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Home Letter No Less Needed Now Than Ever.

The boys in the American army of occupation are already tired of their job. The defeated Germans are not interesting—no defeated German ever is—and there is none of the stimulus of excitement or of victory unwon to make army life tolerable.

There is no way in which such a condition can be avoided. Of course, every effort will be made by officers and relief organizations to keep the men interested and happy, but the home folks are already receiving letters full of the soldier's weariness at inactivity, his longing to be home.

However much sympathy may be felt for the boy who must stay, it must not go into the answering letters from home in any weakening terms. At no time since our boys entered the service has the content of the home letter been so vital.

There is a fine line between discontent and dishonor. In order that the boy may stay on the safe side of the line and perform his full duty well, the home letter must be interesting, must be cheerful, free from either morbid sympathy which shall make him sorry for himself and from detailed accounts of family distresses which may tempt him to desert.

Parting with sons and husbands was agony when they went away to the danger of active service; but to every one of them the going was made easier by the tang of adventure. Now, to the boy bored with static duty, home is a place of infinite variety, of freedom and opportunity. Just a word might tempt him to come back to it before his time. It will take a finer courage to withhold that word perhaps than it took to speak the one which sent the soldier on his way, but it must be withheld. Better death than life without honor. Better the almost intolerable boredom of barracks life than the truly intolerable stigma of desertion or insubordination.

Such letters only should be written as will help a boy to hold on, and then the public should insist that these letters have safe passage and good delivery. Good faith demands it.

**Bolshevik Nightmare of World Domination.**

That Swiss professor who came back from Russia with the horrific yarn about Trotsky's plans of conquest must be either a Bolshevik convert or a vodka victim.

According to this Prof. Philippe Jeanneret, the Russian "Reds" now have 1,000,000 troops marching on Poland, Germany and Austria, and are taking an army of 5,000,000 men to sweep over western Europe and crush "bourgeois" France and England. He presents Herr Trotsky, alias Braunstein, in a new role, as an Alexander aspiring to conquer the world for Bolshevism.

The Bolshevik menace is serious enough, goodness knows. But its ways are not the ways of Alexander and Caesar, such as its hypocritical and fanatical leaders would fain copy those great captives. It moves by stealth. It fights not with guns, but with propaganda—its justifications by class envy and racial hatred.

As for a real army, that is absent on the face of it. Nothing less than an army of 5,000,000 men hope to have any effect against the allied western Europe. France and England are keeping at least that many men in the field. A modern fighting army, as everyone knows, con-

quires an industrial army a mile back. If it were possible to rally millions of Russians to fight again, where is the industry to provide them with guns, shells and supplies? Who is the transportation system to convey and provision that army? Where is the financial system to support it? Russia is reduced to economic chaos. Russians in millions now would be formless mobs, incapable of aggression against trained troops anywhere.

The infusion will rather be the other way. The allies may invade Russia, when they can get around it—to shoot down the maddened natives, but to feed and police them and get their industries in order.

**Neither Escape Nor Sympathy for Draft Dodger.**

The draft dodger who hid behind matrimony to escape war service is not going to be able to break his matrimonial ties easily, now that he no longer needs their protection.

The courts will deal severely with all young people who attempt to escape from the contracts they entered into so lightly.

Probably many a young couple by now are learning in repentance and tears that any battle of the war was mild beside the battle for existence when complicated by ill-judged alliances. They will have to learn, just as all soldiers do, to discharge their duty faithfully, whether it be congenial or not.

Certainly little sympathy will be felt by the public, and none should be shown by the courts, for the coward who hid behind a woman's skirts, or for the woman who permitted it.

**Dr. Hall's Removal Is a Loss to La Grande.**

That Dr. M. K. Hall should have determined to remove permanently from this city is a matter of deep regret to every citizen for the doctor and his excellent family are very much a part of this community.

Something like eighteen years ago he came here and began work in his profession. Aside from building a large practice and taking his place as one of the leading physicians and surgeons he has been active in civic and social matters.

Dr. Hall is looked to for opinion and advice in affairs of life. Mrs. Hall and two daughters, Miss Constance and Miss Gwendolyn, are very popular and dearly loved by the people here.

While regretting very much their decision to leave La Grande people here join The Observer in wishing for them that success and happiness in their Portland home which they are abundantly entitled to receive and enjoy.

Butter has hit the toboggan and other things will follow. The man who believes present conditions can last for long is possessed of a queer intellect.

**RED CROSS WORK WILL CONTINUE**

(Continued from page 1)  
branch and there also the Red Cross room will quite likely be converted to a community center.

At Enterprise there has been much work done and so there has been in Joseph. Both of these towns have been reasonably free from the prevailing disease and therefore the local aid necessary in other places has not been so essential in these points.

The assembly resolved last night to continue the work of the world's greatest mother—the Red Cross—in every way that is needed by starving Europe and home folks as well and not to slacken in the least the efforts to aid and assist suffering humanity.

E. E. Kiddle, chairman of the membership committee, made his report, showing remarkable gains in Union county. This is due to the war chest taking care of Red Cross memberships and places Union county in a record-breaking position when compared with counties that were not so fortunate as to have a war chest.

Treasurer T. J. Scroggin expressed his pleasure at having been able to assist the Red Cross since its organization. He reviewed the days when Red Cross money was not plentiful, when it was necessary to have funds in order to run and told of the checks that came piling in upon him when there was no funds. But Mr. Scroggin had faith in the people and did not mark these checks "not paid for want of funds," which would have been the old-fashioned gold-brooded banking way of years ago, but he paid the checks and trusted to his faith in Union and Wallawa county people for reimbursement. "I was talking no chances," said Mr. Scroggin, "but at that time the Red Cross needed really someone and it was a pleasure for me to do my part in advancing those funds until the membership committee could replenish the treasury."

**JOSEPH STILL REBUILDING**

BUILDINGS BEING IMPROVED AND REBUILT.  
Bright Sunshine Days are Being Enjoyed in the Vicinity of Joseph—Very Little Snow is Seen.

JOSEPH, Jan. 29.—(Special)—The weather remains "fine as silk." Bright, sunny days and moderate nights are enjoyed in this vicinity.

Mrs. E. H. Gaulke is in La Grande this week attending a business meeting of the La Grande chapter of the American Red Cross, of which the Joseph branch is a part. Mrs. Gaulke is a delegate from the local branch. All other branches and auxiliaries are supposed to have a representative at this meeting.

Chas. B. Miller was up from La Grande last week on business. John and Roe Turnbow of Lostine are in town this week.

Arthur Collinsworth has caught the improvement fever and is making big improvements in and around his furniture store. New paint and paper are in evidence and a better arrangement of the office and embalming rooms is being made. Mr. Collinsworth was forced to make these changes to meet his ever increasing business.

A. C. Hunt of La Grande is registered at the Jennings.  
Miss Gladys Sprague has accepted a position as clerk in the Sweet shop.

Wade Silver of Enterprise was in Joseph Monday looking after business affairs.  
C. E. Coles of Portland was in town for a short time this week.

U. D. Maxon, president of the Western Farquhar Machine Company was in Joseph the first of the week.  
Serg. Chas. L. Kelsay, of Seattle, who has been stationed at Camp Mead, Md., arrived last week and is visiting his sister, Mrs. L. Berland, and his aunt, Mrs. Mollie Mays.

The B & W Implement company are having a new shed built to replace the one which was destroyed by the recent wind. The roof of the Kerr Gifford ware house, which was also damaged, is now repaired.

"Kelly" Hartshorn left Wednesday for Portland, where he expects to spend the rest of the winter.  
W. W. Merriam, a Portland calendar man was in town several days the first of the week.

The old school house on College street is being repaired to accommodate several of the grades. It was last used about 1910.  
There is practically no snow on the ground in this vicinity at present.

FIRST METHODIST W. M. S.  
The Woman's Missionary Society of the First M. E. church will meet at the home of Mrs. H. E. Dixon, 1810 Second street, Friday afternoon at 2:30. All are invited.

GRASPING THE SITUATION.  
"What will Augustus do when I tell him I have secured a situation in the mensons' office at two pounds a week," mused Blanche, waiting for the train by which her lover was to arrive.

"Will he say, reproachfully: 'Why talk of mercenary things? Sordid girl! You have no situation outside my arms?' Will he say jealously: 'Cannot spare you! I want you all to myself! It will be the crowning joy of my life to take you and shield you from toil and care and worry—and situations!' Will he say rapturously: 'Situation! Hush, beloved!—'

A whistle, a puff of smoke, and the train arrived.  
"Augustus, dear, I have secured a situation at two pounds a week!" said Blanche thrillingly.

"H'm!" said Augustus. "Is it permanent? If so, we'll get married."

THE POWER OF A LAUGH  
The people who laugh with have a hold on us which nobody else possesses. Laughter is the best cement of human relationship. It is a bond between you and your children if they always come to you to have you laugh with them. If your wife, or your husband, or your business partner, knows that you will try to see the funny side of things that go wrong—and there always is a funny side except in actual tragedy—it is the end of fear between you. If there is gaiety and good humor in a household, the very servants respond to it. You simply cannot laugh and quarrel at the same time. You have to stop frowning if you smile.—The American Magazine.

McCall's patterns, complete stock to select from, at the Golden Rule. Saturday is the last day. 1-30-22  
Arcade Friday and Saturday, "The Hun Within." 1-29-23

**SALE ENDS SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1**

**N. W. West & Co.**  
THE QUALITY STORE

**24th Annual Clearance Sale**  
**Half Price**

Your chance of any Ladies coat, suit or dress. None reserved  
**One half price**

One lot of coats and dresses, values to \$27.50, your choice **\$6.90**

**Our regular lower than elsewhere prices reduced in every department.**

Y. M. C. A.  
Educational Department. Short-hand and typewriting. Day classes, 10:00 a. m. to 3:30 p. m.; Night classes 7:30 p. m. to 9:30 p. m.

MONEY TO LOAN.  
On Improved real property in Union county. No delays. Current rates. La Grande Investment Co. 1-20-24

**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 3631 No. 8 Depot St.

**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**

**Farming Dollars**  
When you are planting your corn crop do you plant whole ears? No! Grain by grain, hill by hill, it is dropped until the entire field is planted. As you raise corn, raise your dollars. Plant them as you get them, one by one, in an account with us. Now is the planting time for your money crop.

**SOW NOW FOR THE DOLLAR HARVEST.**  
No one ever regrets having a bank account. Thousands regret not having one. \$1 opens an account with us.

**La Grande National Bank**  
Member Federal Reserve System

**BUCKHECHT ARMY SHOE**  
REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

When you walk into a dependable shoe store and ask for a pair of BUCKHECHT Army Shoes, you can be sure—  
There's just one thing to remember—ask for the BUCKHECHT Army Shoe by name and be sure that you get it.  
Then—you will appreciate why it is worn by thousands of  
Office Men, Attorneys, Physicians, Hikers, Farmers, Orchardists, Motormen, Conductors, Hunters, and others in every walk of life.

Look for our registered trade name BUCKHECHT stamped on the sole of every shoe—for our mutual protection.

Not obtainable from your dealer, send name and address for order direct to BUCKHECHT & HECHT, San Francisco.

**\$8.00 to \$7.00**

**La Grande Mattress Shop**  
And Weaving Works  
Mattress Making and Repairing, Feather Mattresses Made, Feather Renovating, Carpet and Fluff Rug Weaving.  
All Work Called for and Delivered CHAS. EDWARDS, Prop. ONE BLOCK EAST OF FLOUR MILL. PHONE RED 132

**It Pays To Read Advertisements**

**YOU'VE** often heard the saying, "It pays to advertise." That is true. And it also pays to read advertisements—pays you. If you read advertisements consistently for any length of time you will agree that this statement is also true.

**IT PAYS YOU IN MONEY SAVED.** There are many real bargains offered from time to time in the advertisements appearing in this paper. Watch for them.

**IT PAYS YOU IN SATISFACTION.** When a merchant asks you to come to his store he obligates himself to sell you quality goods "as advertised." You have a right to expect satisfaction from what you buy and you get it.

**IT PAYS YOU IN TIME SAVED.** When you know exactly what you want to buy and where you want to buy it, you don't have to "look around" and waste time finding it.

Don't YOU want to save money and time? Wouldn't you like to be sure of getting satisfactory service and quality goods every time you go to a store? Then read the advertisements and patronize the stores which can serve you best.