

EDITORIAL PAGE

Good Morning.

This is the first issue of the Sunday Morning Observer. It is the first step in the long-cherished desire to issue once each week a paper of more than regular size—a paper that can and will take care of longer stories and go into subjects at greater length.

You will observe the Associated Press report in this issue. It is not necessary to call your attention to the size of the telegraphic report, for it covers the world news and when you receive the metropolitan papers you will find nothing in them covered by a telegraphic news report that The Observer has not furnished to you in advance.

Increased local features and more extensive correspondence from the different centers, both locally and in the state, combine to make the Sunday Observer a specially attractive issue, not only to the reader, but to the advertiser as well.

The support which The Observer hopes to get for such an undertaking we feel will be forthcoming, for La Grande and Union county people are appreciative. As that support comes The Observer will keep in advance of it and continue to make the Sunday Observer more and more attractive by adding new features.

It is the ideal issue to subscribe for to send to people who have removed from La Grande.

IT IS OUR MOVE IN THE GOOD ROADS GAME

The Observer believes in speaking openly and frankly on the question of permanent highways, and Union county people had as well begin earnest consideration of this improvement, for it is coming. We mean by this that other counties in the state are active, so active in fact that it begins to look as though this county will have to battle for the advanced position she has assumed relative to the transcontinental highway.

Umatilla county is voting a bond issue to enable her to build a large mileage of hard-surfaced roads, and those roads are so laid out that they reach into Grant county. Grant and Malheur counties, while not heavily populated, have shown a wonderfully active spirit in the highway game. They are preparing to match the state highway commission dollar for dollar with money raised in their own counties. If they succeed in getting a good highway through Malheur and Grant counties into Pendleton, naturally the travel will go that way. Pendleton will welcome such a movement because Pendleton merchants will benefit from the Grant county trade which now goes elsewhere. Baker will not object with all her might because she contemplates building a connecting road with the Grant-Malheur road, thus getting a portion of the Grant county business into Baker.

The above plainly shows the road situation insofar as the through highway is concerned.

Now let us look to local conditions and our own affairs. It is no longer a debatable question that the county without good roads is going to be a back number and will be shunned by tourist travel, cursed by residents who travel in mud and rough highways and eventually will lose much population to counties that have good roads. Land values will be largely influenced by highways.

Should Union county desire she has the opportunity to build a complete highway system. How? By raising a half million dollars. The state and federal government will match dollar for dollar every dollar that this county will raise, and it will be difficult and next to impossible to get money from those sources unless the county does raise money to match them. With a million dollars, which is the amount that can be counted upon if Union county will raise her half, the main highways of the entire county can be finished so that the present generation will have roads to use. Bear in mind this county, through the efforts of the county court, has fared very well at the hands of the highway commission, for already we have received from the six million dollar road bond bill voted two years ago \$235,000. It is up to us now to show ourselves in the right light if we want more money, and it can be had if we meet the commission half way.

Suppose Union county does nothing regarding roads. Suppose we sit back and refuse to play. There is a half million dollars of state and federal money that will be lost to us forever. It is good business from every angle to have a system of highways in this county.

OUR COLLEGES—WHAT WILL WE DO WITH THEM?

Do you notice the outcroppings of what is termed "higher education"? Do you notice that now and then a college professor is put in the unparliamentary class? Do you notice that a college professor occasionally "spills the beans" and talks what is in his heart, which talk is inflammatory, treasonable and dangerous?

It all combines to make one wonder what we are to do regarding our colleges. They are at present breeding grounds for anarchists, free lovers and various and sundry other kinds of undesirable citizens. Yet these very undesirable are given a "chair" to teach the young. Do you suppose a man who is surcharged with some issue—who loves and practices it, can teach the children of this state or any other state without imparting, or attempting to impart, to those children his long-haired ideas?

A house cleaning is needed from cellar to attic. Professors are on the pay rolls of colleges who should be deported. Professors are drawing public money who should be behind prison bars and the sooner the colleges are cleansed the sooner we will be able to say in truthfulness, "America for Americans."

Well, the legislature has passed away. The men who made up the body have returned to their private lives and oratory will be a back number for a couple of years.

Bourist Together



Central Labor Council for La Grande.

La Grande is a pay roll town to a very great extent. A pay roll town means that labor bends its effort to produce commodities, to provide transportation and to care for other industries. While there never has heretofore been strong union organization in this city, outside of some of the railroad organizations, there is today organization of almost every trade.

But individual unions find their strength is limited, and while they can in a measure accomplish things they strive for within their own circle, they are confronted with lack of co-ordinated effort when they seek any general application of union principles in the community. It was but natural for the different representatives of the trades unions to meet, which they did Tuesday night, and organize a central labor council for La Grande. It is but natural for the men and women who have labor for their commodity in the world's trade to seek a closer relationship, to establish unification—just as the hardware dealers of the state meet for business reasons and any other line of merchandizing men do the same thing.

The Observer believes the future of the nation depends upon clean, honest organized labor. We do not think the pendulum will ever swing back to a point where labor is left to battle its way by the individual workman, nor do we think that it should be hoped by anyone for such a condition. Organization is here to stay. It is of value not only to the person who works at the trades, but to the producer, to the state and to the nation. Organized labor gives confidence to men, and when directed properly it is a vehicle for great good to everyone.

The central labor council will likely insist upon some changes in the general scheme of affairs—some alterations and corrections. No union man with good reasoning can expect a business that is not paying to increase his wages; no person will insist on increases, or even retention of the present high scale, who will not willingly aid the employer in shaping honest business to a point where it will sustain the pay roll and make a return for the man who has money invested and who is himself devoting his time to the enterprise.

In order to accomplish this result La Grande must necessarily be an organized city—not a haphazard organization, but every line of industry must be included. The union man who is enjoying union protection and union wage scale in one line of work cannot feel right when he knows that a workman in some other line is putting in extra long hours at lower than living pay. If he is the kind of a person who is entitled to the union protection he will at once render all the assistance he can to the end that organization may be enlarged to include the class that is not working under union conditions. The way to have all things balanced properly under unionism is to have complete organization with a good, safe, sane central labor council which will look after the weak and at the same time keep the strong unions on a fair and impartial basis.

In speaking of unionism The Observer wishes to point out one organization that is thoroughly organized and has been an important factor in La Grande's growth for many years. That organization is the B. of L. E. It is impossible to find a better class of men and there are no better citizens. The members of this body have been prominent and faithful in all civic affairs and have responded to

every call made upon them by their nation, state and city. It is interesting to know that 80 per cent of the La Grande B. of L. E. own their homes and in the delinquent assessment paying tax publication not a B. of L. E. was on the list. That's what good unionism does.

Modern Example of a Medieval Plague.

As influenza became a part of every community and claimed its victims from far and near, it is interesting now that the plague has abated, to read in the New York World a concise statement of the damage done. The World says:

"Further official data showing the ravages of Spanish influenza in this country are contained in the report of the chief actuary of the New York Life Insurance company. Due to the epidemic, the company's ratio of actual losses incurred to expected losses rose to 95 for the year 1918 and to 188 for the last three months, as against an average ratio of 72 for the five-year period, including war losses, during three and one-half years.

"The highest death rate for cities was in Philadelphia, which lost eight persons out of every 1000 of population, and the cities next in order of mortality were Baltimore, Boston, New Orleans, Washington, Nashville, San Francisco and Kansas City. The influenza death rate for forty-six chief cities, as shown by government reports, was 5.9 per 1000, and if it is assumed that the same rate prevailed in the towns and country districts, the epidemic caused the death in the United States of approximately 500,000 persons.

"That is to say, Spanish influenza has killed nine times as many Americans as were killed in the war, and during the comparatively brief period of its ravages it has exterminated a population equivalent to that of one of the country's great cities—larger than Washington and less than Baltimore. As respects its virulence and its baffling nature, not only has it proved fatal in greater degree to the robust, but the death rate in the army, as stated by General Gorgas, have been nearly five times as large as among civilians in New York City.

"Everything considered, Spanish influenza has been the most virulent and mysterious visitation of disease that has ever afflicted the modern world. It has had all the aspects of an old-time plague. Before the end of its second decade, the twentieth century has had to endure not only the most destructive war in all history, but also one of the most disastrous of epidemics."

SQUARE DEAL FOR EVERY INCOME TAX PAYER

Washington, D. C.—"The rights of all persons now filing income tax returns are amply protected by provisions for abatements, refunds and appeals," says Commissioner Daniel C. Roper.

"Every person can be sure of a square deal. No person is expected to pay more than his share of tax. His share is determined solely by the amount and nature of his net income for 1918, as defined in the law.

"Abatement petitions are dealt with open-mindedly. Refunds will be made in every case where too much tax is erroneously collected.

"The income tax is on the level all the way through."

Let Senator Penrose Be Shelved.

The Republican party is about to come into power once more by taking over the congress of the United States. We believe there is a long, bright future for the party provided some fatal mistakes are not made, and in 1920 it is very probable the presidency will fall to Republicans.

But the Republican party is not the party it once was—willing to take a man as a leader because he wears the Republican party label. We have in mind Bois Penrose of Pennsylvania who by precedent becomes head of the senate financial committee. This man should be shelved for the good of the country. There is no good reason why Penrose should be protected by any senatorial precedent when he is entirely unsatisfactory to a great element of the Republican party and has proven himself to be a politician of the Pennsylvania type.

Should Penrose succeed in his ambitions it means a muddy road for the party. It means dissension from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and while men will stick to Republican principles and swallow a great deal of bitterness for the sake of those principles there is proof positive of a vigorous fight in the grand old party from the day that Penrose is chosen.

Oregon should have a lieutenant governor. Any state without one is running out of balance. The lieutenant governor should preside over the state senate and be ready to act as governor when the chief executive is called away or takes a rest, or when the work becomes too burdensome for one man. Under Oregon's plan of government if the governor did not have a rubber stamp he would spend half his time signing his name to vouchers—an antiquated and out-of-date condition, to be sure.

It is claimed that O. A. C. influence defeated the compulsory military training bill in the legislature. It is also claimed that this was done because one Colonel John Leader, who is with the Oregon university, would have charge of the department thus created if the bill had passed. If the assertion is correct Oregon is once more forced to face the petty jealousy of two of its higher schools of learning, reviving the old theory of consolidation, which should by all means be done.

The preachers at Corvallis took a pot shot at one of the professors who had been appointed by President Wilson to attend the peace conference. The reverend gentlemen spared no hide on the worthy or unworthy professor, for they charged him with practicing free love and a number of other very unwholesome things. Corvallis must have some fighting "parsons" who have the courage of their convictions.

When Walter comes romping home we will hear from his own mouth some of the iniquities of the present session and know just how deeply Oregon is entangled with the octopus.

The snow always comes in time to make good the Grande Ronde valley wheat crop.

The coal man hangs on and demands recognition, for winter is still with us.

Much let—don or lamb—noting to that Indian stuff.

Here's to Mark Lane and his Union show.

SOME POSTSCRIPTS

Two French scientists contend that ten per cent of the chickens in that country have tuberculosis and that the disease runs as high as 28 per cent among poultry in some other nations.

Water is heated in a new garbage incinerator which contains a spiral grate made of brass pipes through which the water circulates, garbage being placed at the top of the device and falling as it is consumed.

The more extensively it is used the better are the results obtained from a Swedish system for stimulating backward children by circulating electric currents through the air of the room in which they study.

For automobile tourists a fireless cooker, refrigerator, set of vacuum bottles and dishes and silverware for six persons have been combined so compactly that the outfit can be carried on the running board of a car.

That he has discovered a partly electrical and partly chemical process for the reduction of nitrogen suitable for fertilizers from relatively cheap and easily obtained material is the claim of a Brown university professor.

To safeguard the health of painters a British commission has advocated a law prohibiting the importation, sale or use of any paint material containing more than five per cent of its dry weight of a soluble lead compound.

To obtain a powerful searchlight with a comparatively weak current, a Frenchman has mounted a number of incandescent lamps on a revolving circle, each in turn being illuminated briefly and their combined rays being collected by a reflector.—Houston Post.

CURIOUS CONDENSATIONS

We have had envelopes since 1830.

The Civil war cost the United States \$3,000,000,000.

A newly invented butter pick has a lever attachment, which pushes off its point a piece of butter that it has picked up.

A cutlery steel asserted to be non-rusting, unshrinkable and unsharable has been developed by British manufacturers.

In order to prevent oil waste a frame which will hold a heavy oil can and permit it to be tipped for pouring has been invented.

According to the last available figures in Great Britain, 843 new works of fiction were published in a year, against 300 naval and military books.

Without stopping his train an engineer can move a lever in his cab and open a recently patented switch to enable him to enter a siding, the switch closing when the last car has passed over it.

SOME OBSERVATIONS

Confederate money has no redeeming traits.

Patience is more often a necessity than a virtue.

Whisky is said to improve with age, but so few men let it grow old.

Opinions of The Press

Germany's greatest loss in the war was her future.—Cleveland Press.

"The Better Ole" has had an effective run in Seattle, as the L. W. W. will testify.—Boston Transcript.

"And we shall beat our swords into plowshares and our shoulder-bars into political platforms.—Greenville Piedmont.

The loss of revenue from taxes on booze will be more than offset by the fines for violation of the prohibition law.—Nashville Southern Lumberman.

"The old order is dead," Chancellor Ebert announces to the German national assembly. The world would breathe more easily if the old orders were dead, too.—New York Tribune.

High Bolshevik officials will be punished by death for inebriety. That will keep a lot of them struggling to remain down in the ranks.—Detroit News.

"Will labor's mighty forces form a new party?" inquires the Literary Digest. Sure they will, but they will not vote the ticket.—Topeka State Journal.

Stories of the destruction of telephone lines in Weimar by mobs will rouse in the hearts of harassed New Yorkers at least one throb of fellow feeling.—New York Tribune.

Another reason why Russian factions are not permitted on the peace commission is that it would probably require changing the name and purposes of the commission.—Detroit Free Press.

Von Hindenburg is trying to persuade the ex-kaiser to return to Germany. This is the first sign that the old field marshal entertains any hard feelings toward his former boss.—Charleston News and Courier.

The owner of the back lot that is filled with gaping tin cans, broken crockery, wood knots and ash heaps is quite sure to be found somewhere discussing the orderly adjustment of international affairs.—Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

ABOUT PERSONS

John Clingan of Goldfield, Neb., is recovering from a broken neck.

Joseph Fuller, seventy-eight, in Charlestown, Mass., had for 46 years been a prison guard.

J. M. Gago, asking divorce in Kansas City, alleges that his wife kisses him too often. He is twenty-two; she is fifty-two.

Mrs. Luella Coleman, dead in Pittsburgh, 15 years ago founded a home for negro boys which has thus far educated 500 orphans.

J. W. Wetrick, forty, of Vera Cruz, Ind., attended his first theatrical exhibition the other day, taking his first electric car ride on the way to do so.

PAY AND FILE INCOME TAX REPORT BEFORE MARCH 15

The Income Tax drive comes to a close on Saturday night, March 15.

All payments and returns due on that date under the provisions of the new Revenue Law must be in the hands of local Internal Revenue Collectors before their offices close that night.

The income tax is being collected to meet the war expenses. Every person who has earned and toiled his horn on a hard day is now called upon to contribute his share of the cost of winning the war.

The lawbreakers and the dodgers will face severe fines and jail sentences. The Internal Revenue Bureau announces that its officers will check us all up to see that every person who comes within the scope of the Income Tax law did his share.

Where to Pay and File.

Residents of Oregon are required to make their returns and pay their taxes to Milton A. Miller, Collector of Internal Revenue, Portland, Ore., or to any of his deputy collectors who are now doing free advisory work on Income Tax.

Payments sent by mail should be attached to the returns and should be in the form of check, money order or draft. Cash payments by mail are sent at the taxpayer's risk of loss.

If you are unable to make your return personally because of illness, absence or incapacity, an agent or legal representative may make your return.

If there are any doubtful points as to year items of income or allowable deductions, you should get in touch at once with a Revenue officer or a banker for advice.

Women Pay Tax.

Women are subject to all the requirements of the Income Tax. Whether single or married, a woman's income from all sources must be considered. If unmarried, or if living apart from her husband, she must make her return for 1918 if her net income was \$1,000 or over.

band, her income must be considered with the husband's in determining the liability for a return. Their joint income, less the credits allowed by law, is subject to normal tax. The wife's net income is considered separately in computing any surtax that may be due. Husband and wife file jointly, as a rule. If the husband does not include his wife's income in his return, the wife must file a separate return.

Severe Penalties.

The new Revenue Law places severe penalties on a person who fails to make return on time, refuses to make return or renders a fraudulent return. For failure to make return and pay tax on time a fine of not more than \$1,000 is named, and 25 per cent of the tax due is added to the assessment. For refusing wilfully to make return, or for making a false or fraudulent return there is a fine of not exceeding \$10,000 and imprisonment of not exceeding one year, or both.

Farmers' Income Taxable.

Every farmer and ranchman who had a fair or a good year in 1918 must heed the Income Tax this year. He must consider all his income as taxable. He is entitled to deduct from his gross income all amounts expended in carrying on his farm. The cost of farm machinery, farm buildings and improvements cannot be deducted. The cost of live stock, either for resale or for breeding purposes, is also regarded as investment.

Overtime and Bonuses Taxed.

Salary and wage earners must consider as taxable every item received from employers and from other sources. Bonuses and overtime pay are to be reported, as well as the regular payments.

Allowances for Losses.

Losses sustained in 1918 and not covered by insurance are deductible items if incurred in the taxpayer's business or trade, in any transaction undertaken for profit, or arising from fire, storm, shipwreck or other casualty, or from theft.