

EDITORIAL PAGE

Business Outlook Is Very Good

The most optimistic utterances that have occurred since the time prior to war were those of bankers of Oregon who met in convention recently.

In every talk the keynote was better business. Merchants were advised to buy freely for full trade, builders were advised to proceed with plans, and bankers were urged to finance legitimate undertakings and have no fear for future disasters.

After one listened to the proceedings there was unmistakable belief that the cheaper dollar is here to stay for a while, at least. The dollar of today, with its low purchasing power, is going to hold sway and all work and merchandising and building and ranching will reach a basis set by that dollar.

According to this belief the real estate changing hands in La Grande and Union county is commanding a low price. Homes that were thought to be slow moving property, and would have to be priced low, can now be priced at a fairly high value and yet be cheap.

It is a new epoch in business, and there will be a lot of business. "Pull open the throttle" is the slogan. Buy and buy heavily. Build now before things go higher, for the end is not yet in sight.

Land in the Grande Ronde valley will see higher prices. In fact, everything is on the upward trend, so prepare for the days to come and quit thinking of values in the past.

TREAT TO HEAR BILLY SUNDAY.

Yes, Billy Sunday is coming to La Grande. The same old Billy Sunday who makes the high and the low, the rich and the poor, hit the sawdust trail together and lands on sin, vice and corruption in his own characteristic manner.

He will be here July 4 and will twist the ears of Satan, revel in the cries of the sinner, and hold out his hand to the erring ones who wish to go and sin no more. He will say more things in five minutes that you want to remember, than you have heard for the past year.

Not only this, Billy Sunday will outline a future policy that will be interesting. He is a man who travels much, who reads everything, who is up to the minute on all affairs of nation and state, besides keeping abreast with baseball rules, so that he can always be called authority on the game.

That people of Eastern Oregon are to hear this great man on July 4th in La Grande is a rare treat and almost a blessing. He is the most prominent figure in all evangelical work today, and a wonderful citizen as well.

Doubtless the city will not be able to hold the crowd, but everyone will be cared for in some manner, and when Billy Sunday comes you must come. There is a message for you, as well as a seat in the grandstand, and Billy will make it worth your while to spend the day here.

Of course the action of Prineville people when they passed resolutions asking that the state capital be removed to Portland, was prompted by a bitterness against Marion county for having voted against the irrigation bonding act, but nevertheless it would not have been bad judgment years ago to have removed all state affairs and state institutions now located in Salem to Portland.

Every man about took the upside down, what the wheel and tail spin in the flying machine, and when he alighted he smiled and probably thought that even then the twists and turns were not as many and as varied as the attitude of some politicians whom he had known in his career.

Chautauqua opens on July 11th. Get your tent early and prepare to rest for a week, bathing your tired feet in the Grande Ronde river and letting your tired brain be entertained by the talent which will lecture, speak and sing during the event.

Here's another seemingly unreasonable news item: The mayor of Salem has resigned. Whoever heard of a Salem man resigning at any time before.

A telephone strike might not be so bad, after all. There are many worse things than compelling people to stop talking.

Albion envied the wheat farmers, may now have an opportunity to witness some of the worry there is in raising grain. Dry days are dangerous days for the wheat

Charles F. Berg Deserves Praise of Oregon.

In passing around the good words for things well done, the Observer feels that Charles F. Berg, president of the Pacific Coast Admen's Association, should have a bountiful supply of kind things said about him for having brought the annual convention of that organization to Oregon.

Mr. Berg is one of the young business men of Oregon who will be heard from often, for he is a live one in the fullest sense and a square fellow, possessed of the right elements to make things go.

Any undertaking that he lends his effort to will never fail, for he works with that energy that spells success. That he happens to do business in Portland and is a resident of that city in decidedly advantageous to Portland.

A Show That Will Be Free to Everybody.

La Grande is to celebrate the Fourth of July with a Billy Sunday speech, automobile races, a big parade, and all the things that go to make a gala event.

That everything is to be free is commendable on the part of the city. The finance committee, which solicits the funds, may not exactly appreciate its job, but nevertheless it is wisdom to give a free show if we are to give any show at all.

Those who come and enjoy La Grande's hospitality that day would not object to the cost of things, if admission were charged, but they would not exactly appreciate the commercial spirit, and La Grande people—always generous to a fault—are quite ready to throw down the bars and pay the expense of a big celebration so that Eastern Oregon people may come and enjoy the day here.

The address of John E. Gratke to Portland Elks recently is something that should be driven home to every citizen. Mr. Gratke lives in Astoria where a heavy foreign population resides, he has seen the danger of this country permitting men loyal to other nations to come here and become rich, permitting them to foster their ideas brought with them, permitting them to cherish another flag, at the same time calling this country their home.

The Pioneers were as welcome as the flowers in June. Their ranks are not thinning nearly as fast as some might think, and be it said with all candor, there are some mighty spry old settlers among them.

No, the good roads program has not been overlooked, neither is it sleeping, for the intention is to ask the people to vote a bond issue of sufficient size to build roads that are roads and to build enough of them to do some good.

With strawberries around \$4 and \$5 a crate, the usual jam which mother used to make will come mighty high by the time it is on the pantry shelf.

Senator Borah has shown that he is willing to go on record for once, at least, in advocating publicity of treaties.

And yet the men who held up the banks are free.

What does the Sandridge want now worse than anything else in the world—plenty of rain.

Guess these days make you think of summer.

Oh, for a good rain.

should have conflicted, as they have.

Very few addresses given in La Grande have gone to the heart as did the address of Judge Knowles at the Elks' Flag Day celebration. Every word was well chosen and every illustration set the blood tingling in the veins of our Americans. While the services, as a whole, were exceptionally good, the speech of Judge Knowles is outstanding and will be remembered by those present as a heart-spoken message from a true American.

Pendleton has a preacher by the name of Gornall who can utter more words in a minute than any expert woman at a sewing circle. Recently he was asked to speak on Pendleton, and the flow of words that followed beat the spontaneous gush of a natural gas well. If he would train with Billy Sunday for a season his batting average would be hard to beat.

Secretary Daniels is as changeable as the Grande Ronde wind in March. Not long ago he proudly posed and said, "We must build the biggest navy in the world." Then he heard from Woodrow Wilson, for now the secretary says, "We must set the example for other nations in the league and build no more battleships."

The East Oregonian discovered that Unatilla county women on the farms work fourteen hours a day, and work hard. Even the high price of wheat will not attract the feminine gender as it might have done. Probably the East Oregonian erred in printing the truth during these times when labor is scarce.

The British made a clean-cut flight when they undertook to fly over the Atlantic, but at that they were a little late, for an American had done it first.

Put the highway up along the hillside, boys, for the many tourists who chance this way are entitled to see La Grande and the valley. You know what the first impression of any country means.

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CULTIVATION NEEDED IN CORN PRODUCTION

Object is to Promote Early Growth and Development.

Methods Will Vary to Meet Requirements of Planting—Prevent Weeds From Robbing Soil of Moisture and Fertility.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Approximately 100,000,000 acres of corn in the United States are annually given two or more cultivations. Cultivation is considered essential in the corn production. The general purpose of cultivation is to promote the early growth and later development of the corn plant. The usual type of cultivation is sometimes modified to meet special conditions, such as retarding the vegetative growth of the plant by cutting the corn roots in early cultivation. The kind of cultivation will also vary to some extent to meet the requirements of different methods of planting.

Some of the most successful corn growers begin their cultivation before they plant their crop. They claim that a deep cultivation of the soil at this time is of as much value as later cultivations. It causes the soil to warm more quickly, destroys early weed growth, and incorporates the vegetable matter more thoroughly into the soil.

Corn is cultivated to prevent weeds from robbing the corn of soil moisture and fertility, to put the surface in the best condition to absorb rainfall, to warm the soil by drying its surface quickly, and to save moisture by checking the capillary rise to the soil surface.

Corn should be cultivated often enough to keep down the weeds and to maintain a loose soil until the crop has attained its growth. To satisfy this end a greater number of cultivations will be necessary when rains at intervals of a week or so cause the surface soil to run together and crust. This crust must be broken and



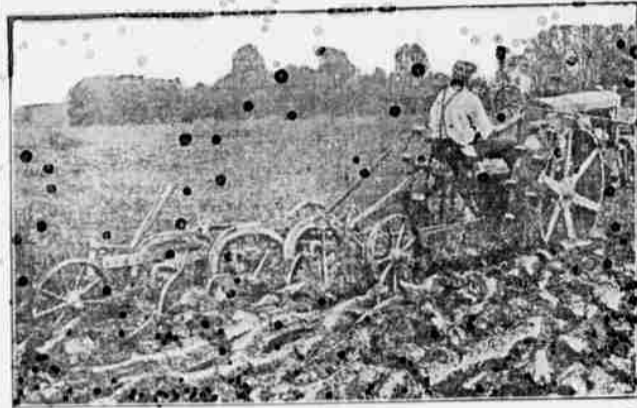
Cultivation is Essential in the Production of Corn.

The soil mulch restored or excessive run-off and evaporation will soon rob the crop of much-needed moisture. Promptness in restoring the soil mulch after each rain is of great importance. This work can be rapidly and less expensively performed by use of double cutters which, and by driving astride each alternate row, as by this practice the mulch is restored in half the time necessary to drive astride of every row.

Corn should not be cultivated so long as the soil mulch is in good condition and free of weeds. Corn should not be cultivated when the soil turns up in clods, breaking the corn roots and permitting the soil to dry out to a greater depth than it would if not cultivated.

Observer ads are wispy read.

TREND SEEMS TO BE TOWARD MOTORIZED FARMS, ELIMINATING ALL HORSE POWER



Plowing With a Small Tractor.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Manufacture of tractors for agricultural use has grown greatly in a comparatively few years, but a big field is still open to manufacturers in the small farmers' business, which can be gained only by the introduction of all-purpose tractors that can be used economically on farms of under 100 tillable acres.

Prior to 1905 practically all power plowing was done by steam. If there was any machine in use at that time employing an internal-combustion engine as its source of power, the case apparently has never become a matter of record. Steam plowing has been in vogue for a number of years, especially in regions such as the Dakotas, Montana, and the Canadian provinces of the Northwest. Here were found bonanza farms consisting of thousands of acres, one crop of wheat sometimes paying for the entire farm. These large tracts, stretching away for miles in a level and unbroken plain, offered conditions which were suitable for these mammoth steam outfits weighing many tons.

Several factors had a bearing on the elimination of steam as a source of power for plowing and the substitution of the internal-combustion engine.

The fuel was bulky for the power transmitted, and the storage space on the engine was small. Several men were required. The steam engine as then constructed could not stand the constant strain and rough usage necessary in plowing. It was necessary to spend considerable time in care and repair, just as is required by the railroad locomotive after a five- or six-hour run.

How Use of Gas Engine Began.

There was a demand by operators for a machine which would do away with these disadvantages. Interest was shown by various manufacturers and their attention was directed toward the development of a machine using the internal combustion engine.

Apparently 1905 was the first year that a gas tractor advertised as a source of power was placed on the market. This machine employed a double-cylinder engine, using gasoline for power and oil for cooling. It had a rating of 22 nominal and 40 actual brake horsepower, and was capable of pulling six to eight 12-inch plows, depending on the soil. The weight was practically the same as that of the steam engine, about nine and one-half tons. While operators were not satisfied with the steam tractors on the market, there was then considerable prejudice against the gas tractor, so that machines were built which looked as much like a steam engine as possible. Perhaps this fact, to some extent, tended to overcome the prejudice and make for the popularity of the outfit.

By 1908 so much interest was manifested throughout the Northwest in the gas tractor that it was decided to hold a motor competition in connection with the industrial exhibition at Winnipeg, Canada. During the week of July 13-17, 1908, this contest was held, the first of its kind on the American continent. Machines were exhibited by five companies; two other companies entered, but withdrew. The rules of the contest limited the weight to seven and one-half tons to keep out steam rigs. This rule barred one gas tractor, as it weighed nine and one-half tons.

Early Tests Unsatisfactory.

The tests upon which final award was based consisted of hauling, plowing and manipulation. Some of the soil conditions were not ideal, and a bad impression was given in the hauling tests. The horse machine put on an excellent showing, using kerosene, except to warm up the motor at the beginning. The significance of this contest was that the weak points were shown and that it marked the development of practical motors for small farms.

In 1908 a similar test was held at Winnipeg and six companies demonstrated machines. The contest was divided into four classes: (a) Internal combustion 20 horsepower and under, (b) 20-40 horsepower, (c) over 40 horsepower, and (d) steam engines. This contest created much interest in manufacturing circles and many manufacturers were present to obtain useful information, which shows that they were alive to the possibilities attending the development of a successful tractor.

As a matter of fact, the horse of sturdiness has done a great deal to develop the tractor industry rapidly. The Prests were the first to use others in various sections of the United States and Canada.

Observer Advertising will bring results. Eastern Oregon's Big Home Paper.

Another Home-Coming. Illustration of a woman in a dress and hat, surrounded by people, with a sign that says 'SUMMER'.