

EDITORIAL PAGE OF THE LA GRANDE EVENING 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. B. 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 St.

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

City Official Paper. Leased Wire Telegraph Report of United Press Associations.

The Observer carrier boys are instructed to put the papers on the porches. 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 instructions. Phone Main 37 before 7:30 o'clock and a paper will be sent you by special messenger if the carrier has missed you.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

Table with subscription rates: Daily, single copy 5c; Daily per week 15c; Daily, per month 45c; 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; Daily, by mail per six months in advance \$2.50; Daily, by mail per three months in advance \$1.25; Daily, by mail per month 45c; The Saturday Evening Observer per year in advance \$1.50; Weekly-Observer-Star per year in advance \$1.50.

FIRE PROTECTION.

Nothing has been more conclusively proven by experience than that efficient and economical forest fire protection requires the closest relation between the people and forest fire associations. Today we are reading in every paper notices about forest fires all over the country, certain investigations have proven that many are of an incendiary source, but there is no question but that the majority of the fires can be laid to the worst of the three agents, where most of the fires have their start, and that agent is called "CARELESSNESS." The next agent is the elements (wind, sun, lightning, etc.); and the third, incendiary (fires purposely set). Very often the most serious fires result from a combination of the first two, as for instance, when a settler carelessly leaves his clearing fires unquenched; when the camper carelessly leaves his camp fire burning. It is well to remember that forest fires kill more game than guns, that as you love the forest you should hate a forest fire. Forest fires invariably damage the innocent more than the guilty; and this fact alone, has been a great force in breeding carelessness. If every settler who sets a fire which damages the forest of an innocent party had to pay the losses, together with the costs of the fire fighting, his financial interest would overcome his carelessness. If the man who purposely burns the forests of another could but be caught in the flames and forced to fight for his life, he would quickly cease "playing with fire."

The treatment of the forest fire problem is the same as the treatment of any problem of destruction, whether it be social, vital or merely financial. In all such problems, the remedy lies in checking the cause at hand by the best method known and the prevention of further occurrence by the removal of the cause.

The Union-Wallowa Counties Fire Association seeks the co-operation of all the people in these two counties and solicits the observance of the following few "Dont's" which their memory may recall at an opportune time—in time to prevent a forest fire.

DON'T use pipes, cigars or cigarettes while in the woods—except in camp.

DON'T leave your camp fire burning. Put it out with water or sand.

DON'T forget that big fires are little fires left alone. Any one can put out a little fire—no one can put out a big fire.

DON'T build a camp fire on dry muck soil or against a half rotted log. Muck is peat and peat burns; and a half rotted log is like punk and holds fire.

DON'T forget to be a careful camper.

Supporting the Government

This is a time for every citizen to support the United States Government and many are doing so at considerable cost or sacrifice to themselves.

We have joined the Federal Reserve Banking System established by the Government to give greater financial stability and strength to the member banks and protection to their depositors.

You can give your support to this great Government enterprise and also obtain its protection for your money by becoming one of our depositors.

Member Federal Reserve System

La Grande National Bank

DON'T use sulphur matches at any time. Safety matches are best. Never throw the match away until it is out. When it is out it is good practice to drop it and rub it in the soil with the foot—to be sure.

THRIFT IN BOND BUYING.

In an address before the New York State Bankers' Association it was stated that England's first war loan of one billion and three-quarters was subscribed to by one hundred thousand subscribers. To her last great Victory Loan of five billion dollars in 1917 there were eight million subscribers. What, it was asked, was it that caused this tremendous increase in national interest, this wonderful financial support from every part of the nation in the prosecution of the war? It was thrift, the habit of saving and investing—a habit formed by a whole people working with one definite end in view.

America's first war loan was much larger than England's first loan and was subscribed to by a great many more people. America's next issue of Liberty Loan Bonds, which later will be offered for sale, it is believed will be subscribed for by a greater number than subscribed to England's last loan. Thrift and American patriotism will accomplish this result—thrift because the people have been awakened to its necessity and patriotism because it has been aroused in a higher measure by the fact that our soldiers soon will be fighting on the battle front in Europe.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

The New Railroad Rate.

If Baker, as it is expected, is included in the new ruling on railroad rates by the Interstate Commerce Commission, it should enjoy a great advantage. Three hundred and fifty miles nearer big eastern shipping points than Portland, it is entitled to a concession in the matter of rates. In fact it is as far away from the Pacific coast terminal points as Spokane which led the fight for a rate reduction.

If put into effect here the new rate will make it possible for Baker to become the center of a no inconsiderable amount of distribution in Eastern goods. Favorably situated this city can cover a large area that is now being served from other points. If, as it is claimed, Baker will be the most Western town in Oregon to receive the benefit of the rate its advantage will be still greater.

The ruling of the commission in regard to intermountain points was not unexpected, as it has been intimated some time that it would render a favorable decision to inland cities. Whether Baker benefits, or not, the decision of the commission must be looked on as but just to the big territory that will benefit, and which has been paying a discriminatory tribute for many years to the big coast cities and the railroads.—Baker Herald.

Great Achievements.

It must not be forgotten, nevertheless, that great things have already been accomplished in a short time. Billions of dollars in loans to the Allies have been promptly extended or arranged; conscription has been adopted—a giant step towards victory; the export embargo is in operation, cutting the enemy off short from vast supplies in food and munitions; and we are on the eve of authorizing for expenditure hundreds of millions in construction of both ships and aeroplanes.

These are mighty strides in the march towards the great goal.

There should also be added as measures showing foresight and energy on the part of the President, that so soon after the declaration of war our fleet was found to be splendidly co-operating with the Allied forces abroad and has been of greatest service in helping to fight the submarine menace; and that a considerable military force was promptly fitted out, landed in France, and is now working shoulder and shoulder with the other gallant defenders of civilization. The numbers of this force have not been stated, but Sir Gilbert Parker openly estimates it at forty thousand men, and says that every man we have sent will look like ten to our Allies and that the great count, is the moral effect of Americans upon the battlefields of the Allies, and the moral effect not only upon the spirits of the French, the British and the Belgians, but upon the spirits of the Germans. "The Americans," he says, "who have gone to France will do more for France by being there than ten times the number in training here."—The Bache Review, New York.

Protest Needed.

A strong protest should be lodged against the abuse by Postoffice officials of their wide powers under the Espionage bill to forbid the free use of mails to various publications. Up to date, this indirect form of suppression has not been used against any large or powerful members of the press, but only against small and feeble periodicals. The ground for withholding the privilege of the mails was that the suppressed publications printed articles calculated to discourage recruiting. This is an indictment of very broad scope and endless elasticity. It is an indictment typical of the bureaucratic frame of mind, leaving plenty of room for bureaucratic discretion, a discretion which has been carefully exercised in favor of the big sinners. There are a number of the great dailies, backed by influence and power, which have freely and openly said things much more discouraging to recruiting than the worst that has appeared in the pages of the suppressed periodicals. Perhaps in time, this indirect censorship through the Postoffice will feel itself strong enough to attack bigger game. That is a good reason why right-thinking men should join now in nipping the tendency in the bud.—N. Y. Evening Post.

LADIES' OVERALLS

Are you going on a fishing or camping trip? If so these are the very things for the ladies.

Made of Khaki—to stand any kind of wear—to defy any kind of dirt. If you have a garden to take care of you should have a pair—Don't ruin your dress.

KOVERALLS

What the younger ones need—Koveralls—they really cover them—dirtproof. Let them play in the dirt if they wear Koveralls, it won't hurt them a bit. Sizes 3 to 8.

Price 85c

BOYS' KHAKI CLOTHING

Just the thing for his vacation or camping trip. Made of the very best quality khaki—and the best workmanship. Made in sizes 6 to 13. Prices:

Coat \$2.25

Trousers \$1.50



Suspects Politics.

This writer has long desired to express the opinion that talk isn't going to win the war, but refrained from doing so because he feared his motives would be questioned. He is indeed glad that the Topeka State Journal has finally expressed the opinion that he kept locked up in his bosom. The Journal says: A speaking campaign is being arranged for the purpose of rousing the patriotism of the people of Kansas. When did the patriotic feeling of Kansas reach a point where it needed arousing? Did Kansas ever fail to answer the call of Uncle Sam? What does the government want from Kansas that it is not getting? Will the gentlemen kindly inform the people what offices they want before they start?—Atchison Globe.

Praise For La Grande.

La Grande is a modern city, having wide streets, nice buildings, a beautiful city park, good water system, churches, schools, etc., which go to make life pleasant.

There are many beautiful streams in eastern Oregon where the fisherman may find excellent sport during the fishing season. Many of these streams are unknown to the people of the state and to the average visitor become a surprise as well as a revelation.—Coos Bay Harbor, North Bend.

Hospitality Enjoyed.

All in all the convention was, in ye editors way of seeing things, a very inspirational, educational and successful meeting from start to finish. The people of Pendleton, Joseph and La Grande are deserving of much praise for the splendid entertainment that was afforded the delegation. The O. W. R. & N. Co. also deserve special mention for the excellent service from Pendleton to Joseph and return.—Milton Eagle.

The Oregonian's Strength.

The Oregonian's indubitable strength is much more admirably displayed in patriotism than ever before in partisanship.—Weston Leader.

WHY--

The Business Man and The Banker should encourage and The Farmer should practice

Diversified Farming

(By Kenneth Gilbert. These articles are reprinted from the "Business Chronicle" of Seattle, Wash., by permission of the publisher. They appeared in serial form in that publication, Feb. 24 to April 21, 1917. A copy may be had by addressing the Union Pacific System.)

Diversified Farming Will Be Responsive to the Immediate Call of the Nation for Food Preparedness.

Since the publication of the first of these articles, the lesson they seek to teach—greater and better crop production through diversified farming—has taken on a new angle of interest, due to the international political situation in which the United States has become involved. The call has gone forth for more intensive farming, with less waste. It is urged that all idle land be utilized for agricultural purposes. City dwellers have responded by cultivating and preparing for planting vacant lots that had only been regarded as future building sites. Railways have likewise turned their attention to the proposition. The O. W. R. & N. has offered the area along the tracks on its right-of-way for the use of employees who would raise crops, or, for the use of non-employees, in instances where employees did not elect to avail themselves of the opportunity. The nation has suddenly become gripped with the idea that real national preparedness depends on an adequate food supply. Not only does an army "fight on its belly," but the welfare of the entire nation—combatants and non-combatants alike—depends upon proper sustenance. Imagination can conjure up few specters more terrifying than is starvation.

It is gratifying to Business Chronicle to see that in the aggregate, the ideas that have been expounded in this series are being put to practical usage. The doctrine is becoming more widely known. Daily newspapers have devoted much editorial and news space to the thought of greater and better agricultural production with correspondingly less waste. The government has issued voluminous tracts dealing with the subject. It has become a national hobby.