

EDITORIAL PAGE

Umatilla Sees the Handwriting

Possessed of the instinct for which the Umatilla Indian was noted years and years ago, the present-day citizens of that county gathered at their different polling places one day the past week and by a vote of eight to one decided to bond Umatilla's resources for a million and fifty thousand dollars for road work.

The explanation is a simple one: Umatilla county sees with a plain vision that the good roads campaign is on—that the onward march of progress and civilization demands highways and that portion of the state and nation without good highways will be shunned by the American public. She also saw at a glance—and it is not hard to see—that there was a jackpot of money in the state treasury which would be spent only where counties spent equal amounts with the state in highway improvement. And she saw further a chance to have a hard-surfaced road system built in a reasonable time, thus permitting the people who are living to enjoy the pleasures and benefits of the highways.

All these things were plainly visible to those brothers who live just over the hill. Their wisdom is good; their reasoning is sound. They are a lot of people who sincerely believe in taking care of their own, and they do it. All credit is due them. And, inasmuch as they are the trail blazers for the bonding counties for highways it will be interesting for every citizen of Union county to study their plans and talk with every citizen who comes across the hills from Umatilla county.

Union county has a part to play in this great road program. The best way should be selected so that this county will also benefit from the state and federal fund already raised. The Observer is open to all comment both for and against, and to any plan that looks feasible for better highways. Send in your opinions. They will be received and printed cheerfully.

PERSHING FOR PRESIDENT

The public mind is slowly but surely drifting to General Pershing for president. Since President Wilson has refused a third term the Democrats have no one big enough to measure up to the job, and since the death of Roosevelt Republicans are as much at sea as their opponents. It is claimed Pershing is a Republican, which is all the more reason for sentiment drifting to him, for this seems to be a Republican era. Some argue that Pershing is an unknown quantity, but the same was said of Grant. Any man who can lead the American army to victory in war is big enough for president of the United States.

CHRISTIANIZING THE WORLD

It is very refreshing to note the zeal and enthusiasm of the Christian people of the country who are taking a firm grip on things following the war. "To make the world safe for democracy the world must be Christianized," is the remark made by one of their leaders. If this was a truly Christian world democracy would be abundantly safe. But, try as we all may—and everyone should try—to make the world humble and meek and follow in the path of the lowly Nazarene, there will always be the selfishness of mankind to overcome. We are a long way from the desired goal, but that should not prevent further striving. The Presbyterians in La Grande held a New Era meeting this week. The New Era means "got to work, oh ye church people."

The Methodists have a nation-wide plan on to reorganize their church and other denominations are working hard to plant the seed of Christianity in the heart that has known it not before. It is a fine program. Let the good work go on.

Newt Burgess and his Umatilla Indians took a ten thousand dollar bite out of the Live Stock Exposition promotion. But then, Newt has more money than he knows what to do with and Umatilla county also raises a couple of million bushels of \$2.20 wheat each year.

The price of building may seem high. It is high. But the joy and satisfaction of owning the home you live in will compensate that to a great extent. Build it this year and join the general improvement epoch that seems to be spreading over La Grande.

The soldiers coming home never fail to get the glad hand and proper cuts in Eastern Oregon, but that is also true throughout the state and Eastern Oregon is only doing her proper part in the great home-coming program.

At that Ben Olcott is not a happy man with all the tumult and annoyance of state house affairs resting upon his shoulders. Those who knew him believe he would have much preferred to remain as secretary of state.

The people of Union have done without a gravel road to the Junction long enough and The Observer congratulates them on their efforts toward doing something for this improvement.

With a general strike in telephone offices the staple "hello" may be changed to stronger language.

The boys of Company M looked fine—they are fine.

Ride fast before the price of gasoline rises.

Lot of snow and lots of wheat.

To Be Hatched Out.



Epoch Marked by Retirement of Fred J. Holmes.

Probably no more startling business news for Union and Walla Walla county people could have been printed than appeared in The Observer of Friday, stating that Fred J. Holmes had sold the Island City M. & M. company to a new firm.

Mr. Holmes has been a pillar in every way to this community and the M. & M. company is a household phrase for many miles around. For years and years he has dealt with the consumer and has his first time to ever see a customer. He has stayed with his patrons when they were hard up and needed extensive credit and many is the man who can trace the beginning of his fortune directly to Mr. Holmes because of leniency and providing equipment and implements. It must be a great satisfaction to a man who has lived such a life—for him to positively know of many persons who are now on the high road of success, yet who started with him in a meagre way.

While Mr. Holmes has discontinued his relationship with the business he will remain a resident of La Grande and is heavily interested in many other enterprises, including the La Grande National Bank. His counsel and advice will still be available, and it is prized very highly. His public work for his community will not slacken nor will his personal interest weaken in his many friends. For Mr. Holmes is a man who loves his friends. Put him in isolation and he would soon perish for lack of association with those whom he enjoys.

It is a fine thing that he can retire and "kick up his heels," as he terms it, at an age when he enjoys the world. Too many men stick to their jobs too long and when they quit they can have no fun or see any pleasure in anything. No so with Fred J. Holmes. He is a lover of horse races, like a political scrap and is what can be said, when intended in the proper way, "a good sport."

Build the Highways Now.

The Christian Science Monitor's very sane and sensible editorial writer urges the nation to build roads now and give his reasons as follows:

In 1916, and in response to an almost universal demand throughout the United States, a federal act relating to the construction of highways was passed by congress. Under its provisions an appropriation of \$75,000,000 was made, of which \$5,000,000 was to be available during the fiscal year 1917, and an increasing amount each succeeding year until 1921, when \$25,000,000 would be available. It was made conditional that each state should contribute toward road building a sum equal to that to be drawn from the national treasury. In Richmond, Va., in the December of 1917, Logan Waller Page, director of the United States office of public roads and rural engineering, said that of 228 projects submitted for the purpose of obtaining federal aid, 168 had been approved and only six disapproved, the remaining presumably having been held up pending action. The total sum involved in the projects approved amounted to \$12,500,000, of which \$4,000,000 would come from state and local sources.

Of the forty-three states whose legislatures were in session in 1917, not one failed to pass important highway measures, and several established fully equipped highway departments. With the evident intention of going ahead with road construction immediately.

The Republican party opened a national campaign in St. Paul. It should have gone over to South Dakota, where the people need it worse.

Excuse Us While We Blush.

The Portland Oregonian, along with many other newspapers of the state, has seen fit to say some nice things about the Sunday Morning Observer. Here is the language of the Oregonian:

La Grande well may be proud of its newspaper, for the Sunday Morning Observer that made initial appearance March 2 is quite a bit beyond expectation. It fills the need in Union and Walla Walla counties, and, to use the time-honored phrase, it has come to stay. Last Sunday's paper is a sample, and if there is room for improvement this is not visible. As a city is known by its newspaper, so is La Grande known.

"We always did think a lot of Ben Olcott and always admired his record as secretary of state." This can be heard from a chorus of state employees and office holders now that Ben is Oregon's governor. It must be fine to be one of the boys who looks for the axe to fall from one year's end to the other.

Eastern Oregon flouring mills are closing down because the government furnishes no boats to haul flour. Yet the Columbia river has a bunch of boats sleeping sullenly on the calm water. Is it because the boats are not seaworthy or because the ball of red tape has not yet been wound up?

Welcome to Mr. Holmes and Mr. O'Brien of the Oregon Hardware company, which succeeds the old M. & M. company. La Grande needs just such

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EVERYBODY IS NOW FIGURING INCOME TAX

With the due date for Income Taxes only a few weeks away, the collection of this far-reaching tax on 1918 incomes has started off with a bang. Everybody is figuring income tax.

Payments and sworn statements of income must reach Internal Revenue offices on or before March 15, and there are severe penalties for delinquency. 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.

"Pay your Income Tax by March 15," is the slogan of the Internal Revenue Bureau, which has sent every available officer into the field to help the public to understand the requirements and to prepare the returns.

Who Must Make Return. It is estimated that many thousands of single and married persons in this section of the United States who have never before made annual returns are required to do so this year.

Income tax returns must be made between now and March 15 by persons who come under the following classifications:

Any unmarried person whose 1918 net income was \$1,000 or over. Widows and widowers, divorcees and married persons who are living apart from their husbands or wives, are for the purposes of the Income Tax classed as unmarried.

Any married person living with wife or husband whose 1918 net income was \$2,000 or over. The income of both husband and wife must be considered, together with the earnings of minor children, if any.

men as you are and there is plenty of room for all the young blood.

And down in Nevada they have passed a law against making near beer. That will save some ex-brewer a lot of headaches in trying to remodel his plant for the manufacture of a new drink.

Max Houser's advice regarding flour sacks would cheer the good old grandmothers of Missouri, who used to make Fourth of July dresses for the children out of sacks.

Our allies touched us for 178 millions in a loan this week. Pretty soon there will have to be new adding machines made to compute the amount our allies owe us.

It is now fifteen years for a private if he wishes to "cuss out" an officer. A short time ago it meant death. Even military rules are undergoing some reformation.

It is claimed Germans are balking on the release of ships. Get to 'em, Pershing, and clean this whole thing up so the boys may come home.

Utah has not only stopped the sale of cigarettes, but also put the "making" out of business, too. That's taking the tail with the hide.

This is the time of year when the automobile agent is making up his list of prospects, so get ready for free rides.

How about the Cove cherries?

FROM ABROAD IN THE STATE.

Immediate construction of a 12-mile extension of the Portland & Oregon City railway to open up the Cornwell and Sand-Hayden timber tracts is planned by F. M. Carr, manager of the railway company.

Dates of the state-wide campaign for gathering 10,000 members for the newly formed Oregon State Chamber of Commerce have been announced. The actual drive will be started March 17.

Ernst Stitt, Clifford Thompson and Val Mealy of Lebanon, members of Company F, 162d Infantry, formerly stationed at Liverpool, England, are bringing home English brides. The wives of Stitt and Thompson are preceding their husbands and will arrive at Lebanon in a few days.

Senator McNary plans to return to Oregon about April 1. Next week he will make a trip to Birmingham, Ala., on private business.

James Fullerton was found guilty Thursday night of criminal libel against the University of Oregon. His agents, faculty and students, after a sensational four-day trial in the circuit court, Fullerton in testifying admitted that all the scandalous matter published in his pamphlet, "The Hornet," was hearsay. He was unable to bring any direct testimony to support his statements, in which he charged that immorality was rampant at the university.

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PRESS COMMENT

The war is over—Jess Willard is going to fight.—Nashville Tennessean.

Perhaps the lollipop will be unconstitutional because there is a stick in it.—New York World.

One reason why Lenine dreads America is because he knows how promptly we caught and hanged Villa.—Greenville Piedmont.

When it looks bad we ask God for help. But when we win we distribute the medals and the praise among ourselves.—Indianapolis Times.

It is an interesting coincidence that on the birthday of the rail-splitter who became president of this country a harness-maker became the first president of Germany.—New York Sun.

The disposition of the German colonies is being discussed at the peace conference, while the disposition of the Germans is being caused elsewhere.—Louisville Post.

The former crown prince should have waited a while longer before filing suit for divorce. By the time the allies get through with him he may not need it.—Des Moines Register.

Governor Henry Allen of Kansas, who says the battle of the Argonne was botched, would probably find it hard to convince any German soldier who took part in that battle.—Charleston News and Courier.

Mlle. Schoen-Rene of Berlin says that "the trouble with modern German music is too much inbreeding," which sounds like an almost polite Teutonic way of saying it's too German.—New York Morning Telegraph.

It might be suggested to Mr. Armour that the public is not interested so much in any plan for government regulation of the packers as it is in a scale of prices which would make it possible for the average man to have a T-bone steak about once a week.—Nashville Southern Lumberman.

AN ESTEEMED PIONEER.

Mrs. Lucy McClure, who died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Hattie Ferguson, Thursday, was nearly 82 years of age at the time of her death. She was among the early pioneers of Oregon, having been with that band of undaunted immigrants who trod across the dreary wastes to Oregon in 1852. This was a fateful year for most of those who crossed the plains and Lucy Pierce, then a young girl of 14, shared the hardships that were endured by all in the long journey.

Nearly sixty-eight years of her life have been spent in Oregon and fifty-five of those years she was a resident of Grande Ronde.

Among her most intimate acquaintances, Mrs. McClure will long be remembered as a woman of a most wonderful fund of information. She was especially well posted on all the historical events and episodes from a period when Oregon was known as a territory, which embraced a large portion of the Pacific northwest. She was a constant reader and was endowed with a retentive memory and her companionship became most interesting and instructive. It is believed that Mrs. McClure was what might be termed one of the "best posted" women in the state, and in addition to that her home in the early times was one of the kind where open-hearted hospitality reigned. Her life was that of the typical pioneer woman and mother of the old Oregon.

SOME FALLACIES EXPLODED.

Grape seeds do not produce appendicitis, as one often hears said.

Pieckles eaten by a nursing mother do not sour her milk.

Mild attacks of infectious disease are not less contagious than severe ones.

Oxygen is not a cure for disease germs by killing them.

Cancers do not have roots like trees.

Brain fever does not result from strain or excitement.

Backache does not mean kidney trouble.

Running down in health does not turn into typhoid fever or tuberculosis. Infection by the germs of either of these diseases causes loss of health, or a person runs down by some other cause may be incidentally infected by them.

Rusty nails never yet produced lockjaw, or tetanus, which is often found in the earth, is held in the rusty places of the rusty nail. It simply infects the wound made by the nail, enters the blood, and the poison which it manufactures produces the symptoms of lockjaw.

A clean rusty nail cannot infect.

Dead bodies do not breed a plague, nor are scarlet fever scales infectious.

Sewer gas is not poison. It kills by asphyxiation.

Robust health does not prevent snailpox.

Children should not have scurvy fever and measles.

It is criminal to expose them fully.