

The Observer

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A BUILDING BOOM

Indications are that the first important industry to experience a revival will be the building industry. The country is admittedly short of buildings more than it is of anything else, and can use to advantage all the houses that can possibly be constructed for several years to come. There will be a serious shortage of office and store space and factory buildings too, as soon as condition approach normal again, and there is a growing conviction that the time to prepare for future expansion is before the expansion begins.

Falling prices are adding greatly to this tendency. The cost of brick, lumber, cement, steel and nearly all other building materials has gone down considerably, partly in harmony with the general subsidence of price levels and partly as a result of threatened prosecution for price-fixing. The recent reductions made by the United States Steel Corporation are already having a wholesome effect.

Money is still rather tight, but in accordance with the policy of the Federal Reserve Board, banks nearly everywhere are making a special effort to provide loans for new construction, especially homes.

The chief remaining difficulty is wages. Skilled labor in the building industries is paid, in general, higher than in any other industry except possibly railroading. There is a strong resistance to wage reductions. However, many of the building unions in the state have already announced wage cuts, which should be a still further inducement for building.

THE FARMER SOWS HIS SEED

Considerable discussion has raged during the winter over the probable reduction of crop area in planting this spring. Reliable information from the chief agricultural regions of the country indicates that normal acreage will be maintained this year by American farmers in spite of low prices and adverse conditions. Cotton seems to be the only exception of importance.

This report indicates the true spirit of the American farmer, his optimism in the face of discouragement and his actual love of his job and of the acres which he tills. In an era given over to industrial unrest and slacking, it is a comfort to turn to the annals of agriculture. The farmer may complain, he may rail at the government, at the weather, the consumer and fate, but when planting time comes he plants.

It is the claim of the soil which keeps nations sound. It is the claim of the soil which brings them back to order out of chaos. Russia will emerge presently from her welter, the greatest exponent of this truth. Her farmers will save her.

"Thus the farmer sows his seed," chant the school children, circling in the spring sunshine—prophets at play—for, sure enough, he does! And it is well for the nation that this is true.

A TOWN'S FUNERAL.

A town that never has anything to do in a public way is on the way to the cemetery. Any citizen who will do nothing for his town is helping to die the grave. A man that "Ousses" the town furnishes the coffin. The man who is so selfish as to have no time to give affairs is making the shroud. The man who will not advertise is driving the hearse. The man who is always pulling back from any public enterprise throws bouquets on the grave. The man who is so stingy as to be howling hard times, preaches the funeral, sings the doxology. And thus the town lies buried from all sorrow and care.

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Chambers of Commerce and other public bodies are gradually waking up to the use of aircraft for survey purposes. Strangely the smaller cities and towns are leading the way, and while some of the cities of the first class have had the matter under advisement, none has as yet definitely undertaken a complete aerial survey.

In New York various corporations have utilized aerial photographs to show the advantageous location of their bank, office building, hotel, etc., but consideration should immediately be given by our city fathers to having prepared a complete aerial survey of the metropolis.

London, England, is having a complete map prepared, and an aerial mosaic of Edinburgh, Scotland, was recently completed at the request of the Edinburgh corporation in order that a plan of the city might be had at once in the event of a sudden emergency. The mosaic was prepared inside three weeks. Only three flights were made and twenty-seven photographs taken. These were enlarged and placed together, costing the city only \$250. A further example of aerial lan-

ding will be found in Venezuela, where arrangements have been made for the carrying out of a survey of a vast tract of land, the exploration of which would take about three years and cost about \$850,000 per square mile if carried out in the ordinary way. The government, realizing the use of aircraft, has arranged that the survey shall be carried out by air. The work will occupy only a few weeks, and the cost will be trifling compared with that of a regular survey.

WHY LENIN BARS REPORTERS

The Soviet government continues to complain that Russian conditions under its enlightened regime are misrepresented in America. It also continues to bar American newspaper correspondents from Russia. Such few news writers as have penetrated to that Red heaven have had every possible obstacle placed in their way, and in just cases have been arrested, imprisoned, robbed and otherwise abused when they were discovered.

A representative of the Soviet government explains the reason for barring American correspondents as follows: "If they were to visit Russia and write the truth, they would not be believed, and their reports would be taken as only so much more propaganda."

At any rate, the Soviet mind works in a mysterious way. As matters stand, Americans will have to content themselves for a while longer with such reports as the Bolsheviks themselves are fit to promulgate. Their announcements, of course, will be under the suspicion of being intended as propaganda. It would be indelicate indeed, to question any statement made by a Bolshevik statesman.

May 7 is moving day. Here's hoping business will move.

THE OFFICE CAT



The Spratts Now.
Look Spratt could eat no fat.
His wife could eat no lean;
The price of meat was high
So they kept their platter clean.

What Makes 'Em Wild?
Henry Timothy Suttis, aged 18, of Knoxville, Tenn., has filed suit for divorce against his wife, Maggie Sutton, aged 37. He claims his wife is "too old" and that "I never liked her."

If passenger rates go much higher a fella on a train will be looked on as a spendthrift.

General Sherman evidently knew nothing about making out an income tax report when he made his famous remark, or he might have gone a little stronger.

Well!
(Kirkville, Mo., Journal)
A woman by the name of Mrs. James Peruna was arrested on Fourth street for bootlegging.

Making It More Comfy for the Sermon Nappers.
Rev. George B. Gilbert, rector of the Episcopal church of Chester, Conn., has ordered the pews removed from the church and rocking chairs installed in their place.

'Twas Ever Thus.
The "Perfect Venus" discovered in the ruins of Carthage is headless. That part of the discovery does not surprise. A girl who finds out that she is beautiful usually loses her head.

What Booted It?
Esteemed Sir:
I stopped in a La Grande caddy last evening and ordered a small steak. After the waiter had bawled the order back to the cook I had a change of heart and decided to have a sirloin instead. Notifying him on my decision, he stood looking perplexedly at me for a moment. Then his face brightened, he smiled, and leaning over, whispered in my ear, "That's all right, friend, there's no difference in 'em."

Optimistic.
A columnist uttered a curse,
He hankered to write lofty verse,
But the task got his goat,
So a limerick he wrote,
And remarked, "Well, it might have been worse!"

Watson, My Hat and Goggles, Please
(Ad. in New York Times.)
LOST—Work of art in negligee, on Fifty-ninth street, between Madison and Lexington avenues.

Still another kind of optimist is the person who tries to board a crowded car with one of those large millinery boxes.

Somebody's husband complains that the trouble with keeping a budget is that, while it looks convincing enough on paper, it fails to work out in practice.

THEATRES

CONSTANCE TALMADGE
AT ARCADE THEATRE
Many believe that you are married to a man who is not your husband is mighty dangerous business, even if you have the best of intentions. Constance Talmadge demonstrates this fact in "Dangerous Business," her latest picture, which opens an engagement of three days at the Arcade Theatre today. She finds herself in a peck of trouble, but leave it to Constance to extricate herself from any kind of difficulty.

"KING SPRUCE" A FEW FEET FIT FOR MITCHELL LEWIS
As Tom Moore knew every nook and cranny of Ireland, so does Holman Day, the noted author, know Maine, the locale of most of his popular novels. Mr. Day has for the past twenty years written of people with whom he came in contact daily, people whose mannerisms and mode of living differentiate them from the populace of every other section of the country.

It is they he visualized in the greatest of his novels, "King Spruce," the picturization of which starring Mitchell Lewis is the special attraction Saturday and Sunday at the Star Theatre. The author has peopled his story with some of the quaintest characters ever seen on the screen—types peculiar to the Maine lumber belt impersonated by artists, who make them appear lifelike in the picture version, and Mr. Day's hero, Dwight Wade, is a perfect fit for Mitchell Lewis, the peer of delineators of rugged types.

ROGUES AND ROMANCE IN DRAMA OF MYSTERY AT SHERRY THEATRE
"Someone in the House," is the story of Jim Burke, known among the social elect. He becomes friendly with a young society man and through him gains entrance into the set which he is planning to rob.
Through a "pawnbroker fence" Burke makes arrangements to substitute a set of paste jewels for the original diamonds which he hopes to obtain by making love to the beautiful daughter of a wealthy

COLUMBIA RECORDS For MAY
Now on Sale
W. H. Bohenkamp Co.
Making Houses Homes



W. H. Bohenkamp Co.
Making Houses Homes

Have You Tried Snow Flakes in the Family Tin?
You know how good Snow Flakes are—how crisp and tasty? You can serve these dainty waters on so many occasions. Why not buy a family-size tin, which will insure a constant supply? Your grocer can supply you.
Don't ask for crackers—say SNOW FLAKES.
A P.C.B. PRODUCT
P. C. B. GINGER SNAPS
Another P. C. B. product
Particularly crisp and tasty
A great all-around supply
Pacific Coast Soda Co.

West & Co. THE QUALITY STORE
In This Store For Men!
The Home of Hart, Schaffner & Marx Clothes
"VASSAR" ATHLETIC UNION SUITS \$1.00
Many men in La Grande are already acquainted with this famous make of underwear, and we are indeed proud to be able to offer to our customers this season for the first time.
"Vassar" Union Suits
Come in and investigate them. They're remarkable value at \$1.00 each.
New Knit Ties \$1.00
Of dark brown calfskin, medium weight and full welt sole. Made on a medium, narrow toe last. A good value and there are all sizes complete now. See window. Price \$6.25
We're Having A Sale of NEW SPRING Oxfords at \$6.25 pair
Of dark brown calfskin, medium weight and full welt sole. Made on a medium, narrow toe last. A good value and there are all sizes complete now. See window. Price \$6.25
family. Just when success seems assured the dancer finds his carefully laid plans overturned by an event which he had always figured as absolutely impossible—the love of a good woman.
Showing at Sherry's today and tomorrow. Also showing a comedy.
FIRE PATROL ASSOCIATION TO ELECT DIRECTORS
The Union-Wallowa county fire association will hold its annual meeting at the Y. M. C. A. on Friday, April 22. At this meeting a board of directors for the ensuing year will be elected. The policy for the fire fighting season will also be outlined at the meeting.
The association is a local fire patrol association composed of forest owners of Union and Wallowa counties and exists for the purpose of fighting and preventing fires in the forests.
Two additional fire patrols will be put on by the forest service in this district during the coming summer, according to F. W. Kendall, forest ranger. Kendall has also received word from the district offices in Pendleton to the effect that inferior species of trees, lodge pole pine, etc., could be used for building purposes by those who lease camp sites on Mt. Emily and other places in the district. Yellow pine and other species having commercial value cannot be had for that purpose, however. Permits must be secured to secure the free use of this timber.
America imports almost twice as many nuts as it produces.
BAKER COUNTY WILL VOTE ON COUNTY FAIR
BAKER, Apr. 21.—The question of a Baker county fair will be put up to the voters at the June election, according to the report of a committee of which Morris Shelton is chairman. There remains two weeks in which to get the required number of signatures to put the question on the ballot. Nine hundred names will be required on the petitions.
DISORDERS ARE SPREADING
ROME, Apr. 21.—The disorders in which the extreme nationalists and the communists have been engaged in northern and central Italy, have spread to the southern portion of Italy, says the Epoca.

The Union County Ad club and the Elwyn Concert Company announce the appearance in La Grande on
SATURDAY APRIL 30TH.
of the celebrated
New York Philharmonic Orchestra
Featuring
71 artists and the world-famous conductor Josef Stransky.
PRICES: \$1.00, \$1.50, \$2.00. Any of these seats may be reserved at Van Buren's Cigar Store, beginning at 10 a. m., April 26th. Out of town mail orders given preference on \$2.00 and \$1.50 grades. Some few unreserved seats, but very limited.
First number at 8:45 and none seated during rendition of any number. First number of about half hour duration, hence necessity of early seating.

ARCADE TODAY FRIDAY-SATURDAY
Constance Talmadge
IN
"DANGEROUS BUSINESS"
A Honeymoon of Bridal Fights
Peppier even than the one you thought was Connie's piest before.
The Punch of the Irish
Two real Comedy
Sunday
Edna Hammerstein