

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. E. LEITER, Vice President, CLARKE LEITER, Editor and Publisher.

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

Address all communications to THE OBSERVER, 1710 Sixth Street.

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

City Official Paper. Member United Press Associations.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

By Carrier. Daily, single copy 5c. Daily, per week 15c. Daily, per month 50c. 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.

MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 1917

CONSTRUCTIVE RAILROADING

"Constructive" is a favorite word of William Hanley's. When he says a thing is "constructive," he means it is building up instead of tearing down, building for the future and not a hand-to-mouth proposition.

"Constructive" railroading is that which builds up the country tributary to the railroad, figuring that the prosperity and welfare of the territory will bring traffic and business and prosperity to the railroad. There is more of this going on in the country than people have any idea of. That is why railroads have industrial experts, colonizing agents, and agricultural experts in order to help the people of their territory. The work of the O-W. R. & N. in introducing corn into Oregon is an example of this constructive railroading, renting the O-W. R. & N. right of way to farmers who will farm it is another, and recently we ran across an article telling of the recent action of the Southern Pacific in granting a low rate for hauling lime rock.

This is an important matter to the farmers of the Willamette valley. The Southern Pacific granted the rate with the sole object of promoting the use of agricultural lime in the hope of increasing production. The railroads are to be commended for doing these "constructive" things.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

OREGON IRRIGATION PROBLEM

Men who have devoted much study to the subject of irrigation realize that it has many sides, and that the many failures which strew the road of progress have been due to neglect to look at it on all sides.

The way out seems to be the loan of the Government's credit to guarantee bonds issued by districts on projects which are pronounced feasible by the Reclamation Service. As guarantor the Government would, through the Secretary of the Interior, examine the whole scheme and safeguard itself against loss before giving its guaranty. Under these conditions bonds should sell at 4 per cent interest, and a fixed rate of 5 per cent a year should pay interest and repay principal by amortization in fifty years. That is the substance of the provisions of the Chamberlain-Smith bill, which has been introduced in both branches of congress. The state can pave the way for its adoption by making any change in its irrigation law which may be needed.

There is a close relation between the financing of irrigation enterprises and the success of Mr. Strahorn's railroad enterprise. The railroad will be largely dependent on the product of irrigation land for traffic and the farmer will be dependent on the railroad for transportation. The success of each will contribute materially—indeed, may be essential—to the success of the other. The prosperity of Portland is closely bound up with the success of both, for the state is top heavy with urban population, which is concentrated chiefly in Portland. The welfare of the city depends on the restoration of the balance between urban and rural population, for which we must look mainly to the development of Central Oregon. This is attainable by the combination of railroad and irrigation. The highest interest of the city requires it to work

Extraordinary Opportunity to Save Money on Quality Merchandise During This January Clearance Sale - Money Saving Prices Throughout the Entire Store



Long Cloth, 36-in. wide, yard 13 1-2c, 16 2-3c. Princess Nainsook, yard 13 1-2c, 15 3-4c, 18c, 20c. Mercerized Nainsook, 42-in wide, yard 13 1-2c to 22 1-2c. India Linen, Extra Quality, yard 13 1-2c to 16 2-3c.

Dress Gingham, New Patterns, 1st quality, yard 11c to 16 2-3c. Outing Flannel, Extra Heavy, plain and fancy patterns, yd. 11c. Cretonnes, a big selection, yd. 13 1-2c, 18c, 22c, 27c. Serims, yard 12 1-2c, 15c, 20c, 22c.

64-in. Extra Fine Mercerized Damask, yard 54c. 66-in. Loom Heavy Weight Damask, yard 67 1-2c. 62-in. All Linen Satin Damask, 1st quality, yard 81c.

Your choice of any Ladies' Suit or Coat in the store. Latest styles, newest fabrics. Your Choice 1-2 Price.

Entire Stock Waists, Dresses, Skirts 1-4 Off.

Turkish Towels, full bleached Turkish Towels, full bleached Turkish Towels, full bleached Turkish Towels, full bleached 17x38, each 15c. 18x38, each 18c. 22x45, each 22c. 23x45, each 45c. Turkish Towels, colored ends 20x42, each 45c. 18-in. All Linen Crash Toweling, yard 16c, 18c, 20c. 18-in. Cotton Huckaback Toweling, heavy weight, yard 11c. 18-in. Unbleached Union Crash, extra quality, yard 11c.

64-in. Extra Heavy All Linen Satin Damask, yard \$1.12 1-2c. 72-in. Extra Fine, 1st quality, all linen damask, yard \$1.57 1-2c. Entire Stock Wool Dress Goods, Silks and Velvets—Reduced.

Entire Stock Men's Suits and Overcoats, Reduced 25 per cent.

Your Choice of any Boys' Suits or Overcoat 1-4 Off.

Sheep-Lined Coats, Mackinaws, Malone Pants 1-4 Off.



for the success of both enterprises, since it must draw its strength mainly from the development of the back country.—The Oregonian.

This Is Easy.

A La Grande youth is reported to have invented a process for taking photographs by wireless, but he will have to demonstrate that he can take them without the wrinkles before his invention will be commercially valuable.—Portland Journal.

Educating the East.

The decisive and overwhelming victory of the University of Oregon football team at Pasadena means more than a mere athletic triumph, for it is significant of the growth importance of the west. It is one of a number of signs that the east must hereafter take the Pacific coast into consideration as an important factor in the nation's life.

In the past eastern sport writers have been inclined to look upon western athletics in much the same spirit as big league players regard sandlot baseball. Occasionally they are willing to admit that the west sometimes produces an athlete who is entitled to honorable mention along toward the end of the story, and during the present season Walter Camp went so far as grudgingly to accord an American player a place on his third all-American team. To have put a coast man on his mythical first team would have outraged all the proprietors, and a shocked protest would have gone up—that is, before the recent classic at Pasadena.

The attitude of the sport writers has been fairly typical of eastern opinion of the west. The east has clasped to its bosom the cherished theory that the west is chiefly inhabited by cowboys in chaps and six-shooters, and has refused to believe that anything grows west of the Mississippi river save cactus and sage brush.

The University of Oregon victory at Pasadena will do its share toward dispelling this impression. It is true that an inter-sectional football game is not an event of such commanding importance that its outcome may be expected to overturn in a moment the settled convictions of years, but the west's victory on the gridiron, coming on the heels of the west's spectacular part in the recent election, will start eastern people to thinking.—Eugene Register.

Living Beyond Our Means.

(Salem Capital Journal.)

It is always a pitiful spectacle that of people with short incomes trying to emulate in their mode of living and expenditures those who are abundantly able to live and spend as they do regardless of the sum total so spent. To the person with a moderate income such a course makes life a nightmare, and the struggle for show pathetic. For such persons the average ethic has a feeling of pity mingled with contempt. And yet these misguided ones are only trying to live beyond their means. All of us except possibly some who are in the class referred to, consider it silly and inexcusable; and yet that is exactly when we, the people of Oregon, are trying to do. We

are emulating in our expenditures the states with three to seven or eight times our population and many times our wealth.

The state of Oregon is as large as the state on New York and Pennsylvania combined. It has a population well up toward 900,000. New York has more than 10,000,000 and Pennsylvania about 8,000,000.

La Grande's New Manager.

The Recorder editor, in common with hundreds of others, is glad to note that Fred B. Currey has been appointed city manager of La Grande. His appointment is a just recognition of his abilities. Fred Currey has been a live spirit ever since coming to Union county many years ago; he has been aggressive in all his undertakings and in carrying out many of La Grande's enterprises a lot of the citizens there always felt pretty much like "letting Fred do it." And when Fred started he usually made a good finish, at least if there was an end to the movement. Fred Currey has spent as much time, and time is money, in boosting Union county and La Grande as any resident within our knowledge, and when La Grande selected him as her city manager it gave Fred only that which was due him.

The Recorder predicts that Fred will give his city excellent service and will more than earn his salary. Success to you, Fred.—Editor L. B. Tuttle in the Elgin Recorder.

God's Purpose in—Peace

Principles of right and justice were never determined by war. Strength of numbers, equipment and resources may be tested by war; trade supremacy may be won by war; domain may be extended and maintained by war; thrones may be seized and held by it—such issues as these may be settled by force of skill, of energy, or of arms. But principles of right and justice are above and beyond the contending forces of battling nations, as the serene sunshine ever beams above and beyond the stormclouds. War obscures these principles and blinds us to them. Only the calm of peace can let the clear sunshine through to us.

Let us awake from the hideous nightmare of "God's purpose in war" to the beautiful and abiding conviction of God's purpose in peace.

Let us seek to set above all political, commercial and financial considerations the sacred right of mankind to be at peace.

It is peace the world is to cry for, to strive for, to pray for.

Peace alone can bind up the wounds of war and set the world's wrongs right.—The Christian Herald.

Praise For Union Pacific.

In connection with embargo notices issued by Union Pacific and Oregon Short Line, made necessary because of certain prevailing conditions which are most unusual, the following editorial comment from a prominent and representative newspaper on the Pacific coast is quoted: "Fine Railroading"

"At a time when an embargo on the exportation of foodstuffs is under discussion in the public press, one of the great railroad systems of the country has been compelled itself to lay an embargo on certain classes of freight, being driven to the action by the unprecedented volume of business that is offered. In the period extending from December 26th to January 7th the Union Pacific will refuse to accept freight for delivery at any point that can be reached by another railroad. It deliberately withdraws itself from competition and requires that freight that can reach destination over a competing railroad shall be sent over that road. It is reserving all its facilities exclusively for the service of communities on its route that are dependent upon its exclusively. In order to fulfill its functions in that respect the road deliberately foregoes the profits to be derived from the carriage of freight to competitive points.

"We think the Union Pacific has chosen wisely, and has set a fine standard of railroad ethics. The period over which the embargo extends will enable the road to clean up its terminals, make distribution to all points on its lines and prepare the whole system for resumption of ordinary traffic. There are railroads that would not hesitate to squeeze the communities wholly dependent upon them rather than let even a carload of competitive freight be diverted to a rival railroad. The Union Pacific pursued exactly the opposite course and suspends its fight for competitive business so that it may better serve the interests of the people who are wholly dependent upon it. Admirable in principle, this course cannot fail to prove profitable in policy. That sort of railroad management builds up in those it serves an abiding sense of loyalty."

WOMAN GOVERNMENT TAKES OREGON TOWN FROM MEN

Umatilla, Ore., Jan. 8.—(United Press)—Umatilla's city government passed this week into the hands of a woman administration. From Mrs. Laura Starcher, mayor, down to the police department all officials are of the gentler sex except two lonely males who must serve as "holdovers" in the council.

E. E. Starcher, railroad telegrapher, handed over the robes of office to his wife. He vacated the little room where he has directed the town's destinies for many months and the madam took the helm. One of Mrs. Starcher's first acts will be to name the woman police force.

"A woman can do the work," said Mayor Starcher, "better than any man." She added that if any obstreperous lawbreaker invaded Umatilla during the female regime, a man or something would be designated to handle the situation, under orders from the chiefess.

On taking office Mrs. Starcher promised the city a business administration, and said she would effect improvements her husband's regime failed to attempt.

January 10th last day to pay water rent without penalty. 1-8-2t

LLOYD GEORGE'S HEAD IS GETTING LONGER

London, Dec. 15.—(United Press by Mail)—Lloyd George's head is a growing institution.

Prof. J. Millett Severn, a consulting phrenologist, examined the British premier's head back in 1903 and found it to measure nearly 28 inches around the "perceptives." A later examination showed that the lapse of years had increased the circumference more than a yard of an inch.

"This goes to prove that as the mind is exercised the brain and head are subject to a larger development," said Professor Severn. "This growth can continue after the subject has reached adult age."

When he examined Lloyd George's head the second time Severn told the present premier of the development. His judgment was borne out by the man who makes the leader's hats. He said Lloyd George was taking a larger bonnet than before.

Severn has not had an opportunity to examine the premier's head since the new cabinet was formed.

To Protect the Blind.

Spokane, Wash., Jan. 8.—(Special)—Henceforth the blind men of Spokane, several of whom are earning their livelihood as newsboys or street vendors, will not be compelled to take chances with being struck by an automobile or street car. To end the perils which beset these sightless men at dangerous street crossings, several boy scouts have volunteered their services as pilots for the blind. These scouts have assumed a sort of a guardianship over the blind and will guide them each morning to their places of employment, and see that they reach home safely each night. "Do a good turn daily" is the scout slogan, and by helping the blind the scouts feel that they have found another commendable way of doing something worth while.

P. H. S. TO DROP OUT OF LEAGUE

Pendleton, Jan. 8.—(Special)—The local high school debating teams have decided to drop out of the Oregon debating league owing to the fact that several of the members will drop out of school with the ending of the semester. The teams were to have debated on the 10th of this month and were studying hard on the debate, but as the teams could not have con-

tested farther on account of the ending of the semester, they thought it advisable to drop out and devote all of their time to public speaking.

Pendleton's dropping out of the league will only leave five Umatilla towns in the league and it is probable that others may drop out before the first debate. The main cause for the dropping out of many of the teams, has been the trouble in preparing the hard question and the failure to secure suitable reading material.

CARNIVAL TO BE ATTENDED

Pendleton Will Send Delegation to St. Paul Festivities.

Pendleton, Ore., Jan. 6.—(Special)—Pendleton is making effort to send a good-sized delegation to the annual midwinter carnival of sports to be held in St. Paul this month. The Round-Up association has authorized President T. D. Taylor to attend the festival as its representative and Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Judd, Dr. and Mrs. Kern and others are contemplating making the trip.

R. C. Bishop, of Salem, will join the Pendleton party as representative of the Pendleton woolen mills, which furnished several thousand suits for the Northern Pacific and Great Northern marching clubs.

Cove Mill Not to Run.

Cove, Ore., Jan. 8.—(Special)—The new Cove flouring mill is not to be operated by its new Cove proprietors, M. J. Duffy and Lieurence Bros. This mill, 75 barrels a day capacity, was erected by Edward Reynolds, of La Grande, on the site of the E. P. McDaniels modernized pioneer mill, which was destroyed by fire six years ago. The people within the territory covered by the Cove mill have been deprived of the advantages of having a flouring mill in their own town by litigation, which resulted finally in the sale of the mill property last fall under foreclosure.

The mine output for 1916 was three billions of dollars. The hen out-classes the mines. Egg production goes beyond that figure. The Guggenheims and Rockefellers should set a few biddies this spring.—Pendleton Tribune.

January 10th last day to pay water rent without penalty. 1-8-2t

SPECIAL Tuesday & Wednesday GOOD LINE OF COATS \$3.50 Jones & Rabone West Building