

The Observer

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TO SENATOR HARDING

On March 4, Mr. Harding, you will be inaugurated president of the United States. You will then become the world's foremost citizen, and the power at your command will be unlimited, far greater than that of any other civilized ruler of this earth.

We believe that you have the welfare of all of our people at heart, and that it is your earnest desire to do that which is best for them.

In this belief we beseech you, Mr. Harding, to use your great influence and power in an effort to devise a more satisfactory means of marketing farm products.

The horde of middlemen and speculators who are fattening upon the life blood of a hundred million people will oppose your efforts in this direction. They do not want a more direct route from producer to ultimate consumer, because it would curtail their ill gotten gains.

But we believe the welfare of the great mass of the people is dearer to your heart than is that of the men who are nullifying the law of supply and demand.

We believe that it is within your power to place a law upon the statute books of our country that will give the farmer a fair price for his products, and yet afford the consumer an opportunity to buy them without paying extortionate prices.

The elimination by federal law of all speculation in foodstuffs, and the reduction of the number of hands through which the food must pass, will, we believe, solve this difficult problem. No reasonable person could object to a price that is regulated solely by the law of supply and demand.

If you accomplish this one reform only during your four years of office the American people will be thrice blessed that you were elected their president.

FOR BETTER SPELLING

The ancient art of spelling is to receive more attention from now on in the University of Illinois. No student will be given a degree who cannot pass the spelling tests. This points to activity along a line needing attention everywhere.

Out of 450 students who took a spelling test at the university the other day, 150 failed to make an average of 90 per cent. The list compiled words in common use but often misspelled. Among them were: Irresistible, misspelled by 120 out of 150; eschiarate, misspelled by 111; villain, by 87; dining room, by 67; embarrass, by 54, and rheumatism by 50.

The outlook would not be so dark if the above words were the only ones spelled incorrectly every day. But business men everywhere can testify that simple words of one syllable are tortured out of their shape in their offices continually, by people who are supposed to have at least the "equivalent of an eighth grade education," and who have topped off with a commercial course especially designed to fit them for office work. Modern personal correspondence betrays a like weakness.

If the institutions whose business it is to train the youth of today are beginning to take steps to correct this evil, all may yet be well. Otherwise correct spelling will soon be numbered with the lost arts. But the reformation should not be left for college days. A good many people never get to college. Spelling needs more attention away back in the grade school.

THE PAYING PLAYGROUND

A city which has devoted considerable time and money to the development of its playground system reports an increase of 50 per cent in the number of children attending in 1920 over that of the previous year. Other communities report even larger gains. Because of what organized recreation accomplishes, these gains are important.

The public playground was originally intended to provide a play spot for children who had no recreation but the street. Today it is a welcome adjunct to any locality, offering as it does a place where the children of the neighborhood may congregate, under trained supervision, and not only play but learn how to play, and how to associate with their fellows in the true spirit of sport.

There the child is kept out of immediate mischief, and there he gets suggestive ideas for amusement that will offset many an adverse influence. There he learns the rules of the game, and learns to respect the rights of others and the obligation of the strong to look out for the weak. He becomes a better citizen, present and potential.

Considered from this point of view, increased attention at the

playgrounds means that investment in citizenship is paying increasingly large returns.

IS WIFE AN EMPLOYEE?

A bill introduced in the Kansas legislature by a woman member provides that a wife may assume the status of an employee in her own home. This, under the Tate workmen's compensation act, would entitle her to damages for injuries sustained in the performance of her housework. Under the proposed measure the husband becomes the employer. The sponsor of the bill thinks it will pass.

Recognition of housework as labor, and as fraught with hazard at that, is certainly coming on. After the centuries in which wives have burned and sprained and lamed and wrecked themselves and still been mere life parasites feeding upon their laboring husbands, this measure is revolutionary.

How will the opposition meet the situation? Will it deny that housework is labor, and then dodge the broom? Or will it acknowledge it as industry, yet refuse to this class of workers the compensation allowed to others? Or will it take the stand that a wife is a voluntary partner in the household concern, and hence cannot claim damages as an employee?

It's a pleasing prospect, even for a state which is used to weird legislation.

"Candy worth \$200,000,000 is eaten every year in the United States," says a statistician. Which means, we assume, that during the last couple of years the country has been spending \$200,000,000 or \$400,000,000 for candy.

The high price of coal is due, of course, to the fact that more coal was mined last year than ever before. The good old law of price adjustment to supply and demand always works, and in this case, it has worked the consumer.

Bootleggers cannot safely be too enterprising at Enterprise. One of them, asked the county attorney to have a drink and get along fine, but when he asked the same attorney to buy a bottle, it was all off but the big fine and jail. Thus a budding business deal was nipped by a nip.—Portland Telegram.

Ambassador Davis says his London job is costing him three times as much as his salary, and so about \$30,000 a year is coming out of his own pocket. No wonder he is willing to quit!

Can it be possible that Senator Hiram Johnson has any personal motives in urging that national presidential primary law?

It has come to pass where the big naval yard is doing other disarm.

THE OFFICE CAT



By JUNIUS

A MELLUWA FIX. Dear Customers:

Some miscreant used the Office Cat's typewriter a few days ago and broke off a letter that is as essential to this department of delight as any other in the alphabet. We are placed in the unfortunate predicament of not being able to tell what letter it is but whichever letter should be substituted here for the dollar sign is the one that is missing. Until needed repairs are made the Office Cat is going to be handicapped. This is the only excuse we have to offer for the disappearance of this column for the past few days. You can understand just how we are handicapped and we are just as sorry as you are. Make no mistake. You'll have to pardon the way this affair looks today. We cat's help it.

—JUNIUS.

DISCRETION

In spite of the strike of the letter-well, that which follows the letter "M" of the Office Cat's typewriter—the following tales is submitted subject to the typographical pitfalls of everything:

A La Grande housewife had advertised in the paper for a few maid. The advertisement had been inserted for two days and at the end of that time the woman came back to the office with a request that the ad be continued.

"Did you get some replies to this ad?" the advertising manager asked courteously.

"Well, there was one woman answered it," the lady replied. "But the first thing she did when she came to see me was to look me over carefully and then remark 'Cutie!—well, you're fat aren't you?' So I left the ad run again."

STARTLING STATISTICS

Only one plumber is every seven or six take all his tools with him when he starts out of a job.

WE LEAVE IT TO YOU. Max waits but little here below. As a chief poet told us so; He's doing all he should expect. If he can't make both ends connect.

ADMIRATION

I have always Admired Beautiful women. My wife has Always admired Intellectual women. Thus we have Seldom admired The same women.

John Allen says that every father likes to tell his boys how his daddy used to whale the tar out of him if he opened his mouth when he was a boy.

T. J. Serogis was telling Chas. Harding the other day as how that every time you eat a chap says: "That's the kind of a man I am," it's a good bet that somebody has "put one over" on him.

If all the fish stories fishermen tell were true there would be no food shortage.

Baby may not know what puts the tick in father's few watch; but father knows it's the jeweler's long-time credit system.

When the mosquito is the cowshed, there's a weaving path to the k-k-k-kitchen door.

As apple a day (is the form of hard cider) keeps the doctor (and his prescription blanks) away.

BELIEVES IN FREE TEXT BOOKS FOR ALL

To The Observer and All Fair Minded Citizens:—This week has been one of oratory and marching, and of forces one way or another of Nelson and I am very much interested in two bills up at this time. House Bill No. 59, free or state owned text books, the other Senate Bill No. 121, a bill regulating the course of study and organization, especially as relating to U. S. History and Civil Government, also compelling teachers to take the same examinations as public school teachers have to take in all private, denominational or parochial schools.

At Pendleton in October the State Federation of Labor won a record in favor of the free text books, which we as working people think to be proper, but now comes Senate Bill 121 regulating all schools in the state which classes and private denominational or parochial schools on the same basis for most of the course as the public schools, but does not provide for free text books for said schools like that which is called for in the case of public schools. Now the people that have been

FRIDAY, SATURDAY and MONDAY

Will bring to a close the Greatest of All Sales for 1921

Have You Shared In Its Offerings?



TWENTY-SIXTH

Annual January Clearance Sale

ENDS MONDAY, JANUARY 31

MANY ATTEND MASQUERADE

SUMMERVILLE, Jan. 28.—The Masquerade given at the Masonic Hall last Friday night was well attended. John Waggoner served supper to the dancers.

Ida Standley is spending the week with Mrs. W. L. Hale. Mr. and Mrs. M. I. McRae and Clara Pries were among those from La Grande who attended the dance here last Friday.

The Odd Fellows installed officers last Saturday evening. After the regular session of lodge, refreshments were served.

Mrs. T. A. Choate is visiting friends in The Dalles. Last Saturday, C. M. Hale delivered

a couple of truck loads of sheep in La Grande for the Park Brothers. Jack Myers, from Idaho, is visiting relatives in this section. Mr. Myers is a brother of Mrs. Wm. Cantrell. Ruth Roberts was visiting last Friday with Dorothy Beem.

W. A. Daniels spent several days last week with his family, but has again returned to his work with the E. O. Lumber Co., at Enterprise.

Last Thursday, Mr. and Mrs. Lando Westenskov, of Imbler, came over to spend a few days with Mrs. Westenskov's mother, Mrs. Della Pfefferkorn.

Mrs. Logan Beem was called to La Grande last Monday evening to be with her daughter, Dorothy, who had to undergo an operation for abscess in the ear.

Walter Fisher and Ella Whitcomb spent last Sunday at Frank Stoen's home on Pumpkin Ridge.

Mrs. Wm. Choate, who has been confined to the house for some time, is better at this writing.

Otto Ott is suffering with tonsillitis. Gustel Pfefferkorn, whose home is near Wordland, Idaho, is visiting relatives and friends in this vicinity. Mrs. Mary McKenzie has gone to California to spend the winter.

Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Ingram and Mrs. E. Fisher were visiting last Sunday at the home of Chas. Oswald.

It is reported that Fay Hamilton has the scarlet fever, but is getting along nicely.

Miss Miriam Wheatley, who has been visiting at the home of Frank Ott, has returned to La Grande.

Mr. A. C. Ingram, who has been seriously ill with scarlet fever, is slowly improving. Mrs. Ingram is now down with the same disease. They are under the care of Dr. Vehrs, of Elgin.

Mr. and Mrs. V. E. Long, Mr. Pratt and Mr. Ferguson were among those from Imbler who attended lodge here last Saturday evening.

Mr. Shaw is now moving into T. A. Choate's home in the north end of town.

Benefit Matinee

HOOVER EUROPEAN RELIEF SOCIETY

January 29 AT 10 O'CLOCK A. M.

BUY A TICKET Save a Life!

Entire Proceeds Go to Charity

Regular Prices

ARCADE and SHERRY'S THEATRES



The Excellence of 'La Camille'

'La Camille' is the highest perfection of the front lace corset, insuring beautiful front figure lines as well as the graceful back.

'La Camille' Corsets are made in so many different models that every type of figure may be perfectly fitted, whether tall, short, plump, slender or unevenly proportioned.

A complete line always on hand.

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