

LA GRANDE EVENING OBSERVER
An Independent Newspaper

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

Entered at the Postoffice at La Grande, Oregon, as Second Class Mail Matter.

Address all Communications to The Observer, 1710 Sixth Street.

City and 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, Oregon.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

By Carrier

Daily, per month 65c
 Daily, per three months \$1.95
 Daily, per six months in advance \$3.75
 Daily, per year in advance \$7.50
 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 60c

The Saturday Evening Observer, by mail, per year in advance \$1.50
 Weekly Observer-Star, by mail, per year in advance \$1.50



United States Against the World.

President Wilson has declared that "the United States will join no combination of powers which is not a combination of all of us."

The statement is meant as a reply to those foreign statesmen who would like to draw the United States into a limited alliance with one or two or three other powers. It is a bold stroke for a "league of nations" embracing all the powers.

Suppose, now, the other big powers, the allies who, along with us, now hold the destinies of the world in their hands, refuse to enter such a world federation. Then we are left out in the cold. It would be, potentially, Great Britain, France and Italy, and possibly Japan with them, against the United States.

It is interesting to speculate on what might happen under such a system. Relations for a considerable time, at least, would be friendly. Our present allies would not soon forget our services to them. And we, presumably, would not forget their services to us, and would not provoke them. But the world would move on.

Pan-America would probably become a reality, the Latin-Americans grouping themselves with the United States. Russia, if rehabilitated, might become at least a moral ally of ours. Germany and Austria-Hungary are quantities hard to reckon with. It is easily conceivable that some of the new nations arising in central Europe would stand with us in time of danger. There would almost certainly develop a new "balance of power" with the United States as the dominant member of one group.

All this speculation, however, is of little more than theoretical interest. It is not likely that Britain, France and Italy will leave the United States in a position of real or possible antagonism. These powers know that our present wealth and war resources are already as great as all their own put together. They know that they need our help for their immediate recovery from war's ravages, and our moral support for any plan of reconstruction and the safety of the world.

President Wilson has taken the bull by the horns. It may seem a rash act. It may be only a daring one. The next few weeks will determine. The present outlook is that the bull will yield, and the United States will become the most influential member of a combination of powers able to control the world in a universal peace of justice.

Unloading on North Dakota.

A dispatch from Bismarck, N. Dak., tells of the plans of the Nonpartisan leaders to have the state of North Dakota take over the Equity Co-operative packing plant at Fargo. This is to be done when it is determined whether or not the league can uphold the canvassing board's verdict or the public ownership and unlimited indebtedness amendments.

Only a short time ago the Equity Co-operative announced its determination to increase the capital stock of the packing concern from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000.

If the Nonpartisan league state officials expect to unload this plant onto the state, now is certainly the time to increase the capital stock. But why stop at three millions? Why not five or as high as ten millions, and then ask the state to buy the common stock of the concern at par?

All viewing the North Dakota

It is doubtful whether any western state will want any of this Socialist crowd in control of their institutions.

Will Demand Restitution in Kind.

It is stated by high French authorities that France will not only demand restitution from Germany, but she will demand restitution in kind.

The destruction wrought by the Germans in northern France was not simply the rude vengeance of war, but formed part of a carefully planned system for leaving France essentially helpless for years after the war.

In some cases factories and machinery were entirely destroyed; in others, parts of machines or whole machines were confiscated and carried off into Germany along with the other loot.

It is Germany's plan to utilize these stolen French machines in manufacturing goods with which to compete with France in the markets of the world, or even to sell to France herself, since it was the German's crafty scheme to reduce France to the rank of consumer where she had been essentially a producer. The same plan was followed to a large extent in Belgium.

There is absolute justice in the French demand for restitution in kind, that Germany be made to return the stolen machines and parts, and replace from her own stock those destroyed. Such a policy will go farther toward showing Germany the folly of her plans than any mere money tax could do.

It would be manifestly unfair that Germany should be free and unhampered even in her business of debt-paying while innocent France struggled toward reconstruction for years before she could compete in the markets of the world.

Of all the wicked German policies there is none more deserving of a punishment which fits the crime than her destruction of the materials of the industries of France and Belgium.

Lloyd George Stronger Than Ever.

The expected has happened in British politics. Only, as one might say, it has exceeded expectations. Lloyd George's coalition government has been returned to power by tremendous majorities. Parties are virtually wiped out. There is little partisanship visible in what remains. The fusion group that fought and won the war has its numbers and prestige vastly increased.

It is a great victory for broad patriotism over narrow partisanship. It is a great vindication of the compromise policies that made it possible to throw the full force of the British empire into the scale of war. It is also a great personal triumph for the premier.

The long and short of it is that David Lloyd George is today stronger than ever before. He is the British government and can go to the peace conference with a clear mandate from the British people to write the peace terms according to his known principles and policies.

This means that the British junkers are beaten. Lloyd George is a democrat of democrats. Unless he is greatly changed, he will certainly not make an imperialistic, autocratic power, for the benefit of only the wealthy and powerful. He will not tolerate old-fashioned, secret, crooked diplomacy. He will do his level best to make the world, and every part of it, safe for democracy, and clinch the victory by giving the allied nations what they have been fighting for.

With this nation-wide prohibition, we must bid good-bye to the old-fashioned winter—for how will the mercury dare to take a drop?

The receipts from the sale of war savings stamps last year was enough to pay all our federal expenses in normal years. Keep it up.

"Nerve" and "Spunk"

Unhappy is the condition of a man or woman who has no desire to rise.

Still, their case is not altogether hopeless. If they will just take on a little more nerve, a little more spunk, they can lift themselves out of the rut, of earning and squandering.

The banking habit, when true to its mission, assists men and women in their efforts to rise.

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Don't Starve Cattle on Account of High Feed.

It is short-sighted policy to starve cattle by attempting to maintain them in depleted fall pastures. This practice is common in western range states. It is unjust because it is inhumane, and it is unwise because it is unprofitable.

Although animals suffer less than man, they nonetheless suffer. Partial starvation is agonizing in the extreme. Aside from this, it causes the stockmen to lose money.

When the cattle come off summer pastures they are usually in good condition. They are then turned into the fields to pick up what could not be gathered during the harvest. This is desirable both in order to save the feed which would otherwise be wasted. High price of feed causes owners to delay feeding as long as possible. This is not wise, because cattle lose flesh rapidly.

Experienced feeders know only too well that it is more difficult to get flesh back on animals than it is to keep them in good condition and it is also much more expensive than to avoid it. It is not profitable to keep cattle fat, but they should be kept strong and vigorous.

Weak animals die at spring calving. When cows die, their calves, too, either die or else are saved with extreme difficulty. Feed that the dead animals have eaten is lost. Had these animals been sold or killed in the fall and the hay fed to other animals, these others would have been in better condition.—Deseret, Salt Lake, News.

Of course, now that everybody has enough coal and the railroads are getting straightened out, it's bound to be a phenomenally mild winter.

The coal situation will have to hurry if it is going to make any trouble this winter.

It begins to look a little as if demobilization of wheat would be the next step.



THE FORUM
The Place Where Everyone Has His Say.

MR. GARRICK SPEAKS.

Editor of Observer: In your paper of yesterday, I noticed an interesting article about the coming of the end of the world, etc. I also noticed that the Commercial club was in the attitude of humble supplicants, at the feet of our city commission, for permission to transmit their daily business in the usual ordinary manner.

I also noticed that the said city commissioners had thrown down their gauntlet to God Almighty and challenged Him to assume only second place in fighting the flu, serving notice on Him that His church from henceforth will be in the same class as picture shows, bowling alleys, pool tables, and gambling dens; and also I failed to notice in your paper any mention of a single Christian protesting against the attitude of the city commissioners, who by their gettoes have declared to La Grande, that they shall no longer worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences, when and where they please, thus proving the truth of Shakespeare's saying that "Man, puny, man, clothed with a little brief authority, before high heavens cuts such fantastic tricks as makes the angels weep and the devil laugh."

Now a word to La Grande Christians of all sects and denominations: "If ye desire to have the Lord, your Savior, acknowledge you as His in the day of judgment, stand up now and acknowledge Him fearlessly before a darkened and unbelieving world." For several Sundays in succession I have come home in hopes of enjoying the privilege of uniting with others in worshipping God in His church. But I have met with disappointments until the question arises—and like Bingo's ghost, it won't down—the question have we any faith in a living God or not? If the answer is yes, then prove it, by going as usual to our places of worship on Sunday and meeting with Him who has promised to be there.

Respectfully,
L. G. GARRICK.



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with Him who has promised to be there.

Respectfully,
L. G. GARRICK.

Oregon's Industrial News.

Jan. 6.—Value of cheese products in Coos county increased \$500,000 in 1918.

Portland shipyards unions still fighting for forty-four-hour week on full six-day pay.

Bubbard—State highway commission to erect mixing plant here to pave Pacific highway from Portland to Salem.

Prices have already begun to drop. The government expects to lose \$500,000,000 on the guaranteed wheat price of \$2.20 a bushel as against market price. Copper has shown a sharp decline and as business goes back to normal, wage adjustments must follow.

Albany—Linn county's share 1918 state tax to be \$93,267.

Roseburg—Myrtlepoint highway to be improved at cost of \$125,000.

Work will start early next spring.

Reedsport is making plans for a new school house.

Bradstreet shows food prices failed to register at advance last week.

Eugene—Lane county's tax levy 14.6 mills; one-tenth mill more than in 1918.

Tillamook county dairy herds have increased ten-fold in last five years.

Chamberlain's Tablets.

When you are troubled with indigestion or constipation, take Chamberlain's Tablets. They strengthen the stomach and enable it to perform its functions naturally. Indigestion is usually accompanied by constipation and is aggravated by it. Chamberlain's Tablets cause a gentle movement of the bowels, relieving the constipated condition.—Adv.

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