

EDITORIAL PAGE

The Observer

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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THE SPECIAL ELECTION

Soon the voters will be called upon to vote on several measures at the special election. The Observer has no desire to act in the role of supervisor of anyone voting, but we have some opinions on the measures which can be expressed in a few words.

The first measure relates to extension of the legislative term and the increase of legislator's pay. In our judgment this is a useless measure. If the legislature were in session ninety days there would be the same mad rush at the close. With the forty day session the many bills introduced get thorough examination by committees and the process of elimination works first rate. As for pay, it is impossible to pay in money for public service, and the advance from three to five dollars a day is not of consequence. No man can expect to go to the legislature without it costing him money and time, and if he does not appreciate the public trust sufficiently to spend the money and time he should not go.

On the Soldiers Bill The Observer is for it. We believe the loan feature of the bill will generally be adopted by the soldiers and in this we can see a great benefit to the state as well as partially compensating the boys for the loss they incurred while serving the nation in the great war.

The veto permission granting the governor freedom to veto an emergency clause in a bill without vetoing the entire bill seems to us to be of merit and we believe it should be tried out.

As for the sterilization bill we doubt the wisdom of any state trying to establish such laws. They could not be effective unless the federal government took the matter up and made the law of national scope.

The woman's jury bill is rather interesting from the fact that women do not want the bill, as a rule. At least those who have talked to this newspaper are unanimously opposed to it. You will notice it provides that women "may" sit on juries. In other words, it is optional with the woman—she may or she may not. This is wrong in spirit. If the women are to take a place alongside men in world affairs they should be forced to act as jurors just as men are forced to that duty. Besides, the optional feature will make much more work for the sheriff and county clerk in drawing juries for they will never know when they have one drawn until the different ladies report whether they desire to serve or not. It is a condition that should be avoided.

In Union county there will be a salary bill on the ballot to increase the salaries of different county officers. The writer takes the blame, if such there is, for this measure being on the ballot, for we felt that the legislature should not at this time, when everything is tending downward, arbitrarily raise salaries. We have no complaint if the taxpayers by their votes raise the salaries of county officers, for most of them are working for a small wage, but it is entirely up to the men and women who pay the bills to determine whether salary raises shall be made and the Observer offers no suggestions in the matter, as every voter knows his own mind on this question.

AIDING OTHER NATIONS

With so much of the world hungry, with so much misery known in other sections, people would like to give, and give, and give, but there is always a stopping place. It would seem La Grande has reached that place. Our plain duty is to do more for the China sufferers. We all listened to Editor Frank Irvine in his great address on the subject and out of the large audience only \$180 was donated. This indicates that people here have put in the plug and that hereafter drives of any kind will meet with hard luck in La Grande.

We should not be too eager to do this for there is much needed charity to be done. As long as we get along easily in the Grande Ronde valley with probably plenty of debts but no suffering, we should bear in mind that other sections are not so fortunate as ourselves.

A decidedly interesting row is on at McMinnville, where the dancing element is contesting with the straight-laced element as to whether dancing will be permitted in the town of Billy Vinton and other shining lights. The dancers contend they have it won and the anti-dancers say they will never see dear old McMinnville desecrated with the tango and the shimmy. Let them fight. Any kind of a scrap in the Willamette valley is always welcome for it shakes off a little moss each time.

UNION COUNTY'S GREAT SHOW

Only a few days remain until the Live Stock show at Union, which is a Union county show. It outgrew one town long ago and today it is La Grande's show, Elsie's show, Sumner's show and Babler's show as well as Union's show. In fact, to be candid it has outgrown Union County and is in reality a state institution of exceptional merit. This year

it will be better than ever before. The live stock entries already are very large, insuring magnificent displays of the best breeding stock in the northwest.

The races will be far better this year because of the increased purses. The town of Union looks like a Kentucky town right now for there are many horses in training and race horse men over there are as thick as big hats in the Pendleton Roundup.

The most unkind cut of all is the persistent cartooning of the high school graduate as he delivers his oration. Newspapers should encourage the youngsters to deliver talks on commencement and school boards force the graduates to appear before the public and give addresses. About the second bunch of youngsters from now will enter upon life's duties afraid to say how-do-you-do in a public place.

George C. Brownell, one of the best known characters of Oregon, died recently at his home in Oregon City. He was a legislator in this state when men aspired to the United States senate through the channels of legislative election and he knew about as much of the weaknesses of humanity as any man in the state.

The appointment of Scott C. Bone, former editor of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, as governor of Alaska is a fine selection. The Alaskan territory has been handicapped by local political warfare in Republican ranks for many years and Mr. Bone's ability to clean things up and get for that country what it is entitled to have.

La Grande people feel the deepest sympathy for Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Kitchen in the loss of their little son. When the bright hopes of fond parents are suddenly shattered by death claiming a child it is then that the brightest sunshine seems a wall of gloom, the sweetest music fails to cheer.

Portland is getting ready to have a first class fight over the school directors to be elected this year. Portland still clings to the old fashioned spirit of having a "scrap on school meetin' day" even though she is now a city of a quarter of a million people.

England has a fine system of handling diplomatic questions. Her treaty with Japan has expired and there is world wide attention on the possible new treaty. Knowing that time is a great healer England has advised waiting a year before entering into new negotiations.

Down in Portland there is an epidemic of rats. Some moonshine makes snakes the predominant feature, but it would seem the Willamette brand shapes the imagination a little different.

Mrs. Southard, who is accused of poisoning a couple of husbands to get their life insurance, is reported to be a little nervous under indictment. Perhaps she is afraid she will not get a chance at her present hubby.

Rice riots in the south are like chinch bugs and drouth—they come about so often. This time Tulsa, Oklahoma, pulled a big one for a starter and every razor in Eastern Oklahoma is now working.

La Grande has not had anything more pleasing of late than the decision of the county court and state highway commission to run the state road into La Grande over the scenic Oro Dell route.

Union has opened her new hotel and it is one of the finest in Oregon. Drive over and see the palace on Catherine creek. It is a fit place for the poets and artists to gather inspiration.

Does not this sound like the news notes of 1908: "Oregon wool sells at 15 to 18 cents a pound?" That deflation is now with the woolman.

Liberty bonds are still dropping. Where is that McAdoo who told us that bonds could not go below par?

Who said vacation?

OLD FASHIONED CORRECTION

Five young women, guilty of small theft, were put on probation for one year by a Chicago judge, and ordered to go to church every Sunday during that time. One of the number, in addition to paying back every week a small part of the stolen money, was further directed to be at home every night by 10 o'clock, and to do the dishes every day for her mother. It is an old-fashioned type of correction too little employed in these days of

advanced welfare and criminology. It may be that the judge's sentence will fail to set the feet of these girls permanently in honest paths, but the chances are that the end of the year will find them cured of their mischievous errors and on the road to honest womanhood.

There are churches and homes which fail of their mission. There are individuals who remain persistently untouched by the influence of either home or church, no matter how good it may be. But taking it by and large, there never has been nor ever will be any influence which works so surely and surely for good in the majority of cases. And it is the drift away from the church and away from the home that is causing most of the trouble in the world today.

POLITICAL HISTORY

June 4, 1776, the English fleet arrived at Charleston harbor to begin campaign to South.

June 6, 1845, Mexico declared war against the United States.

Highsmith President.

Thomas A. Stewart, Republican.

Installed March 6, 1893. Age 66.

Term of office, 8 years.

Residence, Washington, D. C.

Born June 29, 1822, Point Pleasant, Ohio.

Died July 23, 1885. Age 63.

Buried Riverside Park, New York City.

Graduated West Point.

Parents, Scotch.

The French and English are as far apart as the poles.

THE OFFICE CAT



By JUNIOR

Between Jumps
Almighty Dollar, thy shining face,
Bespeaks thy wondrous power.
In our pockets make thy resting place
We need thee every hour.

Nature is indeed wonderful. Listen to what a Chicago lawyer says in a petition:

"That said Mary Ann Wolcott died an infant, 2 or 3 years old, unmarried, intestate, and that she left no husband, child or children."

By paying your doctor when you recover you show him you have no hard feelings.

A customer of this Colyum informs us via the telephone that I. B. Worthy is a cook in the Government Indian School at Greenville, Cal.

Something Like Lot's Wife
"Did you hear that Bill was dead?"

"No. What did he die of?"
"Oh, he had lumbago. They rubbed his back with alcohol and he broke his neck trying to lick it off."

An Old-Fashioned Missus
Mary said a little damn,
In sub-deb-style, you know.
But her mother washed her mouth with soap
In the style of long ago.

A Letter From Perry
Dear Office Cat:
I'm glad to see you writing for the paper again. My little granddaughter who is gettin' over the measles enjoys all the funny pictures every day, and she makes me read your column while she

helps around the cookroom. She thinks you draw all the fancies and wants to know where you took lessons. Our parson likes your poetry, but he has 'traveled' and can finger out what you mean. Well, here comes my old man, and I will have to close this time. If you don't get this let me know.
Yours truly
Mrs. Hy Brown.

This country will be entirely dry as soon as a new generation of non-consumers can be grown.

In offering his second hand roaster for sale, a candid advertiser says he has "excellent reasons for selling." They usually do.

If some of those agitators would agitate a hoe on the farm the country would be a lot better off.

If brevity is the soul of wit these new style skirts are doing their bit.

Open season for prunes and hootch!

Soon—Strawberry shortcake. And watermelon!

Uncle Jarvis says viewing them from the rear, you can't tell grandmothers nowadays from 16-year-old girls.

Possibly He Desires to Make Another Touch
(From Chicago Tribune)

Personal Information Wanted concerning the address of a Mr. Westernman who loaned me money while we were stationed in the quartermaster camp at Gelevers, France, June, 1919. C. S. Ailing, V. M. C. A., Waukegan, Ill.

A fellow who walked in his sleep fell out of a thirteen story window in New York the other day. He was cured of the habit.

Take A Tip.

On your way home tonight we suggest that you stop in at Silverthorn's Drug Store and take home a quart of that Berkeley Ice Cream they are putting up. It will be a most satisfactory surprise to your family to know such delicious Ice Cream may be had in La Grande.

Silverthorn's
FAMILY DRUG STORE
LA GRANDE, OREGON.

Oregon Impressions

BY CARL F. BANGERT.

The Land of My Dreams.

Oh, there's a land that's far away,
A land that's ever calling
For me to come and trail my way
Across its trackless breast;
Its valleys are green with grass,
Its mountain peaks appalling,
But, Oh, the glow of the camp-fire
When I lie down to rest.

The little stars are twinkling
Way up in the evening sky,
And they seem like the lamps of
Paradise to me.

A far off brook is tinkling
A childhood lullaby,
It's a tuneful bit of
Soothing melody.

And, ere I close my eyes, it seems
I'm in the land of my dreams.

An Awakening.

I have a rendezvous to fill,
In some sweet-scented meadow, deep
With clover and yellow daffodil;
Where a tinkling brook doth creep,
And through the willows wind.

There in that enchanted land,
I saw the beauty God had wrought;
And came to know and understand,
That happiness cannot be bought;
As you must seek and find.

(With apologies to Allan Seeger.)

The Law of Nature.

This is the law of Nature,
And ever she makes it plain;
Only the strong shall survive,
Only the swift and the sane.

Off in the mighty forests,
There's many a stirring fight;
Each little tree is struggling,
And striving toward air and light.

Each little wounded animal
Is the prey of its fellow kind,
Fighting for its existence,
But only death does it find.

Each little blooming flower
Jostles its kin aside,
For if it had waited for others,
It would have sickened and died.

Yes, the law of nature,
Is hard on those who fall;
And only the strong and swift and
sane

Can answer its stirring call.
(With apologies to Robert W. Service)

VOTE 302 X YES

World War Veterans
State Aid Bill

Special Election
June 7, 1921

Provide Homes for the Ex-Service Men

"Help Us Develop Oregon"

VOTE 302 X YES

La Grande Post No. 43, American Legion
Roy B. Currey, Commander

Read the Want Ads