

EDITORIAL PAGE OF THE LA GRANDE EVENING OBSERVER

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A CHANCE TO HELP THE LIBRARY.

La Grande is proud of its library as one of its civic institutions. It is well managed and well equipped, but its great need at the present time is books. Especially for children. We should all bear this in mind and remember the library in our wills (if we hope to leave an estate) and in our annual donations.

SMILE.

The gentlemen of the finance committee of the general committee which is arranging the entertainment for the Cattle and Horse Raisers' Convention will call upon the business men and property owners of La Grande this week. The men and women who are receiving rentals from our business men as well as the business men themselves should contribute to this worthy cause which means so much to La Grande's reputation as a host.

Other towns can talk of their spirit. There is just as much civic pride and patriotism in La Grande as any other city. Getting it to working together is a merely matter of experience and organization. La Grande does what it undertakes well; there is plenty of "pep" and ability here. No one ever goes out with a meritorious proposition that is turned down.

The laboring men of La Grande should be a unit back of the construction of the Second Street viaduct. Most of the money will be spent for labor in one form or other. It would be perfectly proper for the representatives of labor to urge that work be expedited.

COVE HAS COMIC SOCIAL.

Cove, Or., March 19.—(Special)—A successful "suffragette social" was given by the Royal Neighbors of America, of Cove, for the purpose of defraying expenses of sending a delegate to the State Camp at Portland. The social was well advertised by hand-made posters. Handbills in rhyme created considerable interest and curiosity, and the hall was well filled.

Comic cartoons of the suffragette office-seekers decorated the wall, and women wearing considerable masculine attire presented a program, after which the Woodmen, attired in long kitchen aprons, gave a broom, mop and baby parade about the hall.

Get A Gold Medal

There is a contest on at this Bank whereby you can earn a Gold Medal that is worth twenty dollars. All can enter. It isn't necessary to be a hero to enter this contest, but it is necessary to have the "backbone" of a hero, and "stick-to-it-iveness," for it takes nerve to quit spending—and save.

WE GUARANTEE YOU A GOLD MEDAL

All you have to do is place one dollar on deposit now, and another next week and so on, for about eighteen more weeks, and at the end of this time you will have a "A BIRD" of a medal, with an American Eagle on it.

IT'S WORTH A TRIAL YOU CAN'T LOSE

This Resolution looks good to me, And to keep it will surely pay; I will start for myself savings fund, And bank the first dollar today.

La Grande National Bank

THE FORUM

THE RIGHT TO STRIKE.

To the Editor of the Observer:—Mr. F. N. Ford flies off at a tangent and accuses me of holding views which I do not hold, nor did my letter in Friday's issue, imply that I held. With his speech before the Merchants' association, I have no quarrel and I congratulate him on it.

In asking "Is the right to strike absolute?" I was seeking information as to the limits of its exercise. For all rights are qualified and limited, because no one liveth or dieth to himself entirely, as we are all members one of another. The trouble between labor and capital has been largely due to ignoring this fundamental fact in the constitution of the social body.

Over thirty years ago, I read a remark in one of Walter Besant's books, to the effect that it is wrong to put a man in the same category as a marketable commodity, such as a bushel of wheat. A man represents infinitely more than a commodity, and that which is derived from the product of human energy and at the expense of human vitality, should be rated by a different standard than that of a mere commodity. Since reading this, I have been continually trying to ascertain the principle which governs the case. The employer's right to discharge and reduce the wages of his employees, must be exercised according to the dictates of justice and humanity.

Much of the unrest in the commercial world, has been due to employers acting in this matter, as if their rights were absolute. This has caused the other side, when the opportunity arrived, to fall into a similar error. But two wrongs never made one right. But in the strike like the one impending, there are three parties who are concerned and the rights of the third are being ignored. Not only are the railroad management and their men involved, but also the general public. As a member of the last, I have a right to question an action which shall adversely affect my inalienable rights of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

A well known railroad president of a former generation, on being informed that his course would not receive public approval, brusquely replied, "the public be d—"

But the heads of railroads and other large corporations, know better now, than to make such an assertion. Let the brotherhoods beware of falling into the error of that former railroad president.

We have had recently in La Grande, an instructive object lesson. I do not know what the grievance is between the rival gangs. Probably it originated from faults on both sides. Anyhow the feud has been intermittent and periodically breaks out. In the shooting here, the man who did it, no doubt thought that if he did not get the other first, the latter would get him. From the mere point of self-defense, he might have some excuse. But the answer to such plea is obvious. We are a civilized community where law and order prevail. If his life were endangered, he could have gone to the proper authorities and procured protection. By taking the law into his own hands, he jeopardized the rights of the general public whose safety became threatened.

This proved to be the case, and an innocent bystander is suffering the consequences in the hospital, which may become irreparable. If the contemplated strike is put into operation and continues for some length of time, the grievances of the general public, arising from damages to their interests, will far exceed those of the striking railroad men. In this may be seen a test, to determine the legitimacy of a strike. Will it, in seeking redress for individual wrongs, imperil the national safety and welfare? The action of the brotherhoods in inaugurating a nationwide strike, in scope and far reaching effect, will, in my opinion, be only exceeded in gravity and consequence, by the secession of the states, at the outbreak of the civil war.

UPTON H. GIBBS.

La Grande, March 19, 1917.

The Railway Situation.

La Grande, Ore. March 19th.—(To the editor.)—The Great Railway Strike that has been threatening this country for so many months and hanging like a thunder-cloud over the commercial world has been settled. Who is to blame that it was not settled sooner? Are the employees to blame for demanding better conditions? No, they were within their rights. Are the railway companies to blame for not conceding to the men's demands? No, not under existing laws for governing railway traffic. Who, then, was to blame? Uncle Sam.

Americans are noted for their love of fair play, and no man can breathe the American atmosphere for any length of time without becoming imbued with that love of fair play, unless there is something radically wrong with his original make-up.

If we are called to witness a fight between a big man and a little man, our sympathies naturally go with the little man, but a third party steps in and ties the big man's hands behind his back, then we cry out shanie, that it is not fair, etc.

Very well, the railway companies

FOOT EXPERT'S SERVICES FREE

Come in early tomorrow morning and learn the cause of your foot troubles. Find out why your feet hurt—and how you can overcome the annoying, distressing or painful conditions. A foot expert will be here—a man trained under the supervision of the celebrated Dr. Wm. M. Scholl, the widely known, successful foot specialist. He will give you his services absolutely free of charge and you will be under no obligation either to him or us.



Wednesday and Thursday March 21, 22.

He has helped thousands of persons to obtain relief from their foot troubles and will gladly do as much for you. He will tell you

- how you can wear your regular size shoe without the feeling that it is too short or too tight; -how you can become freed from the pain of corns, bunions, calluses and cramps in the toes and ball of the foot; -how your ankles can be straightened and strengthened without the necessity of wearing cumbersome braces. -how the annoyance and discomfort of perspiring feet may be overcome in your own home; -how to rid yourself of all foot troubles, including pains in the heels, ankles and limbs; tired, aching feet; weak fallen or broken-down arches.

You may ask him any questions you wish about your feet, the kind of shoes you should wear—whether high heels or low—or anything else that may influence your foot comfort.

Instant Relief and Permanent Comfort

This Scholl foot expert does no cutting. He produces wonderful results by mechanical means—by using Dr. Scholl's corrective appliances and preparations that give instant relief and permanent comfort.

If you have ever worn arch supports or other devices to correct your foot ailments without satisfactory results, let him tell you why they failed, or let him re-adjust them to give you the proper effects. If you have tried other treatments without success, be sure to see this Scholl foot expert and tell him about your case.

There is no charge connected with this service. It is free to all.

No Obligation to Buy

You will not be asked to spend a single penny. You do not even need to be a customer of this store. If you never bought a thing here you are just as welcome to this free service as if you were our best customer. We want everyone to know how easily and quickly foot troubles can be overcome.

Don't Wait Too Long

The Scholl foot expert will be here a short time only, and this opportunity may never occur again

An Unusual Opportunity

This is an opportunity that comes very seldom and we urge every reader of this newspaper to take full advantage of it. There is no strings attached to the offer. It is simply a chance to obtain the services of a successful foot expert free of charge. Remember the dates and come early.

N.W. West & Co. THE QUALITY STORE

Picked Up By The Stroller

Just as the Stroller strolled into the Observer office this morning to call for his mail and found a collection of advertising circulars and belated bills, the young lady at the counter said to him sweetly:

"There's a telephone call for you." The Stroller took the receiver: "I just called up to ask what in the world has become of the Stroller?" said a feminine voice, also very sweet.

I hemmed and hawed. Having nothing to say and being unused to feminine interrogations, I said nothing. "Well, stupid," said the voice and she hung up the phone.

Of course I have thought of a dozen clever things I could have said since. I wonder why it is women make me so doggone bashful.

I have been strolling as usual, and I get wet feet every day in the slush. I strolled up to the Auto show and saw a dozen La Grande visions as pretty as the automobiles. I strolled to the fashion show and saw beautiful La Grande girls in tasty styles. I strolled down downtown during the long war and almost be-

come a hero. I've strolled to banquets and luncheons galore.

But I've been worried. I can see that the country is drifting towards war and I read in the Union Republican that the bachelors have to go and that the married men stay at home. Having already had one proposal from a perfectly good young lady, who I understand is guaranteed to be sound in limb and wind, I thought perhaps it might be well to take the fatal leap. But being by nature cautious, I've been going around among my married men friends and putting up to them a hypothetical question:

"If you were a bachelor and had to choose between getting married and going to war, which would you prefer?"

Doggone it, I don't like the way those married men hesitate. And one or two of them have chosen war.

The 448 trapped black ducks found on Millionaire Henry C. Phipps's estate by New York state inspectors may cost the steel man \$15,315 in fines.

About 1,500,000 horsepower is believed to be available from the streams of Germany, of which only about one-fourth now is utilized.

Electric burglar alarms surround the treasury at Washington and are tested every fifteen minutes, day and night.