

THE OBSERVER

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Advertising rates on application.

MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 1917

OUR SUPPLY OF GOLD

Gold is pouring into the United States in such huge sums as to worry financiers of the nation.

The remedy, says Thomas W. Latta, of the Morgan firm, is to lend to the foreign nations.

This gold is received in payment of supplies and munitions of war we are selling to the Allies. In other words we are keeping our factories busy and shipping out the products of farms and receiving gold there.

It is a question which is more important than the products of labor and raw materials. Just now the era of high prices shows that gold is important. Loans to the foreign nations probably insure a balance of trade in our favor after the war is over, which supplemented by a protective tariff will probably insure the stability of our manufacturing. If we in the meantime build up trade relations with South America by making loans down there we will probably be in a position to keep things moving.

There is no doubt that the huge influx of gold in financial centers like New York are likely to encourage market gambling.

The remedy is for the financiers of

New York to encourage South American trade, and trade with neutral nations as they are doing and also to start an era of internal improvements, canal building, improvements of waterways, railroad construction and irrigation development. These are all concerns which will occupy American labor after the war and develop the country. Now is a good time for a big statesman-like program of internal development which will increase the efficiency and prosperity of the country both in times of peace and war.

THE GRAZING HOMESTEADS

We believe that the new grazing homestead bill will be of use in the development of the west. The bill was recently printed in full in the columns of The Observer. It will mean that thousands of acres of land, not suited for intensive agriculture will pass into private ownership. Entries will be passed on and inspected by the interior department. Timber land, agricultural land, mineral land will be excluded. It is good to see an old time land rush at La Grande. It shows that land hunger still exists, that there are still people with the courage and determination to attempt to get ahead by filing on and entering upon public land. These are the people who made the west, and

they will make it again. It will not all be easy sledding, there is land to be fenced, hay to be raised where possible, but the whole movement means more livestock and more wealth.

MINIMUM SCHOOL TERM

Forty-four states have established by law a minimum term of from 60 to 180 days term of school for each organized district, according to a bulletin just issued by the department of the interior through its bureau of education. J. C. Muerman, who compiled the bulletin, points out that four states, Louisiana, Alabama, Rhode Island, and Georgia, have no minimum requirement laws, but that one of these, Rhode Island, has for over 10 years maintained the longest average term in the United States. While the minimum number of days required is almost invariably much less than the actual average number of days in the school term for the state, a majority of the states still report many schools unable to meet even the low minimum requirements. Within the past three years, 12 states—Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Maine, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Vermont and Wyoming—have added from 10 to 60 days to the legal requirement of a minimum school term.

Some of the factors that have operated in favor of a longer school term, aside from the general awakening of public sentiment, are the phenomenal growth of the public high schools, the development of state financial aid for weak districts, equalization funds, and penalties for not maintaining a minimum term required by law.

The growth of the public high schools has tended to lengthen the term in the elementary schools by setting up standards of admission by certificate or examination which can ordinarily be met by grade schools with a term of at least eight months.

"Lack of provision for adequate funds is perhaps the greatest hindrance to a longer school term," declares Mr. Muerman. "A majority of the states have fully realized the necessity for more state financial assistance and have enacted laws giving state aid to weak districts to enable them to maintain a minimum school term. A wise provision in most of these laws makes the levy of a specified minimum rate of local taxation necessary and provides for a certain specified standard of school before aid becomes available. These laws are, as a rule, intended to help only those who first help themselves. The necessity of greater local cooperation and aid is urged in the 1912 report of the state superintendent of public instruction for Georgia. This report calls attention to a tendency to lean too heavily upon state aid, and cites the laws of another state which require a county levy of not less than a specified amount before state aid can be secured."

In answer to an inquiry from the commissioner of education, over one-half of all the state superintendents have expressed a willingness to cooperate in securing a uniform 160 days' term for all schools, including rural schools. This would represent considerable improvement over the present average of 137.7 days.

If Union county is to have a rural credits association, now is the time to start it.

The Governor has done well in re-appointing Harvey Wells insurance commissioner. He is an able and efficient state official.



Great Annual Clearance Sale---Ends Wed., Jan. 17

Read Items Below---Attend This Sale---Take Advantage of These Wonderful Bargains

Positively the Greatest Suit Buying Opportunity Ever Offered

Table listing suit sale prices: All \$15.00 Suits, Sale Price \$ 7.50; All \$20.00 Suits, Sale Price \$10.00; All \$25.00 Suits, Sale Price \$12.50; All \$30.00 Suits, Sale Price \$15.00; All \$35.00 Suits, Sale Price \$17.50; All \$40.00 Suits, Sale Price \$20.00; All \$45.00 Suits, Sale Price \$25.00.

All Kinds Dresses at 1-4 Off

Silk Waists, Lawn Waists, new styles, all colors 1-4 Off

Silk Petticoats, Reduced 20 Per Cent

Clearance Sale Prices on all Kimonos, House Dresses, Skirts, Blouses, Sweaters, Toques, Rain Coats.

Entire Fur Stock Reduced

Sale of Ladies' Coats, The Finest Garments You Ever Bought at Sale Prices

Table listing ladies' coats sale prices: Regular \$10.00 Coats, Sale Price \$ 5.00; Regular \$12.00 Coats, Sale Price \$ 6.00; Regular \$15.00 Coats, Sale Price \$ 7.50; Regular \$20.00 Coats, Sale Price \$10.00; Regular \$25.00 Coats, Sale Price \$12.50; Regular \$30.00 Coats, Sale Price \$15.00; Regular \$40.00 Coats, Sale Price \$20.00.

A Quick Clean-Up Offering of Our Entire Men's Clothing, Your Choice 1/4 Off

Picked Up By The Stroller

The Stroller strolled into the Observer office the other day, thinking that he might make arrangements with the boss to get on the payroll regular. Mr. Leiter was talking to two stunning looking society ladies. Mr. Meyers and the petite bookkeeper were reading proof. Mr. Dinneen was telling the society editress to dot her "i's" and cross her "t's" so the Stroller strolled into the composing room and watched Mr. Miltenberger doing some A No. 1 presswork, saw Mr. Millard and Mr. Crawford pounding away on the two linotypes machines, Mr. Denny busy setting up a classy ad, Mr. Humphrey feeding the big press, Mr. Jonas and Mr. Phillips trying to put one column of type in half a column hole, while Milton Price was hustling at his work like the efficient apprentice he is.

Altogether it was a hive of industry. Everyone seemed to be working as if they liked it.

Really you ought to see it some day. It's a busy invitation and I like the spirit that pervades it, hard work and efficiency, a good hearty loyal spirit. I strolled back into the front office, saw the society ladies smile sweetly and leave, and Mr. Leiter called me in and gave me a local cigar, he believing in patronizing home industry.

And as I left he gave me a copy of a book telling how Rockefeller is spending his millions on the Rockefeller Foundation fund.

I strolled out and I really didn't have the heart to ask to be put on the payroll.

So I went to my room at the hotel where I live in single blessedness, and listened to the radiator sizzle, and smoked my cigar, which was very good, and read how the Rockefeller fund was chasing germs in Korea, and waging war on the hook-worm in the south, and sending a million to the starving Belgians. And I wondered what I would do if I had all that money.

I know one thing—I'd help out some country editors that I know and give one of 'em at least a liberal endowment.

The Stroller met Clint Van Fleet the other day and found him a nice, clever, genial fellow.

At a banquet the other night Mr. Leiter said red was a very pretty color and Mr. Larison said "Thank you for the compliment."

It's certainly amazing, how many pretty red-headed girls there are in La Grande.

If Salem were not so far away I'd stroll down there and watch Walter Pierce and Albert Small and Senator Barrett and Fred Ashley make some laws.

Strolling is all right but it don't help pay the landlord on Saturday night.

Ted Leiter says a boy told him his teacher told him that it was two months until spring and three months more till summer. It's wonderful how news travels in this town.

Pendleton is also talking about holding an automobile show.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

A Suggestion For Economy.

According to a dispatch from Salem, Secretary of State Olcott in his forthcoming biennial report will recommend that steps be taken toward securing a constitutional amendment and legislation that will eliminate numerous elections and result in throwing all municipal and school elections on the same day as general elections. Figures compiled by the secretary of state's office show that during the years 1913 and 1914 elections cost taxpayers a sum of almost half million.

If Secretary Olcott's suggestions are acted on, we believe that a great economy can be worked. And perhaps a greater interest can be created in municipal elections if they fall on the same day as the general elections. At least, a larger vote will be polled. The municipal elections of Hood River for from the standpoint of electors visiting the polls, have been farces.—Hood River Glacier.

Wasting Time.

Many who have been following the reports of the hearings of the Newlands commission on railroads must have had the impression forced upon them that the inquiry thus far has taken the form more of a dispute between interests having divergent views than an investigation of the general railroad situation. The feature of each day's news of the proceedings is the report of a sharp and often acrimonious and sarcastic debate between the witness for the carriers and examiners. The purpose of some of the questioners seems to be to hold the railroads up to public scorn. The longer that present methods of inquiry are persisted in, the further will the investigation become removed from its object and from the likelihood of constructive benefit.

The indicated purpose of the inquiry is to elucidate the general railroad situation of today, not to rattle old skeletons and engage in disputes as to why there are such skeletons and why they rattle. The report of the Newlands commission, upon the conclusion of the inquiry, will be expected to reveal, without special characterization the evil as well as the good in railroad financing, administration and operation of the present time. But a verbal trouncing of the carriers is uncalled for. Constructive, not destructive, effort is what is needed.—Financial American.

The Whisky Influx

The records of the transportation companies disclose remarkable foresight among thirsty Oregonians. They are laying up stores of wet goods for the coming dry season. There would be a melon cutting like the old days in the directors' rooms of the big express companies were such activity manifest all over the country. The harvest will be short and the rush is necessary. The closed season on booze is near. If the result of the new law shall be a better condition in the state there are none who will longer doubt, but while the state may abolish the sloop and regulate sale of intoxicants, there are certain personal rights which cannot easily or safely be destroyed by law. There is a limit beyond which the majority cannot go and that limit is determined by public sentiment. If bootlegging is rampant when the Legislature closes the door to importations, there is danger to the temperance cause.—Pendleton Tribune.

Mexico's Frightful War Bill.

Great Britain has \$5,250,000,000 invested south of the Rio Grande and in the West Indies. Her investment in Mexico alone is over the \$2,000,000,000 mark. The United States has investments in Mexico approximating the same figure. Many of the mines and oil wells of American interests have been closed down as a result of the watchful waiting policy. Considerable foreign property has been confiscated. There are literally thousands of smaller bills against the Mexican government for destruction of stores, banks and other property and the unlawful taking of life. The whole bill against Mexico finally is likely to total closer to \$1,000,000,000 than \$500,000,000. The foreign claims already listed reach the enormous total of \$400,000,000. The claims of Great Britain alone will reach to \$100,000,000, while the claims of the United States amount to \$125,000,000. Spain probably will be next in line with a bill of \$75,000,000, while Germany, France and other countries will divide the balance. Mexico, as a result of the watchful waiting policy, long since gone in to bankruptcy.—Thomas F. Logan, in Leslie's.

The Passing of the Real Wild West.

With the death of Col. William F. Cody, better known as "Buffalo Bill," the real Wild West passed for he is the last of the great recognized leaders and heroes of the plains. All others that are left are merely baskers in the reflected light cast by them as the exemplification of the West before it had become tamed. With Cooper, Bret Harte, Crockett and the many who breathed the glorious air of the nature of the West while it was undefiled by artificialism and carried it before the rest of the world in story and actions, Col. Cody has passed.

Hereafter the world outside must learn of the olden times from the generation that followed the pioneers from Round Ups, from Harold Bell Wright's from Broadway blonde Barbara Worths, that believe that the western girl's biggest qualities are the carrying of a revolver holster, a swagger and a husky voice, or from moving pictures "artists" whose idea of the pioneers' hardships consisted in falling off a horse.

The real Wild West was an inspiration because it was sincere. It was nature untouched, and nature untouched is great and inspiring because it is sincere and without attempt at imitation. That was why the Wild West was great and why its exemplifiers were welcomed. The people want to know the truth and when that truth is about the undefiled they welcome it.

The imitators that are now appearing will always be doubted because the people know they are not the real people of the sincere Wild West.—Baker Herald.

Complaints, affidavits and legal blanks of every description for sale at The Observer, 1710 Sixth street.

HYOMEI (PRONOUNCED HIGH-O-ME) ENDS CATARRH, ASTHMA, Bronchitis, Croup, Coughs and Colds, or money back. Sold and guaranteed by LA GRANDE PHARMACY La Grande, Ore.

The La Grande National Bank Issues Booklet

"BANKING MADE PLAIN"

Educating the public in a practical knowledge of the simple methods banking is a mission to which enterprising banks all over the country are more and more devoting themselves, and as a means of service the community, one of the latest booklets along this line entitled "Banking Made Plain" is now being distributed by the La Grande National Bank.

The booklet is noteworthy because of condensing into a small space really remarkable amount of practical information, concisely yet dably stated, and typographically attractive.

The forepart of this booklet gives in a concise manner the preliminary requirements of banking in relation to deposits, checks, and accounts. There are fifteen sub-heads under the heading "Accounts", fifty sub-heads under the heading of "Checks", fifteen sub-heads under the heading of "Deposits" and other main headings followed by sub-heads are "Identification", "Overdrafts", "Banking by mail" and how a "Clearing House" operates.

A few of the Sub-heads will serve to indicate the nature and scope of the booklet, as follows:

How to Open an Account, "Forms of Accounts which can be opened", "How to Balance Your Account", "Basic Statement", "Checks for Collection", "Deposits by Mail", "Death of Husband and Wife", "Death of Depositor", etc.

To find more good information under "Checks" such as "How to Draw a Check", "Altered Check", "Lost Check", "Undated", "Post-dated", "To Stop Payment", etc.

The latter part of the booklet deals with what every borrower should know and gives a similar wealth of information and in brief and adequate treatment of such subjects as "Notes", "Internal", "Discounts", "Note Made by Minor", "Note Made by Married Woman", "Negotiability" and many others.

Under the head of "Drafts" and "Bills of Exchange" are "Acceptance", "Acceptance for Honor", "Due Date", "Joint Drawee", "Notice", etc.

It follows "Indorsements", giving an explanation of many kinds of liability of indorsers, following this up with the important subjects of "Protest", "Collections", "Lost Paper", and some very useful "Bank Don'ts".

Any one who wishes a copy need only apply at the bank where they are distributed free.