The Observer

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THE COMET VISITOR.

Imagine the universe, or its private secretary, keeping a journal of doings among the suns and stars and stars and moons and things which are rolling merrily about through what mortals call space. The entry for June 27, 1921, suggests the Chester, Pa., Times, might perhaps read something like this:

"Today the tiny planet, Earth, is expecting to see sparks (meteoric showers) from the swish of the 2,000,000-mile tail of the comet, Pons-Winnecke, which will just miss hitting the Earth by a bare 12,000,000 miles."

People used to imagine that comets were astronomical hoboes, loafing about through the heavens at their own sweet will. Astronomers have learned now that this is not so. The comet follows its curse as regularly as do the more familiar celestial bodies of our solar system. The routes of the 400 comets have been observed so carefully that astronomers can now figure out their return almost to a day.

Formerly the appearance of a comet was supposed to foreshadow some dire event. Now they are not to be feared at all. Even the comet which is due to visit our neighborhood this month is looked for calmly, in spite of the fact that it is coming considerably closer to the Earth than usual.

A little study of this comet and of Earth's other calling acquaintances in the universe ought to help most of us forget the weather and business troubles and open up a lot of rather stuffy human minds to healthful breezes and sunshine.

UNION HOTEL OPENING REMARKABLE

After numerous quasi-formal openings the real festivity of dedicating the new Union Hotel will come tomorrow evening at Union. Union is just a little vain over her splendid hostelry. She ought to be—her vanity is surely justified. Scores of La Grande people have wondered at the size, distinction and facility of the institution, and have dined and slept under its commodius roof.

Saturday night the people of Union will have a real celebration with nothing else in mind, for there will be no more horse shows until next year.

It is said that business expediency was ignored in the planning of the structure. Perhaps the hotel is bigger than the town, but Union is building for the future, and she built for her own gratification. Union wanted just that kind of a hotel; she paid the bill, ad it's her's, if you please. That Union enjoys it, that anyone who sees and uses its available facilities enjoys it, are but two proofs that we're all happy, so why worry over business expedience.

May Union outgrow her hotel—that's the Observer's fervent wish.

SAME FAMILY HIT TWICE

'Tis sai that Lightning never strikes the same place twice, but we find honors do. No sooner was J. H. Peare honored with re-election as state deputy of the Knights of Columbus, than comes word that his son, William, is elected to a place of trust and responsibility in an association embracing the entire western states.

SILENCE AND PROSPERITY

An optimistic publication has taken a look about the land and discovered a startling and gratifying bit of news. This is the fact that the people of the United States have gone into the silence, or rather into a period of less talk and more work which bodes good to all.

There have been two preceding phases in these confusing days of readjustment, announces the discoverer. They were marked by too much loose talk, knocking, grumbling, worrying, speculating as to what was going to happen next. One of them was full of prophecies of complete disaster, the other of unfounded confidence that everything was going to be more than lovely if only the other fellow would do something about it. The abundance of talk rather hampered action. That is why the coming of the third phase of silence, coupled with action is good news.

Instead of berating adverse conditions and giving up the fight, intelligent and thoughtful persons are silently setting about to remedy those conditions or make new ones for themselves.

All the talk is not yet gone. It never will be while the race remains human. It is true, however, that the worst of it is now giving place to good sense, hard work and an earlier prospect of prosperity.

CANAL TOLLS.

If congress want to release American coastwise vessels from the payment of Panama Canal tolls, evidently it has a right to do so. It does not appear that such action would conflict with treaty rights guaranteed to other nations, because our coastwise shipping is a purely domestic matter and does not give American shipping undue advantage in competing with the international shipping trade of other nations.

Whether it is good policy or good morals from a purely domestic standpoint is a different question, which ought to be discussed thoroughly and frankly before final action is taken. It should be recognized that if American ships plying through the Panama canal are made toll-free, they are granted a virtual subsidy to the precise amount of the remitted tolls. The money of all the people in the United States built the canal, and to whatever extent it is not self-sustaining all the people are taxed to maintain it. What the proposal amounts to, then, is to have all the rest of the people pay the canal charges of the ship-owners who use the water way.

That may be all right, in spite of the American prejudice against subsidies, provided the ship-owners return the money to the pockets of the other people in the form of cheaper freight rates and consequently lower prices to consumers on the goods they carry. Our coast-to-coast shipping already has an advantage over the railroads in low carrying costs. It will have a much greater advantage if tolls are abolished. If such action is taken, congress owes it to the public, as a matter of common honesty and fairness, to see that the shipping interests do not absorb all the advantages themselves.

TRIAL MARRIAGES.

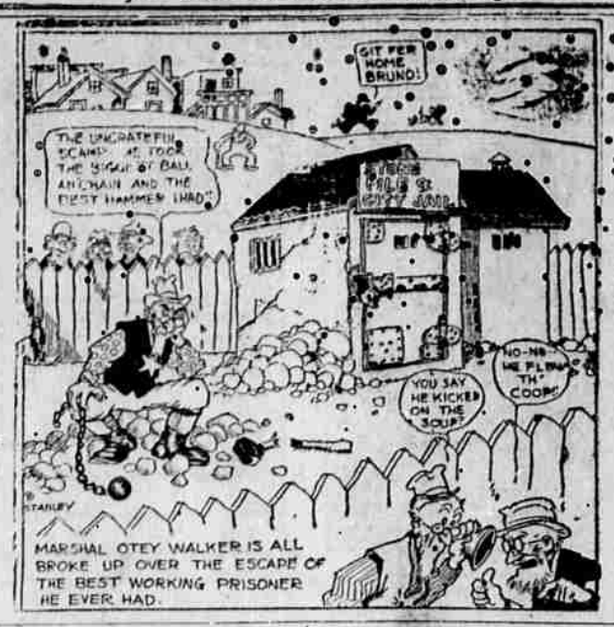
"Trial marriages?" says a judge. "We have them now! Under our present laws all our marriages are trial marriages."

There is more truth than exaggeration in that statement. In the judge's own county, he says, there are on the docket already this year 25 divorce suits filed by people married in 1920.

This judge would not do away with divorce, but he would make it harder. His most impressive suggestion is that the law be changed to provide that no divorce shall be granted until after separation of the parties for a stated period of three, five or seven years. That would give the husband and wife plenty of time to think the matter over calmly before applying for divorce, and it would diminish the rapidity with which one mate may be substituted for another.

It might be still more effective if the legal process of getting married were restored to something like its old status, requiring public announcement of engagements and a definite period intervening between such announcement and the marriage ceremony itself. That would discourage hasty marriages, which are one of the chief causes of divorce.

It goes without saying that whatever reforms may be undertaken along this line should be of a national scale. The present absurd system of varying state laws, whereby a person may obtain a divorce in one state for reasons not valid in another, or may even be married in one state and single in another at the same time, is largely responsible for the light regard in which the marital tie is held in this country.



THE OFFICE CAT

—By JUNIUS—

Our Garage.

A boiler and a kettle-lid
Some plates that Maggie broke and hid.
A chopping-block, a knuckle-bone.
A phonograph that doesn't phone,
Some lingerie that lingered long
A mattress with the mat all gone,
A bustle out of grandma's trunk.
A rat-trap and some other junk
A demijohn of faint bouquet
(Sweet hundred-proof of yesterday)
The sticks and tail of Johnnie's kite
A table lamp I dropped one night,
Tomato cans of Auld Lang Syne
A hundred feet of washing line,
A pair of pants (demobilized)
One garden hose (derubberized),
Gas fittings from a former age
One rocker, one canary cage,
A niblick and a baseball bat,
A bedstead and a broken slat,
The box in which the rabbit died.
The bike that mother used to ride,
Of many things a sundry crop—
All but the car—that's in the shop.
—Richard B. Bennett.

In the spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love; but in the fall coal is the burning question.

Use Your Head.

A woodpecker pecks out a great many specks
Of sawdust, when building a hut;
He works like a nigger to make the hole bigger,
He's sore if his cuter won't cut.
He ne'er gives a peep for plans that are cheap,
But there's one thing can rightly be said—
The whole excavation has this explanation:
"He builds it by using his head."
—Denver Post.

One of our high brow subscribers horns in with the information that the Office Cat column is rotten. Granted, but this colyum may be likened unto a girl. It can't be good all the time, neither is a girl pretty all the time.

Modern Efficiency.

An ancient Greek philosopher,
Themistocles by name,
Once drank a hemlock highball,
And then, they say, died game.

Of course, this lad was brainy,
But his style was rather crude;
For now they drink wood alcohol,
And kick off while they're stewed.

SIGN at Star theatre—"Driven From Home" in three parts." "That's what I'd call brutal," simpered Mrs. Softheard as she mopped off the tears.

We speak of the "Glorious past," but probabilities are the present is far more so.

Your grouch hurts you worse than it hurts those about you.

A La Grande woman on X avenue wins the sweet potootie in the jealousy contest. It is said she deletes all the underwear ads in the magazines before allowing her husband to read them.

$250 buys this car. It won't last over a day."

"That's a candid sign," said Henry Flivver."

AROUND THE EDGES

By BRUCE DENNIS.

Human habits are a strong force. For instance in Southern Idaho the people refused to join the government in shifting the watch hands back at Pocatello.

Just where the principal meridian runs, only civil engineers know, but for years Huntington, Ore., was considered the nearest point to that meridian and therefore watches were changed at Huntington.

During the war some chap who had the authority decided this watch setting should be done at Pocatello. Railroads are governed by the order and Pacific time starts with them at Pocatello.

But not with the old Idahoan—not at all. He's been settled in Snake river valley too long to let the government tell him to change his habits and his watch.

Hence, the Idaho towns now run on two separate kinds of time—one is railroad or modern time and the other is the time used in the days of old when they dug for Boise gold.

When a lady has an afternoon function, or a marriage is to take place at a certain hour, the invitations state "Idaho" time which means an hour earlier than real time and by the rest of the world. Preachers schedule their sermons at 7:30 o'clock which is in fact 6:30 and so on. The crux of annoyance comes to those who know nothing about the dual time, and using the local town clocks as guides find they have missed a train by one hour.

Likened unto yelling in a rain-barrel is the whistling of a locomotive in a snowshed. This occurred in Wyoming and an old sea captain was aroused from slumber thinking he had heard his steamboat whistle. In a half dazed condition he said: "That's her whistle and we're off at eight bells."

Watching the Boss.

Employer—"Young man, it will pay you to keep your eyes open while you are in this office." Office Boy—"Yes, sir, that's just what your wife told me when she came in this morning and saw what a pretty stenographer you had."—Boston Transcript.

N. K. West & Co.

See this Window
Showing Several of the
200 NEW APRONS

MEN!
White Serge Trousers
For Church
Fourth and Everyday
Summer Wear
$10.50

Nothing so cool, so summery and yet so neat and dressy for a man to wear in the hot summer weather, as white trousers.

Men who golf should have them—men who ride, motor or drive—white trousers complete the attire.

We have them—of fine White Serge with a very fine silk invisible stripe.

These come in all sizes, waist and length. They are priced at $10.50 pair.

Selling Today at a Special Price of
$1.00

New arrivals Wednesday—put on sale yesterday and selling now at this remarkably low price, starting with some over the 200 mark, the selling was phenominal yestersday afternoon—but neither sizes nor quantities were broken for early shoppers today. All are of fine Ginghams and Percales bound with tapes or self material—or trimmed in rick rack. Pockets and sash ties make them so attractive. Undoubtedly these are value at the low prices we offer them for today. Be here early in the morning and supply yourself with several. See windows tonight. Choice at one dollar each.

Georgette Blouses
$5.00

Still quite a selection of these new Georgette Blouses at $5. The $5.00 blouse has become our specialty and customers tell us these are the greatest values of all.

The models are so very pretty that you may often mistake them for those much more expensive.

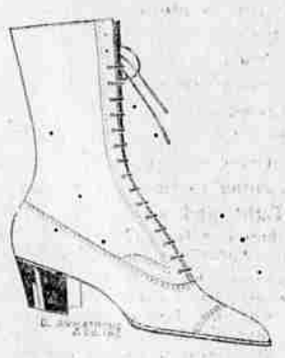
There are only one and two of a kind. All are priced at $5.00.

A Shoe of
Our Own Designing
For Women

A Black Kid Shoe for genuine comfort only. Designed and made especially for N. K. West & Co. by D. M. ARMSTRONG & CO. makers of our finest footwear for ladies.

This shoe is made with a slightly rounding toe and a straight inner sole edge, characteristic of all corrective and surgical shoes. It also has arch supporting features that add much to the comfort of the wearer.

Besides these special corrective and comfort aiding features, this shoe is made of the finest of leathers—for combined service and comfort, we believe it will be unexcelled. You who desire a shoe of this kind, we invite you to our shoe department to try on one of these. All sizes and widths. Price $10.00.

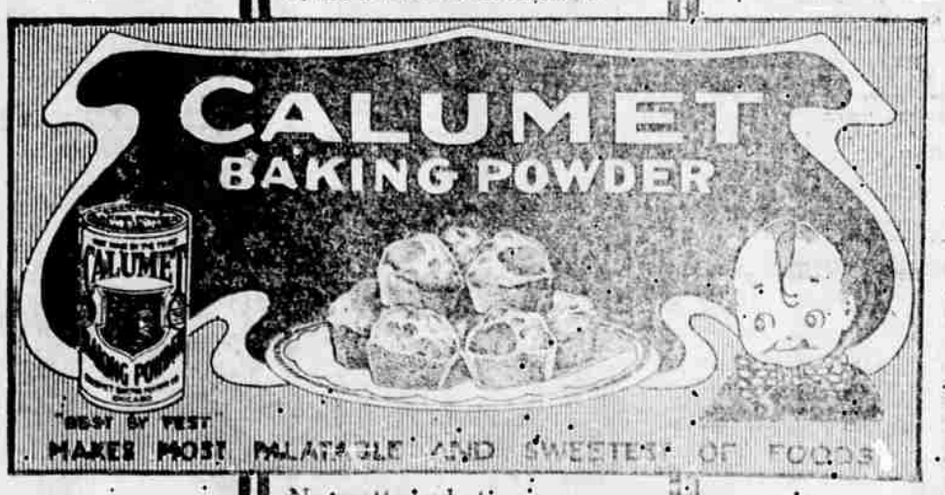


CAN'T FIND A BUYER? TRY AN OBSERVER AD.

EVERY cent you spend over the price of Calumet might as well be thrown away. You don't get a thing for it. You can't get greater leavening strength or greater purity than are offered in Calumet.

It is made in the world's largest, best equipped and most sanitary Baking Powder Factories.

Contains only such ingredients as have been officially endorsed by the U. S. Food Authorities.



No matter what you pay you can't secure as much in sound baking powder quality.

On the other hand—you can buy a cheaper baking powder—a little lower in price than Calumet—and much lower in merit. That's the worst kind of false economy.

Calumet never fails. Every baking is perfectly raised, sweet, even and tasty. Used by millions of housewives—it is the largest selling brand in the world.

A pound can of Calumet contains full 16 oz. Some baking powders contain 12 oz. cans instead of 16 oz. cans. Be sure you get a pound when you want it.

Calumet Graham Muffin Recipe
1 cup of white flour
1 cup Graham flour
1 tablespoon sugar
3 level teaspoons Calumet Baking Powder
½ teaspoon salt
1 cup of milk
1 egg beaten light
1 tablespoon melted butter
Bake in muffin tins in the regular way.

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