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An Independent Newspaper

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Walter, Walter, Walter  
What Do You Mean?

"Union county has been 100 per cent American throughout the world war; our people have never permitted anything un-American to go unchallenged—and yet, and yet, we now have Walter Pierce, our state senator, voting against a measure which is intended to uphold the flag and protect our people."

Thus ran the conversation of a man well up in Union county this morning, following announcement that Senator Pierce of Union county had been the only one voting against the senate bill to put down the red menace.

The Observer will have to admit that we have lost our ability to figure out Walter. The excellent neighbor that he is, the good citizen, the splendid father, all combine to make him a man worth while, but occasionally he does get one of those brainstorms that likens him to the unbroken cayuse of the prairie, the twisting windstorm of the Grande Ronde, or the typhoon of the seas.

We can only say in the spirit of the warmest friendship: "Walter, Walter, what do you mean?" And throughout these counties of Union and Wallawa, comes back the echo, "Walter, oh Walter, what do you mean?"

Do we still have confidence in the senator? Yes, for we know him well enough to know that when he stands on the other foot; when he awakens to realities and gets down out of the clouds; when he acknowledges that he has ceased running for governor, then his mind will get back to the broad wheat fields of Eastern Oregon, to the union labor boys who are not the Bolsheviks, such as some would apparently have the state think, and then Walter will join in awaiting the scourge that has drifted across Behrler sea from Russia.

We do not share in the street talk of a recall for Senator Pierce because of his vote, for the recall is a flimsy weapon and the greatest of consideration should be given before it is even taken down from the attic of public opinion.

Walter is not too far gone. He will show up right yet; so we say to his constituents of the two counties, be patient and probably in the next session of the senate he will advocate something that we will all approve of, and also prove that he has no desire to stay on the wrong side of a great question which confronts America today with almost as much force, and fraught with almost as great a danger, as the German menace that confronted us a few weeks ago.

Mine Sweeping Is Dangerous Work

Throughout the war a notable work has been going on, accorded little notice and yet involving a bravery which makes it one of the sanest of the war. This is the sweeping of mines from the waters in order that the big battleships and transports may approach their harbors in safety.  
All sorts of small craft have been equipped and pressed into the dangerous but necessary service. Seven hundred vessels have been constantly employed around the British Isles alone.  
Each month the mine sweepers operated on various parts of the sea, have swept up the mines from 46,000 square miles of water. It was lately estimated that in all they had traveled some 1,132,000 miles, and every mile was fraught with danger.

What Are America's Soldiers Coming Home to?

"This country over here is a fine one to visit, but it is so far behind our every other respect that I am going to be always satisfied with the United States hereafter."

The above is the closing paragraph from a man who enlisted shortly after the war started and who has been on the other side about a year. Little does he know what a strong effort is being made by the Socialist politicians in this country to "Europeanize" and "paternalize" this nation in his absence.

This man has seen the lack of initiative in the common people in countries where the government controls the great utilities such as the transportation, telephone and telegraph systems, as well as many other lines of industry.

He has been in a country where the "common people" never heard of such things as telephones and electric lights in their own homes. The conveniences were for the rich and "official class" only. The government controlled the supply and there was no competition and so why furnish cheap phones and juice to the "people." This is simply an illustration of the system.

This man expects to come home to a country such as he left where the private individual was at liberty to develop and grow and build up a business under the protection of a constitution guaranteeing him these rights.

He doesn't expect to come home and find his country "Europeanized" and "paternalized" so that the door is forever closed to him as a private citizen to enter the field of railroading, the telephone, telegraph or cable business, the maritime industry as a private owner of ships and numerous other lines.

This man, the same as thousands of other Americans, would never be satisfied to be a mere cypher all his life and draw pay as a government clerk with no chance of advancement, or hold down a soft berth on a ship with a soft bed and good meals as so alluringly pictured by Mr. Hurley in his program of complete government operation of the entire American merchant marine.

This man doesn't want to be petted and pampered and made a mere ward of the government.

He wants an American's chance to build and develop along lines of individual initiative under the protection of the American flag.

This man little realizes that while he has been away from home fighting for democracy in foreign lands, an organized movement has been started in his own country to control the opportunities which have heretofore been the birthright of every American.

Men like this American saved the world from German autocracy and he fought because he believed in the freedom of the individual.

Is he to come home to a country honeycombed with Socialism and ready to establish an official aristocracy to control virtually every move of an American citizen?

He has seen this system in operation in foreign lands and he is longing for the day when he can get back to the good old U. S. A. as he knew it before the war.

Whether you be laboring man or capitalist, this is your country and it is going to be up to you to decide whether you stay with American traditions and principles or step backward one hundred years and switch to a system which brought about a world war.

Undesirables Should Be Deported

The department of justice will shortly recommend to congress the deportation of 3000 or 4000 aliens now interned in the United States. Special legislation will be necessary to accomplish this, as there is, of course, no law at present covering the situation.

The further suggestion is made that the subsequent return of any of these undesirables to this country, whose hospitality they have abused, shall be made impossible.

There should be a great wave of public approval when congress takes up this matter, for the investigations of the department of justice have been thorough, and to them is added the proof presented by the alien property custodian as to the extent to which our business life has been impeded.

Among the number of aliens now interned are some who are considered as not dangerous. The deportation of these will not be urged, pending good behavior. There are others, and this number includes some well-known German women, whose speedy departure is considered desirable.

That the list of those whose removal is demanded includes many prominent and wealthy people should in no way hinder the proposed plans. These people have used their money, their social acquaintances, their influence, their American friends, for just one end—the furthering of German schemes and propaganda in this country. There is no room for citizens like these.

How good Germany they are will be tested by the enthusiasm they display for their return to their de-funct fatherland, and the zeal with which they lend their efforts to its salvation.

Federal Blue Sky Law and State Co-operation

The "Capital Issues Committee," which has had supervision of stock flotations during the war, and is composed of a group of absolutely trustworthy experts, has prepared a federal "blue sky law" designed to protect unwary investors against fraudulent stock issues.

The country is being flooded this winter with securities that are of little value or even entirely bogus. Criminal promoters have been reaping a harvest by persuading people ignorant of stock values to take their handsomely engraved but worthless paper in exchange for perfectly good liberty bonds. Honest bankers and brokers want to help the government stop this sort of thing, in order to protect the public and safeguard their own legitimate business.

Unfortunately the proposed measure can affect only stocks involved in interstate transactions. It will still be possible in many states for swindling concerns to sell their crooked stock within their state limits. Every state ought to have a law covering the subject and capable of enforcement.

No measure can guarantee absolute safety of investment, because the business involved may fail to pay profits on account of mismanagement after the stock has been sold. But through proper legislation the authorities can at least insure that the stock is not issued and sold in the first place without a real property value back of it.

Even free-trading Great Britain urges the deportation of the laisier as a Dutch export duty.



THE FORUM  
The Place Where Everyone Has His Say.

MR. WEST'S SUGGESTION

To the Editor of The Observer and readers of the Forum:  
Not everyone that is thirsty. Come, and get a bucket-full of pure water without money and without price, at the concrete block house, corner of Walnut and Spring streets.

The good book tells us that the Kingdom of Heaven is within you. Likewise pure water, the best in the world, is flowing in living streams beneath our beautiful city of La Grande.

We are invited to drive out in our auto's and see the fat, sleek steers at Floyd McKennon's and various other places. Please ask Floyd for a drink of the water like his steers drink. Mr. Chibry, I'll guarantee you will not need your strainer. Next drive to W. E. Buckman's place, near Inbler; to Wm. Dobbin's and E. E. Woodruff's, near Union; then come to Grover Grinnett's farm, taste the water and ask yourself could anything one-half so good come out of Beaver Creek.

The O. W. R. Co. has a well in this city which flowed 225 gallons per minute when struck at 850 feet deep. This same well with the help of compressed air has furnished 300 gallons per minute on a thirty-six hour test. This is only a six-inch well. Now, suppose the city put down a twelve inch pipe and have some water that does not need boiling. It would not cost as much to pump good artesian water into the city mains as it does to keep a crew of men making repairs to the dam and pipeline to Beaver Creek.

My well is 290 feet deep and is cased 188 feet with steel casing. The water rises 150 feet in the well and does not lower when pumping so there is plenty for all who will accept my invitation. Come and get your bucket full.

Respectfully,  
R. A. WEST.

A BETTER WATER SUPPLY

La Grande, Ore., Jan. 15th, 1919. To the Editor and La Grande Public: I have read your admonition regarding the boiling of our drinking water. Personally I object to the use of germs in any form, whether cooked, well done or rare, and there certainly is no necessity for it in La Grande. While I have only been a resident three years I expect to stay just where I now live and would like to see La Grande use the best resource she possesses and that is her pure water supply.

I am informed the city is underlaid with sheet water. Why not utilize nature's filtration system by drilling wells of sufficient calibre and quantity for all needs and purposes? This can be done by building a steel stand pipe, concrete lined, of sufficient size to guarantee an ice cold drink of water the year round and 100 per cent pure.

By placing the stand pipe on any of the surrounding hills La Grande can have a gravity water system second to none.

I have in mind my boyhood town when I suggest this system to the La Grande city commission and public—Dunsmuir, Pa., a suburb of Pittsburgh.

**JANUARY CLEARANCE SALE**  
EVERY ARTICLE REDUCED

# N. W. West & Co.

**THE QUALITY STORE**

**JANUARY CLEARANCE SALE**  
EVERY ARTICLE REDUCED

## Keen Judges of Values

**Do not go by prices; QUALITY MERCHANDISE is not built down to a price, but up to a standard. This store makes no compromise on QUALITY.**

That is why our **CLEARANCE SALE** offers such attractive savings to buyers of reasonable merchandise. Prices reduced in every department, on what we paid for the merchandise, not on what it is worth today due to rising markets.

A good gauge of success—the one Munsey applied to Theodore Roosevelt: The question in determining a man's stature is not "Does he make mistakes?" but rather, "Does he make more successes than mistakes?"

Why not put the undesirable aliens aboard those German battleships and let them taste the experiences of the Man Without a Country for the next fifty years?

Situated at the intersection of the Monongahela and Younghuey rivers. These rivers are very impure, being dammed for steamboat purposes, and carrying of the many acids, sulphur and sewage that drain into it by McKeesport, Glassport, Connellsville.

Also, many thousands of coke ovens all drain into these rivers, making the water about as full of germs as it could possibly get. Now, Duquesne had a water supply from the Fayette water sheds, which hold about the same relation to it as Beaver creek does to La Grande, and they had just the same troubles as La Grande is now having, until the then mayor suggested putting down wells near this old muddy river. He was, of course, criticized and cursed and everything on the calendar. But he had a majority of the council with him and they put down a ten-inch well about 90 feet from the river edge and to the conservation of all the kickers they got pure water, not from sheet water, as La Grande possesses, but simply river water filtered by nature's filter of running, or rather, by seeping through sand and gravel. Today they have a number of these wells and as fine water as I have seen in any city in the several states and provinces I have lived in.

I suggest that our city commission, with the co-operation of La Grande taxpayers and the public in general, give us a never-ending supply of pure cold water. Let's make a slogan "The best is found in La Grande and her pure water." We've got it, but can't drink it, that's all.

Very respectfully, for pure water,  
CLINTON S. SHULTZ,  
1904 East N Avenue.

HATS

Regular prices \$3.00, \$3.50, \$4.00; sale prices \$1.00, \$1.50, \$2.50.  
1-13-19  
THE TOGGERY.

Quick Cure for Croup

Watch for the first symptom, hoarseness, and give Chamberlain's Cough Remedy at once. It is prompt and effectual.—Adv.

Blank books of all kinds as well as typewriter paper. Envelopes of all kinds. School supplies and ink of all kinds in any quantity, at

**Silverthorn's**  
FAMILY DRUG STORE  
LA GRANDE, OREGON.  
1-16-19

WHY WEAR GLASSES

when your muscular insufficiency can be overcome by Oculo-Prism treatments, given at the Dr. J. W. Suck Optical Parlors, Foley Hotel building.  
1-15-19

Observer ads are widely read.

# B. T. U.

Stands for  
**BRITISH THERMAL UNITS**

The standard measurement of heat used by heating engineers in working out house-heating problems.

## B-U-T

Why worry about formulas? Leave them to us. We are Heating and Ventilating Engineers, and design and install any and all kinds of heating and ventilating plants in accordance with scientific and up-to-date methods. Do you wish a new heating plant in your residence, store or office, or are you having trouble with your present plant?

SEE US ABOUT IT  
**ANDERSON BROS.**  
Phone Red 3681 No. 8 Depot St.

# HAS ANYONE

Died—	Had a Fire—
Eloped—	Had a Baby—
Divorced—	Had a Party—
Embezzled—	Sold a Farm—
Left Town—	Been Arrested—
Come to Town—	
Had Twins or Colic—	
Sold a Cow or Lost an Auto—	
Laid in a Stock of Whisky—	
Stolen a Dog or His Friend's Wife—	
Committed Suicide, or Murder—	
Fallen From an Airplane or—	
Fallen Into a Coal Hole or—	
Fallen Into a Legacy?	

THAT'S NEWS!  
Phone or Mail It to the

## Evening Observer

Observer ads are widely read. OBSERVER ADVERTISING will bring results.

## Don't Let it Drop!

Many people start a bank account and let it go at that. They make no effort to keep it on the increase.

Start your account with this bank and see to it that it increases every month—don't let it drop! Your success in your undertakings will be measured by your effort to increase your Bank Account.

If you bank money while you earn it, you will have money when you can't earn it.

### La Grande National Bank

Member Federal Reserve System

Designated Depository of the United States Government

## Ladies' Silk Hosiery

Everwear Silk Hosiery gives the best of wear and looks the best. We have the following colors: Mahogany, champagne, castor, black and white. Price, per pair

Ladies' Spats in light and dark gray. Price, per pair	\$1.25
One lot Ladies' Black Kid Button Shoes in regular \$5.00 and \$6.00 values. Special for	\$4.45
One lot Ladies' Colored Kid Shoes—just a few sizes left. Values up to \$10.00 per pair. Price	\$4.85

Come in and let us put new tips on your laces free of charge.

## L. J. French Shoe Co.