

THE OBSERVER

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Address all communications to THE OBSERVER, 1710 Sixth Street.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1916.

PIONEERING YET TO BE DONE.

Much pioneering remains to be done in the United States. Have the young men and young women the spirit to undertake the work which yet remains to be done, to undergo the hardships and make the struggles that their fathers and mothers made in order to win happy homes?

Secretary Lane, in his annual report, directs attention to the fact that the opportunities for pioneer spirit still exist. While the volume of public land is decreasing until now it is almost down to 250,000,000 acres in the United States, much of which is in the arid region, the entries of public land are increasing.

This year nearly 20,000,000 acres of Uncle Sam's domain were taken up as against 17,000,000 each for the preceding two years, 16,000,000 for 1913 and 15,000,000 for 1912.

At this rate it will be but a very few years before all of the public land of the United States will have gone into private hands.

Probably in less than ten years there will be no public land of consequence that will be available for the homesteader.

There will still remain, however, many million acres of lands which can be brought into rich production by the application of water, and no inconsiderable volume that can be put to the public service by being drained.

The problem is no longer one of getting the people onto the land but of getting land for the people who wish it, and ways must be found by which land can be irrigated, either from the waters that flow underneath it or from the waters that now go to waste flowing to the sea.

It is Secretary Lane's belief that no sufficient effort has been made to discover underground supplies of water which can be used upon the deserts of the West, and that congress might well either appropriate directly for improving these lands by a system of drilling or pass a law by which

private parties could be induced to make this effort.
We think so too.

RECLAMATION WORK.

The war has diverted attention from the great work which the reclamation department of the United States is carrying on and under Secretary Lane this great work of internal development is going on, even though it is improperly and indirectly financed by the national government.

Secretary Lane, in his annual report, which is an able and inspiring work, tells how the reclamation service carried on construction work on 24 irrigation projects, bringing 10 projects or units thereof to completion, and added a quarter of a million acres, or five thousand farms to the area on the government work for which irrigation water is available. It completed the highest dam in the world and another forming the largest irrigation reservoir; built 700 miles of canals, 80 miles of drains, 50 miles of pipe line, 66 miles of roads, 7200 canal structures, 600 bridges, 650 culverts, excavated approximately 10,000,000 cubic yards of earth and rock, used 500,000 barrels of cement, manufactured 60,000 barrels of sand cement.

Congressman Sinnott is making a steady fight in congress to get more reclamation money for Oregon. We hope that he gets the support of the Oregon senators and our other two congressmen.

How much more important in this country to add 5000 happy homes annually to those already in existence in the United States than it is to build Panama canals to facilitate the shipping of Great Britain, or to appropriate \$300,000,000 for the military system of the government.

The irrigation system of the government, if properly handled, will give opportunity to the common people and end the cry that there is today no chance for the ambitious young man, and help appease the land hunger which is driving so many of our best citizens to seek new homes in Canada.

PERSONALITY.

Philosophers of India have a theory that every person has an aura, sort of a radiance shed from the soul which may be perceived by another person of keen perception.

We have often felt that this was rather a fantastic idea, but sometimes we are not so skeptical. Some people radiate good cheer, wholesomeness and others suspicion, antagonism and smallness. It is in a person's power to do one or the other. The first thing necessary to do if one chooses to have a pleasing personality is to think good thoughts toward everyone, cleanse one's own heart of malice, envy, jealousy and revenge. It is surprising how soon the world looks brighter and how petty some of the small things people do under the influence of evil passions seem. It is just as easy to radiate sweetness and light as it is misery and darkness.

BOOKS FOR BOYS.

La Grande, Dec. 11.—(To the Editor)—You write about buying good books for boys and about books which do boys harm. Now if you were going to buy a Christmas book for a good live American boy who enjoys a lively story of adventure and not Little Lord Fauntelroy, what book would you buy him? He's fourteen years old. MOTHER.

It would depend, of course, upon what books the boy had read and what books were in the family library.

When the editor of The Observer was fourteen years old he was reading Scott, Dickens, Thackeray, Bulwer, Lytton and almost any novel he could get his hands on.

But there are certain books which are classics and which every boy should read.

Here are just a few of them, and memory goes back to the days when they were new and to the delights which their revelations of life and adventure brought to one youth at least.

There are no better books for boys than Mark Twain's "Huckleberry Finn" and "Tom Sawyer." These boys are typical Americans, no better and no worse than the average boy. They are full of humor and good hard common sense.

Two companion books which every boy should read are "Robinson Crusoe" and "Swiss Family Robinson," both great books which appeal to the imagination and also to common sense. The boys in "Swiss Family Robinson" are the manliest boys in all literature, full of respect for their elders, actual heroism, and, best of all, they work willingly and have no contempt for useful labor.

Two more companion books are Stevenson's "Treasure Island" and Kipling's "Captain Courageous." Both the heroes are good boys, full of life but at the same time possessing the moral sense. "Stalkey & Co." is just a little too old for young boys—it is to be read by older boys who are reaching the age when they like to look back upon the pranks of their youth.

"Jules Verne" is an inexhaustible mine for any boy. "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea" and "Mysterious Island" are classics too.

"Gulliver's Travels" will delight any boy's heart. "Pilgrim's Progress" is a great book for youths. "Grimm's Fairy Tales," "Arabian Nights" are also gold mines.

Don't forget the "Leather Stocking Tales," by Cooper. Some of Charles Deade's novels—"Pendennis" and the "Virginians."

If you must have a book by Florence Hodgson Burnett take "Timbaron," a modern story of a newsboy who made good.

There are so many good books it really is a shame to waste time on bad ones.

Farmers are continually selling their wheat ranches. What in the world will they do with their money? Where can they invest it to better advantage?

UMATILLA PROJECT IS CUT.

Considerably Less to Be Expended This Year on Irrigation Than Last.

Estimates for the reclamation service for the next fiscal year show a decrease in the sum asked for the Umatilla project in Oregon of \$78,000 from the appropriation of the present year, and an increase for the Klamath project of \$59,000, says a Washington dispatch.

These estimates are made up on the basis of what the project managers are expected to be able to use to the best advantage in the year ending June 30, 1918. The sums estimated for various projects often substantially vary from year to year, due to the character of work under way.

The estimate for the Umatilla project for the next year is \$157,000, against \$235,000 appropriated for the present year. In the year ending June 30, 1916, there was actually expended on this project \$275,305. The principal decreases in the itemized estimates are \$77,000 less for wages, \$16,000 less for cement and \$15,000 less for forage.

For the Klamath project the estimate is \$239,000 for the next fiscal year, against \$180,000 appropriated for this year and \$141,119 actually spent during the year ending June 30, 1916. On the Klamath work there will be a slight increase in wages, \$10,000 increases in salaries, \$81,750 increase in contract payments, and \$6000 decrease in equipment.

NEW TODAY

FOR RENT—Two front rooms with or without board. Mrs. C. Wilson, 1434 Adams. 12-12-16

FOR SALE—No. 1626 Howard heater, cheap for cash. George Hopkins at Blue Mt. Creamery Co's office. 12-12-21

Do Your Christmas Shopping at This Store

You'll be surprised to find how many things suitable for Christmas-giving are to be had in this store. It's a place where most people buy their own things—the personal things they wear and use and that's a very good reason why you should buy here your gifts for them. If you buy at this store you can be sure of exceptional values and quality.

Here Are Some Of The Things You Will Find Here

For a man's Christmas—fur or cloth coats, new suits, house coats, lounging robes, bath robes, sweaters, underwear, hats, caps, mufflers, neckwear, suspenders, garters, belts, half hose, silk reefers, gloves, shirts, pajamas, shoes, slippers, handkerchiefs, umbrellas, leather bags, suit cases, trunks.

For a Woman's Christmas—Coats, suits, furs, dresses, waists, silk and crepe kimonos, silk petticoats, underwear, bath robes, silk sweaters, shoes, slippers, silk hose, handkerchiefs, gloves, toques, Indian blankets, umbrellas, mirrors, toilet sets, picture frames, manieure sets, hand bags, music rolls, purses.

N. K. West & Co.
THE QUALITY STORE

WANTED—Girl or woman for general housework. Phone Black 3472. 12-12-16

Jess Rosenbaum Hurt

In a fall from a telephone pole, on which he was working as a Home Independent Telephone company lineman, Jess Rosenbaum was badly bruised up this morning. His back was badly wrenched, but it is understood no bones were broken.

FOR RENT SIGNS—For sale at The Observer office.



La Verne and Grim

Saxophon-

ists

at

THE ARCADE

Miss La Verne

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Embargo On Foodstuffs.

(Portland Telegram.)
From representative Fitzgerald, of New York, chairman of the house appropriations committee, comes the announcement that he will press a bill at the next session of congress to place an embargo on foodstuffs. This raises the very important question whether we have more than enough wheat and coarse cereals to carry us through to next year's harvest.

No one knows definitely. Our visible surplus of wheat (on paper, not by actual weight) a month ago was estimated as 40,000,000 bushels. All Europe, except Russia, needs this surplus and many more millions besides. Is it wise to separate ourselves from this small margin? Have we any assurance that next year's crop will average? Does not common prudence command us to conserve what we have?

The speculator is cold-blooded. He would like to corner the wheat. He has already predicted \$2 wheat. Europe must pay any price the speculator demands if he got control of the surplus. An embargo would defeat the speculator and protect our own people from further extortion.

It is reported from Washington by the Associated Press that President Wilson and the cabinet are opposed to an embargo. There is time enough before congress meets for members to hear from their constituents. Surely a very large majority of the American people will favor conser-

Turkey Shoot

LAST ONE OF THE SEASON

AT

Foley Barn, West of Hospital

Starting at 9 A. M.
Dec. 17, 1916

Lunch Served on Grounds
GEO. NOBLE

vation of our surplus, and apparently the only way to do this is by declaring an embargo.

Burnt River Couple Here.
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Williamson are down from their Burnt River ranch. They will spend the winter in Baker county, after visiting their parents in and near this city.

Our Want Ads bring results.

The Wheel That Squeaks the Loudest is the One That Gets the Grease

The same assuredly applies to you and me, as well—in order to get anywhere in this world, we must attract the attention of the big men. Now listen, young man! Nothing helps a young man more in advancement in business than to be known as one who keeps his bills paid, meets his obligations, has a bank account, and pays his bills by check. You know that.

You will receive the same courteous attention with a dollar deposit as you would with a hundred dollar one.

La Grande National Bank



At Sherry's Today