

The Observer

An Independent Newspaper
Published Daily and Weekly at
La Grande, Oregon.
La Grande Evening Observer
Publishing Company.
BRUCE DENNIS, Publisher.

Entered at the Postoffice at
La Grande, Oregon, as Second-class
Matter.

Address All Communications to
The Observer, 1710 Sixth Street,
City Official Paper. County Official
Paper.

Evening Telegraph Report of United
Press Association.

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

By Carrier
Daily, per month.....\$6.00
Daily, per three months.....\$17.50
Daily, per six months in advance.....\$33.75
Daily, per year in advance.....\$67.50
Daily, single copy.....5c
By Mail
Daily, per year in advance.....\$5.00
Daily, per six months in advance.....\$2.50
Daily, three months in advance.....\$1.25
Daily, per month.....50c
The Saturday Evening Observer, by
mail, per year in advance.....\$1.50
Weekly, Observer-Star, by mail, per
year in advance.....\$1.50



THE AMERICAN ENGINEER.

In the nature of things it is the man in the forefront of battle who gets all the glory. Scarcely a thought is given to those behind the scenes who made victory possible. There is seldom a word for the man whose efforts in the rear sustain a prolonged offensive.

While details of the present advance by the allies are not to hand, past experience warrants the conclusion that the engineers who come behind with rails and bridges and highway repairs are doing a wonderful work. From the fact that there has been no halt in the drive caused by delay in bringing up guns, ammunition and supplies, it is deduced that the superior methods of the American engineer are effective.

The rapidity with which Americans lay down tracks is not only amazing to the allied forces but it is counting heavily. Germany is being beaten as much by the American engineer as he is by American infantry and artillery, says the Oregon Journal.

The thought is admirably expressed by Amelia Josephine Burr:

"We build the roads where others march to glory.

Brothers in danger, weariness and cold.

They are the heroes of a world-wide story;

Ours is the story that is never told."

CHURCH UNIONS.

Consolidation of Protestant churches is a much mooted topic. La Grande is face to face with a crying need for some solution and many have advanced the idea that consolidation should take place here—in fact that seems the only tangible solution, if the consolidation be made on broad, liberal lines.

An article in the Oregonian today has a doubly interesting aspect; first because it advances the other side of the issue, and, secondly, because it pertains to a movement begun by Dr. Boyd, who spoke here last evening. The article, which is simply printed here as a matter of interest and not necessarily reflecting the Observer's editorial policy on this question, says:

Discussion of the feasibility of a union of churches called for in the challenge issued recently by Dr. John H. Boyd, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, was rife in the sermons of several Portland ministers yesterday—though with a manifest diversity of opinion on the manner in which it should be brought about, if at all.

Rev. R. H. Sawyer, pastor of the East Side Christian church, says that the union of churches is not possible. "There is but one church—there never has been, and never will be but one church," he said. "Honest men may lay aside their speculative philosophies, human creeds and doctrines and seek and find the church, the body of Christ, but to bring their doctrines into the church and be in harmony is an utter impossibility.

"Church federation has been tried for the past 25 years and it has always failed. In towns where two, four or half a dozen congregations

have united, the stronger has in time absorbed the weaker."

In speaking of Dr. Boyd's challenge, Rev. E. C. Constant, of the Highland Congregational church, said that "the esteemed clergyman is to be commended for his outspokenness and catholicity of spirit, but, if correctly reported, he fails to present any solution of the difficulty or plan of union.

"His presentation of the attitude of the church which he represents is gratifying and certainly admirable as far as it goes," declared Rev. Constant. "That attitude, however, according to my observation, is not one iota in advance of that of certain others of the so-called evangelical bodies. We need something more than an expedient for wartime—a plan which will be permanent and far-reaching in action."

At last night's services at the Central Methodist church, Rev. C. C. Rurick, pastor, discussed Dr. Boyd's challenge.

"Is the time at hand or even remotely approaching when all religions will follow one broad creed?" he asked. "I do not think so. Denominationalism is largely a matter of temperament. As long as human beings differ in temperament, so long will they differ in their religious denominations.

"Theology is not a fixed science, as is mathematics. Like astronomy with better instruments for setting, new stars are revealed in our theological sky. But even with the same instruments, and viewing the same sky, a temperament gives each of us our own peculiar eye, and we reach different conclusions.

"If we are wise enough to take into consideration the personal equations as they do in astronomy, church unions might take place. Dr. Boyd has had his dream, and I am afraid it is only a dream. However, it is a step in the right direction, but organic union will not take place for many years to come."

IN THE BIG CITIES

New York street railways talk of raising fares.

New York city in one month arrested 1,485 auto speeders.

Poughkeepsie, N. Y. in seven years has gained 8,000 inhabitants.

Frankfort, Ky., state fish hatchery has been completed and dedicated.

New York's 1918 tax budget calls for \$240,706,119.44, owing to increased cost of labor.

Madison, Wis., university reports nearly 50 per cent drop in number of students of German and corresponding increase in study of French.

Brooklyn (N. Y.) woman has founded an Order of Godmothers to "take an individual and parental interest in our soldiers, sending letters to them and little gifts of remembrance and keeping track of them throughout the war."

The Padre Scores.
Now and again a guy will take me off to one side and fix it up with me to write his girl or his mother after he is humped off, promising to do the same for me.

Yet they joke about it, too. Pop said to the chaplain today:

"You won't forget that little matter, padre, will you?"

"What little matter is that?" asked the chaplain.

"Why, my tombstone!"

The chaplain looked surprised.

"You never mentioned a tombstone to me," he protested.

"Sure I did! Don't you remember? A bottle of rum at head and feet!"

But the chaplain came back at him.

"No," he said gravely; "for then you wouldn't be quiet."—George Patullo in Saturday Evening Post.

Flour Little Hurt by Sea Water.
It is a widely known fact among sailors that flour will not only float after immersion in sea water, but suffer very little damage. To ascertain the actual damage a baker in New South Wales submerged a bag of flour in the ocean and left it in the water 67 hours. A 98-pound weight was necessary to sink a 150-pound bag, which would have supported 75 pounds on top of the water, it is estimated, or half its own weight. When lifted and weighed, the bag sealed 155 pounds. It was dried for four days and yielded 129 pounds of perfectly dry flour, the bag and waste weighing 28 pounds. Baked into bread, it gave perfect results.

Use Common Sense.
In a desire to help food conservation many women go to ridiculous extremes. Children and growing youngsters should be well nourished, war or no war. Mr. Hoover wants us to use common sense in our conservation. Putting youngsters on half rations is very far from common sense. If you cut down their butter or sugar, increase their consumption of milk.—People's Home Journal.

MEN CLASSIFIED

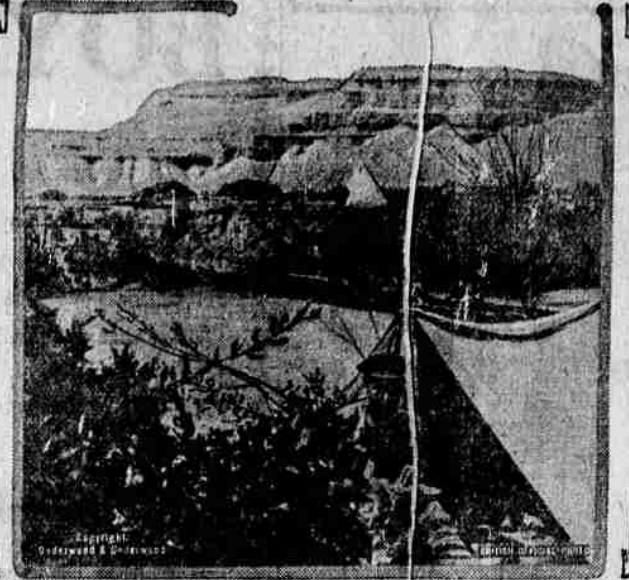
Hero—One that goes with her and flirts with all the cash girls.

Martyr—One that goes with her, but falls asleep in the store.

Patriot—One who goes with his wife to buy a hat and enjoys himself.

Coward—The sneaky character that always remembers he has an engagement.

WHERE THE BRITISH CROSSED THE JORDAN



British troopers are resting on the pontoon bridge which the British forces campaigning in the Holy Land used to cross the River Jordan at El Ghorabiyeh. In the foreground at this historic spot a Tommy outside his dog tent is enjoying his rations.

HOME ECONOMICS

Quick suppers for Out-Door Workers.—Have you joined the land army that works in the back yards everywhere? If so, you will want as much of the daylight for gardening as possible. Here are some quick suppers suggested by the United States Food Administration, which will take you only half an hour to prepare.

Scrambled eggs, hashed brown potatoes, sliced tomatoes, corn bread, sliced peaches.

Creamed left-over meat and potatoes, cucumber and cabbage, raspberries, oatmeal cookies.

Hot spinach and sliced eggs, corn flour baking powder biscuits, blueberries, tea.

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YOUR CHANCE

Quit worrying over lost opportunities and become alert to new ones.

You are going to have more chances to make good.

The old saying that opportunity knocks but once at your door is a fallacy.

Don't be so pernickety that you immediately wonder if the quotation about "opportunity" was correctly quoted, and so lose sight of the lesson which it is sought to drive in.

From experience you know you have had already more than one chance to improve your present position.

Don't allow yourself to think the big chance is going to hunt you up.

Indeed, it will skip you a-lying if there is a disposition on your part to be sought, and then coax, and then implore.

Opportunity is looking for some one who is ready and waiting to grab it.

Don't lose a second in catching on to opportunity any more than you want to lose a beat of that wonderful music by making a false step in the dance you enjoy.

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Economy and Your Boys Clothes

—In buying Boys' Clothes, as with anything else, economy is not so much a matter of price paid as value received.

—Come in and see the splendid values in our new lines of Boys' apparel. Extragood Suits and Overcoats, \$6.50 to \$20.

BOYS— BOYS—
Mackinaws.....\$5 and up Hats.....\$1.25 to \$1.75
Underwear.....83c to \$3 Caps.....50c to \$1.50
Sun and Tub Proof Blouses.....65c up Gloves.....15c to \$1.25
Pants.....75c to \$2.75 Stockings.....20c and up

Boys' Shoes, all leathers, lace and buttons, A to EE widths, \$2.50 to \$5.00

A Union Store **XTRAGOOD THE QUALITY STORE** A Union Store

As to Declaration of War.

There is no set form for a declaration of war and it has even been questioned whether a formal declaration of any kind is necessary. An American writer on international law says: "An act of hostility, unless it be done in the urgency of self-preservation or by way of reprisal, is in itself a full declaration of intention; any sort of previous declaration therefore is an empty formality unless an enemy must be given time and opportunity to put himself in a state of defense, and it is needless to say that no one asserts such a thing to be obligatory." Formal declaration of war preceding the beginning of hostilities was more common in ancient times and in the middle ages than in modern times. Investigation has shown that of 118 wars between 1700 and 1872 less than ten showed declarations of war prior to hostilities.

ABOUT PERSONS

John Taylor of Crystal Springs, Miss., has 15 sons in the United States army.

General Vorhovsky, late Russian war minister, 12 years ago was a chamber page to the czar.

Joseph P. Guffy, Democratic state chairman of Pennsylvania, has been appointed petroleum administrator, covering the purchase of all oil for the United States during the war.

Governor Whitman of New York was challenged by a sentry on a dark night and explained that he was governor. The sentry replied: "I'm governor, too. Put up your hands!" A corporal explained the situation. The governor said to the sentry: "You are a good soldier," and passed on.

FLASHLIGHTS

The fellow who only half tries usually makes a complete failure.

It takes all sorts of people to make up a world, but it took the Kaiser to break up a world.

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 Front Laced

are most symmetrically and artistically designed. They are comfortable, stylish and gradually mold the figure into those beautiful lines that every woman admires and desires.

PAULINE LEDERLE

Officials of the Chicago public library have banished from the shelves the book "What is Back of the War?" by Albert J. Beveridge, former senator from Indiana, because of its praise of the Kaiser's character and conduct and assertions that charges of brutal treatment of French women by German soldiers are a "gross error."

ALBERT J. BEVERIDGE



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LOST—Somewhere in this city, a purse, containing \$75 in currency. Liberal reward if returned to XXZ, this office.

Ads similar to the one above appear in most every paper. Yet some people will continue to carry large sums of money around. Why not carry a check book, and if you lose it there is no great loss; that's the only practical way to carry money.

Start a checking account today with us, and pay by check. You surely know that we have a safe place to keep your money.

Don't wait 'till you have lost a wallet to start your account, but put it in this bank tomorrow morning.

Member Federal Reserve System

La Grande National Bank

LA GRANDE, OREGON

SPECIAL

Economy Caps 25c per dozen
As long as they last

Harris Furniture Store

H. B. HARRIS, Proprietor
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BARGAINS!

1 MAJESTIC STEEL RANGE,
1 MONARCH STEEL RANGE,
1 ROUND DINING TABLE, 10-ft. extension,
1 PRINCESS DRESSER, 1 MACY SECTIONAL BOOK
CASE, 1 WARDROBE, 1 LOUNGE, 1 CHINA CLOSET, 1 BUFFET, 1 MUSIC CABINET. These are all used goods, as good as new and at ONE-HALF PRICE.

Furniture Exchange

Black 1241 E. J. DONOHUE Fir and Jefferson
Best Prices Paid for Used Furniture, or will Exchange for New.

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If, by chance, you have an experience with the deceptive selling practices or misleading advertising, please report it to us.