

EDITORIAL PAGE

Who Is Getting The People's Money?

A very good suggestion has been made, that the State Highway Commission demand of every company and every individual doing contract work on the highways of Oregon the filing of a sworn statement showing all parties interested, financially and otherwise, in any contract that is let for road construction in the state.

The reason this suggestion is right and proper is because road building is a community matter—it is a neighborhood affair—and every dollar now being spent, and that which will be spent in Oregon for highways, has been raised by some form of taxation in which the people as a whole pay the bills.

It has been pointed out that keen, shrewd business men in some counties have determined, under the prevailing high prices of construction, that there is a nice profit in the game and in some instances to have banded together to financially back some one, but not to be actively associated with the enterprise. In the suggestion that the Commission demand complete and exhaustive information by every contractor relative to his associates and his financial supporters, the people who are paying the bills would be given full information, and upon such undertakings as road construction, this is vital.

It is vital because Oregon is just entering into a long campaign of road building, and upon the first work done depends whether the people will continue to support the road building program. The fullest confidence should prevail on all sides, and the way to have that confidence is to be open with everything. Public money is more or less sacred, and the public is entitled to know who is making the profits from road building.

WOMEN ASK OBSERVER TO EXPLAIN.

"I read your editorial on the high cost of living, and to be sure of its contents, I re-read it. Then it occurred to me that the one who wrote it was, to say the least, a little biased. While I heartily agree with the tone of the article, in that the way to bring things back to normal is to spend less money and live more economically, I cannot, as a woman, agree that the hundred dollar dress should be abolished until the bill for cigars, card games and other luxuries of men ceases to make its appearance. Women have become expensive luxuries, all will agree, but also men have not trailed far behind. In fact, I think the men are ahead of women in useless expenditures of money."

A La Grande woman gave this statement in rather an earnest manner and we take it that she has some ground for what she says. The Observer has no intention of shielding the men. Far from it, for the extravagance of one side is quite apparent as that on the other. If the country is to reach a substantial basis, all members of a family must unite in a campaign for sane living and less expense. The benefit of such a campaign would not be for the present only, but future generations would profit by it, for the child that is raised under strict economy has been blessed tremendously.

Doubtless the men of La Grande will take this good lady at her word and join a thrift club, cutting out the things that take the dimes and quarters. The smoking habit will not see much reduction however, until the nation-wide campaign is launched to do away with tobacco just as liquor was abolished.

The perfect day may not appear to the present generation, but we urge everyone to take heart, for conditions as a whole are getting better. This bit of lavish spending will soon pass away, just as other conditions have come and gone. Then the dollar will get back to par and things will rumble in quite a satisfactory manner. When that time comes the hundred dollar dress will be a matter of history and probably the high-priced cigars and other things men enjoy will join the high-priced dress and be laid comfortably away only to be mentioned by those who live in the past and have good memories.

All members of organized labor can feel well repaid for the effort put forth on the celebration of Labor Day in La Grande. It was one of the very best occasions of the kind ever held in the northwest, and all who witnessed the parade and other events unite in praising the event, which was surely praiseworthy in every respect.

The President is on his way to tell the people what he believes is the proper thing for congress to do regarding the peace treaty and league of nations.

United States marshals have seized a quantity of food stored in Spokane longer than regulations permit, but thus far nothing has occurred in Portland but the grabbing of one poor little gink who tried to speculate in spoiled fish. Perhaps Portland is more hollower than Spokane and Seattle. There may be no spirit there to profiteer—eh?

Tomorrow the school bell rings its merry chimes and the boys and girls of La Grande will be on the spot ready for the year's work. How interesting it is to hear one boy meet another saying, "Naw, I ain't goin' to no old school this year," and yet in his heart he would not miss greeting Superintendent Hampton with a smile on Monday morning for anything in this wide, wide world.

The road to Island City is a joy producing road as well as a dividend producing highway. Let us have more such roads, we need them while we live.

An Appeal to the Gambling Instinct.

A fine example of the astute advertising of questionable securities has recently been seen through the mails. It is an advertisement by a Texas oil company.

The circular departs from the old tried and true method of assuring safety and conservatism, and openly announces that most of the great fortunes of this country have been made by men who were willing to take a gambler's chance. It says further that the scheme is being promoted by men who are "playing a game that has made millionaires over night," that it is not a game for "swindlers," but for "steel-spined speculators," and that risks are "incident to all games where enormous winnings are possible."

As an example of what has been done it cites well known oil companies in which great fortunes have been made.

The thing is cunning in its direct appeal to the gambling instinct, which however we try to conceal it, sleeps, and none too soundly, in every human breast. To insure its being read, it is addressed to the women of the household, and ostentatiously marked "personal."

It is to be hoped, that this, and all similar get-rich-quick communications will meet with a cold reception at the hands of the women whom it is intended to deceive, and to lead into influencing their husbands to invest.

There are sound investments, real estates, reliable stocks and bonds, the good old Trust Company and the W. S. S. For every man, woman or child who wants to invest a little money, and not one cent of the painful savings of the family should go into any investment, however glittering, until it has been investigated by some honest person who knows the game.

Movies As a Tonic

From London comes the wondrous and inspiring suggestion that English girls are becoming more beautiful, and that the movies are responsible.

Constant contemplation of the most beautiful types of womanhood, say the British experts, is having its subtle effect in transforming the movie devotee. "The semi-darkness of the theater, the music, the upward gaze, are all conditions favorable to such psychic influence, and the mental impressions received by young people under these conditions when gazing upon selected types of lovely face and form must tend to have a cumulative effect resulting in the general beautification of the race."

Maybe so—maybe not. It is a new version of Oscar Wilde's theory that "nature is always imitating art," which he used to illustrate by pointing out that the preservation of facial types in old English families, despite continual marriages with persons of other types, was due to daily contemplation of the old family portraits on the walls. If this is the way it works, there is new justification for the movies, and new reason for worshipping the gods and goddesses of the films, and paying them million-dollar salaries. If we can all grow good-looking merely by steadily attending the movie shows, why, on to the movies!

A Demand for Farm Agents

A scarcity of farm agents is reported in various states. Many counties wanting such an official are unable to find one. The state agricultural universities cannot turn them out fast enough to supply the demand. The job generally calls for four years of study and a couple of years' practical experience, but sometimes counties are willing to waive the experience in the case of a promising candidate. The office is honorable and influential, and the salary is liberal.

Here is an opening for enterprising young men interested in agriculture which might be taken advantage of more frequently than it is. It offers unusual opportunities for public service of a practical and essential kind. The great desideratum today is to speed up the production of food. This is fundamental, if the cost of living is ever to be substantially lowered. It is an undertaking that calls for scientific farming, coupled with sound business methods.

The agricultural expert is going to fill a big place hereafter in American life, whether engaged in public service or private enterprise. It is a time for agricultural colleges to enlarge their facilities and for boys to think more seriously of the careers they lead to, in comparison with colleges and training schools of other types.

The American Legion is now for a La Grande with a very excellent gentleman, Dr. Phyl, at its head. It is to be a work of large and the support given to it must be unanimous so long as it continues on the lines which it has outlined. One of the chief features of the American Legion is "America for Americans."

Another Important Feature is to Dig Out the Alien Enemy and Keep Close Tab on the Slacker and the Lazy

There is no way to hide behind anything from the American Legion, and if a man of fighting age who did not go to the country's service, is employed when a certain soldier is available for the same job the employer is going to hear from the American Legion. The country as a whole stands squarely behind this kind of loyalty. It is a fine brand of mockery to clap the hands and play the bands when men are being sent to the front to fight, assuring them when they return a place in industry will be found for them, but when they do return to find some one who evaded the service holding a position that is the soldier's by rights.

Dr. Phyl is making good with his large gardens on the land around Hot Lake which never had before produced and which many people thought was non-productive. The doctor's ability to do things is again emphasized, just as it has been in his every undertaking throughout life. After all, this thing called success is wholly with the individual. Nature will always do her part if the man in the mass will do his. Another year will find Hot Lake not only furnishing vegetables for the institution, but it will be supplying many people who have back yards and excellent soil, but who are not inclined to combine effort with nature in obtaining a food supply.

T. J. Scroggin, of the United States National bank, has heard a very interesting story in booklet, entitled the "Trump Card." It is a story that could very profitably be read by every young man, especially at this time when the path of least resistance is so popular. Such booklets are good, for in the large number circulated there is almost surely to be a few that hit the mark. If Mr. Scroggin can plant a few seeds of thrift, his effort will not be in vain and the banking business as a whole will be benefited.

Thus far we have heard of no shortage of eggs in the Grande Ronde valley, due to the presence of flying machines, and it is up to Charlie Fisher, of the Salem Journal, to explain that sensational agitation he caused in the Willamette.

These Republicans who first decided to have congressmen and senators trail President Wilson on his western trip and then changed their minds, pulled one of those things which can properly be termed a "political boomer."

The old story about "kicking holes in the clouds" is now a reality, with these modern flying machines.

Maybe another reason for the high cost of living is that there are five million automobiles in the United States.

SUNFLOWERS AND CORN.

The average man thinks of sunflowers mostly as a curiosity to be grown in the back yard and incidentally furnish a small amount of food for the chickens. Occasionally, some enthusiast in the past has recommended the growing of sunflowers in the treeless sections of the various states for fuel purposes. In other words, sunflowers have had no place of value as a forage plant on the average farm.

A few years ago a Montana experiment station came out with the statement that sunflowers are proving valuable as an ensilage crop both from the standpoint of tonnage per acre and as a palatable feed. As a result of these reports the growing of this crop for ensilage purposes as compared with corn began to attract close attention. My father was probably one of the first men to try out the crop in this state. However, the ten acres of sunflowers were mixed and the sunflowers proved fully as palatable as corn. In fact, it was observed that in feeding the mixed ensilage whenever a large piece of sunflowers occurred the cows would eat it before beginning to feed on the mixed ensilage. The crop yielded very well from the tonnage standpoint and proved satisfactory in every way. This was under Willamette Valley conditions.

Fills Sibs With Sunflowers. J. E. T. Galloway, of Elgin, was one of the first men to fill a silo with sunflowers in eastern Oregon. He filled his silo last year with this crop and fed the ensilage to beef cattle and was very well satisfied with the results. For eastern Oregon conditions the two claims that are of particular interest to us are first, palatability and heavy tonnage to the acre.

The Galloway sunflowers averaged 10 tons of ensilage to the acre, and the acre of sunflowers just harvested at Hot Lake by Dr. Phyl here yielded practically at the same rate. As a result of the publicity regarding the value of sunflowers as a forage plant it has been tried out to some extent in this county on a comparative basis with corn, and at the present time there are several fields where corn and sunflowers have been grown to either under identical conditions. The results are very interesting. This season should prove the relative value of

Inspection Tour Wednesday.

To the owner of silos or those interested in silage crops, there are several interesting demonstrations in this county as to the comparative value of these crops. An inspection tour is being arranged, but details have not yet been worked out. The starting point will be at the Duncan McDonald farm on Wednesday morning at 9 o'clock, and from there we will visit several farms where these forage crops are being grown so that those contemplating the use of this crop or expecting to build a silo can secure some first hand information as to its value and decide whether it would be a suitable crop for their conditions. All those interested are invited to make the tour with us on Wednesday morning. Bring an interested party with you.

Everyone Interested Is Invited.

Mr. Duncan McDonald invites those interested in silage crops to inspect the crops on his farm on Wednesday morning, September 10. Mr. McDonald is very much interested in these two crops and invites any who care to see the results on his farm to be present at 9 o'clock on Wednesday morning and continue the inspection tour with us. The McDonald farm is located some three miles north and west of Alice and is reached from La Grande by taking the road straight north from Island City to the first road leading east after passing the lower school house just beyond the Hunter farm. This road leads directly to the McDonald home.

SHRINERS ENTER TAIN LA GRANDE!

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of the afternoon's ceremonies was given from 3 to 5. Dinner was served by the ladies of the Christian church who are today wearing a broad smile for they were given \$500 for serving the banquet and besides, the women of the church received \$66 in tips, which were all pooled and turned over to the church.

After the dinner, all of the Shriners and candidates formed in a parade and in parade proper marched through the main streets. The dancing girls were present, and under Robert Krohn's (physical trainer for Portland schools) able direction, they danced and wriggled to the delight of all. After the hilarity of the parade had died away, the candidates were taken to Rex Hall where the finished touches were administered before the sixty or more candidates were full fledged Shriners.

The Portland, Pendleton and The Dalles special left last night at midnight, carrying the Shriners to their respective homes, after a day of hard work, plenty of fun and a good time.

TO UPHOLD THE LEAGUE TO THE END

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in an antipathy. When he entered the Coliseum, he was again cheered. He was introduced by J. W. Weaver, president of the Business Chamber of Commerce, who spoke on the outstanding figures of the life of the world today.

Mr. Wilson was not on the platform. President Wilson said, "The world is desperately in need of the peace treaty, and the United States is the last nation which the world expected to wall upon." He further declared that the treaty would not only establish peace but it would end forever the rule of a few men over the destinies of the many.

PUBLIC NURSE NOW ON DUTY

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Large, Clapp, Dunsmuir also, have public health nurses and several other counties are in the near future to put on the work. Miss Zorn comes in this county well qualified and experienced along this line. She is a Red Cross nurse and has served in France during the war. Previous to this she had school teaching in Wisconsin. Union county is fortunate in having secured her services.

The work of the public health nurse is for the most part instructive and advisory in character. With such a large territory as an entire county for her field she cannot do outside visiting except for the purpose of demonstrating her teachings. Miss Zorn will very soon establish a schedule of visits to the different sections of the county and will endeavor to follow this schedule as consistently as possible so that each community may have fairly frequent visits. In respect to East visit to a community will be made both work in the schools and some

GRAINS OF SAND.

Among the noted visitors yesterday was "Tip" Tipton, who, as boasting that he used to pass through Grande when the mail was delivered in one sack, and caught by a swingin' crane as the train few past. Noble Tipton used to be one of the clerk aboard the fast mail between Peacote and Portland. Now he is profiteering in coal and gets his customers from among the Shriners.

Clyde McKay, mayor of the fair city of Bend, was absorbing La Grande atmosphere yesterday. Clyde came over in company with the famous "Pat" Mahaffey. Clyde is known as the champion fisherman of the Deschutes—which is the same thing as saying he has a working imagination.

Yesterday D. Fitzgerald, the foundry man, took a carload of Shriners down to inspect his plant, show them the combination of the safe, which he opens with a pocketknife and a screw-driver, and the return trip is said to have driven his tin Lizzie clear over a Locomobile that was standing in front of a garage.

A. M. Brown, treasurer of Al Kader Temple, came along to look after the collection Noble Brown makes his living by acting as assistant to Judge George W. Stapleton at Portland. Noble Brown's chief duties are to watch the office of the county clerk and whenever a marriage license is issued he grabs the applicant and whispers in his ear that the judge does the tying of nuptial knots with neatness, dispatch and lasting effect. Between Brown and Stapleton is cut quite a few marriage fees, so 'tis said.

Sheriff Tom Taylor finally hit into a band of desperate men who did not believe a thing in his bluff which has worked so well among criminals for many years.

Joe Carr found for once that he could not talk them out of it when he was bound to the whipping post. Joe's talk has been effective on many occasions, but Shriners are used to a fine line of glittering rhetoric from such fellows as George Baker, Harvey Wells, Frank Grant, et al.

It is believed Frank Grant holds his own better than any man in Oregon. Fifty years ago, according to one of the Portlanders, Frank was "one of the boys" in those days meant wild nights and tame days. He never said quit, and the nearest he ever came practicing plagiarism was when he would voluntarily or involuntarily repeat "Give me some of the same." But Frank is young and gay today.

The usual dignity of Fred J. Holmes, which is legend in La Grande, fell to pieces with the Shriners yesterday and he became as much of a boy as he was when he used to tickle old Chief Joseph's toes when the latter was curled up by his campfire sound asleep.

Old Mergenthaler Morton was one of the hot sanders yesterday. His excess weight caused the Al Kader manager to buy two tickets in order to get him into La Grande. High cost of living does not affect Morton, for every time a hotel hikes the price of a breakfast he adds ten per cent to his typeset and all supplies, forcing the publisher to pay for "that fat and a little more."

Bob Stanfield started in to have some Shiner's fun, but he heard the bleat of a sheep down at Elgin and believing in business before pleasure, Bob bent it for the sheep corral.

UNION COUNTY SHORTHORNS WIN AWARDS.

In Competition With the Best in the Northwest the Home Stock Receives Recognition

G. W. Delany's show herd of fourteen head won six second prizes and several other awards in competition with some of the best shorthorn herds in the Northwest, at Spokane. The Day and Rothrock herd is known to all followers of the shorthorn breed. The McCook herd of Fishtrap, Wa. is known throughout the northwest. The Cordner herd of Walla Walla made good felt at the recent Union Stock Show. The herds of Washington State College and the University of Idaho have been consistent winners at the shows throughout the northwest. Against these and other smaller entries the Union county cattle won a very creditable number of awards. In several instances they caused the judge to hesitate for some time whether to give the local cattle first or second places.

The De Lay cattle will show at the Walla Walla show next week.

AIRPLANE WILL TAKE PASSENGERS TODAY

The airplane, which is on the Hager field, will make its first all day today and will take passengers at any time.

MRS. GRAHAM IS LABOR QUEEN

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Mrs. Graham, the official court lady, is: Mrs. Le Desche Graham, 35.82; Miss Mae Reifer, 31.91; Miss Goldie Walker, 26.58; Miss Lena Gerber, 24.55; Miss Belle Dahlstrom, 8.54; Miss Helen Sims, 2.87; Miss Lois Given, 1.476. The Central Labor Council announced that the four young ladies who polled the highest votes would be given rides in the airplane tomorrow, as an appreciation of their work.

Any body can see the airplane can be lowered while wages are being raised that beats raising wages is to help break competition.

COAST LEAGUE BALL GAMES.

(By Associated Press to The Observer) Oakland 2-4, Los Angeles 3-2; Oakland 10-8, Seattle 2-4; Vernon 2, San Francisco 1; Sacramento 3, Portland 7.