

EDITORIAL PAGE

The Observer

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER
Published Daily and Weekly at La Grande, Oregon, by La Grande Evening Observer Publishing Company.

Entered at the Postoffice at La Grande, Oregon, as Second Class Mail Matter.

Address all Communications to
THE OBSERVER, 1416 Adams Ave., La Grande, Oregon.

CITY AND COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER

On Sale in Other Cities—Oregon Hotel News Stand, Portland; Imperial News Stand, Portland; Multnomah Hotel News Stand, Portland.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

By Carrier
Daily, per month.....75c
Daily, per three months.....\$2.25
Daily, per six months in advance.....\$4.50
Daily, single copy.....5c
By Mail
Daily, per year in advance.....\$6.00
Daily, three months in advance.....\$1.50
Daily, six months in advance.....\$3.00
Daily, per month.....50c
Weekly Observer-Star, by mail, per year in advance.....\$1.50

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THE MICHIGAN BALLOT COUNTING.

Little attention was paid, probably, by the average citizen to the recount by the senate committee of the ballots in the Ford-Newberry senatorial contest of 1918. Yet it was an important thing.

The recount did not alter the fact that Mr. Newberry received more votes than Mr. Ford, but it did reduce his lead by over 3000 votes, leaving him with the small margin of 4334.

The narrowness of this margin emphasizes the dangers which lie in inaccurate counting of ballots and points to the necessity for better methods. A like error in any closely contested election might result in the victory being assigned where it did not belong.

The damage is not so great where, as in this instance, the original outcome was unaffected, but the wrong remains. The privilege of the ballot which is the glory of democracy, becomes a farce when the votes of the people are recorded inaccurately.

This ballot-count, it should be observed, is separate from the main issue in the Michigan election case, which is the legitimacy of the campaign expenditures on behalf of Mr. Newberry. For disregard of the law in that matter the successful candidate still stands under sentence to a term in the penitentiary, though a legal controversy has held up the execution of the sentence, and the senate itself, which is supreme judge of its members' qualifications, has taken no action in the matter.

Of course the poor meat packers are not making any money, and don't need any regulation. Morris and Company have declared a stock dividend of 1,233 per cent, every stockholder getting, for each share of stock he held, 3-13 shares of new preferred stock and nine shares of common.

IF GERMANY HAD WON.

While considering the bill of damages the Allies are now trying to impose on Germany, it is just as well to keep in mind what the bill would have been if Germany had won the war.

It is a matter of record that in 1917, when Kaiser Wilhelm fully expected to crush the Allies, he declared that they would have to pay Germany 500,000,000,000 gold marks, and that his estimate was laid before the Reichstag in a speech by a high government official and met with enthusiastic approval.

Those five hundred thousand million marks would have meant \$120,000,000,000,000. Compare that with the sum of reparation annuities now demanded from Germany, which is \$55,000,000,000. It is nearly twice as much as the annuities and the objectionable export tax together. (And it is to be remembered always that Germany wanted to extort that vast sum from the nations she had attacked, thereby doubly wronging them, whereas the Allies are trying, however ineffectively or mistakenly, to obtain partial monetary compensation for the damage Germany deliberately inflicted on them.)

A SMALL ARMY.

The almost unanimous action of Congress in passing the smaller army bill over the President's veto plainly reflects the disarmament sentiment of the nation. So strongly do the Senate and House feel this sentiment that they are inclined to yield to it unquestionably in their army plans, with as little consideration for details as the average citizen himself shows.

The army, which lately numbered millions, and now stands at about 215,000, is ordered reduced to 175,000, with an appropriation provided for only 150,000 and a possibility of reducing the official maximum to that figure at an early date.

This represents the greatest shrinkage to which any power engaged in the World War has voluntarily subjected its land forces. The major Allies, while seriously considering naval reduction, have been slow to reduce their armies because of the unsettled conditions still existing.

There need be no question of this American reduction, provided the small army now contemplated is properly balanced, with adequate provision for the various branches of the service, particularly for the air service. But the spectacular action of Congress in this matter serves to call pointed attention to its naval policy. If it is proper to curtail the army to 175,000, is it not still more proper to curtail the navy?

It is easier to save money on the navy than on the army, either now or hereafter. If any considerable pro-

ent saving is considered inadvisable, that is to say, if Congress thinks best to go ahead for the present with the established construction program surely neither Congress nor the new executive can fail to pave the way for future saving by inviting the other powers to agree on a general policy of naval retrenchment.

PRUNING VERSUS GRAFTING.

A definite stand has been taken in both houses of Congress to limit the speeches in the Congressional Record to those which are actually delivered upon the floors of Congress, and to eliminate from them the masses of news clippings and other quotations frequently published under "leave to extend remarks." This is cheering news.

The Record is the ancient grafting ground of Congress. Under leave to extend remarks the members print flattering press notes about themselves, calculated to make the constituents at home sit up and re-elect. It is free advertising for the congressman, but the government pays for it. Another favorite trick is for a member to absent himself from the sessions of his body as freely as he pleases, but obtain leave to print his speech upon any subject as if he had been present when the subject was being discussed. He gets the credit for being on the job, and the folks back home are none the wiser.

It costs about \$50 a page to print the Record. One speech which was not delivered, yet was printed by the absentee member, cost \$650. Another which was delivered was added to under permission for extension, "ninety pages of news clippings and the like being tucked in which were never read in the Senate and which nobody will ever read, probably." This cost the government \$4,500.

The proposed elimination will save the people a lot of money. It will also mean that the congressmen who are supposed to be on the job will be. May the work prosper!

Speaking of modesty in dress—does it beat all how so many girls shrink from exposing their ears?

Airplane passenger service is expected soon between New York and London, making the trip in 24 hours. But what's the use? Americans don't want to go to Europe at present, and Europeans haven't got the fare.

The prairie interests of Oregon are making behind the movement to make a success of Prune Week. The solidity of interest is shown in the fact that no special brands are being mentioned; with them, as it should be, is just "Eat Oregon Prunes."

THE OFFICE CAT



—By JUNIUS—

ALL ABOUT MABEL.

There was once a "Beech named Mabel" And she sat on the dining-room table; She got very red When an Odd Fellow said: "Oh, look at the legs on that table!" —Three-Link News.

Then off of her perch hustled Mabel She got right down off of the table And the things that she did To that Odd Fellow kid— Well, you'd never think that she was able.

PREDICTIONS FOR 1921.

(By the Astrologer.)
Miss Venus has received order to vacate the 1921 flat the first of next month, a Mr. Mercury having secured a lease on the premises for 1921.

This Mercury person is considered a doubtful character at best, and the chances are that he will start something of an unreasonable nature. The fact that Miss Venus objected makes him out a lowdown and a hum to start with. Miss Venus has been behaving herself all right in this U. S. A. neighborhood, and there was no reason or excuse for raising her rump to the point where no respectable woman could pay it. Miss Venus would have been justified in taking a wallop at her landlord, had she any arms or hands to do it with.

Mercury has a habit of disturbing business conditions, and it may be expected that the low-down element of society will be able to purchase turn implements, shoes, automobiles and other necessities at considerable less than those articles are now offered.

One of Mercury's aversions is pork, and as the price of pork chops is said to govern the world's market it is to be expected that Mercury will kick all the grunts and other inflations out of the pork price. Therefore, look out for a drop in pork.

It may be definitely expected that it will be colder in northern states than in the southern.

The winter in the states of Washington and Oregon will be wet. It will rain and snow considerable there, while in California the famous sunshine will be on tap.

A noticeable increase in dryness will occur in Chicago, where Mercury has already established a connection with Judge Kenesaw M. Landis. It is also probable that Chicago will have some new policemen.

Farmers should not plant their crops until the ground is thawed out in the spring.

Onions will be strong as usual. Fish worms will be scarce. Cox's army will be jobless. Women will begin wearing clothes again.

Rabbits will cost more. Friday will be lucky for some people and unlucky for others.

With Mercury on the job nobody need be surprised at anything that happens—in fact, we predict it.

Cash Humphreys predicts that the fate of free seeds once more threatens to distract the nation.

E. J. Huston says that a "perfectly satisfactory brand of religion can be taught in the English language."

WHAT MARY LACKS.

Mary does not rouge her lips. Neither does she paint. Is she a bit among the men? You know damn well she ain't!

Is this the Mary with the lamb—That high-priest piece of nation? Well, if it is, we're strong for her. No matter what she'll put on!

THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

Guardians of the Grande Ronde Valley, Standing row after row; Watching throughout the dim ages, The fertile valley below.

In winter your peaks are snow-covered, And hoary with frost all agleam. The pines all sparkle like diamonds, Beneath the golden sun's beams.

In summer your sides are green clothed, Take velvet, its smooth and soft; A mountain stream dashes downward, And an eagle soars aloft.

In the evening the haze in the distance Descends like a purple veil, Obscuring yonder blue mountains, And spreading over hill and dale.

—Earl Franklin Bengtson—
Aug. 15, 1920.

ANOTHER CLASH IS REPORTED

LONDON, Feb. 12.—Two persons were killed and 15 wounded in a conflict yesterday between the communists and the extreme nationalists at the naval shipyards at Mafalome, Italy, says a Rome dispatch.

OFFICIAL JOYRIDERS MAY HAVE TO FOREGO THEIR FORMER RIDES

OLYMPIA, Wash., Feb. 12.—The days of the joyriding state of county officials are numbered. Under the provisions of a bill introduced in the house this week every state, county or city automobile will have to be marked with letters two inches high, with the names of the department to which it belongs.

The Bookworm

Mary A. Nichols, County Librarian.

What do you do with your spare time? There are many people without employment. Are you bettering yourself, or just killing time? The public library has books for recreation and for information. Why not devote a portion of your leisure time to definite study. We have many good books on machine shop work, railroad engineering, and various trades, and we can borrow others from the bigger libraries.

Then why not sandwich in with the interminable list of western and detective stories some really worthwhile books?

It's really up to you to be alert, progressive and up-to-date. You can be if you read one good book and a few magazine articles during each month.

We have now all the books on the Teachers' Reading Circle course. Many of the teachers throughout the county are already availing themselves of the privilege of borrowing them. The early bird gets the worm—for we can not hope to fully supply the demand if everyone waits until next fall to read the required one book on this list.

During January we mailed out 61 volumes in response to requests. That's just a starter. Book deposits have been sent to Union, Elgin and Cove libraries.

All the Oregon libraries on February 7 counted up the number of books that were out of the library on loans that day; also the actual number of volumes in the lending collection. We had 1163 volumes loaned out from our desk, whereas the same week last year we reported 863. That makes the percentage of our lending collection out at one time jump from 185 to 217.

These are some of the new books we shall have out on the shelves by the end of another week. Any one in Union county has the privilege of borrowing them. Send in your requests and we will reserve the books in the order in which the requests are received.

Gilbs, Now It Can Be Told (about the war).
Ferber, \$1200 a Year (a play).
Farnham, Home Manufacture of Furs and Skins.
Gumpers, Labor and the Employ-

Johnson, What to See in America.
O'Donnell, Menace of Spiritualism.
Newall, Nether Dead Nor Sleeping (spiritualism).

Davis, History of France.
Roose, Economic Zoology.
Morley, Pipefuls (humor).

A wise old owl Lived in an oak, The more he heard The less he spoke; But when he spoke His words were wise, Use Mazda Lamps To save your eyes.

L. & L. DRUG CO., Agents—Shelby Mazda Lamps.

Facing death—real death, not "make believe" in a drama of human endurance staged by that greatest of all dramatists—FATE!

Also a comedy, and Mutt & Jeff.

SUNDAY AND MONDAY
SAMUEL GOLDWYN Presents

TOM MOORE
—IN—

"STOP THIEF"

Tom Moore in a farce that travels like a sky rocket, shedding showers of laughs enroute!

ALSO A COMEDY

ETIQUETTE IN GAME OF GOLF

By GEORGE H. EDDY.

I am anxious that all members of the La Grande Country Club familiarize themselves with the etiquette of golf and also the rules of the game. These can be studied up during the winter.

Remember, the quality of a golf club is known by the etiquette of its members on the links. There is no game played which shows the disposition of a player like it does in golf. My ambition is to make the La Grande Club a model club, and let us show other clubs that we know something about the game, although we are young at it. Always keep the following items in mind:

1. Keep very still and don't talk when a shot is being made.
2. Do not stand immediately behind a player, or on the line of his putt.
3. Do not tee your ball until you turn to drive, always wait until the player furthest from the hole has played, before going ahead. Never walk in front of any player while he is playing a shot.
4. Move entirely off the green as soon as your match has holed out. If the hole is near before you have holed out, pick up your ball and move off, unless playing for medal score.
5. Never play into the match ahead unless having the right, you have signalled them you will play through.
6. Provided there is a clean hole ahead of you, you must not hold the course if the match following you is waiting to go through, beckon them to play through. Do the same in the event of a lost ball.
7. When a match plays through you, do not resume play until they are out of range.
8. Replace grass divots you cut.
9. Prevent your caddy standing near the rim of the cup.
10. Do not berate your caddy before others.
11. Do not constantly complain of poor luck, bad lies, etc. The average is generally about the same.
12. Remember that a single player has no rights on the links, that is, any other matches have the right to go through without asking permission.

Old Superstitions.

In one of his novels, Walter Scott says it was received as the truth, "that they who are born on Christmas or Good Friday have the power of seeing spirits, and even of commanding them." He also says that "the Spaniards imputed the heaviest and downcast looks of their Philip II to the disreputable visions to which this privilege subjected him." The well-known lines of Shakespeare indicate that in his day the crowing of the cock at dawn was believed to be efficacious in driving away spirits.

Pearl Fishers in Sea All Year.

The women pearl fishers of Japan commence their work at the age of fourteen and are in the water almost all the year round, except in the coldest season, from the end of December to the beginning of February.

PURITYS WIN FAST GAME

STODDARDS DEFEATED IN ONE OF BEST GAMES OF YEAR.

Score in Second Half Very Close; Continual See-saw—Game Was 100 Per Cent Clean.

One of the fastest basketball games ever played on the Y. M. C. A. floor was played last evening when the Stoddard Bros. team met the Purity squad, both teams playing a 100 per cent clean game. The second half was exciting from start to finish, the score see-sawing, first favoring one team and then the other. When the game ended the score was 21 to 19 in favor of the Purity squad.

At the end of the first half the score stood 13 to 8 in favor of the purity squad and the Stoddards were unable to overcome the lead, although they made three more points than their opponents, making 15 points to their opponents' eight in the second half.

The lineup was as follows: Stoddard Bros.—J. Stoddard and J. Rosenbaum, forwards; D. Stoddard, center; E. Stoddard and H. Larson, guards. The Purity Squad—Geddes and Taylor, forwards; Lyman, center; Wright and Ash, guards.

Truth Breaks In at Last.

Marriage teaches us that it is a darn sight easier to follow a woman than it is to lead her.—Arkansas Thomas Cat.

It pays to advertise.

YOU CAN'T MAKE HAY WITHOUT SUNSHINE

Nor can you make much money without some effort to CONSERVE YOUR RESOURCES by establishing credit with a reliable bank.

Why not make some real "HAY" in the SUNSHINE by starting a check account with us. Build up your credit that you may be able to master difficult problems.

LA GRANDE NATIONAL BANK
LA GRANDE, ORE.
SOUND—RELIABLE—PROGRESSIVE

WE PAY 4% ON TIME DEPOSITS

MEMBER FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

SHERRY'S

—TODAY ONLY—

"The BOTTOM of The WORLD"

Sir Ernest Shackleton's thrilling attempt to cross the South Pole.

FACING DEATH—REAL DEATH, NOT "MAKE BELIEVE" IN A DRAMA OF HUMAN ENDURANCE STAGED BY THAT GREATEST OF ALL DRAMATISTS—FATE!!

ALSO A COMEDY, AND MUTT & JEFF.

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