

EDITORIAL PAGE

The Observer

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"ALLOW US TO PRESENT—"

We offer to the reading public of Union and Wallowa counties
this evening not only the regular Observer, with its news from
all sections, with its Associated Press dispatches, with its per-
sonal and society mention, but we offer also an exposition of
Easter offerings contained in the stores and shops of La Grande
that will necessarily attract the attention not only of the public
nearby, but will excite admiration and comment in nearby towns
and cities.

This issue of the Observer shows to the outside world that
La Grande is not in the dumps—her people are not brooding over
the coming of the end of the world; not at all. On the other
hand, this issue shows the La Grande merchant and business man
is on his toes and after the business. It shows that the mer-
chants are bidding for trade they know is coming to the city.
Depressions may come and depressions may go, but the big bulk
of regular business goes merrily on—the buying of necessary
articles is not stopped.

The fluffy ruffles of business quite truly add to the volume
and put the smile on everyone's face, but it is effervescent and
bubbling, while the good old regular trade keeps coming year
after year, in sunshine and in rain.

Blessed be it said, La Grande has a great volume of the regu-
lar kind of business. As a little city she is so situated that the
business comes here, and added to that is the effort the mer-
chants continually make in giving attractive prices and goods
of quality.

Neither are the merchants timid about telling the public
what they have. As a result the advertised goods are half sold
when the customer starts uptown. The silent message of the
newspaper has fulfilled its mission, and very often the sale is
positively made before the customer enters the store.

With the offerings in this issue, the public will have ample
opportunity to be selective, and the invitations extended for trade
will bear fruit, for he it known that the man or woman of today
is very desirous of knowing what store carries the particular line
and the particular brand of merchandise desired.

KEEPING THE MONEY AT HOME.

The water system of La Grande is to be remodeled and a
large section built. It will take a lot of work and money to do
this, but the town must postpone no longer this great under-
taking.

This is the year to build it, for like road work, it assists in
a local way to absorb idle workers and tide over the general na-
tional depression.

Without doubt, all the work on the project will be done by
people living in or near La Grande, with the possible exception of
the engineering. It is understood that a Kansas City firm and a
Portland firm each have bids on this work, and that the two
firms are reliable and capable, with prices bid about the same.

To carry the spirit of keeping the money at or near home, it
is to be hoped the city commission will employ the Portland firm
to do the work, provided, of course, that everything is equal and
that as good service can be secured from the Portland engineers,
a thing which doubtless is true.

MAKING THE MARE GO—WITHOUT MONEY.

We have always seriously doubted the need of so much money
for ordinary living, and we believe that happiness can be had and
comforts obtained with very much less of what is termed the cir-
culating medium than many have thought.

The Observer sometime ago called attention to the Wallowa
county spirit which had brought many of the people of that
county together on a trade basis, rather than on a money basis.

Reports from that fast-growing and prosperous county indi-
cate that there is even greater happiness among the people than
existed when extraction of money was demanded for every ser-
vice rendered.

Cannot the Wallowa plan be widened and extended? It most
certainly can. Recently the Oregonian of Portland told of early
days when Beaver hides were the legal tender of western Oregon;
then came the bushel of wheat as the measurement of value, and
following that when gold was discovered in eastern Oregon, a
state mint was erected and five-dollar gold pieces were coined,
not government money, but state money.

Perhaps it was a little awkward at first to handle these dif-
ferent measuring sticks of value, but we are told the people got
along fine. They went to church, they read their Bibles, young
people married and society hit it along at a good pace. The peo-
ple had fewer troubles then than they do today.

So why worry?

Clarke Leiter, former editor of the Observer and one of the
best known newspapermen of the coast, has organized an abstract
and advertising company in Portland and will devote his time to
that work in the future. His Eastern Oregon friends wish him
through and complete success in his new business venture.

Etheridge, of Morris Bros. fame, is now indicted along with
three accomplices. The mills of the gods grind slowly, but they
grind exceedingly fine. Someone has said.

THE SOBER SECOND THOUGHT.

Yes, Oregon could recall her Public Service Commission mem-
bers then elect some more and recall them, and so on, without
getting very far so far as desired results go. For a time it
looked as though the heat of anger and passion would force a
recall election over the raise granted the Bell Telephone com-
pany in rates.

But sober second thought is always best and now it would
seem the case will be reheard, which is right and proper. A re-
hearing wherein every feature is brought out and discussed will
shed light on the question, so that final solution will be satis-
factory.

The Observer dislikes the recall. We have seen several dem-
onstrations of it in the state and each one tells its own story of
bitter hatred, of feudalism, of friends and neighbors pitted
against each other.

No county gets over a recall election in a decade, and if it were
a state event there is no telling how long the lineup would con-
tinue on either side.

By all means, have the rehearing. The telephone company
and the Public Service Commission should join the public in a
desire to have the case reviewed.

Our law governing matters before the commission seems out
of alignment, for we attended a hearing in Eastern Oregon where
the commission members acted as attorneys, jury and judge.
From their decision there should be an appeal. The people are
entitled to appeal any case when not satisfied with the decision
of the commission.

ECKLEY NEVER FORGETS THE PRESS.

May he live forever, is the verdict of the Observer when
thinking or speaking of Col. Eckley, the veteran newspaperman of
Oregon who forsook the professional for the calm-eyed, long
tailed kine and to enjoy the back-to-nature sensation obtained
from farm life.

Col. Eckley is one of God's own noblemen, and this is said
from the heart, and would have been said even had he not brought
in that fine tenderloin and sausage after he had butchered a few
of the Eckley porkers. He pioneered the newspaper game in
Eastern Oregon, holding fast to his principles of right and jus-
tice, and really the only objection that could ever be raised was
that he insisted on clinging to the Democratic party. After mak-
ing congressmen, United States senators, district judges and
county officers, he questioned himself whether the game was
worth the candle and rendered a decision in favor of the simple
life.

Nature has been kind to him and instead of palor frequently
accompanying indoor life he is stout and rugged and able to
throw a three-hundred pound hog on the rack at butchering time.

BLEDSOE AND HIS WALLOWA SUN.

Editor Bledsoe, of the Wallowa Sun, was in La Grande re-
cently. He is a man with an exceptional front and might be
taken for Bill Hanley at a distance. But Bledsoe has Hanley
beat in several ways. True, he does not own the cattle that
Uncle Bill does, neither does he own the land. But he does own
a good country weekly newspaper that is a decided factor in the
affairs of the town of Wallowa and of all Wallowa county, for
that matter.

He speaks his mind to a large circle of readers, and Bledsoe
has opinions of his own which he is not afraid to put in his news-
paper. It is a safe bet that Bill Hanley has yearned and wished
for that same privilege many times in his life, but he sat back
on the big ranch with cattle and land and wealth, while Bledsoe
sits at his desk in Wallowa and wallows everything that don't
suit him and praises the things that do.

It is a great privilege to have a good weekly newspaper in
a good town, and do as you please—in fact greater than to have
the cattle feeding on a thousand hills, for after all, what is
wealth but worry. When Gabriel blows that trumpet, as he is
sure to do, Bledsoe will be there and so will Bill Hanley, neither
will have cattle and land and newspapers.

NEWSPAPER CHAIR FOR HARDING.

Colleges have different kinds of chair, although someone has
aptly said that one chair is still needed in many colleges, and that
is the chair of common sense, but never before has the President
of the United States been presented a chair by the newspapers
until now.

Here is the way it happened: When Mr. Wilson retired as
head of the government his friends bought the presidential chair
and presented it to their chief. This left President Harding
without a chair. Of course there were a few other chairs in the
White House, but THE chair was missing.

The Fourth Estate immediately got busy and the newspaper-
men of the nation are donating a dollar apiece to purchase a
chair for Mr. Harding. It will be the chair of common sense in
the national capital, and the way the President is starting on his
work he is going to fill the chair with dignity.

The Observer is pleased to have been one of the newspapers
that joined in the movement.

KIND WORDS FROM SIMON BENSON.

The writer has received a letter from Simon Benson, former
state highway commissioner, that we are very proud of. Mr.
Benson, as all know, retired from active work and resigned the
position which he so ably held in the good roads work. When the
last session of the legislature adopted a resolution thanking him
for what he had done for the state, it touched his heart, and the
letter just received contains his true feeling of gratitude for all
who appreciate the sacrifices he made in order that Oregon
should be pulled out of the mud.

Newspapers occasionally make a mistake. At the mugs meet-
ing in Baker protesting against telephone schedules it was re-
ported that John L. Rand presided. Here's betting that it was
some other Rand and not John L.

What will Oregon do when her roads are built? But that is
in the dim future, for Oregon has lots of roads, lots of them—
but the money may run out.

THE OFFICE CAT



—By JUNIOR—

To My Dictaphone.

You are never late in the morning,
You never get restless at four,
And I've never known you to giggle or
chew;
You never use slang, what is more,
Your costume is simple and quiet,
Your color is always the same;
And I'm seldom impelled by the words
you've misspelled,
To heap maledicks on your name.
Yet, I feel that there's something I'm
missing;
My life seems peculiarly bare,
In spite of the fact that your every act
is performed without fixing your
hair.
For I've found that your soul is motor,
Your motives are amperes and volts;

Your memory's wax, if you drop it it
cracks;
And your posture's dependant on
bells.
So I think I'll recall Miss McEppan
To sit at the desk at my right,
Her eyes are quite blue And I
think I'll hand you
To the clerk she went out with last
night!

Personality and Short Skirts.

(SAY the present time, with the con-
fusion regarding skirt lengths, we
advise every woman to study her re-
quirements with regard to her par-
ticular personality.)

In the choosing of a skirt—
Something nifty, neat and pert,
First consider (I'm no kiddier)
Well your personality:
For in Paris, they report,
They'll be very, very short.
So be wise, analyze
Your classic personality.

If your figure's European,
Trim and—you know what I mean—
Cut your skirt rather flirty,
Short a foot or two or three;
If you have a pretty foot
And an ankle neatly put,
You can wear it, I'll declare it—
You've the personality!

But, on the other hand,
If you're built—well, baby grand,
With expanding understanding
Like the contour of a tree,
You had best ignore the style,
Have your skirt length near a mile;
You should never, however,
Show your personality!

To make the matter clear,
Take a girl like Grace Legere;
Classic dancer, agile prances,
She could wear 'em to her knee;
But the circus lady wrestler—
On the build of Marie Dressler—
Well, she couldn't and she shouldn't—
It's the personality!

We often wonder what the Pruden-
tial Life Insurance Company (adv.)
would have done if the Germans had
succeeded in blowing up Gibraltar.

We Don't Believe This.

"Nowadays," says a critical socio-
logical periodical, "office girls are
putting everything they own on their
backs."

That would surely make 'em look
funny from the front, wouldn't you
say?

The center of civilization, starting
in Egypt and Sumeria has gradually
moved northward and eastward.

— ARCADE —
Monday — Tuesday



Small Tracts Wanted

I have clients who desire small improved acreage—One, Two, Three, Five and Ten-
Acre tracts. I also can turn immediately small farms—20, 40, and 80 Acres. If you
have such for sale and are willing to put them right, call and list them with me.

I have CITY PROPERTY that will exchange for improved acreage. Baker City
property to exchange for farm lands.

Geo. H. Currey

REAL ESTATE

FARM LOANS



"Pay Fifty Dollars"

Fifty Dollars is the right price to pay for a good suit of clothes this season.
It means reliable all-wool fabric, rightly pre-shrunk and silk-sewn with skilled
tailoring. It means "14-karat" canvas and the other "unseen materials" in the
structure of the suit. It means style and which stay through long service. It
means more satisfaction than two \$30 suits could give you.

Be Careful this Spring

Go below a certain price and something must be sacrificed—inferiority, adulte-
ration—anything but economy in the long run.

We are accending the \$50 price this season as being the right price to pay for
a suit of Kuppenheimer good clothes—a true investment in good appearance.

OTHER SUITS FROM \$35 TO \$65.

---Scranton's