

JIFFY JELL

Will take place of Gellatine

The price of Gellatine is now so high that lots of housewives will not use it. Therefore we suggest to you to try a package of Jiffy Jell with your next order, 15c.

Irish Mackerel, 2 for 25c

Plenty Fresh Eggs

Oregon Co-Operative Association
1118 1-2 Adams Ave. La Grande, Ore.
—Branches at—
IMBLER, OR. EVANS, OR.

TO BUILD SHIPS AT COST PRICE

Bethlehem Steel Will Make Offer to Uncle Sam.

BIDS ON 16 INCH NAVY SHELLS

No Chance For Profit In Them Under Present Tests, Grace Says—Possible Explanation of the Prices Made by an English Firm Which Bids Under All American Manufacturers.

Speaking recently before the Terrapin Club of Philadelphia, Eugene G. Grace, President of the Bethlehem Steel Company, said in part:

In a peculiar sense Bethlehem Steel serves the American people.

For example, though we have been able to obtain in Europe almost any price, we have adhered, in our charges to the United States Government, to the basis of prices established before the war began.

We agreed—if the Government would abandon its plans for a Federal plant—to make armor for our Navy at any price the Government itself might consider fair.

Our ordnance plants are at the disposal of the nation at a fair operating cost, plus a small margin, thus saving the Government investment and depreciation.

One of the special needs of the new navy is sixteen-inch guns—sixty feet long and capable of hurling a 2000 pound shell with such power and accuracy as to hit a 50 foot square target fifteen miles away.

We have undertaken voluntarily to construct, at a cost of \$4,500,000, a plant fitted to build sixteen-inch guns.

Under no conceivable circumstances can orders which we may receive for this plant pay even a fair return on the investment.

Considerable comment has been made upon the fact that a British manufacturer recently bid less than American manufacturers for sixteen and fourteen-inch shells for the navy.

I am unable to state the basis upon which the English bid was made. It should be remembered, however, that this bid was for a specific shell, samples of which are being sent over for test—a test not yet made.

Two years ago we took an order for 248 fourteen-inch armor-piercing shells at a contract price of \$768,000, to be delivered within a certain time or we had to pay a large penalty.

The only specifications for making these shells are that they shall be of a certain size and must pierce armor-plate at a certain velocity on impact. It is impossible to foretell the exact conditions of the tests.

We had made large quantities of shells in the past which had been accepted. But in placing this particular order the Department altered the angle at which the tested shells must pierce armor-plate. The result, however, has been absolute inability on our part to produce in any quantity, shells which will meet these novel tests. In fact, we know of no process of projectile-making through which it is possible to produce in quantities shells which will conform to the requirements.

The result is that up to now on that contract of \$768,000, we have put into actual operating expense \$447,881, and have been penalized for non-delivery \$435,744, a total of \$883,625, with no receipts whatever.

Such was the experience in the light of which we were called upon recently to bid for sixteen-inch shells.

We bid on these shells at approximately the same rate per pound as that of a fourteen-inch shell contract of one year ago upon which the Government awarded contracts.

We have not the slightest idea what profit there will be in the making of these shells. We do not know that there will be any. There is no certainty that it would be possible for us to deliver a shell to meet the test.

For officers in the Navy to assume that any bid made under such conditions is "exorbitant" is utterly unfair.

We bid on the new battle-cruisers sums which Navy department experts, after examination of our books, found would yield a profit of less than ten per cent. We agreed to assume risks for increased costs of materials and labor, that made it possible that these contracts might yield no profit whatever.

The costs run beyond the amount appropriated by Congress on the basis of the cost estimates made a year ago.

And because shipbuilders could not alter the inexorable cost facts and reduce bids to early estimates of the Navy Department, the prices are called "exorbitant."

It would be a real advantage to be relieved of this naval construction. The profit from it cannot possibly amount to much, and the responsibility is enormous.

We have determined to make this offer to the American Government.

"If you will build two of the battle-cruisers in Government navy yards we will build the other two at the ascertained cost of building the ships in the Government yards, without additional expense or commissions of any kind. We will also contract to have our ships ready for service ahead of the Government ships."

Visitor Praises The Observer's Energy

Melvin G. Winstock, Member of Harvey Scott's Editorial Staff, Says Paper Has Enterprise.

"The La Grande Observer is a paper that cannot fail. It is being conducted on absolutely right lines as was illustrated Saturday when Editor Leitter got out two special editions by reason of the important events transpiring at the nation's capital.

"I was in the office when the news-boys were about to be sent over the city," said Melvin G. Winstock, who was at one time on the editorial staff of the Oregonian under the late Harvey W. Scott.

"First of all it showed wonderful enterprise to go to this expense for the sole reason of keeping the people of the city posted on what is going on in the world. But of far greater importance as to principle was the instruction given the enthusiastic and impatient little news venders.

"I want you boys," said the editor, "to tell the truth when you cry out for the sale of the extra edition. I don't want the La Grande Observer sold on lies."

"Here is the secret of the conduct of the paper," continued Mr. Winstock, "truth and the inculcation of that principle even in the boys who sell papers. Some of the biggest papers in the land could wisely follow!"

An Unfit Appointment

President Wilson would be doing the righteous thing if he withdrew the nomination of Dr. Cary T. Grayson, who is booked to be medical director in the navy and a rear admiral. In the first place Dr. Grayson, according to his own admissions to the senate naval committee, is not qualified professionally for the position; in the second place he would be promoted over the head of more than a hundred ranking officers. To advance on incompetent personal friend at the expense of competent men who have earned promotion by service to their country is an act of injustice. It should be rebuked.

Doubtless the senate, under pressure from the president, will confirm Grayson's appointment, but it will be a humiliation which the qualified graduates from Annapolis who have rendered professional and public service, should not be called upon to endure. —Pendleton Tribune.

Grain Elevators

There are abundant signs that bulk handling of grain will supplant sacks in the northwest in a few years. Farmers insist on discussing the change, as they rebel each year at throwing away so many thousands of dollars buying grain sacks. The matter has been forced to the attention of the shippers and wholesale handlers at the port towns, where the construction of elevators is seriously discussed. —Enterprise Record Chieftain.

Nothing is easier to bear than the troubles of your neighbors.

Population of the Argentine Republic has almost doubled during the last 20 years. Most of the increase is due to immigration.

Virginia Military institute's new combined gymnasium and auditorium known as the "Jackson Memorial" is rapidly nearing completion on the Lexington Campus.

Join the Home Trade Life Guard



Do you wish to PRESERVE THE LIFE of your home town? If you do, trade with your HOME MERCHANTS. BE NEIGHBORLY. You work for COMMUNITY INTEREST when you DEAL AT HOME.

Don't Pull a Prop From the Town You Live In by Spending Your Money Elsewhere

Chase & Sanborn's Coffee

Gives Satisfaction

For the year 1916 our sales on Chase & Sanborn's Coffees increased two thousand pounds.

We could not have done this if the quality was not in the good.

We carry three blends—thirty-five, forty and forty-five cents a pound.

We guarantee every pound to give satisfaction or your money refunded.

J. G. Snodgrass Grocer

PHONE MAIN 43

Quality Service Honest Prices

Starkey News Items

Snow Is Too Deep in Upper Grande Ronde for Successful Trapping. Starkey, Ore., Feb. 6.—(Special)—

A. J. Sullivan and wife and A. P. Burnett and family made a business visit to La Grande last Wednesday and Thursday.

J. W. Wells Jr. spent the week-end in La Grande and vicinity.

Mr. and Mrs. B. P. Burnett have returned to their home after visiting a couple of weeks in the valley. Miss Florence will remain in La Grande for several weeks.

Thomas L. Loftus left on Tuesday's stage for La Grande.

Miss Elizabeth Wells made a trip to Hilgard and return on Saturday's stage.

Wiley Haddock and John Rogers, who have been trapping on the upper Grande Ronde, have returned to Starkey. They report the snow as being too deep for successful trapping.

The weather is quite cold with about 20 inches of snow. Stock of all kinds are doing fairly well with no loss reported and plenty of feed to last until April 1.

Mrs. A. B. Burnett and children and Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Hagey spent the day with the Sullivans.

J. C. Briggs has sold his stock cattle to Jean Wheeler. They drove them to La Grande last Thursday.

Mr. Groundhog failed to see his shadow here Friday.

5,000,000 Corns Lifted Right Off!

Try 2 Drops of Magic "Gels-It."

There's a wonderful difference between getting rid of a corn now and the way they used to try to get rid of it only four or five years ago. "Gels-It" has revolutionized corn history. It's the only corn remedy.



"See? Just 2 Drops of 'Gels-It' Now Tomorrow I'll Just Feel That Corn Right Off—and It's Gone!"

today that acts on the new principle, not only of shriveling up the corn, but of loosening the corn off—so loose that you can lift it right off with your fingers. Put 2 drops of "Gels-It" on that corn or callus tonight. That's all. The corn is doomed sure as sunrise. No pain, or trouble, or soreness. You do away once and for all with toe-bundling bandages, toe-eating salves and irresponsible what-nots. Try it—get surprised and lose a corn. "Gels-It" is sold everywhere, 25c a bottle, or sent on receipt of price by E. Lawrence & Co., Chicago, Ill.

FOR RENT SIGNS—For sale at The Observer office.

Keep Your Eye On Palmer Lands

The last five sales have been from residents who reside away from Grande Ronde valley.

It apparently is the same old story: Home people as a rule do not realize the opportunities that are here.

The first settlers of this valley did not appreciate the value of that large fertile tract we now call the Sandridge. It was the very last land in the valley to be occupied.

A few years from now not a few of those who read these lines will state: "I did not know that Palmer valley would ever be the prosperous country it is."

It will be too late then. The opportunity is now. No experiment. Many families have already demonstrated the productiveness of the soil. You know the location, near railroad, near Elgin, adjoining a forest reserve, which means cheap range for stock and free fuel for all time.

Come in and let us reason together.

Geo. H. Currey

Opposite Y. M. C. A. Phone Black 2001

HE WHO MOVES REAL ESTATE

106 Elm Street La Grande, Oregon

Next to Observer Office

HOW IS YOUR BUSINESS STATIONERY



Before the busy Spring season opens look over your needs in

Letter Heads, Envelopes, Statements, Bill Heads, Cards, Blotters, Etc.

Let us give your figures and submit samples and ideas that are modern, convincing and business-like.

The Observer

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