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THE OBSERVER'S ADVANCE

The Observer is now a member of the Associated Press as well as the United Press Associations. This gives The Observer the most complete telegraph report in Eastern Oregon. The United Press is pre-eminent in the evening newspaper field, the Associated Press in the morning field. The Observer gives its readers this full telegraphic service because it believes they appreciate keeping in touch with the outside world as well as with the local county and Eastern Oregon news. The Observer now prints a special morning edition for the benefit of its Union and Wallowa readers on the branch line. This gives them a special service which we hope will be appreciated. The Observer is here to stay. Men may come and go, but The Observer will go on serenely on its way, printing the news and serving the public. The Observer would like to see the people of Eastern Oregon get together and work together, not for any narrow sectionism but for the interests of all. We would like to see La Grande and the towns of Wallowa good friends and good neighbors. We believe in a united, determined working-together spirit for Eastern Oregon. The Observer will do its part.

DON'T BE A CLACKER

"The clacker is worse than the slacker." The current number of Collier's weekly contains a first-class article by W. S. McNutt, entitled "The Clackers." If you have not a copy of your own, read the one at the public library. It is a life-sized picture of the men and women who spread the dreadful tales about the soldiers and the way they are treated, and the wicked way the Red Cross is run. We have no intention of slandering the great majority of the women of La Grande, who are working bravely and intelligently, nor the men, who are nobly doing their part, heedless of the German-made rumors that some are trying to spread. Most of them know better than to listen to that sort of thing, and do more working than talking. If you know any who have been taken in by believing all they hear, recommend this article in Collier's.

It is a strange fact, but true, that the man who will buy an expensive set of books from a house-to-house canvasser or "missionary" is unable to afford good reference books from well-established and reputable dealers. Parents who have bought one of the "universal compendia" or scraps of classical literature in twenty volumes for their children would get more for their money by purchasing a few standard volumes suited to the age of the young people. A good unabridged dictionary, worth from

\$12 to \$15, contains more useful information than any of these sets. A reliable atlas costs from \$5 to \$50. A gazetteer will be helpful to the sixth and seventh graders, and a biographical dictionary to the high school students. Anyone who is bent on having a large set of books can buy the Encyclopaedia Britannica or New International Cyclopedia for the price of the cheaply bound, badly arranged, poorly printed works made to dupe the ill-advised purchaser.

When you buy a book, ask the opinion of someone who is not trying to sell it to you.

COMMENT OF THE PRESS

Packers on the Griddle

Prosecutor Heney is making it extremely uncomfortable for the "Big Five" packers. That is a way Heney has that seems to have made him unpopular in certain wealthy circles. The evidence presented by him shows pretty conclusively that the packers had an agreement as to handling the markets, each purchasing a given per cent of the offerings. It was a gentleman's agreement and was therefore kept.—Salem Capitol Journal.

Freight Rates

If the government is to operate the railroads there surely rests upon it a duty to confer upon no locality special freight privileges. The old notion that certain favored centers are entitled to special consideration must pass away.

Is there any reason, founded upon either justice or common sense, why either Portland or Spokane should be accorded rates which make them wholesale points while cities like Pendleton are handicapped? —Pendleton Tribune.

Plenty of Mud

Uncle Sam's war administration is doing much better than merely "muddling through," although its critics are supplying plenty of mud for the muddling. —Weston Leader.

No Easy Job

Needless to say that job as county road master is going to be no easy one. All the man will have to do will be to get \$500,000 worth of work out of \$100,000 and to please 20,000 people each wanting his roads improved first.—Pendleton East Oregonian.

Wants No Super War Board

President Wilson wants no super war board; he probably remembers the grief the nation experienced with that super shipping board.—Pendleton East Oregonian.

Of Interest to Women

WOMAN HELPS TO WIN WAR BY RAISING RATS

GRANBY, Mass., Feb. 5.—The common gray rat—the self-same rat in the face of which the most dignified woman makes a squirrel look like a cripple when it comes to climbing stunts—is helping to win the war. Probably few know that many an airplane soaring high in the sky carries a rat as part of the crew; that rats played and are now playing an important part in the evolution of the submarine, because rats are living barometers. The United States government is using hundreds of rats in war-time experiments, and many of these are being supplied by Miss Abbie Lathrop, who lives here in a neat little white cottage and cares for a family of a thousand rats and mice. Miss Lathrop, a native of North Dakota, broke all feminine traditions seventeen years ago when also

began raising rats and mice as a means of earning a living. The "But Lady" as she is known here, keeps her pet rats wire covered boxes in sheds near the cottage. She handles them without fear and many are so tame they are allowed to live in open boxes in the cottage, and make no attempt to get out. Miss Lathrop lives alone and it is understood her feminine friends do their visiting at shouting distance from the "house of a thousand terriers." The government uses rats and mice chiefly in air pressure tests. The rodents are unusually sensitive to change in atmospheric conditions, and at different altitudes exhibit unfailing symptoms which indicate certain conditions of the air pressure. In submarine depth tests and in the experiments to learn the correct pressure of the artificial air supply of submarines, rats play an important part in establishing facts in relation to human life and the efficiency of under-water craft.

Margaret Mason's Fashion Letter

By MARGARET MASON (Written for United Press) The designing young designers are designing through and through. And they even have humanity to have designs on you.

right-side up the hand hat upside down. Hop sacking is a gingham check of navy blue and white makes up a striking novelty that's really very bright. It is a set of hat and bag a combination rife but this cuts bag's an apron too. It lends a double life. The back piece fastens over the front with sassy frill of blue and draws up with two navy strings like all good bags should do. But when you lift this back flap up it fastens round the waist and makes an apron pocketed where knitting may be placed. The hat, a simple sailor shape, is covered with the check and on both hat and apron bag is crevel fruit, by heck. Hop sacking skirts are also smart with coats of velvet. Some with lapels and pocket flaps, hopsacking faced, I've seen. And arropos of skirts, my dears, I saw a novelty so charming and original it quite appealed to me. It was a puffed with tips and handle ivory white and covered with a Chinese quite take your breath away and after that they take your cash if you've some left today. To have your hat upon your head and also in your hand, you think perhaps a waste of effort and hard to understand. But really it's quite simple when you are in the know thing without a bag to match—do for one hat makes a knitting bag and one a smart chaparral. The set was of mixed straw trimmed in sea-blue books to school. It's made of genta silk and gayly colored fruits and flowers likewise of silken blue. A crevel. Well in the smartest of the shops upon Fifth Avenue there is a bag identical exposed to modish view. It differs only in its size and what was shirred instead. This lassy set it's made to carry for knitting and not will be the talk, no doubt, of many learning it holds more necessary. The a town. The head hat's worn all year design upon its side looks like

"GOOD OLD U. S. SOIL IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME"

PRIVATE SURBER L. KLEIN WRITES TO JACK O'NEILL
 Weather Cold and Rainy—Eighteen Boys Live in Two Barracks, With Lace Curtains and Fireplace.
 SOMEWHERE IN FRANCE,
 January 7, 1918.

Mr. Jack O'Neill,
 La Grande, Oregon.
 Dear Friend Jack:—
 Monday 8:30 p. m. I just came in to our "billet" to go to bed and found a Christmas package here on my bed for me. On opening it I found the cigarettes and candy in it for us and I am going to write and thank you for them right away for it is fine and I sure do appreciate it. So many, many thanks.
 Well, Jack, we are still soldiering. "Somewhere in France," and the "somewhere" sure is some country, desolate and everything else that goes with the word. France may be some country and some people may have an anxiety to go abroad and all that, but the good old U. S. soil sure is good enough for me.
 We have a schedule laid out ahead of us for a certain length of time which was supposed to start in today with a "hike" at 7:30 a. m., but of course this morning it was raining awful hard so to our sorrow we did not take the hike. This afternoon we went to "school" and had three lectures. It has been pouring rain all day and is still coming down and is considerable warmer so it may melt the snow quite a bit.
 We have seen some real cold weather lately but we have a good place to stay so we don't mind it. There are 18 of us in this billet here in two rooms, eight upstairs and ten of us downstairs, each room having a fire place in it. Our room downstairs even has lace curtains on the windows so we are real classy. Here I am lying on my bed writing and smoking a "Gato" cigar in a room with a fireplace in it and lace curtains on the windows. Now imagine a soldier's hardships in France. Some of the boys are sleeping in a "Hotel de Barn" in the second story (they left) but they are getting better quarters every day, so "live and hope" is our motto.
 We had a dandy Christmas, being in barracks at the time "somewhere in France," as usual. The day before Christmas we decorated our barracks with fir boughs and mistletoe, making it real Christmas-like. Christmas eve we received letters and packages from home and Christmas day we had a big dinner which



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our mess sergeant will have to be given credit for. I wish I could tell you of our experiences in the past two or three weeks but am unable to now but hope to be soon.
 Well, Jack, it is bed time so I had better close. Many, many thanks for the presents and I am, as ever, Your friend,
 PRIVATE SURBER L. KLEIN,
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 Classified ads solve your want problems.
 Society news for the Observer should be sent in Friday.

For Burning Eczema

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