

# The Observer

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Lieut. Stephen Bonsall, Jr., one of Uncle Sam's airplane mail carriers. Lieutenant Bonsall is the son of the former war correspondent and veteran newspaper man, who is now a major attached to the general staff of the army.

to adequately handle the military and food conservation work transacted there.

This is but another instance of where idle rumor is planted to the wall as a deliberate falsehood without an iota of foundation on fact.

There are scores of men in La Grande, as there is in every loyal community, who do much the same thing and beyond that, contribute generously of their private funds. They get no pay for what they do. To accuse Mr. Serogain or F. L. Meyers of the La Grande National Bank of receiving salaries for the latter's Thrift Stamp activities, or any of the Four-Minute Men, F. J. Holmes, or the War Board members or any one else connected with these various activities—to accuse any one of these men or women of accepting remuneration is vicious and deliberate chicanery and any sensible man or woman will so brand it.

F. L. Meyers of the La Grande National Bank, in the capacity of chairman of Union county's thrift stamp work, calls upon the man and woman power of the entire banking force when the need arises. He gives freely of his own valuable time and money without compensation or expense money.

Another man that is gone, week after week, from his business is F. J. Holmes, Fuel Administrator for Oregon. He gets no salary and a major portion of his heavy expense in met from his private purse. Few people in Oregon are called upon to devote their time and money gratuitously as is Mr. Holmes, and none do it more willingly.

### C. E. HACKMAN MAKES STATEMENT.

It has come to me that it is rumored I am a pro-German, and not in sympathy with America in the present war. This I do not understand. In the first place, I am not a German, having been born in Cincinnati, Ohio, on the 29th day of September, 1856, and have never been away from the United States. My parents were not German, having been born in Switzerland. They both spoke German and I learned to speak the language at home and in the public schools. In the second place, my father was unable to go into the war during the rebellion on account of sickness, but my uncle, Dietrich Hackman entered the service of this country at the commencement of the civil war, a private in the second battery of an artillery regiment of volunteers from the state of Missouri, and was mustered out with the rank of captain, at the close of the war, being promoted for gallantry in action. This fact is of much pride to our family, and is a matter of history to be verified from the military records of that war. In the third place, I have aided the present war as far as I am able, and done so willingly, in the purchase of bonds, and aiding the Red Cross and other war activities. And, lastly, I am not now, and never have been, in sympathy with Germany, or against the United States, my native country. I never saw Germany, and do not have a relative in Germany, so far as I know. I now am, always have been and always expect to be, citizen of the United States. I am too old to actively engage in the present conflict, which should excuse me from any accusation on that account. I make this statement for the reason that I believe such rumors were circulated by those unfamiliar with the facts.

Very respectfully,  
 C. E. HACKMAN.

### FORUM

#### THEIR WORK GRATUITOUS

Editor, Observer:  
 How otherwise patriotic tongues are often loosely balanced in the middle and can wag either way without coaxing, is shown by the multiplicity of rumors that get started, usually to serious detriment of the war cause and harm to some patriotic individual.

Reports get started in the usual way, and magnify. Such an instance is now going the rounds in which it is reported that the chairman of County Councils of National Defense draw lucrative salaries for the work they do. True, under non-bellum conditions men of brains who devote a major portion of their time to any cause or business, are handsomely remunerated. But in this war age they are not, be it said to their credit. T. J. Serogain, chairman of the Union County Council of National Defense and County Food Administrator and secretary of the Local Exemption Board, realizes nothing from his work beyond the personal gratification of giving his time and his money to a humanitarian cause. He frequently gives all of his time—always most of it; frequent trips to Portland and elsewhere; tremendous call for clerical assistance come to him—all of which realizes him nothing. He has been offered \$25 by the government for clerical assistance, but this he has declined.

The specific rumor alluded was to the effect that he and others go generous expense allowances, so generous in fact that it amounted to remuneration of a substantial sort. Thus it is once more seen that pro-Hun or careless tongues, which often amounts to the same thing, fabricate absolute falsehoods and thereby bring injury to an innocent man or woman. No one pays Chairman Serogain or any of his committee for war work; on the other hand, the bank employs added clerical help to meet the mountains of work necessary



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### TEMPERATE COURSE BEST.

The letter from Chas. E. Hackman, printed today, comes as a reminder, not in his particular case, but in other cases as well, that there may sometimes be misplaced judgment as to what a man's feelings of loyalty may be. The writer of the letter printed today has always been regarded as a man of rectitude in general business affairs, one liberal in doing his part in civic matters, and there is no reason to discount his statements as to his fidelity to the country at the present or at any other time. There may be others who are in the same situation in the public estimate as Mr. Hackman claims to have been. It is not judicious to be too hasty in conclusions, as there could hardly be greater injustice than that of placing a citizen on the wrong side of the fence in these critical times.

The roster of those engaged in the conflict on the other side of the water discloses any amount of names of persons who are unquestionably of German origin, but whose thoughts and purposes are wholly and unreservedly with the United States of America.

There is a highly educated and refined lady of German birth and residence in this community, who has numerous near relatives with the armies of the kaiser. It would be the most unnatural thing in the world if she did not entertain the deepest solicitude for their welfare and safety, and at the same time she is one of those who realize that the power of autocracy and militarism should be crushed—and hopes and prays that it will be.

This is merely an instance of being placed in a position that is in no sense that of the individual preference or maker. Those who are in that enforced predicament are entitled to liberal-minded consideration rather than premature contempt. The temperate course is the best.

### NOT YET CONFIRMED.

Unfortunately the reports in circulation this morning that between 400,000 and 500,000 Germans were captured in the Reims-Solsons salient have not been confirmed. But the people here are no further away in this report than were the residents of Washington, D.C., who had received accounts of almost equal extravagance.

This would be almost too much to expect, anyway, and the reports that are received are as good and even much better than anyone could have hoped for only a few weeks ago. What a difference it when the start had been made to further edge the way toward Paris if not to proceed to the city itself and now find that the position is nearly as many miles of retreat as it was expected to have been an advance.

Considering the big things that

has about the United States which her most gifted have cannot improve upon in the way of calamity. They can at least say that such things cannot happen in Germany except in time of revolution when law is swept away.

"I, therefore, very earnestly and solemnly beg that the governors of all the states, the law officers of every community and, above all, the men and women of every community in the United States—and who revere America and wish to keep her name without stain or reproach will co-operate—not passively, merely but actively and watchfully—to make an end to this disgraceful evil. It cannot live where the community does not countenance.

"I have called upon the nation to put its great energy into this war, and it has responded—responded with a spirit and a genius for action that has thrilled the world. I now call upon it, upon its men and women everywhere, to see to it that its laws are kept inviolate, its fame untarnished. Let us show our utter contempt for the things that have made this war hideous among the wars of history by showing how those who love liberty and right and justice and are willing to lay down their lives for them upon foreign fields, stand ready also to illustrate to all mankind their loyalty to the things at home which they wish to see established as a blessing and protection to the peoples who have never known the privileges of liberty and self government. I can never accept any man as a champion of liberty either for ourselves or for the

### ACQUIRING A PERFECT FIGURE

Most women who have perfect figures did not have them originally. They have acquired them. A woman gradually takes the shape of her corset so the corset produced by the most artistic designer is the right one to wear to secure a perfect figure.

**MODART CORSETS**  
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 Automatic "Traction" by "pull" instead of dead weight.  
 One time I had trouble with my Nilson Junior, 16-25 H. P. See our local agent, or send for catalog. NILSON TRACTOR SALES COMPANY, East Meridian and East Third Sts., Portland, Oregon.

### WHILE AT WAR

#### WOMEN SUFFER AT HOME

ECORSE, OREGON.—"I certainly owe a great deal to Dr. Pierce's Remedies; three different times they have saved my life. One time I had trouble with my lungs and the doctor said that I could not get well. I took Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery and it cured me. During another business the doctors said there was no chance for my recovery. I took two bottles of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription and I was cured. Again doctors said that the only thing to save my life was an operation, and at once, for I again took the 'Favorite Prescription' and the Golden Medical Discovery, and they brought me through just fine—well, and without an operation, so I cannot speak too highly of these wonderful remedies."—MRS. MAMA JARVIS, 62 W. 31 St., Rossmore, Oregon.

ROSSMORE, OREGON.—"During expectancy I was so poorly I could not keep a thing on my stomach and my head and back ached terribly all the time and I was so nervous. A friend told me about Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. I took three bottles and never had any trouble afterward. The first dose helped me. My baby was a nice, healthy child. I think the 'Prescription' is simply great. I am glad to recommend it."—MRS. C. A. FRISK, 31 Mosier Street.

"Favorite Prescription" and "Golden Medical Discovery" are both put up in liquid and tablet form. If not obtainable at dealers, send to Dr. J. C. Pierce, "Invalids' Hotel," Buffalo, N. Y., and he will mail trial package of either tablets.

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