

EDITORIAL PAGE

The Boys Are On Their Way

At last, at last—the boys are coming home. Months upon months have passed during which time homes of Union county have been in a state of suspense...

Those absent months lengthened into days, then weeks, then months. The suspense was daily signed, and then came the feeling of uneasiness...

They are on the way, and they are the continent today. They have seen the world, the boys who will return. They are no longer boys of a small city like La Grande...

There will be disappointment, in a way, at the age of some of these returning. For the past few months have left their impress upon every soldier...

The welcome home party will give the soldiers will not be a mere of triumph entirely, for there will be a touch of joyful sadness, of a feeling that the human breast has never before felt...

Our pride in these soldiers knows no limits. Let us convey to them that pride in a way that will not smack of bombastic celebration entirely, but impress with our earnestness of purpose in trying to convince them of our deep and earnest appreciation for the sacrifices they have made.

It will probably be Wednesday when the train arrives in La Grande for a twelve-hour stop, and during that twelve hours we must expect these soldiers to go on exhibition. Their joy will be that of meeting the home folk—of sitting down with mother, father, sister and brother and telling the story of their absence; and their joy for this occasion will be great.

They have no doubt heard of the money that has been made in the mines and the mines of gold have until doubtless their eyes have been fixed upon the gold mine where they can neither see anyone nor hear any news.

Anyway, the boys are coming—which is the main thing after all—and the way they will be entertained will be according to their liking.

THE ROAD PROGRAM MUST PREVAIL

Strangely as it may seem, occasionally there is a voter who does not understand that at the June election Union county is to vote on a very important road measure. One is to pass the road bill, which should carry without a doubt...

Our every political consideration when the two roads are voted on should be for the benefit of this county. Good roads are necessary for our progress. The time is here when every other road is a dead end. Does this county with her splendid resources of good land, want to be set off as a dead end?

THE NEW ISLAND HAS ARRIVED

In Grand County, the new island has arrived. It is a small island in the shape of a triangle, and it is situated in the middle of the river. It is a very fertile island, and it is a very beautiful island. It is a very good island, and it is a very nice island.

Mr. Jones, the owner of the island, has decided to sell it. He has offered it for sale to the highest bidder. The island is a very valuable one, and it is a very desirable one. It is a very good one, and it is a very nice one.

Mr. Smith, the buyer of the island, has paid the purchase price. He has received the title to the island, and he is now the owner of it. He is very happy, and he is very satisfied. He is a very good man, and he is a very nice man.

The island is now in the hands of Mr. Smith. He is going to use it for his own purposes. He is going to build a house on it, and he is going to plant trees on it. He is going to make it a very beautiful one, and he is going to make it a very good one.

Killing Two Birds With One Stone



Colonel Roosevelt and Nature.

Among the many monuments that have been proposed, and among the many that will be proposed as memorials to Theodore Roosevelt, none, perhaps, will seem more natural, more fitting, more after the heart of the nation, than the Roosevelt Memorial Fountain proposed by the National Association of Audubon Societies, and affiliated organizations of various kinds throughout the United States...

The Supreme Court's Visit.

It was a pretty compliment to La Grande to have the Supreme court of the state pay a social visit to La Grande. Often when we hear of a court, or the officers of a court, intending to visit a place we share the feeling of Judge Knowles and wonder what has happened that brings them hither.

Farmers Rebel Against Rule of the Landlord

By J. T. WILSON, Special Writer for The Observer. (Copyrighted, 1919 by The Publishers Automobile Service Co.)

MORRIS, Ill., May 10.—You have heard about "feudal estates," and lords who ruled over the people. Well—Grand and Livingston counties in Illinois are American feudal estates, but they have a lord who rules over them. Rules them from his castle across the Atlantic. And rules them with an iron hand.

He is Lord William Scully. He rules because he owns most of these two counties. He owns whole townships of valuable farm land. He is the biggest farm land owner in this county. He rents his lands.

Just now his tenants in Grundyco are up in arms. They are protesting against an increase in rent. Lord Scully has told them they must pay \$10 an acre instead of \$8 each year. And he has the whip-hand over them.

The state legislature may help them. A bill is being prepared to do that. Governor Lowden has indicated that he will sign it if it passes. And here are two five-hundred American farmers, as honest and hard working men as you ever saw any place. They are married and have families. Nearly every farmer has at least one son in the service of the United States. Most of the boys still are "over there," and in camps here. They have been patriotic to the core.

But these two American farm families are the "subjects" of Lord Scully. And this is how it came about. Bought Rich Land at \$1 An Acre. Seventy years ago Lord Scully came to the United States. He had acquired much wealth as a land owner in England and Ireland.

With \$300,000 Lord Scully bought 100,000 acres of fine Illinois land. That was \$3 an acre. Remember the cost? Lord Scully didn't do anything to the land. Never built a barn. Never put up a fence. Never planted a tree or cut one down. Just bought the land and called back to his European castle. But he wanted the land at first he got but a few cents the acre as rent. He agreed with his American tenants that he would permit them to make improvements they made to the new tenants if they ever gave up the farms.

So they built houses, fences, and fences. They drained the land, and planted orchards, graded roads, and they paid taxes on their improvements. They paid more taxes for the improvements than Lord Scully did on the land. Now there are 70 Lord Scully farms in this county alone.

"The first Lord Scully was all right," William Halpin, one of the 70, said. "He kept raising the rent on us, but not much at a time, usually about 25 cents the acre. We got along pretty well."

feeling of Judge Knowles and wonder what has happened that brings them hither.

In this instance it was purely good fellowship. The court enjoyed it and La Grande enjoyed it. In fact La Grande would like to lay claim to the whole personnel of the court and claim them for citizens. We believe Judge McBride could have a lot of fun here and would soon be perfectly at home. Lawrence Harris would soon rival Charlie Roberts as the Kingpin fisherman. Judge Bean would hit it off very well with the checker players. Judge Benson would lose no time in becoming a favorite at the social functions and Charlie Johns would be at home all over the place.

Come again, we say in all candor to the court. We like you off the bench with as great a feeling as the safety feeling we hold for the state and its institutions when you are on the bench.

improvements at their actual value if the rents were suddenly raised to \$10. The rent raise cut their values. Young Lord Scully said he would let them move their houses off his land, if they wanted to. But you can not move a house, barn, fences, silo and orchard around like you would furniture.

Young Lord Scully thought he had them where he wanted 'em. He insisted that they pay or get out. He's still insisting.

The lord of many millions went back to his castle and left orders with his agents in America to collect the high rent.

The farmers protested. They held meetings. They went down to the state capital to see the governor regarding it. A bill is being framed to get young Lord Scully. It will be introduced this month. It is proposed to make farm improvements put on by a farm tenant a lien on the place and compel the owner of the land to pay the actual value of the improvements to the tenant before he can be evicted.

That would hold young Lord Scully. He would have to pay these American farmers for what they have done for his land, buildings, fences, etc. That's all these farmers want—simple justice.

That's what they asked for in a meeting at the court house here during the winter. In this same court house yard the people of Grundyco have erected a big "Welcome Home" sign. It is directed to "Grundy County Boys" in our army and navy. The boys are coming home now.

Their fathers and mothers are doing their best to make the welcome warm. Lord Scully welcomed them by raising the rents to a bankruptcy point.

And while this young Lord Scully was coming over here to raise the rents these Grundyco boys were going "over there" to aid Lord Scully's own country in the great world war for freedom. Lord Scully didn't fight. Now he's willing to fight the farmers to get \$10 an acre a year for his American farm land.

Looks like he'd get his fight, all right.

If the state legislature doesn't help these Grundyco farmers, I wouldn't be surprised to see many of them tear down every stick they put on the farms they rent, and haul it off rather than try to pay the \$10 an acre.

CANADA REACHING FOR FOREIGN TRADE

The Fields For Activity In Developing Commerce Practically Unlimited

PARIS. (Correspondence by the Associated Press)—Canada is in the midst of an energetic campaign for foreign trade which from results thus far achieved, bids fair shortly to push her peace-time exports up to unprecedented figures. On armistice day Canada's foreign commerce, outside of that in war materials, was virtually at a standstill, because of lack of shipping facilities and the conditions imposed by war. Today, five months later, the volume of her peace-time trade is said to be equal to that before the war, and the receipts to be greater. Canada's exports in 1914 were valued at approximately \$420,000,000.

As Sir George Foster, Canadian Minister of Trade and Commerce, who is in Paris, pointed out to the correspondent of The Associated Press, the foreign field for Canadian activities is virtually without limit. The difficulty which is being encountered is the inability of European countries to pay for goods, although they are anxious to get them. Canada already has granted credits of \$25,000,000 each to Belgium, Greece, Rumania and France, making a total of \$100,000,000. Other credits are under discussion. Large advances also have been made to the mother country to enable her to pay for products for herself and her allies.

Canada is operating in the foreign field through a well organized system of trade commissioners. This has been supplemented by a trade mission in London and a branch mission in Paris. This machinery is designed to get into close and quick touch with European necessities with a view to placing Canada's natural and industrial resources at the service of the countries over here for reconstruction. The results thus far achieved have given rise to great optimism in regard to Canada's immediate future in trade.

A large part of Canada's war-time manufacturers and war-time industries were, as a matter of fact, really organized to her peace facilities. Sir George Foster estimates that 70 per cent of which will be sustained in the conversion will be minimum.

Coupled with the quick return to peace conditions industrially has been the successful working out of the demobilization scheme for the troops. These men are rapidly being absorbed into their old occupations. All the Canadian troops remaining on this side will be back home in about two months, it is stated, ready to take up their peacetime work.

Boston's Famous Church

There were only 2,000 houses in Boston when the North church was built and many members of the congregation were from other parts of the city. The church was built in 1630, and it is one of the oldest churches in Boston. It is a very beautiful church, and it is a very good church. It is a very nice church, and it is a very good church.

Why a Christian Should Join the Church

By REV. HOWARD W. POPE, Moody Bible Institute, Chicago

TEXT—And the Lord added to the church daily such as were being saved.—Acts 2:47.

Why does a soldier enlist in the army? Because there he can render the most effective service; there his influence will help, and not hinder; there he can have the sympathy and co-operation of other soldiers.

In every war, however, there are some soldiers who refuse to join the army. They prefer to fight independently. They are called guerrillas.

But guerrilla warfare as a rule is ineffective, demoralizing, and disreputable. It damages the very cause it tries to help.

In like manner there are some people who claim to be Christians, but who refuse to join the church. Like guerrillas, they unconsciously damage the very cause they ought to help. They cannot give a single good reason for their position, but there are many reasons why every Christian should join some church.

I. There he can render the most effective service. He is one of many, who are all working under one commander and for the same end, and who, collectively, can accomplish that could not be done separately. If it is a good thing to have churches in a community, then Christians should support them.

Remove the churches from a town, and property would depreciate, business would decline, and all good people would move away. Sunday would become a holiday, life and property would be unsafe, and the town would soon have such a bad reputation that no decent person would move into it. For this reason every Christian owes it to himself, his family, to society, and to his God, to join and support some church.

II. It is the only consistent position for a Christian. In the church his influence will help and not hinder; for an outsider, who ought to be in the church, damages the cause of Christ just as much as an insider who ought to be out. A Christian who refuses to join the church practically says to the world that the commands of Jesus are not binding or important, which is not true.

III. A Christian who does not join the church will soon lose his joy, and perhaps his hope. If, knowing his Master's wish, he refuses to comply with it, he cannot be a happy person. He may be a saved man, but he will lose the joy of his salvation. And if he loses his joy he will also lose his power, for "The joy of the Lord is your strength."

IV. To be a member of Christ's church is the highest honor this world affords. Its sacraments are the most sacred, its literature the most sublime, and its fellowship the most sweet and enduring. All lodges and other organizations are man-made affairs, but the church is a divine institution, founded by Jesus Christ, guided and guarded by the Holy Spirit, having for its mission the evangelization of the world, and for its destiny eternal fellowship with God and heaven.

V. If it be objected that there are some hypocrites in the church, the answer is: "Yes, it may be true, but Jesus Christ is no hypocrite, and he is the life of every church."

Remember also that when the church goes through the fiery gates there will be a sifting, and the hypocrites will be left on the outside of the gate, on your side, unless you obey Christ, and you will have to spend all eternity with them. Would it not be better to live with them a few years in the church than to spend all eternity with them elsewhere? You must spend some time with those hypocrites somewhere. Where shall it be?

VI. The Christian who refuses to join the church, dishonors Jesus Christ. It is like proposing a secret marriage. He is willing that Christ should die for him, but he is not willing to live for Christ, or even to acknowledge his relation to him. He desires to be saved, but he is not willing to serve. He wants the benefits of Christianity without the sacrifices, whereas the sacrifices constitute nine-tenths of the benefits.

The meanness of it is well illustrated by the following story: Doctor Loring once asked a man why he did not join the church. The reply was that the dying thief did not join the church and he was saved. "Well," said the doctor, "if you do not belong to a church, you help support thousands of churches?"

"No," said the man. "The dying thief did not help missions, and he was saved, was he not?"

"Yes," said the doctor. "I suppose he was, but you must remember that he was a dying thief, whereas you are a living one."

As well to the wise man be afflicted but a poor man's prayer has to use a stick on the otherwise.