they live in cramped quarters, with a kitchenette 6x8, and buy in very small quantities, or live out of cartons and cans, and in many cases with little regard to home economics. With this can be coupled expensive methods of distribution, which is not the fault of the farmers.

"The fact that nearly one-half of the civilized world has left the field of production and entered upon the work of destruction has increased the demand for all kinds of products and goods. We believe that prices will be high for several years, especially for manufactured goods. As to the products of the farm, the fixing of prices is mainly by the law of supply and demand in the markets of the world.

"When the farmer sells some of his products, as he did only a few years ago, at less than cost, he gets no redress, no reduction in taxes nor in anything he buys, and it would be very unfair that when he is getting a fair price for some of his products to place an embargo on what he produces to lower the price and ultimately reduce the supply. So an embargo on wheat and other cereals would in the long run mean decreased acreage.

"But if embargoes are to be placed to help the situation, they should be on manufactured goods, particularly munitions of war. This would give the farmers more laborers and reduce the prices of what he buys."

JACK LONDON.

Jack London was paid twenty cents a word for his writings. He wrote

"Life's Seven Ages"

Through all life's seven ages there is the need of a Bank Account, but not through life's seven ages will there be the chance to save, there is today. You can start a bank account today—and keep it alive, and feel that those dependent on you are provided for.

There never was a better time to save than today, and every dollar you place in this bank is fully protected; always accessible, and acts as an ever-present inspiration to save more

COME IN TODAY

Deposits \$1,040,000.00 Assets \$1,365,000.00

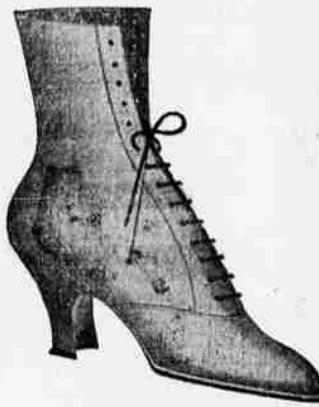
La Grande National Bank

Dr. Murphy, Celebrated Foot Specialist Will be in Our Store Dec. 9-11 Remember the Date - If You Have Foot Troubles Consult Him



Shoes of the quality kind—the leather a little better—Style more distinctive. A better finish inside and out-side and most important of all a better fit than you get elsewhere. Shoes for all the family in all the new styles and all prices.

Shoes That Appeal to Every Woman



Plum colored vamp, brown top, leather covered heel with metal plate. Price..... \$8.50

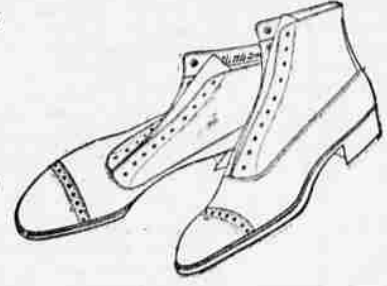
Black kid vamp with white kid top, lace. Special \$7.50 Patent vamp, tan buck top, a new dress shoe at..... \$7.50

Sport shoes, low heels, rubber soles, tan, black and patent with white top \$3.50 to \$4.50

Just received by express black kid shoes—lace and button. The best values and styles you will find. \$4.00 and \$5.00

Special care in fitting children's shoes, complete stock—vici, patent, and velour in all widths \$1.00 to \$3.00

Tilt Shoes for men all sizes and widths from A to EE, at \$4.00 to \$6.50



Nettleton Shoes for men, black and tan \$6.50 to \$7.50 and worth it

Boys' Shoes that have style and that wear Lace or button, black or tan \$2.25 to \$3.50 Boys' high top two buckle tan \$3.00 to \$4.00

Lion Brand Work Shoes, the world's best—best fitting, best wearing, guaranteed to give satisfaction \$3.50 to \$7.50



Exclusive Agents Bergman Loggers \$9.00 Exclusive Agents Gold Seal Rubbers \$2.25 to \$4.50

Men's, Women's, Children's Felt Slippers well made, extra heavy sole. Colors Red, Green, Grey and Black. Priced 50c to \$2.50

1600 words a day, which would have given him an income of \$73,000 a year.

He first came into prominence as a writer on the San Francisco Examiner and when that newspaper sent him north to report the Klondike rush it started him on the road to fame and fortune.

His year of life in the Arctic crystallized his literary ideas and furnished the impetus that made his success as a writer sure. He had written half a dozen books before that but none had attracted attention. Returning from the Arctic he began to pen a series of tales of the Alaskan trails. Then came "The Call of the Wild" and Jack London leaped into literary fame at a bound. He had found himself and from that time forward he advanced rapidly. He wrote prolifically having made it a habit for years to do 1,000 words a day—no more, no less.

Several years ago London became a "gentleman farmer." He purchased a large estate Glen Ellen and there presided over a wonderful ranch. He labeled the valley in which his place was located "the Valley of the Moon" and frequently wrote about it. Recently he spent a considerable in Hawaii where he meant to live part of each year and write, but death interfered with his plans.

One of his latest works, "John Barleycorn" was more or less autobiographical. Brilliant writer, radical thinker, the world has lost something by the death of this man who fought his own battle single-handed, won fame and money by his pen, and dared to defy and scorn the conventions of the whole world.

French Literature. There are probably no public libraries in Oregon except those of Portland and the state university which have any amount of literature in foreign languages. The La Grande Public library makes no attempt to buy foreign books, but the owner of a small French library has offered the use of his books to anyone who cares to read them. Inquire at the Public Library.

The books are principally plays and novels, with some poetry, in school editions.

Electric gasoline pumps may now be installed at the curbs in place of the ordinary hand-operated pumps. Pressing a button starts the gasoline flowing and a pointer shows the customer just how much gasoline has been measured out to him.

Flotsam and Jetsam

Thoughts Worth Remembering. We lack will rather than strength; are able to do more and better than we are inclined to do; and say we can not, because we have not the courage to say we will not.—Spaulding.

No. 92 REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF The State Bank of Imbler, at Imbler, in the State of Oregon, at the close of Business November 17, 1916.

Table with Resources and Liabilities columns. Resources include Loans and discounts, Overdrafts, Bonds and Warrants, Stocks and other securities, Bank ing house, Furniture and fixtures, Other real estate owned, Due from banks, Due from approved reserve banks, Checks and other cash items, Cash on hand, Other resources. Liabilities include Capital stock paid in, Surplus fund, Undivided profits, Due to banks and bankers, Individual deposits subject to check, Demand certificates of deposit, Time and Savings Deposits, Notes and bills rediscounted.

SHERWOOD WILLIAMS, Cashier. CORRECT—Attest: CLAY W. FOX, WALTER STRINGHAM, Directors. Subscribed and sworn to before me this 24th day of November, 1916. WALTER STRINGHAM, Notary Public. My commission expires Mar. 4, 1920.

All life, then, is a preparation for death, whether we think of it or not, quite independently of any intention of our own.—Faber.

The difference between successful and unsuccessful men turns mainly upon their capacity for estimating the value of what is told them.—W. O. Stoddard.

Never Imitate Emerson admonishes us to "never imitate." "Your own gift you can present every moment with the cumulative force of a whole life's cultivation; but of the adopted talent of another you have only an extemporaneous half possession. . . . Where is the master who could have taught Shakespeare? Where is the master who could have instructed Franklin, or Washington, or Bacon, or Newton? Every man is unique. The Scipionism

No. 20 REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF The Cove State Bank, at Cove, in the State of Oregon, at the close of business November 17, 1916.

Table with Resources and Liabilities columns. Resources include Loans and discounts, Bonds and warrants, Stocks and other securities, Banking house, Furniture and fixtures, Due from approved reserve banks, Cash on hand, Expenses. Liabilities include Capital stock paid in, Surplus fund, Undivided profits, Individual deposits subject to check, Demand certificates of deposit, Time and Savings Deposits.

I, Hugh McCall, Cashier of the above-named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. HUGH McCALL, Cashier. CORRECT—Attest: HUGH McCALL, E. C. REES, GEO. E. CORPE, Directors. Subscribed and sworn to before me this 24th day of November, 1916. J. R. OLIVER, Notary Public. My commission expires June 8, 1920.

of Scipio is precisely that part he could not borrow. Shakespeare will never be made by the study of Shakespeare. Do that which is assigned you, and you cannot hope too much. There is at this moment for you an utterance brave and grand as that of the colossal chisel of Phidias, or trowel of the Egyptians, or the pen of Moses or Dante, but differ from all these.

"Abide in the simple and noble regions of thy life, obey the heart and thou shalt reproduce the Foreworld again."

WIT AND HUMOR

Joke On Thomas Grey. Thomas Grey, author of the "Elegy" had a weakness in the form of a nervous dread of fire. His chamber at St. Peter's College, Cambridge being on the second floor, he thought it likely that in case of fire his exit by the stairs might be cut off. He therefore caused an iron bar to be fixed by arms protruding from the outside window, designing by a rope attached thereto to descend in the event of a fire occurring. This excessive caution led to a practical joke by his fellow students. One midnight a party of students thundered at his door with loud cries of "Fire, fire!" The nervous poet flew to his window and slid down the rope to the ground, where he was hailed with shouts of laughter. Gray's delicate nature was so shocked by this rough joke that he changed his lodgings.

Prosperity in Oregon

Ships Apples To London. Douglas Wood is shipping out the last car of apples to the London market, this being the twenty-fourth sent through his agency to the English and New York markets. The last car of mixed varieties, largely Newtowns, cleans up most of the local supply for shipment. The last reports from the London shipments was the receipt of a check to cover a carload of Newtowns, the 600 boxes in the load selling in London for \$2100. The net returns to the grower at Grants Pass were about \$1.40 per box.—Rogue River Courier.