

# The Observer

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### PEOPLE WILL EXPECT A REDUCTION.

Railroad wages have been cut. Curtailment has marked the administration of all roads. Now the people will expect a reduction in freight rates. Men, who a year ago, could see nothing in government ownership, are beginning to wonder if that is the outcome of the railroads in this country. Officials of the roads at the present time say they cannot reduce rates even though lower labor costs obtain; they contend they are losing money all the time.

If their contentions are true, and no one has successfully denied them, then is not the railroad business in dire need of consolidation, not possibly under government ownership for many of us would regret very much to take such a long step, but under some form that will unify transportation, eliminate duplication, cut cost of operation to the limit of safety and fairness and give to the people railroad rates that will give fair earnings on actual value, but refuse to recognize inflated rates.

The railroads of America are now on trial. This country is bound to have transportation at a fair cost regardless of clamor or charges and counter charges. It may take a little while to bring this about, but it is bound to come.

### THE LONG-DEFERRED VACATION.

A New York man is taking his second vacation in 50 years. Forty-two years ago, when he was married, he and his wife took a honeymoon trip to Albany. Now they have gone to visit relatives in Rhode Island for two weeks.

It is a great adventure. It may be doubted, though, whether the vacationist is really enjoying it. He is probably restless and dissatisfied, and wishes he were back on the job. Every business day for 42 years he has opened the shop at 6 a. m. and closed it at 5:30 p. m. On Sundays he would drop in to see that everything was all right. He might have had a vacation every year, his employer says, but he never cared about taking on. He is 72 years old now. It is hard to change one's habits at that age.

The man is still an employee, it will be observed. Very likely he would still be working for somebody else if he lived a hundred years longer. New ideas, ambition, the vigor and originality required to make a man start out for himself, seldom come to the man who plods along day after day and year after year in the same old routine, with never a break. The best thing about vacations is not the mere physical rest or exercise they bring, but the way they shake up the mind and reveal to a man or woman different possibilities of life and achievement.

The man who waited 42 years for a vacation is all right, in his way. But suppose everybody lived that way. America would soon be like China.

### ILL-GOTTEN WAR GAINS

The attorney general, acting with the president's approval, is about to make a thorough investigation of large contracts undertaken during the war, in connection with which there have been repeated charges of profiteering. Mr. Daugherty promises that if evidence is found to prove that any person making a contract with the government profited unduly or dishonestly, proceedings will be started to recover the money that was required.

A bureau is being organized to handle the matter, with an able attorney at its head. The campaign will not be a muckraking performance, nor will it take out on the small contractor the guilt of the large one, if guilt there be. Mr. Daugherty admits that the investigation will cover many months and cost a good deal of money.

If it is proved to everybody's satisfaction that there was no profiteering in war contracts, this will help some in an era largely given over to jackknifing. On the other hand, unless there is some assurance of recovering enough money to pay the expenses of the investigation, and put some back into the public purse to relieve the long-suffering taxpayer of part of his war load, doesn't this expenditure seem like sending good money after bad?

There are many pressing present and future problems to make a drain on the public funds without any further delving into the past except where there are dependable signs of "dry dirt."

### THE LOOTERS.

The railroad situation has brought forth many editorials, both favorable and unfavorable, but among one of the most drastic unfavorable which has come to the attention of the Observer is that of the Wichita, Kansas, Eagle, which is entitled "The Looters," and is as follows:

"The information is available to the general public concerning the systematic looting of the public

lockbook by railroad management is a powerful exhibit for those who contend that the roads should be owned and operated by the people.

"The railroads find themselves in a state of chronic poverty. Why? If you are accustomed to contending with catch phrases instead of reasoning things out by the evidence at hand, you will say, 'Why, because government control was a failure during the war.'"

"A fig for such shallow sizzling. Government control, so called, was just one more grand opportunity for the roads to make off with some more loot, and few were the roads that did not get their full at the public trough."

"Now that the railroads' employees are beginning to take an interest in showing up some of the methods used by the road in collecting and disbursing loot in the last few years, the public is likely to come in possession of a great many rather startling facts. Read the statistics presented by the railway unions, in their statement to the railroad board. The unions are interested in making this public because they are supporting an argument against reduction of wages. The general public is interested because the exhibit shows some of the causes for high cost of living, which always is affected by freight and passenger transportation charges."

"It is a terrible indictment of lax railway management. Millions upon millions of dollars, expropriated from the pockets of the people, have been collected by the railroads and then given away to their stockholders, in order to make the stockholders, every stockholder at all times, while in reality they have been collecting profits of proportions. But read it and draw your own conclusions."

If present barber prices in Astoria are maintained, S. O. S. is going to main line. Our lives are in a budget.

Headline—space relation—public and her people.

### IN THE OLD HOME TOWN



### WHAT OTHERS THINK

Editorial columns of newspapers breathe the trend of thought in the community in which the editorials are written. That our readers may sense the thought of sister communities, the Observer will publish one editorial daily that conveys such trend of thought. These editorials as they appear are in no wise the written policy of the Observer—they are published for the purpose noted above.

The following editorial, entitled "Citizenship," is taken from The Dallas Chronicle: Last school election just tried and true citizens of the school district marched up to the polls and expressed their preferences. Such lassitude is an indictment against the city. How can you fathers and mothers expect the school board and the teachers to take an interest in your children that you expect of them if your outward manifestations are those of a groundhog in the winter time?

Loud would have been the roar sent up if members of the school board had gone to some outrageous expense for a new property, or if they had permitted the hiring of a teacher who taught Bolshevism. But for all that citizens of The Dallas apparently cared last time, the school board could have gotten away with murder.

That's not the right spirit at all. In the last analysis, in your hands lie the power of saying how your children shall be cared for in the schools.

Put yourself in the position of a man who runs for the school board because he conscientiously believes he will be of service there. You are running for office in a district which can muster in round figures close to 2,000 voters. Just 20 of them turn out, or one per cent. The other 99 per cent, by their attitude, indicate that they have no interest in the matter. A good man would probably lose considerable faith in things under such conditions.

There is just one thing about it all. A question of citizenship is involved, not of the men who are candidates, but your own. If you are interested in your children, vote! If you are interested in The Dallas, vote! If you don't give a rap about anything, stay at home.

### ETIQUETTE EVERYDAY

#### Special Wedding Preparations.

When a large church wedding is decided upon, a rehearsal of the bridal procession is almost essential in order to secure the graceful maneuvering of the cortège on the marriage day. Usually on some afternoon or evening, four to six days before the wedding, all those who are to specially participate in it are asked by the bride-elect to present themselves at the church and rehearse the order of entrance and exit. A rehearsal is often accepted as an occasion on which the mother of the bride-to-be may, at an informal tea or supper, entertain the members of the wedding party.

Any day of the year, save Sunday and national holidays, is suitable for the celebration of weddings; but custom has helped to fix certain days and certain seasons as more popular than others. Weddings in June and October are apt to be blessed with rarely beautiful weather and an abundance of flowers. Evening weddings are well celebrated, but are not fashionable. Weddings before 10 o'clock in the morning are quiet; after twelve and, until four p. m. are fashionable and convenient afternoon hours.

#### Tomorrow: "Church Weddings."

#### The Home of the Soul.

In older times, it was believed that the seat of the soul was the stomach, most likely for the reason that a man is never so completely dead as when his stomach is out of order. For the cure of ordinary stomach troubles, there is nothing quite so prompt and satisfactory as Chamberlain's Tablets. They strengthen the stomach, enable it to perform its functions naturally, give the bowels a regular movement.

### THE OFFICE CAT.



(Dictographed at a home)—"Well, sonny, what are you going to be when you grow up?" "A man," replied R. B.

#### English Like the Dickens.

The Pioneer (India). An advertisement from a Siamese newspaper: "The news of English we tell the latest. Write in perfectly style and most earliest. Do a murder get commit we hear and tell of it. Do a mighty chief die, we publish it, and in borders of somber. Staff has each one been college, and writ like the Kipling and the Dickens. We circulate every town and extortionate not for advertisements. Buy it."

#### A Boy Again.

You can say what you please but it's a lot of fun to go home to mother and get some of those old-fashioned biscuits, put your feet under the old table, sleep in the old bed and dream you are a boy again.

#### Whatta' Yu' Mean?

(Burlington Free Press.) Rev. E. Thompson will preach his farewell sermon on Sunday next. The choir will render an anthem of joy and thanksgiving specially composed for the occasion.

Sign in Eastern Oregon music store—"Just As I'Asc With Variations." Seems absurd, but it may be true.

#### Cat!

There are times when the Muse doth flaily refuse To help out a bard with his labor; Oh la-tiddy-dee; tra-la-tiddy dum; You're right—this is one of 'em neighbor.

#### Not Forgotten.

A La Grande widower ordered a headstone for his wife's grave. The inscription concluded: "Lord, she was thine." When it was finished it was found that the tombstone maker did not have room on the stone for the "is" in "Thine."

Why don't somebie change the signs on the Portland street cars that read—"Pay-as-you-enter," to "Pray-as-you-enter."

One of the extravagances we indulged in about a year ago was the renting of a safety deposit vault. For six months it lay idle and was empty as a politician's promise. The fact is we couldn't find anything to put in it. Then, just as we have the prestige of being seen in the bank, we marched in once in a while and deposited a valuable of some sort. Saturday, at the request of the bank, we had a housecleaning and found the following articles in the box:

- One photograph of ourself at the age of ten.
- One lock of blond hair (curled.)
- One key to our vault.
- Two stories written for Saturday post and not used.
- One letter from the governor of Arizona.
- One rejection slip from the Atlantic Monthly.
- One vote for Teddy campaign button, and a dance program.
- One silver plated cut-cracker.
- And as he been looking all over for that cut-cracker for three or four months. We want an open bottle of cod-liver-oil.
- One Assamese, Was the Chaperon.
- One (Ind.) Leader.
- The Middle High school basketball team was exercised here Friday night when the boys piled on a score of 34 to 5 on them and literally smothered them.

# Ninety-nine out of a Hundred

In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred the clothes you buy here will satisfy you in price, wear, style, fit.

If yours happens to be that one case where you aren't satisfied, you get new clothes or your money back



**NOTICE.**  
 The regular meeting of the members of Pacific Co-operative League will be held in Eagles Hall, Tuesday, June 21, at 8 p. m. Mr. W. H. Dobbs, of the central office of the Pacific Co-operative League, of San Francisco, will speak on the principles of co-operation. After the meeting, refreshments will be served by the ladies' auxiliary of the Co-operative League.  
 WALTER R. PARKER, President.  
 MRS. E. R. HEAD, Secretary.  
 6-18-21.

**NOTICE.**  
 The Island City Epworth League will serve strawberry short cake and ice cream with cake Wednesday, June 23rd, from 6 to 10 o'clock p. m. at the home of Rev. J. Leitch.  
 6-18-21

**Recommend Chamberlain's Tablets.**  
 "Chamberlain's Tablets have been used by my husband and myself off and on for the past five years. When my husband goes away from home he always takes a bottle of them along with him. Whenever I have that heavy feeling after eating, or feel dull and played out, I take one or two of

Chamberlain's Tablets and they fix me up fine," writes Mrs. Newton Vreeland, Minon, N. Y. Take these tablets when troubled with constipation or indigestion and they will do you good. —adv.

#### Victory Bags.

Elegant Victory Bags usually sold at \$5.00, we offer for 3 days at \$3.00. They are a very late bag, a roomy bag of fine leather—the best bag you can buy for shopping or auto trips—See them at Silverthorn's.



OBSERVER WANT ADS PAY

**Your Efficiency Depends on Your Eyes**

Good work needs good eyesight, because, as a chain is no stronger than its weakest link, so a man is no stronger than his weakest faculty. And now, when the quality of a man's work will keep such an important part in the determination of his income, you owe it to yourself to play your faculties alert, keen—fit for the competition of industry

**DON'T WONDER WHETHER OR NOT YOUR EYES ARE EFFICIENT. Have them examined — and KNOW!**

U. S. Government statistics prove that over 80% of the men examined for the army had defective vision. This should indicate that possibly your eyesight is not so efficient as it should be. Have your Eyes Examined and KNOW every live American should.

—BY—

**J. H. PEARE & SON**  
 Optometrists