

La Grande Observer-Star

An Independent Newspaper
Published Weekly at La Grande, Oregon.

LA GRANDE EVENING OBSERVER PUBLISHING COMPANY
BRUCE BENNIS, Publisher.

Entered at the Postoffice at La Grande, Oregon, as second-class matter
Subscription \$1.50 a year in advance.

Address all communications to
THE OBSERVER, 1710 Sixth St.

An Alcoholic Drink That Is Not Banned.

The House bill for the enforcement of war time prohibition and the federal prohibition amendment is drastic, especially in its insistence that liquor containing more than one-half of one per cent is intoxicating. But there is one strange exception made from which thirsty souls, particularly in the rural sections, may derive solace. Cider is excepted. Not sweet cider, but hard cider. This, as too many men know to their cost, is a potent beverage, whose effects are sometimes disastrous beyond what might be expected from its alcoholic content. And that content, as laboratory inquiries have established, is not at all insignificant.

Department of Agriculture experts testify that fermented cider contains 8 to 10 per cent alcohol, which is twice as much as there used to be in beer. Nevertheless congress in its wisdom decrees that beer is deadly and cider is harmless.

It is probably futile to inquire too closely into the operations of the congressional mind on this matter. Perhaps the "drys" were fearful of making the law too drastic, and chose to create a sort of safety-valve to ease the "wet" pressure and avoid retaliations. Or perhaps the congressmen feared the farmer vote.

At any rate, the exception stands, unless the senate rules it out. And thus cider steps into a new and honored place—or dishonored, if you prefer—in the list of American drinks. Henceforth it is to be the only beverage obtainable that is capable of inducing—not intoxication, of course, congress has settled that—but such transient exhilaration as people have been wont to obtain from alcohol.

Who Wants to Own An Entire Town.

Want to buy a town? It is perfectly feasible. Anybody with the desire and the requisite cash can purchase one ready-made, at a bargain. The town is St. Helena, Md., located on a branch of the Pennsylvania railroad, connected with Baltimore by an electric railway, and consisting of 200 houses, together with store buildings, cafeteria, paved streets and electric lighting system.

It is all of modern construction. The houses are small, more like summer cottages than ordinary residences, but said to be comfortable and convenient for small families. They stand not in blocks, but in groups, and there is a fair-sized lot for every house.

Anyone who thinks he can occupy a town like that may apply for particulars to the United States Shipping Board, Emergency Fleet Corporation Housing Division, at Washington or Philadelphia.

It is a rare opportunity for the citizen yearning to be the whole thing in his town. Various social, legal and political problems can be reduced to extreme simplicity. He will not be bothered by uncongenial neighbors and may hope to have municipal affairs conducted as he wants them.

Majority Are Jap Children In California.

A phase of California's Japanese problem which is new to most Americans is presented in a recent statement made by Senator James D. Phelan. He himself, he says, has been surprised and alarmed to learn from official reports that one-third of the births in Los Angeles county, outside of incorporated cities and towns, are Japanese.

"This means that one-third of the rural population are substantially Japanese; and, as the rural population becomes the backbone of every country, the gravity of the situation must appeal to all thinking men and women." Japanese births have increased in the last ten years at an incredible higher rate than white births.

This filling of the rural districts of Los Angeles county and presumably other counties of California comes about in an interesting way. Senator Phelan explains it as follows: "The American boy is prominently closed against the Japanese. The gentlemen's agreement—an informal agreement between the American-Japanese treaty—stipulated that no laborers

should be given passports from Japan. But women are given passports on the theory that they are wives of the men who are already here. These women work in the fields as laborers, and so circumvent the agreement, and then they give birth to children, and thus defeat the purpose of the agreement by increasing the horde of aliens who are crowding the white men and women off the land."

If this is not checked, says the senator, it means the end of the white race in California.

Possibly his fears are exaggerated. Certainly the white man shows no signs of losing his control of California cities, and of the state as a whole. But there is unquestionably a menace there, of which this particular bit of evidence is more convincing than usual to the rest of the country. It might be well for the government to look into the matter, and ask Japan whether she considers that she is keeping the letter or the spirit of that "gentlemen's agreement."

Bolshevism Is Not In Any Sense, Socialism.

A letter from Archbishop Platon, prelate of the Holy Orthodox Russian church, Metropolitan of Kherson and Odessa, addressed to all Christians, of whatever sect, throughout the United States, declares that Bolshevism is not Socialism.

"All that has occurred in Russia has nothing to do with either Socialism or Communism or with any other democratic forms of social structure in nations. Bolshevism is organized terror and the complete negation of orderly revolution."

This makes an interesting distinction for those who have confused Socialism with Bolshevism, and believed all Socialists anarchists.

There are Socialists, it is true, who have upheld the Bolshevik methods. But among those who believe in fundamental tenets of Socialism are many people who have been working, as have the Fabian Socialists in England, in a quiet and orderly manner for better conditions of living.

Whether these are "true Socialists" or not, or whether the violent and half-baked adherents of Bolshevism are "true Socialists" or not, seems unlikely to be settled soon by either side of the controversy. The main point seems to be that the decent and orderly workers for public welfare had better choose a new name which will distinguish them once for all from the brutal dispensers of organized terror.

A Caravan of Motor Trucks For Remembrance.

On July 7 these started from the White House a procession of motor trucks. Their final destination is San Francisco.

These are the trucks which took the place to a very great extent, of the sacred army mule in hauling supplies and munitions in this country and abroad during the war.

The war department is responsible for the trip, the main object of which is to arouse national interest in a series of "Roads of Remembrance," roads stretching away across the country, dedicated to the remembrance of the boys who drove the trucks in the war, and their comrades.

The idea of memorial roads is not new, but now it is proposed by the war department that the route followed by the trucks shall be the line of the road.

The forestry department is urging that the roads be lined with trees, and this is the gospel which will be preached as the caravan winds its way westward.

Cheer the trucks as they pass by, for they made history! And let each state build its trees and plant its trees. No nobler tie could join the past and future.

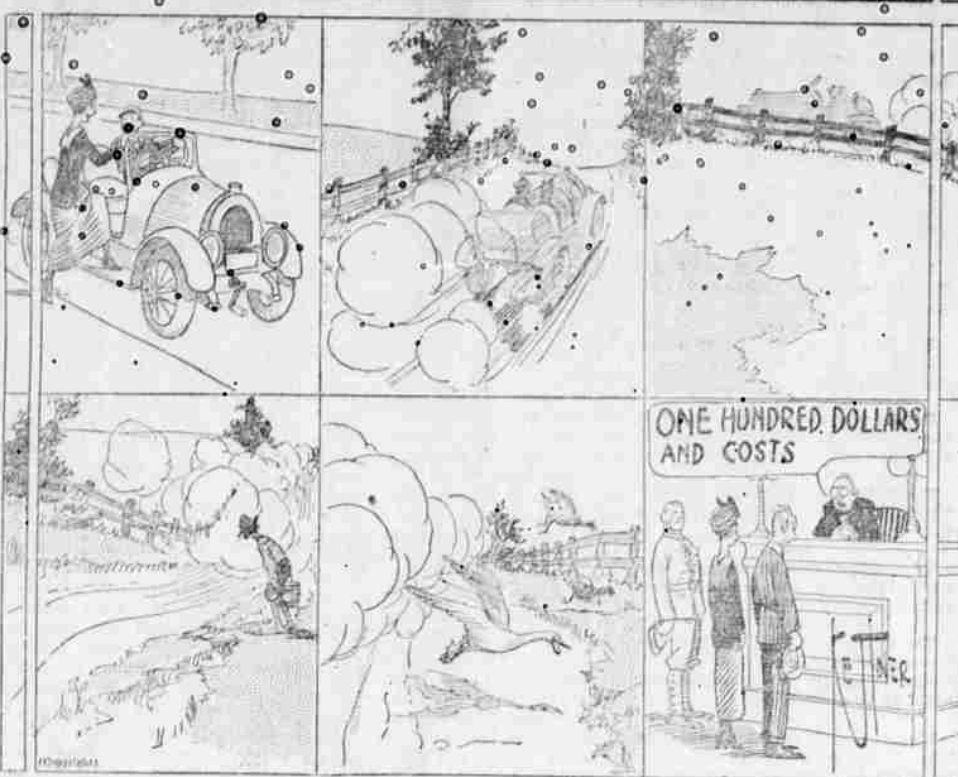
Every Man to His Trade Is the Best.

One of the New York papers remarks that socialism of Henry Ford based on his apparent ignorance of many things as shown in his testimony in the Chicago Tiquan bill case is unalloyed for.

"Suppose," says the writer, "that Mr. Ford, turned questioner, were to ask his inquirer about ohms, amperes, reaction sparks and injectors, vacuum and lubrication, belts and shearing strains, the design differences of combination engines for road work farm tractors and lumber-hauling."

It is an illuminating aggraving, and from one point of view, it is fair to Mr. Ford. In questioning him is an expert in his line, and has brains and education of a rare type—in that line. The trouble is that the inventor and manufacturer who look to do some thing out of his line. He set out

The End of a Perfect Day



according to his own statement, to "educate people" in regard to the war. And all the subsequent developments, particularly Mr. Ford's own testimony in this trial, have shown that he himself had only the vaguest notion of what the war was about and of most of the salient facts connected with it. That vagueness extended in general to his knowledge of contemporary affairs and the history of the past.

The lawyer or newspaper editor or merchant would be criticized if, without any training in mechanics, he set about to educate the public in regard to automobiles. The automobile expert deserves even more criticism when he undertakes, with such obvious lack of qualification, to instruct a nation and shape its opinion on public affairs of the highest importance at a critical time.

Let the showmaker stick to his last. A great deal of mischief is done, right along, in American affairs, by attaching too much importance to the utterances of brilliant specialists outside of their own specialties. The profession of the publicist, which many men rush into so lightly, is one calling particularly for long training, wide knowledge and special fitness.

Evidence of Growth and Not Retrogression.

It is not a matter of much delight to have the fact go out that La Grande is short of an adequate supply of water, but there is no way to keep the fact covered up and no reason, in fact, why the situation should not be represented just as it is. There is no justification in deceiving ourselves as to the condition or in trying to deceive anyone else.

The most satisfactory fact that has been ferreted out in the whole matter is that La Grande is getting essentially the same amount of water from Beaver creek that it was supposed to get on the start. But this is not the same La Grande to be supplied that was the La Grande of ten or even five years ago. There is very much more of a community enlargement through the simple process of progressive growth. With this expansion the water supply has become year by year relatively less, until now the supply is inadequate and is set down as being a "shortage."

If La Grande had stood where it was when the Beaver creek line was constructed we would still have enough water. There might have been too much enthusiasm on the start when it was declared after the Beaver creek supply was brought in, that there would be an "ample supply for years to come."

If there is any skepticism about this part of the water proposition, just look back over the many lots and blocks and almost whole streets that were vacant when the Beaver creek water supply was first brought down that are now filled with homes, and that will bring out some of the evidence as to the cause of a shortage at present.

In a way it is a boast for La Grande and a remarkable evidence of progress, but it is of a kind that cannot last long, because it is an absolute necessity for La Grande to provide all the water that is needed, no matter how fast it grows.

The Horse Seems In Bad Way.

It is really sad to know that the good horse—man's friend forever—is no longer wanted and ranchers cannot get anyone to make an offer on a good horse.

The horse meat markets are filled with horse meat and Veterinary Lytle has recommended large shipments of horses to be used for meat purposes.

Why is it so? Why has the good old faithful not to meet such an end? Here in the Grande River we raise good horses, yet there is no market for them.

Dr. Charlton, who keeps in close touch with the live stock situation, says the horse has no demand and that it is a question with many raisers as to what to do with good, well developed horses. The feed problem is before the grower, which is no small problem this year.

Cattle are not doing very well, for they are coming out of the hills in poor flesh, whereas usually at this time of the year they come in ready for beef.

Foreign Language Papers Take a Hunch.

Aroused to their own defense, the leading foreign-language newspapers are advertising on a large scale that their chief object in life is the Americanization of their readers.

If this is true it is good news. Certainly in the face of present public opinion it is good policy, for the American people are in no mood to tolerate any foreign propaganda.

It would be a good thing if the foreigner coming to this country and unable to read English could have immediate instruction in Americanism through the language he does understand, but this instruction will be useless unless it includes urging the foreigner to learn to read and speak English. Of course when he learns English and becomes naturalized he will be less likely to read a paper printed in any other tongue, so the foreign sheet preaching Americanism is practically digging its own grave.

If the big foreign-language papers truly are willing to do this, they are making a sacrifice on the altar of America which is not to be lightly esteemed.

If, in addition to keeping their own pages free of vicious propaganda, they will join forces with other papers they will aid in a great cause still more, and help themselves besides. For if the long-for day does come when this is an English-speaking country only, they can change to English and still hold their clientele because they have shown themselves honest.

Vacations Upset General Business.

"Why don't people pay their bills in midsummer as they do at other times of the year?" asks a puzzled business man.

"Vacations!" answers another tentatively.

He is probably right. Many people who can afford to pay their debts whenever they feel like it are accustomed to going to the country, or the seashore or on touring trips in the summer and paying no attention to their current bills until after their return. So extensive has this practice grown that in the case of large numbers of well-to-do people in every city, merchants and other creditors have come to take it as a matter of course, and wait for their money as patiently as they can until fall. They do not like it; it seriously inconveniences them; but they do not want to lose their customers' patronage.

People with whom it is always a problem to meet bills from month to month are prone to take vacations frankly at their creditors' expense. That is to say, instead of paying to month's bills as usual, they take the money for their vacation. Then they have a hard, slow time making it up afterwards.

One naturally sympathizes more with the latter class than with the former. In neither case, generally speaking, is the practice excusable. Vacations are a good thing; but vaca-

tion should not be taken at anyone's expense and it is unfair to take them now. It is not only unfair to the creditors, but it is very bad for the community and for business conditions in general.

When any considerable number of people stop paying their bills, they make it harder for everybody else to pay. Money circulates more slowly. Credit tightens. Business slackens.

This is probably one of the principal reasons for the traditional "dullness" of the summer months. Business "picks up" in the fall very largely because people then pay their bills more promptly and regularly. Vacation should be planned far enough ahead, and allowed for financially, so that when the time comes it would not be necessary to hold out money belonging to other people. Such a process is nothing less than vacation-raffing. Many a harassed creditor loses his own vacation just because the people who owe him have gone vacationing on his money.

Be Ready to Again Fight the Flu.

Repeated warnings have been issued by medical authorities as to the probability of a recurrence of the flu next winter. It is a relief to have Dr. A. W. Freeman, state health officer of Ohio, prophesy that the dreaded visitor will not return.

Dr. Freeman believes that people who have not had the disease were immune to start with. And those who have had it are now immunized. That is to say, those who have not had the flu are those who would not get it under any circumstances, and those who have suffered once or oftener have now become safe from another attack.

"We are planning the machinery to battle with another epidemic," says the health commissioner. "I don't think we will have to use it, but we want to be prepared for any eventuality. Of course there probably will be sporadic cases when it gets cold, but they will be exceptions to the rule, I believe. There won't be an epidemic if I know anything about it."

Mark the fact that Dr. Freeman is not content to rest upon his own prophecy. If the other doctors are right, and he is wrong, he is going to be

ready. In July he is preparing his defenses against a possible offensive by the enemy in the fall. He is gaining the hopeful attitude that the hostile forces have become so weak that they are no longer to be feared. If they bring up unexpected reinforcements, he is ready so that his line may not be pierced. That's a pretty good attitude for everyone to take. Building up the vitality by sense and sunshine, and keeping cheerful and prepared, are the best preventives of any epidemic.

PORTLAND MAN IS HONORED

JUNEAU, Alaska, June 20—(By Mail)—In honor of Robert Barron of Portland, Oregon, well known in Juneau, the highest peak of Mansfield Peak, Alaska, has been named Mount Robert Barron. The Portland boy, who was the son of James T. Barron, head of a packing company on Funter bay, was one of the first American aviators to lose his life near Philadelphia trying to save fellow aviators from death.

Mount Robert Barron, named so by Dr. E. Leslie Jones head of the coast and geodetic survey, is situated off Southeastern Alaska, overlooking Funter bay and the town of Funter. It has an altitude of 4,000 feet.

LAWFUL TO RAISE AND SELL WILD GAME

SEATTLE, Wash., July 29—It now is lawful in the state of Washington, under a law passed by the recent legislature to raise for sale and serve at public meals various kinds of wild game. Raising of wild birds or animals and the serving of them at restaurants is under state license, a fee of \$10 for the first year being charged and \$5 annually thereafter. Thus, for the first time in the state, the fastidious diner may call for fried China pheasant or roast duck or venison—provided persons are found who see a profit in raising the wild game for such purposes.

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