

THE OBSERVER

An Independent Newspaper.

Published Daily and Weekly at La Grande, Oregon, by the LA GRANDE EVENING OBSERVER PUBLISHING CO.

J. D. MEYERS, President, H. B. LEITER, Vice President, CLARKE LEITER, Editor and Publisher.

Entered at the Postoffice at La Grande, Oregon, as second class matter.

On Sale in Other Cities: Oregon Hotel News Stand, Portland; Imperial Hotel News Stand, Portland.

Advertising rates on application.

Telephone Main 37

City Official Paper. Member United Press Associations.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

By Carrier. Daily, single copy 5c. Daily, per week 15c. Daily, per month 65c. Daily, per six months in advance \$3.50. Daily, per year in advance \$7.00. By Mail. Daily, by mail per year, in advance \$4.00. Weekly Observer-Star, per year in advance \$1.50.

The Observer carrier boys are instructed to put the papers on the porch. If the carrier does not do this, misses you, or neglects getting the paper to you on time, kindly phone the Observer, as this is the only way we can determine whether or not the carriers are following instruction. Phone Main 37 before 7:30 o'clock and a paper will be sent you by special messenger if the carrier has missed you.

Address all communications to THE OBSERVER, 1710 Sixth Street.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1916.

PRESIDENT WILSON AND THE WAR.

While President Wilson's notes to the Allies and the Central Powers were not timed to follow the peace proposals of Germany, and the President declares they were not inspired by Hollweg's speech, it was not a surprise to anyone who knows the character of the President, that they were sent.

It would be strange, indeed, if the thoughts of a scholar and a statesman had not been devoted for the last twenty-eight months to war, its horrors and the means of promoting peace.

So when the President had pondered for many days upon the subject, he finally speaks, and his voice in favor of peace must be heard and listened to with respect by all the belligerents.

England and Canada may be indignant because an American President dares to speak his views upon international peace, and the English point of view seems to be hostile. Our English cousins seem to think that this is their war, that they are making the battle of civilization against German militarism, that American interference is not asked for or desired. Be that as it may, they must remember that the United States and the neutral nations are suffering as the result of the war in Europe; that lives of American citizens have been sacrificed at sea; that our ships have been sunk, our mails seized, communications with belligerents interfered with, and our trade with non-warring nations unlawfully blockaded.

The hostile reception to President Wilson's note, the censoring of cables relating to it, its non-publication in England shows that the Lloyd George government in continuing the war is resting on very shaky foundations so far as popularity with the common people of England is concerned.

War has suspended popular government in every country. Elections are suspended. The rights of the people are not respected. The voice, which is the voice of God, is not heard. "On with the war" is the cry of the dictator, the aristocracy, the diplomat, the tax gatherer, the munitions maker, the rich who stay at home in comfort and luxury, while the sons of the poor shoulder their muskets and bayonets and fight their country's battles—

not knowing very much what they are fighting for but obeying, as they have been trained to do for centuries, the orders of the upper classes—their so-called "betters."

So the Kaiser sits in his palace and like Napoleon dreams of landing his troops on English soil.

Lloyd George dreams of crushing the Kaiser and exiling him to Elba.

General Joffre dreams of reconquering Alsace-Lorraine.

Surrounded by satellites and parasites, what chance have they of knowing of the aspirations or desires or longings of their own people? Would they care if they knew? What are a few millions of common men and women to these rulers of the world? To them, they are the hewers of wood, the carriers of water, cannon fodder, as small to their view as if they looked at them from the large end of the telescope and saw millions of ants toiling along a dusty road, going nowhere. For these rulers are looking far into the future, trying to foresee the destiny of their nations, and to them human life and property mean nothing when national prestige, national advantage, national territory is at stake.

So when the head of a powerful nation politely asks what the war is

Shop Early at the Early Closing Store - We Close at 6 p. m. - Open Saturday Night



YOU WILL FIND AT THIS STORE A WEALTH OF RESOURCES IN YOUR PROBLEM OF CHOOSING GIFTS. EVERYTHING HERE IS OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY. YOU DON'T NEED TO WONDER ABOUT IT BEING GOOD. YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SELECT HERE SUITABLE GIFTS FROM 25c UP AS HIGH AS YOU CARE TO GO.

For a Man's Christmas

- Fur Coats, Hart-Schaffner & Marx Suits, Hart-Schaffner & Marx Overcoats, Auto Robes, House Coats, Lounging Robes, Bath Robes, Raincoats, Sweaters, Dress Vests, Neckties, Mufflers, Suspenders, Garters, Silk Reefers, Gloves, Kid, Silk, Dress and Fur, Shirts, Silk, Flannel, Pajamas, House Slippers, Handkerchiefs, Sox, in Silk, Cotton and Cashmere.

For a Woman's Christmas

- Plush Coats, Novelty Suits, Raincoat, Sweaters, Silk Waists, Silk Petticoats, Silk Kimonos, Bath Robes, Underwear, Silk, Wool and Cotton, Fur Set, Muffs and Scarfs, A New Skirt, Kid Gloves, Hose, Silk, Lisle and Cashmere, Boudoir Caps, Dainty Neckwear, Handkerchiefs, Toilet Sets, House Slippers, Carriage Boots, Dress Pattern, Linen Sets, Indian Blankets, Wool Blankets.

We Guarantee Satisfaction - We Make Exchanges Either Before or After Christmas on Goods That are not Exactly What You Want

The Spirit of the Season

Prompts the officers and directors of this bank to express their appreciation of the many favors shown them, and to wish you in return, all the joys of

A Merry Christmas

La Grande National Bank

GOOD NEWS.

It is good news that the O. W. R. & N. has had to abandon its annual Christmas dinner for those out of work in Portland. We congratulate the metropolis that at last it has provided industry for those who are willing to work. Portland will have a real, merry Christmas.

LAZY HUSBANDS.

District Attorney Neuner, of Roseburg, has drafted a "lazy husband" law. It will be introduced into the next legislature. If the law would make them work and support their families and turn their pay checks over to their wives, it might be well for the legislature to pass it.

It's not too late to make a donation to the Elks' Christmas fund or the Salvation Army fund.

The big news of the day is found in the local evening newspaper.

We hope Santa Claus will not forget the little children in Europe.

Today is the day to do your Christmas shopping.

ADVICE OFFERED LEGISLATURE

Judge Lowell Would Abandon Primaries for Single Election. Pendleton, Ore., Dec. 22.—The legislature is about to convene and presumably there is much legislation needed, although it would seem that perhaps the public would be as well

served if that body would devote its 40 days to repealing some existing laws and to perfecting and modernizing others.

There are three subjects, however, which the legislature will do well to discuss, and thereafter submit to the people for adoption or rejection. The safest avenue for approaching the initiative is the legislature, because thereby the expense and abuse of the petition system is obviated.

These subjects are: First—An amendment to section 2 of article II of the state constitution authorizing a reasonable and practical registration law. The existing law is the source of almost universal abuse, and the number of voters who neglect to register and who swear in their votes on election day is continually increasing. If a man has not interest enough as a citizen to register prior to election, he ought not to vote.

Second—An amendment to the constitution transferring probate jurisdiction from the county courts to the circuit courts. There is no more important branch of the law than that which has to do with the estates of decedents, and the administration of estates ought always to be under the control and direction of men versed in the law. Few county judges are lawyers, and they necessarily are obliged to affix their signatures to papers of which they have little comprehension. There is abundant work for the county courts in the administration of the affairs of the counties.

Third—An amendment to the election laws abolishing the primaries altogether and permitting all candidates to go direct to the people at the gen-

eral election. The existing system in this state is a farce. Most of our citizens register as Republicans, vote in the Republican primaries and then the state either goes Democratic or totters on the edge of Democracy. Far better abandon the primary election and save the state and the counties the expense, which will probably aggregate \$150,000.

The writer has no notion that the members of the legislature will pay any attention to these suggestions, but perhaps the people may give them consideration. STEPHEN A. LOWELL.

Striking Russia's Sustenance. As the German lines have swept through the rich valleys of the Danube, close observers in all quarters have almost simultaneously perceived that it was not Bucharest but Odessa that formed the goal of the German advance. The rich wheat fields of the Odessa territory have been the sustenance of Russia's hordes for generations. No greater blow could be struck at the allies than the capture of this fruitful source of Russian bread.

Day after day unfolds the plans of the German generals. And each unfolding shows that the German plan was well laid and carefully executed. Each event brings forcibly to the minds of the Allies that Germany has a plan which she can follow, while the Allies must change plans from day to day as the exigencies of the campaign brings new thought to them. It is not so much a battle of wealth and men as it is a contest of wits and understanding. — Portland Deutsche Zeitung.

We invite your careful consideration of our Xmas Candies and Nuts, Standard Groceries, Choice Fruits and Vegetables.

We wish you one and all a Merry Xmas.

MAMMOTH GROCERY

Phone Main 82

1211 Adams Ave.