EDITORIAL PAGE

The Observer

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BUILD THE MAIN ROAD TO COVE.

The Observer is well aware that the county court has its troubles and an abundance of them. It is well aware that the action taken whereby Union and Cove co-operate with the county in building the gravel road from Cove to Union is all right as far as it goes, but we are also aware that the road mentioned does not suffice and will not serve the Cove section of Union county as it should be served and as the people residing over there are entitled to be served.

It is therefore imperative that every effort be made to secure funds and start the main highway to Cove this season.

With a rock-crushing plant installed at Island City ready to operate the moment the electric switch is turned, with plenty of labor, with idle trucks ready to haul crushed rock, for which bonds will be taken at par, with conditions seemingly the best for building this road, we cannot afford to let this season slip by without getting the work under way.

Unless unsurmountable obstacles are encountered, the people expect work on the Cove road to proceed as soon as is consistent with good business.

The court has asked for conferences with bankers and other citizens in an endeavor to provide ways and means for the work.

The Observer feels the importance of this road so deeply that we think it is a subject for general discussion of the taxpayers and we invite anyone having views on the proposition to use the columns of this newspaper freely.

TWO METHODS—WHICH WILL BE THE ONE?

As nearly as can be gathered from interviews and statements made by men prominent in governmental affairs, it would seem there are about two ways for this country to proceed under the present business conditions.

One is for repudiation of debts, meaning bankruptcy in many instances, and the other is an endeavor to re-inflate values, thus letting the drop come by degrees instead of quickly as it has been doing.

With repudiation and bankruptcy comes the companionship of distressed business centers and a panic. One big failure in the east will start the pack of cards to falling and the last card in San Francisco will fall, thus making the chain across the continent complete, for after all, financing and business is done in a co-operative manner.

If the pumps are put to work, figuratively speaking, and inflation of values started, it may get quite a distance but it will only be a bubble which the puncture of a pin will burst at any moment. No one will feel safe and no one will be safe. All commodities will be uneven in prices and the price of today will have no bearing whatever on the price of tomorrow.

The re-inflation process naturally is the gambler's process. He is the chap who would pump everything full of inflation and then bet he could run the fastest and get under cover before someone stuck a pin in the balloon.

If squeezing out the paper profits means bankruptcy for many it looks as though it would have to come. The old law of supply and demand has gone to work again, and is working overtime. This means down come the prices. At present some commodities are lower than they were produced for and they will advance some, but quite a list of articles have yet to feel the final squeeze to bring them down to normal.

Everything produced from the soil has felt that squeeze and prices are away down. Manufactured goods are coming down and will have to come still lower. Labor will have to meet these prices of commodities, regardless of what is said or done. Labor cannot remain the only inflated commodity on the market. It is better to have work for a thousand hands at a fair and living wage than to have only work for one hundred hands at a high wage. And this will adjust itself.

As for repudiation vs. re-inflation, the country will be better off to take the repudiation necessitated by bankruptcy in business than to shoot the pumps of inflation into the business body of the nation.

WAIT AND SEE THE ADS. CHANGE.

Every newspaper is now carrying advertising telling people of trades. Wherein land is up for trade, good farms, small tracts, and in fact everything from the large wheat ranch to the small holding near the city. People want to trade this land for hotels, rooming houses and residences in town.

Foolish folks. Don't they know with the first knockout blow and if the hard times comes, which many have predicted, that hotels will be the first to feel the shock, then will come the rooming houses and last but not least, the residence owner in the city where taxes are very high and it takes money to keep up a residence.

Stay with the land—it is the only safe bet left, even though grain and live stock are low. Things in town will be a lot lower if you will give them time. Nothing will survive in America if the farm life goes. People can't live on paved streets unless there is an army of people working the soil. Right now the trend is to leave the ranches and huddle together in cities where every active man spends from one to four dollars a day in living.

Wait a little while and see the newspapers carry advertisements of hotels, rooming houses, residences and garages and what not in the cities to trade for farms. For the wave is sure to turn back to the soil. It has to. There is no excuse for half the towns we have now, and every city is entirely too large. There is room in the country and people are happier, wiser and more contented who live outside the towns.

AND THERE YOU ARE AGAIN.

With tightening money and with people forced to slow down in their ways of living, comes William S. U'Ren, knowing as he does that the time to put over innovations in government is when everyone is disturbed over business conditions. Townley of North Dakota, learned that same lesson; Jerry Simpson coined more Populists when eggs were selling for five cents a dozen than he ever did when prices got a little better. When everything is on the bum then many turn to the government and want to inaugurate something entirely new, hoping it will relieve the stringent times.

Well, anyway, enter William U'Ren, the father of Statement No. 1, and a lot more new ideas. Now U'Ren would change the state government, entirely abolishing one branch of the legislature and elect a cabinet to run the state.

U'Ren's usual dreaming is plainly seen in the scheme. He is a dreamer from Dreamersville and seems to think everything can be cured by government.

The fact is, U'Ren's ideas adopted in Oregon have cost the people tremendous sums of money. Now he seeks to put over some expensive plans.

What Oregon needs is a bunch of common sense in government. We are governed to death. We could get along with one-fourth the government we have, and no one would ever miss the other three-fourths except the boys who draw the salaries.

It is said the wholesalers are hit with dropping prices much harder than the retailers. Those who are in the retail business can affirm, if they do not swear, that they have been hit to the tune of from fifty to sixty per cent on a lot of their merchandise. But even so, no one is hit quite as hard as the fellow who raises the products. It is a case of hit all around, and the popular thing to do now is to take losses and smile—if you can smile.

The snow last Sunday did a fine thing for members of the Golf Club, who expected to pick rocks from the grounds all day. Each of them awoke, saw the snow, gave a grunt of thanks and slept until noon.

Those gold miners in session at Portland should open their convention with the dirge and close it with "When Will the Harvest Be," for gold mining has been on the toboggan for a number of years and is still sliding.

Tom Kay, of Salem, asserts that high taxes in Oregon have been placed on property by a direct vote of the people largely and not by legislatures. That's all true enough, Tom, but from now on it is up to the legislatures to make some heavy cuts in institutions—even though they are located in Marion county.

It is not only amusing but it is almost painful to sit up here in the mountains and think of George Baker, Charlie Berg and the rest of the Portland live wires trying to extract more money for the Community Chest from those fellows down below who understand how to hold onto what they have.

About the first time we have ever heard of the Western Union Telegraph company losing a case was the one recently tried in San Francisco. Western Union bears a most charmed existence. It succeeds in getting by every obstacle without getting so much as a scratch. Where is there another organization employing men of intellect that could have pushed its way through these many years without labor troubles? And incidentally, it might be stated that the Western Union is not very free with the pay check.

A good way for Stillman to pay the alimony given to his wife by the courts is to put out a moving picture of the Stillman case. It could be advertised as full of "pep" depicting exceptional poses, and then too the questionable parentage of children brought out at the trial would have that gripping effect so much loved by a class of citizens who want to see the worst.

Did the Ad. Club have any idea that wheat would go to 95 cents when it buried Old J. Fuller Gloom?

The annual newspaper stories are going the rounds about the fruit of the northwest being ruined. But if the frost does not ruin the crop the railroad rates will, so there.

Multnomah county has found one thing that is cheap—burying her paupers.

Do we not always have these cold spells and flurries of snow in Eastern Oregon in that season sometimes called spring?

Umatilla county is welcome to keep her dust which heaved over the hills the past few days. There is only one kind of dust now that is welcome any place—gold dust.

ARGENTINE COMPETITION.

Herbert Hoover recently expressed the concern felt at Washington over the fact that large quantities of goods, including foodstuffs, can be delivered from Argentina to our Atlantic seaboard at half the cost of delivering them at the same ports from the Mississippi valley.

"Something obviously must be done to remedy this situation," said Secretary Hoover, "unless we are going to give Argentine produce an advantage over American produce."

There is nothing mysterious about it. The cost of production in Argentina is not much lower than in this country. The difference is mainly in the cost of transportation. It is a similar fact that goods can be shipped for long distances by water cheaper than they can be shipped for shorter distances by rail. The actual cost of carrying goods from San Francisco to New York by the long sea journey through the Panama canal is much lower than the cost of carrying them straight across the continent in freight cars.

For such a situation as the one referred to, a protective tariff is only one remedy, and not a fundamental one. The natural way to meet the competition of foreign waters transportation is with domestic water transportation. When the United States has an adequate waterway, accommodating the deep draught ships or great barges, from the Mississippi to the eastern seaboard via the Great Lakes, foodstuffs can be shipped from the middle states as cheaply as they can from any other country, and possibly cheaper.

Ten pounds of lard for $1.75 at the People's Market. 4-9-tf

THE OFFICE CAT

—By JUNIUS—

A Reg'lar Butcher.
A most notorious slayer
Is he, I've heard folks say;
No blood he spills
Although he kills
A dozen hours each day.

The authorities arrested a "live wire" dancer in Cincinnati last week because she was not properly insulated.

Popular Fiction.

"Maw, I dunno why the teacher allus picks on me, but she does."

A Missouri editor took poison the other day because he failed in business. Yet some people will go right on reading over the other fellow's shoulder.

A dog will stay right with a fellow when he hasn't got a cent.

And so will a collector.

C. E. Dunn says the greatest art in motion pictures is "making up." That's why there are so many successful feminine stars, we suppose.

A vamp is really nothing but a pickpocket who works with her eyes.

Frank Pearson admits that he thinks that rings were made for fingers. But we know a certain girl who thinks that her finger was made for a ring.

Hobart Bosworth just released a picture called "A Thousand to One". Some of his admirers will say that title covers just about the chances he took the other day in becoming a benedict.

After calling on our friends Jarvis Emigh and Al Cain we have decided that the wreck of the Hesperus was not in it in comparison with these two specimens. The best of it is, they both tell a dandy story, and stay with it. We lift our hats to you, boys, to think that you can put it over.

Where's Mr. Bryan? In Florida, waiting for the Chautauqua dates to ripen.

The Secret of Success.

The blame fool
Didn't know
That it couldn't
Be done,
So
He went ahead
And done it.

Harold Taal is inventing a chin rest that can be attached to a soup plate so that when he bends all the way over to suck soup, he can inhale the fluid in comfort.

Oh, Boy!

The chorus lady tore her tights
To a musical comedy air.
The women said, "Good gracious!" but
The men said: "She's a Bear."

A bride has to have Envelope Combinations of Crepe de Chine that cost about nine fifty. But a few years later she is glad to get plain Union Suits of Scrap de Cotton that cost about fifty-nine.

A local doctor says he wishes that some of these old maids and widows would get married and get busy cooking and mending for their own husbands, instead of bothering him when they think they are developing smallpox or some other equally interesting disease. It keeps him busy making bread pills for these ladies, when he needs the time for real patients.

"O'Henry," asserts a magazine writer, "immortalized the park bench in his stories."

In other words, O'Henry was to the park bench what Bud Fisher is to the brick.

No reflection on O'Henry intended.

Ultra-civilized folk think it is awful the way the savages torture themselves for the sake of fashion. Yet, we never hear of a cannibal lady trying to get a No. 2 shoe on a No. 5 foot.

Society Note.

It is reported that a La Grande girl who has been taking lessons in aesthetic dancing and cooking has decided to abandon the latter course of study.

A Series of Human Interest Talks on Insurance

What Does Your Banker Think of the Insured Man?

"First, he is prudent," said one banker, "if the applicant for a loan carries ample insurance we know he is providing for the inevitable."

"Banks loan money on the character of the man more than on the proposition submitted. Insurance guarantees that the man's plans will not be sacrificed if he dies," said another prominent banker.

"A man can create a larger estate with a small amount of money by taking life insurance than any other way and he also creates a compulsory saving," said another prominent banker.

"A man with a family should no more go without life insurance than go without food and clothing. A single man should take life insurance for he gets it cheaper and the time will come when he will be sure to need it," commented another banker.

Think it over and talk with

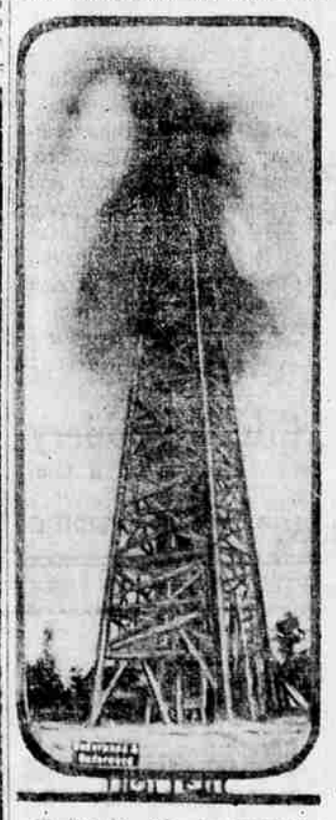
E. Z. HERZINGER

The Oregon Life Man
La Grande, Ore.

INAUGURATION STAND

The same simple stand used at the inauguration of President Lincoln and all his successors, with the exception of President Taft, who, on account of inclement weather, took oath in the senate chamber, is to serve Mr. Harding on March 4. This photograph shows Watson S. Clark of Washington, with the stand, which he owns.

OIL WELL AT EL DORADO



El Dorado, Ark., is attracting a great deal of attention because of the big oil find there, following the discovery of gas in great quantities. The photograph shows the first of the successful oil wells, which is now producing 2,000 barrels a day.

One Test of Worth.

Not what we have, or know, or even what we do, but what we are—that determines our worth. Great universities know this. See their mottoes. One motto is "Quecunque sunt vera." (Whatsoever things are true.) Another one is "The truth shall make you free." Another, "Culture may flourish under the law of God." Another, "Culture without character is a vain thing"—Brisbane.

BOY SCOUTS

(Conducted by National Council of the Boy Scouts of America.)

SCOUT FIRE FIGHTERS

Twenty six Cashmere (Wash.) boy scouts, with their leaders, started in a big truck for an overnight camp, an all day trip which landed them in the beautiful Squakane creek valley at nightfall. They erected their shelter tents, had a big "feed" and a jolly campfire pow-wow. Shortly after taps a scout reported a fire visible down the canyon. In less than 30 seconds the troop was in formation ready for action. The Red Cross patrol under Senior Patrol Leader Gail Phillips was sent down the canyon with instructions to leave two scouts at the sawmill a mile away, another two at another point, etc., so that as soon as the fire was located a message could be relayed back to camp. Meanwhile two other patrols were equipped for fire fighting, and special orders given.

A few minutes later two boys of the first patrol brought back word that it was the mill which was on fire, and that they had left the other six scouts in the thick of it. One of the assistant scoutmasters and a few scouts were left to guard the camp, as it was surrounded by valuable timber which might catch fire.

Scoutmaster Chichester and Assistant Braggons arrived at the scene of the disaster in a short time with an eager squad of workers. The few men in charge at the mill had about given up hope of saving anything from the flames, but the boys formed a bucket brigade from a nearby creek to the lumber piles, and by means of wet sacks put out new fires, which kept starting, while another crew wrecked the high tramway which was acting as a fuse and leading the fire from pile to pile of lumber. By 2 a. m. the fire was under control. The mill and a large amount of lumber had been destroyed, but thanks to the efforts of the scouts, two buildings, some furniture, two or three heavy wagons, and over 200,000 feet of lumber, some $3,000 worth in all, were saved. A weary but triumphant lot of boys hiked back to camp, leaving two of their number to patrol the fires until daylight. They did not climb the mountain the next day, as had been planned, but nobody was disappointed, as the troop had had enough thrills and hard work for one outing.

The work of the scouts received much well deserved praise, and the president of the lumber company whose property they had saved presented the troop with a $50 check in appreciation of the remarkable good turn, a gift that was accepted with the understanding that the money would be used to purchase needed equipment.

CHEERFUL WHILE ON DUTY

Boy Scouts Are Aiding Traffic Regulation in Many Cities.

SCOUT LEADERS MEET.

The Pasadena boy scout council had its annual meeting in January in the new mission patio of the Hotel Vista del Arroyo. After the meeting the council entertained all the local scoutmasters and troop committee with a banquet and "snappy" scout program. About one hundred men were present and voted the affair a great success.

SCOUT STUDY CONSTITUTION.

E. E. Givens of Great Falls, Mont., recently offered five prizes for the five best essays written by registered scouts of Great Falls on the subject of "The History of the Constitution of the United States." The contest is to be made an annual affair. This is an excellent way of intensifying interest in the history and government of our nation. Mr. Givens' lead might well be followed by other public-spirited citizens.

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