

THE OBSERVER

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1916.

THRIFT

A dime a day saved at 5 per cent interest would amount in 20 years to \$1200.

Here is a little table that tells the story: End of Interest

Table showing interest earned over 21 years at 5% per annum, starting with a \$100 investment.

And the place to put savings is in the bank. If everybody saved a little, how much better off the world would be. If the money were safely kept you would not read of homes robbed for hoarded wealth or people losing their money buried in tin cans.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Road Work.

Two general plans of doing road work have been familiar to Wallowa county. The first is the old system of road supervisors, one of whom is appointed for each district. The district's share of the county road money, as determined by its proportion of taxes paid for this purpose, is given to the supervisor and he is supposed to use to build and maintain roads in the territory. The second is the system of appointing one supervisor for the entire county, who shall hire subordinates for the different divisions, and lay out and direct their work.

It is not too much to say that neither system has been satisfactory. The first plan gives wide latitude to the District supervisors, who may and may not be qualified for the technical work of road building. They hold office regardless of merit once they are appointed. There is a tendency for the men they employ to take their work too lightly, putting in few hours of labor a day and not overexerting themselves in those few hours. The needless sense of direct responsibility of worker to employer is lacking.

The other system in theory is excellent. With a man possessed of technical knowledge and experience, a fair and impartial mind, and plenty of backbone, it would seem that the county could get full value for its road money. But the job is so large, the territory is so great, that a man hardly can get over it often enough to keep it going, without subordinates of great skill and industry. With its defects, this system probably produces better results than the plan it displaced.

Still a third system has been suggested, of dividing the county into perhaps three districts with a paid supervisor over each. These supervisors could be hired, and not appointed. That is to say they would be employees, to be retained as long as their services were satisfactory, and not officers who could be removed only after the red tape of formal charges and an investigation.

Along with these questions which will come before the new county court is another, that of distribution of the money and work. A law has been on the statute books requiring that each road district receive 70 per cent of the road money it paid in taxes. There are districts—the wealthiest in the county—which never have received a cent of road money, and for a considerable time have had none of it expended near their borders. The theory has been that other districts needed it more. But common justice demands that the man who pays a tax should get some benefit from it; else how justify the tax? If the tax money you pay is not to be expended for your benefit, you ought at the very least to have some say as to where it is expended.

How About The Dalles?

Patriotism will doubtless inspire nearly every citizen to reply that it is. But a little reflection may cause doubt. And before the question can be intelligently answered, it is necessary to have a definite idea as to what constitutes municipal cleanliness. How are we to know if The Dalles is as clean as it ought to be? Utah furnishes a standard. The Utah state board of health has worked out a system by which any community may be judged. There are 15 items to be considered. Every one of them has its given number of credit points, totaling 100.

First comes sewer disposal. That is perfect, the city gets a credit mark of fifteen. Perfectly clean stables, clean disposal of manure, etc. give another fifteen points.

For garbage collection and disposal the perfect mark is ten. Likewise with the water supply. These four items represent the things of supreme importance, although ten points are allowed also for the condition of the streets, alleys and parks.

The remaining eight items are given five points each. They are sanitation of schoolhouses, sanitary marketing of food, presence of flies, sanitation of the home, general appearance of homes and barns, lawns and flower gardens, vacant lots and fences.

Needless to say, no town got a mark of 100 in the board of health survey. Richfield, a town of about 3000 people, led the list with 73.5, which considering the present imperfect state of municipal life is extremely creditable. Salt Lake City followed closely with 72.5 and Ogden with 70.5. In other words, these unusually "clean cities" are hardly three-fourths clean.

Considering the Utah standard, how would you rate The Dalles?

Road Building in Oregon

The trouble with road building in Oregon is that we are too haphazard about it. We do not plan far enough ahead. We do a little work here and a little there. We contrive to spend a great deal of money and in the course of time we bring about considerable improvement. The roads of Lane county, for instance, are much better than they were 10 years ago, but the improvement is not accomplished in such a way as to bring about the most good.

The Register has long contended that in Lane county we ought to determine upon a system of market roads that will best serve the entire county's needs and then proceed to concentrate our efforts as much as possible on these roads. They ought to be taken out from under the supervisor system and placed in the county's hands so that local efforts could be expended wholly on improvement of side roads leading into these main market roads. Then, when the system was finally complete, the entire county would be within reach of market centers.

These market roads ought to be well graded, well drained and as well surfaced as the money at hand will permit, but above all they ought to be so maintained that the work done on them each year will not be lost. The only effective way to do this is by adoption of the patrol system.—Eugene Register.

Hog Raising Profitable.

We learn incidentally that one Salem firm has during the year just passed done a business of more than \$80,000 in the purchasing of hogs in the valley. With the acclimating of corn and the assurance of it being a crop that can be relied on, the raising of hogs will become one of the leading farm industries. The farmer who turns his crop into pork or beef is to that extent a manufacturer, and makes besides the farm profit the manufacturer's profit also. Hog products will never again be cheap in this country and the field is the most promising one from a financial viewpoint now available to the farmer. A story is told of an Irishman in the old country who was asked by a visitor why he did not turn the pig out of the cabin and who replied: "Turn him out, is it? Sure he is the gentleman who pays the rent." He was right too, for he will not only pay the rent but will start an account at the bank and make it grow.—Salem Capital Journal.

The Mounting Price of Paper.

The federal government is continuing its hearings upon the problem of the increasing price of newspaper stock and the majority of the newspapers of the country are represented either by counsel or by a representative of state organizations. The problem is becoming serious even for the rich and powerful metropolitan papers and the doubling of subscription for all papers and periodicals is imminent. There seems at present no other way out of the difficulty. An effort is being made to reach a measure of relief by readjusting the methods of distribution and that perhaps may stave off the inevitable for a season, but higher prices must soon affect the general public.

At the hearing now in progress in Washington before the Federal Trade Commission, more than ten thousand papers are protesting and asking for relief. The evidence shows that the price of newspaper, that used by the average daily and weekly publications, has increased \$80 per ton and that either the price of news stock must be reduced or an increased price must be paid by the subscribers. The profits of the publishers are being almost wholly wiped away. Some of the Southern representatives at the hearing are asking that the Department of Justice shall begin prosecution of the paper combine under the anti-trust laws.—Pendleton Tribune.

Land Opening in January.

Boardman, Dec. 28.—(Special)—The second opening of lands under West Extension of the Umatilla Project will take place some time near the last week of the coming January. All the laterals of the distributing system for supplying water for the new lands have been completed and the government is now busy mapping out the farm units. These units will average in size about 40 acres. Larger tracts of private lands up to 160 acres may be secured. About 5000 acres will be included in the opening. Between 30 and 40 good homesteads tracts will be thrown open for settlement. These are good level tracts and the soil is first class for alfalfa and diversified products.

These Winter Evenings

A recent issue of the La Grande Observer drew a fairly pen picture of the winter evenings of yesterday. How old and young enjoyed those evenings with the log fire, books, apples, conversations, etc. But to apply those evenings to the life of today! How can that be when father must go to lodge or to the card party or the latest social function; son to his great business of courting; school boy or girl to practice for some school doing; all the family to the movies; not to mention church services, neighborly call and parties and all the other calls from the home life of today. Sweet dreams of the home life of the past. Thou art good to think of and to wish for in our busy life of today.—Wallowa Sun.

Moral Effect of the War.

La Grande, Dec. 28.—(To the Editor of The Observer)—The following extract from a letter received, from an old school master of mine, describing the moral effect of the war on the English people, will be of interest to many of your readers.

"This old country is a very changed land, what loomed so large two and a half years ago, on our horizon of life, is assuming its proper proportions, and we are well aware of our frivolities and their hollowness and unreality. We are seeing things from a different standpoint, and are thinking much of how the coming generation of our young ones are going to meet the problems, which they will have to face.

Well, I am sure of this, that nothing but the war would have awakened us, and that owing to the war, the country is finding its very soul, and learning that there is a vast reserve of spiritual power which at present we have made no use of."

"The great Realities of Life have forced themselves upon us, and we have found out that we have got to 'wrestle until the thigh is out of joint.' I trust the young generation may be brought up in such a way that they will find new power given them. God grant it may be so.

"I am an old crock now, but I often long that I had my old school-mastering days over again, and I would see if I couldn't turn them to better account.

"I have a terrible long list of dear boys, who have made the great sacrifice—82 already in my Bible: not 'lost'. No, I never use that word. They have given their all for us, and they are working with us now, still with us. They ministering on one side of the veil, and we on the other, in the presence of the same Christ, 'the ministry of the Great Unseen.' There is one question which suggested itself to my mind on reading the above, which is: 'Will it be necessary for us to go through this awful ordeal in order to find our souls?' Unless we repent, no power on earth can save us from it. The parable of Dives and Lazarus, is being enacted over here, as it was in Europe, before the war. That parable has been usually interpreted to teach that Dives by his selfishness and pleasure loving life lost his soul irretrievably, like Esau, too late, he found no place for repentance, though he sought it carefully and with tears. But a closer study of the parable lends itself to the idea, that Dives was finding his soul through torment in Hades. This ordeal was so severe that he wished to save his brethren from it. So Europe now, being in torments, wishes to save us from her fate. This calamity has fallen upon her, because she had neglected the things which concerned her true peace. The prophetic strains of Kipling's Recessional, may well voice our supplications, as we look out towards the dawn of the coming year:

"If drunk with sight of power, we loose Wild tongues that have not Thee in awe— Such boasting as the Gentiles use! Or lesser breeds without the law— Lord God of Hosts, be with us ye, Lest we forget—lest we forget!"

"For heathen heart that puts her trust In reeking tube and iron shard— All valiant dust that builds on dust, And guarding calls not Thee to guard— For frantic boast and foolish word, Thy mercy on Thy people, Lord! Amen."

UPTON H. GIBBS.

The Lotus Baby.

A lotus blossom bloomed one day In sunshine and in shower; It changed a garden far away Into a fairy bower; The iris smiled to see it there, The lilies swayed to meet it, And butterflies, all rainbow-hued, Came softly out to greet it. The temple bells rang far away, A distant silver calling; And from the fragrant cherry trees A rosy snow was falling. And oh, the lotus blossom laughed To see a world so glowing. And folded back its petals till Its golden heart was showing.

A lotus blossom bloomed one day; The sky was blue above it; And Fujiyama, snowy-crowned, Seemed bending down to love it; An old world charm was in the air, Of sandalwood and singing; And oh, the lotus blossom laughed And as its laughter, ringing, Rose up to God, he smiled and said That such a winsome flower Should give its sweetness to the earth For longer than an hour.

And when the night came softly down, And all the world lay sleeping, His angels left their home above, And, through the garden creeping, They came to where the lotus bloomed, And touched its heart so gleaming. They kissed it gently with a prayer, And left as daylight, beaming, Swept through the misty veil of night, And as the sun came creeping, Where there had been a lotus bloom I saw a baby sleeping! —Margaret E. Sangster, Jr., in The Christian Herald.

An aggregate of \$2,164,851,210 was paid out by the railroads in 1913 for expenses, equivalent to \$23.50 for every man, woman and child in the United States.

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RISE OF COMMON PEOPLE OF RUSSIA GREAT EVENT OF WAR

While No Great Victories Have Been Won on Sea, or Land a Reorganization Making the Government More Democratic and Industry More Efficient Has Been Forced By the National Peril—Munitions Output Quadrupled

Mr. Simms spent most of the year in Russia. This review, written after his return to Paris, is based upon his study of conditions while in Russia, and upon information from his Russian news sources subsequent to his departure.

EDITOR.

BY WM. PHILIP SIMMS

United Press Staff Correspondent. Paris, Dec. 14.—(By Mail).—Whatever Russia may do in the future, 1916 will be set down as one of the greatest years in her history. No period in all her national development has been more significant, not even the 'Sixties which marked the liberation of the Serfs.

During 1916 the Russian people, the common people, seem to have found themselves and their place in the Empire. Their position may not yet be very clearly defined but the future, Russian students believe, will look after that.

Russia, in the last year, has accomplished much. She recovered from the blow Germany dealt her in East Prussia, Poland, and Galicia. She completed building a brand new army in the field. She called to the colors another army, twice as big, which she holds in readiness for any emergency which the war may cause. She sent troops to France and to Salonika, via Siberia and Vladivostok and another army she sent to help Roumania when that country joined up with the Allies.

In the meantime she resumed the offensive in Galicia and completely disrupted the Austrian armies there, taking well over half million prisoners. And in Asia Minor she waged a powerful campaign against the Turks beyond the Caucasus.

These are tremendous accomplishments when one remembers what Russia was up against in 1915, when she had, during her great retreat, but one shell a day, per battery, to fire against the advancing Germans. The Minister of War judged responsible for the bulk of the Army's misfortunes, M. Soukoominoff was arrested in the spring of 1916 and placed in the Peter and Paul prison on an island in the Neva.

Test Year Of No Vodka. This was the test year on "No Vodka." The Imperial decree abolishing Vodka came, it is true, in the fall of 1914, but 1915 was not a true trial. Russia, that year was getting over her jag, so to speak, and it was only in 1916 that a steady, sober Russia got a chance to show what she could do.

Savings banks accounts went up by leaps and bounds. Peasants constituting 80 per cent of the country's population of 170,000,000, were never so well off in their lives. They were better fed, better clothed, put in on an average double the number of working hours a day, and sickness was reduced to an incredible degree. One hospital, one correspondent knows of, had 1500 beds. Prior to 1915 it was overflying all the time having some 2000 patients to care for as best it could. Now 1000 beds have been sent to a military hospital because there are never more than 400 patients to care for.

This year saw the formation of a Central Committee to co-ordinate the work of all-Russian Zemstvo Union and the All-Russian Municipality Union, two organizations composed of Russian plain people banded together to help the Empire run the war.

Through this committee every man woman and child was brought more or less directly into touch with the war and perhaps it has done more to make the war a "popular" war than any other movement. The Zemstvo Union,

love all, is a peoples' concern and the Zemstvos have instructed the peasants and common people generally throughout Russia as to what the war means to them and the importance of carrying it on to a successful finish.

Communities At Work

Each state in the United States is divided up into counties. If each county had a board composed partly of farmers, partly of village merchants or other property holders there and partly of landowners, this board would correspond to the Russian Zemstvo board which is charged with road-building, schools and hospitals of its district. It is easy to see the influence of a Zemstvo board on the rural population.

The Municipality Union is doing in the cities what the Union of all the Zemstvos is doing in the country. These two peoples' associations during 1916 have made millions of garments for soldiers, enlisted the services of women all over the land, fed tens of thousands of refugees from the invaded districts, equipped and operated hundreds of hospitals, furnishing the necessary supplies themselves; established tea and coffee rooms for the free distribution of these beverages; aided the government feel the soldiers at the front, furnished laborers in many instances to dig trenches, build bridges, pontoons, etc.; in a general way, they have solidified the Russian Empire by having the people work with the soldiers for the common cause.

This work was begun early in the war. In 1916 it made such headway that no one can dispute its magnitude today nor its probable influence on the Russia of the future. Similar to the Zemstvo and Municipality Unions in that it is an organization growing out of public spirit, is the Committee which during 1916 mobilized the small industries of Russia to help the army with munitions. There are several large munitions factories in Russia which deal direct with the War department, but there are hundreds of little foundries, machine shops, mills and works of all sorts too small to do business of this sort alone. The Committee grouped all these, put specialists in charge of district groups, and had them fill orders for the government. The little industries were thus grouped into one big industry by a Committee of patriotic men who receive no pay for their service, though, of course, the little shops are paid for whatever they supply the army.

Output Of Munitions Quadrupled. Russia's own output of munitions more than quadrupled during 1916 through these and other expedients. The little concerns could not make great siege guns, of course, but they could and do make trench mortars, hand grenades, caissons cannon wheels, hatchets, spades, the smaller shells and what not.

Furthermore they have built tanneries for taking care of enormous quantities of Russian hides; built or enlarged factories for making the necessary tanning chemicals; built new boot and shoe factories and enlarged the old ones to make footwear for the troops; established enormous repairing plants to redeem leaky and worn army boots. They employ scores of thousands of poor people, mostly women, thus giving material aid in time of need. Schools for mechanics, chauffeurs and other specialists are maintained to supply the army with experts and automobile repair shops are operated by the Committee all along the front.

(Continued on Page Eight.)

Happy New Year

To you and your's, we wish you a happy New Year's Day—a day whose joys may abide with you through many, many days to come. We wish that it finds you a better and richer man or woman, than last year. If not, why not? Now, today, open an account with us. Make a resolution that the close of the new year will see you better off than you now are.

What is Your Decision?

La Grande National Bank