



THE FORUM

The Place Where Everyone Has His Say.

Editor Observer: It was highly gratifying to find in the last report of our commissioners that they had reached a point where they could consider out "cat" problem. Great felines move slowly. Still it has been only two years since the Neighborhood club sought to bring the matter before them. Each "whereas" and "wherefore" was prepared by a skilled expert and was presented in the most approved manner. However, at that time some members of the commission had pet cats that very naturally they wanted to have the freedom to which they were born, and incidentally the privilege of adding a bird or two, or three each night to their bill of fare. It is presumably a fact that at this time some of them have transferred their affections to specimens of the canine tribe, as they have lifted the ban from their restricted liberty. They now have the freedom of the city gardens, to mar and otherwise render unfit for consumption, the fruits of a season's labor.

Theoretically we all admit that the best interest of the greatest number of citizens should be the aim of a democratic government. Did our commission have that in mind when they rescinded their "dog act"? We all have a right to our pets of all or any kind—even pet views—and whims—as long as we don't let them interfere with the rights of others, or in any way become a nuisance. Personally I am of the opinion that the best interests of our community are better served by the raising of gardens than the freedom of dogs.

Little has a pet canine. Who loves the flowers so. And all the sport that puppy wants is found where flowers grow. With sportive, elephantine paws, Through finest beds he'll run. What matters all the havoc wrought if puppy has his fun? Not so with Jimmie's little dog, He's practical, you know. Where'er a kitchen garden's found That dog is sure to go. He frolics through the tender plants,

And scratches up the seeds, The only thing that's left behind Are useless, harmful weeds.

Come on you precious doggies dear, And frolic at your ease, And chase the autos like the kids, And do just as you please!

CITIZEN.

GOD AND THE UNIVERSE

Editor of Observer: We compliment The Observer on its being up-to-date with the information that America and England can now converse by wireless phone.

Do you notice how quickly the scene is changing in the celestial drama? One marvel passes, another appears. The next scene will show us wireless vision, whereby the United States president will appear on the floor of the British house of parliament to discuss some international topic, while in reality he is in the White House at Washington, using the wireless phone.

Again the scene changes and man becomes omnipotent; he appears in Berlin, in Rome and in every capital of Europe at the same moment, and with a fuller knowledge of this science man becomes omniscient and lacks nothing, only more knowledge to become omnipotent—the great and only (?) difference between God and man being knowledge.

Now, Mr. Editor, it is possible that these scientific discoveries and the deductions drawn therefrom may for a little while disturb the religious reflections of some serious and honest souls who have honestly believed that it was absolutely necessary for God to come on board this planet in order to talk to Moses or any one else. God is the Author and Master of all science and the more we know of Him the more we shall admire and adore Him. Apparently He is just now running His grade schools in order to prepare for higher branches of learning, where man will learn that his possibilities are unlimited and that his sphere of activities are not necessarily circumscribed by this earth's orbit.

How much this world war has had to do with the very marvelous discoveries of science in the last five years may be a debatable question, but there

can be no doubt about the fact that the war stirred men's brains to intense activity in search of knowledge, not of dollars. Although it is true that some few men did devote their energies to dollar-chasing, that to them being the one worthy aim in time or eternity. But the nations have advanced immeasurably and will soon be willing to admit that they all profited by this war.

Respectfully,
L. GARRICK.

REFERENCE COLLECTION OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

In American public libraries, the "reference" books are commonly those which may be consulted in the library building, but not taken home. They are books which are either too expensive for general circulation, or which are more useful if the reader is sure to find them never "out."

Files of old papers and magazines are usually included in the reference collection. Owing to the expense of binding, the files of old magazines in the La Grande library are stored in the basement. They can be obtained by application to the attendant at the desk. The files are fairly complete since the middle of 1912, and are immeasurably increased in value by the "Readers' guide to periodical literature," which indexes authors, titles and subjects of about fifty periodicals.

Three general encyclopedias, Nelson's Perpetual looseleaf encyclopedia, The New International, with annual supplements, and the Catholic encyclopedia, answer the majority of questions, together with the dictionary and atlas. The "World Almanac," "Statistical abstracts," "U. S. Postal guide," French, Spanish and German dictionaries and Oregon Blue Book are first aid to the librarian.

More special works of great value are "Harper's encyclopedia of United States history," Lyman's "History for ready reference," Appleton's encyclopedia of American biography, Lippincott's Biographical dictionary, Lowther's "Encyclopedia of practical horticulture," Brewer's "Dictionary of phrases and fables," Grainger's index to poetry and recitations, and Host's "Cyclopedia of practical quotations."

Portland and La Grande directories are frequently consulted. "Who's Who" and "Who's Who in America" give up-to-date information on prominent persons. Arrangements are being made for a large collection of maps conveniently arranged for quick reference. Especially valuable will be the large scale war maps of the European war areas, provided they can be obtained as advertised.

The Observer furnishes and prints Butter Wrappers.

What the War Actually Cost the United States In Money

WASHINGTON, March 29.—The total cost of the war to the United States from April 6, 1917, to June 30, 1919, will be \$30,205,000,000.

Compared with the war costs to the allies from Aug. 1, 1914, to date, this is three-fourths the size of England's war expenditure, \$40,540,000,000; one-fourth larger than the debt of France, approximately \$23,400,000,000; twice as large, almost, as the debt of Italy, \$15,000,000,000, and fifteen times the war debt of Canada, \$2,000,000,000.

Compared to the cost estimated at the close of the Civil war, \$2,713,568,600, the present war cost the United States fourteen times as much. Upon an estimate for the whole Civil war period, fixed in 1879 at \$6,190,000,000, the war just closed cost five times more.

The foregoing is a summary of findings by Representative Cordell Hull, Democrat, of Tennessee, of the ways and means committee, who has completed a review of the country's financial situation.

Total War Cost 200 Billions. Exclusive of losses in property and materials, which, he said, would never be known, the cost in money or its equivalent amounts to \$200,000,000,000.

TO BE THE BRIDE OF GENERAL PERSHING?



Rumer has it General Pershing will "go west" when he lands back in America from France. At least he will go west as far as Pasadena, Cal., where resides Miss Annette Patton. It is reported the two are to wed then.

600,000,000, which is only \$50,000,000,000 less than the estimated wealth of the United States. The annual expenditures had jumped from \$10,000,000,000 in 1914 to \$70,000,000,000 in 1918, and of the latter figure this country in 1918 expended \$10,000,000,000—a little more than one-fourth.

The interest item on the total indebtedness of the allies will amount in future to \$10,000,000,000 a year.

The cost to France is not told in the figures above given for that country, \$23,400,000,000. There must be added \$13,000,000,000—the physical losses as estimated by the French high commission—and \$3,000,000,000 for pensions, which put the total at \$44,000,000,000.

In conclusion, Representative Hull declared this country's situation should be viewed optimistically.

"We experience a feeling of great relief," he said, "after dwelling on the dark picture presented by the other belligerent countries. Our population is more than 100,000,000 and our wealth more than \$250,000,000,000, while our annual savings must be more than \$15,000,000,000."

WHERE TAKEN FOR BOLSHIEVISTS

SAN JUAN, Porto Rico, March 15.—(By Mail.)—The United States government is being asked to investigate the detention at Havana and subsequent deportation from Cuba of Ramon Barrios and Alfredo Negrin, delegates from the Porto Rican tobacco workers, who went to Cuba to study working conditions of their trade in that island on behalf of the Porto Rican Tobacco Worker's Union.

Barrios and Negrin, who are American citizens and who were provided with passports from Porto Rico, have arrived here after their deportation. They say they were held in absolute isolation at Bolshieviki at Havana for six days and that the Cuban authorities refused to permit them to communicate either with legal advisors or with the American ministers.

They declare they were searched by the Havana police, that their letters of introduction and other documents were taken and that they were kept in a political prison. They were informed, they say, that it was useless for them to write letters to the American minister, for if they did, the letters would not leave the hands of the authorities. The two delegates of Porto Rico assert that they protested because they were given no opportunity to be heard by the United States authorities, that they refused to sign deportation papers that the police official then

called in two detectives to sign the papers. They arrived at San Juan, February 17 and were deported on February 22. Meanwhile, appeals had been made to Washington in their behalf by both house of the Porto Rican legislature but the local authorities received word that the message was not received in Washington until after the two men had been released.

LA GRANDE MARKETS

RETAIL

Butter and Eggs.

Butter, creamery, roll 1.30

Eggs, dozen40

Butter, country, roll 1.20

Fish.

Salmon, lb.35

Halibut, lb.30

Perch, lb.25

Fruit.

Tangerines, dozen35

Bananas, lb.12

Lemons, dozen50

Oranges, dozen30

Grapefruit, Florida, each15

Grapefruit, Cal., 3 for25

Meat.

Beef shoulder steak20

Beef round steak20

Hamburg steak20

Beef pot roast18

Bacon, best local, lb.45

Beef, boiling rib, lb.15

Beef, sirloin steak, lb.30

Beef, T-bone steak, lb.30

Beef, porterhouse, lb.30

Ham, lb.37

Ham, sliced, lb.45

Lard, best local, 5-lb. can. 1.45

Mutton chops, lb.20

Pork, bacon backs, lb.30

Mutton, loin, stew20

Mutton Stew, lb.10

Pork chops, lb.25

Pork, shoulder steak, lb.23

Veal, leg, steak, lb.30

Veal, shoulder, lb.22

Veal, chops, lb.25

Lard, lb.30

Leg of lamb, lb.35

Lamb chops, loin, lb.32

Lamb chops, shoulder, lb.25

Lamb stew, lb.10

Poultry.

Hens, dressed, lb.32

Roasters, dressed, lb.25

Vegetables.

Cabbage, new Cal., lb.05

Carrots, lb.04

Cucumbers, hothouse, ea.25

Fresh Cocoanuts20

Lettuce, head,15

Lettuce, hothouse, lb.35

Onions, lb.04

Green Onions05

Potatoes, per cwt. 1.50

Rhubarb12

Sweet potatoes, lb.10

Green peppers, lb.05

NOTICE TO MASONS
A special communication of La Grande lodge No. 41, A. F. & A. M. will be held Friday evening, March 28th, for the purpose of work.
A. C. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Knights of Pythias Social Evening.
Monday, March 31st, the Knights of Pythias, with their wives, sweethearts and friends, will enjoy a social evening and entertainment at the K. of P. hall. A short program will be followed by dancing, and those who prefer it, will find tables where they may enjoy a game of pinocle, five hundred, or any game they wish. Light refreshments will be served.
Knights, make it your business to see that your friends are invited.
8-28-31

WANTED—Clean cotton rags suitable to wipe machinery. 2 cents a pound. Observer office.



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Packing House Trucks
Brewery Delivery Trucks
Farmers' Stock Hauling Trucks, etc., etc.

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BRIEF MENTION OF ELCAR POINTS

Four-cylinder models, 37½ horsepower at 2-100 r. p. m. Six-cylinder models, Red Seal Continental, 40 horsepower at 2-100 r. p. m. Two unit electrical system. Long wheel-base, 116 inches; road clearance, 10½ inches. Full floating rear axle with spiral bevel driving gears. Timken Roller Bearings front and rear. Double universal drive; tubular propeller shaft. A wonderful easy riding semi-elliptic spring suspension. Roomy and comfortable bodies of beautiful design and durable finish; new "Cathedral Pipe" upholstery. Equipment complete, even to motometer.

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