

EDITORIAL PAGE OF THE LA GRANDE EVENING OBSERVER

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THE RETURN OF THE TROOPS.

Oregon welcomed home today the last of her troops, Battery A and Troop A. The boys returned home sunburned and physically fit and none the worse for their service on the border. They were given a fine and hearty welcome today in Portland. But the next time we send troops away we should take better care of them. The writer is a member of Troop A auxiliary, organized to send necessities and little luxuries to the boys at the front. That can be done by the friends of the soldiers. But the families of the boys should be taken care of by the state or nation. It's hard to be a soldier when the families at home are not getting food or rent. The state legislature should pass a bill which will take care of such emergencies.

It is with regret that we read of the pressure of hunger that is being put upon the German people. War is hard to bear at best, and we hate to think that a whole people is undergoing hardships and sacrifices. But that is what war means. Let no one think that a country can go to war without everyone bearing a part of the burden. The spirit of the German people is admirable, but there is a limit to human endurance.

The main thing about Pay-Up Week is not to get offend if some one sends you a bill. There is no offense intended and none should be taken. If the claim is not correct, if you have paid the bill and have a receipt, get the matter straightened out. And if you have unsettled claims against other persons, send them statements and see if the amounts that you have due you on the books are correct. Pay-Up Week should start money circulating freely and benefit everyone.

The legislative session is nearing an end. We hope that the net result of the legislative sessions will be good. We would like to see some progress made toward a harmonious state highway system, which to our mind is one of the big problems before the state today.

La Grande welcomes the Christian Endeavor Convention to this city. We hope that the visitors will enjoy the programs, their entertainment and their stay in the city. We are proud of our civic institutions, proud of our city, and we hope that all our guests will have a good word to say for La Grande when they leave.

Men of forty-five are organizing efficiency clubs throughout the state. The men of forty-five are still young men who have learned many lessons and are just approaching the best and most productive years of their lives. It is foolish for men of forty-five to commence thinking that they are getting old.

The State Senate can make a record, if it sits tight and votes no on a lot of foolish bills there is no demand for.

"Where There's a Will, There's a Way."

There's no task too great to undertake—if you have the will. If you will to save money, you can do it. You don't necessarily have to be "short" to save—just bank a part of your earnings at this bank, each week or month—you will be surprised at the rapidity of its increase. Then you are ready to tackle the larger things in life. Show your will, and determination to win, by starting an account with us today.—And Stay With It!

MAKE OUR BANK YOUR BANK

La Grande National Bank

A SUIT IN GRANDMA'S FAVORITE SILK



Black taffeta becomes some thing new and strange when built into spring street suits. This an rich and durable material is not for grandmothers, this season, but for blonde beauties in their teens. Consider the shallow broad curve of the neck of the pictured gown for you will have to get used to it, whether you admire it or not.

It is said that marriage will change a man's views quicker than anything else.

CHINA'S WAR MOVE.

China is expected to join the Allies. This is a wise move for China. She may thus prevent her partition when the war ends.

If China does not join the Allies, she will probably be carved up as a reward to Russia and Japan and the United States would be powerless to save her old friend.

THE CUBAN TROUBLE.

Poor old Cuba is now to cause us trouble by an incipient revolution just at the time we want quiet and peace. The only thing to do is to nip it in the bud and Secretary Lansing has cabled a warning to that Republic. The next thing to do is to send our troops.

The interstate bridge between Vancouver, Wash., and Portland is completed and open. This is a good thing. Anything that facilitates travel and commerce is a benefit to the whole state.

The Senate has passed a bill to prevent wholesale frauds in the circulation of initiative petitions. This is a good bill and should pass.

Harry Thaw's condition is serious. Death would be a merciful visitor to this poor fellow.

Some people are worrying about the effect of war on baseball. We confess we are not one of those.

Are You Aware?

That there are a bunch of good fellows—volunteer firemen—who got up this morning at 4 o'clock to answer a fire alarm?

That one La Grande man "fired" a young man this week just when he needed a job the most and that another La Grande man, unsolicited, looked up the young man with whom he was not acquainted, and gave him a job? There are several classes of people in La Grande. To which one do you belong? Do you give a fellow another kick because's down? Or do you remember that humanity is pretty frail and that a smile of encouragement and a helping hand is the better method of treating a fellow-being who has made a mistake?

That Rev. H. L. Ford is a native of Australia and not of Ireland? That he finished his collegiate work in Drake university Des Moines, Iowa, and has twice circled the globe?

That Henry MacCaffery is another globe trotter who now calls La Grande his home?

That Raymond Williams was known as "Wart" in his undergraduate days at the University of Oregon?

That Gene Good dotes on psychology?

BUTTER LABELS—For sale at The Observer office.



The Shoes You Buy That Just Miss the Spring Season's Styles are the Ones That Cost More Than You Can Afford

Why take a chance—Buy your shoes at this store, where you get style and quality guaranteed.

Dress shoes in all sizes and leathers \$3.50 and up

Lion Brand Work Shoes are the World's Best



The very best insoles, counters, heels and outsoles that can be produced are used in them. Let your next pair of work shoes be Lion Brand and receive double service \$3.50 to \$7.50

N.W. West & Co. THE QUALITY STORE

it "light"-ly. After I had sat around the fireplace using the light of the fire to save electricity; after when I had gone to the kitchen my wife would admonish me with these words "did you turn that light off"; after I had outdone a fireman in taking off my clothes at night in order to save lights, and after I had saved in every possible manner, then to have a light bill of \$2.70 "flashed" on me, certainly did not "light"-en the burdens of this toilsome journey.

As I understand our declaration of independence we among other things made our constitution "to promote the general welfare." Our government is established for the purpose of doing the most good to the greatest number. If I should say to a citizen lets give our water system to the "I Skinem" corporation there would immediately bet set up a howl "oh no, the city will give us better rates and better service." But if I should say to that same citizen "let's have municipally owned electric lights." He would immediately reply: "Well I don't believe in a city going into business." Friends, it is all a matter of what you are used to. Logan, Utah, has a municipally owned electric light plant and it furnishes lights to its citizens for 10c a lamp, and you can use them the whole 24 hours. Just think I could have had 27 lamps burning 24 hours each day for what I paid in January for electricity here.

There is no reason under heaven why our city should not put in a new pipe line (for it has to be renewed soon anyway) between here and the dam and let that water run through a turbine which will give us all the power we need. I have talked this very thing over with engineers who know the whole situation. Let us get together and have a mass meeting and talk these things over; put up a little cash to get an engineer to go over the

matter; bond the city and let the profit on the plant pay for the bonds, then when the bonds are paid for give us cheaper lights. Hundreds of cities in the United States have done that very thing. But here comes the drawback. Well, many of the business men don't want to antagonize the light company. I have even heard of newspapers in towns no larger than this refuse to print any such articles. When a town newspaper degrades to such a level it is high time to get in another newspaper and I would be one of the first to invite one in and boost it along.

Now the light company is all right, and so are the local employes. Our city could employ them in the city plant. It is the outside concern that makes the rates. There is no reason in the world why we cannot get lights for 3c a kilowatt and heat at 1-2c. It is done in other places right along. Mr. Citizen do you know that we are paying the light company over \$7000 every year for street and arc lights. Do you realize that it is about \$600 every month. Now take \$200 of that to pay for an engineman and superintendent and \$100 more for help, then incidentals. If we only saved our city lights it would pay. Then do you know we have also our city jail, recorder's office, fire hall, election booths, etc. I don't know whether we pay them anything to charge our fire alarm batteries or not.

I would like to hear from other citizens through the columns of The Observer, and I am sure The Observer will extend the courtesy for arguments on both sides. E. W. EASTMAN.

Few people ever seen a \$10,000 bill. Yet there are \$8,327 of them in existence. How'd you like to find one?

Our Want Ads bring results.

THE FORUM

Municipal Ownership.

La Grande, Feb. 15.—(To The Editor.)—I received my electric light bill the other day, for the month of January. The amount was \$2.70, and to say that I was awe-stricken is putting

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