

The Observer

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Don't Figure the Cost.

The ravings of a mountain trout had nothing on the wailings of a tightwad tourist who happened into La Grande from the middle states a few days ago. The sucker had been keeping books on his expenses while traveling overland—a very unwise thing to do.

He had an expense account that looked like Eddie Brown's of the Pacific Paper company in the days when Eastern Oregon was wide open and business was good. And the fellow actually thought he ought to have sympathy. He could not understand why garages should charge such prices, why gasoline should be so high here in the mountains, why guaranteed tires should not meet their guarantee. All of which is pure bunk and should never be considered by anyone driving a car.

When you drive an automobile, figure that you are indulging in a great luxury. When you take a long trip figure that you are going to pay the highest price for transportation that you ever paid in all your life and you will not be disappointed.

When you enter a town or city don't think people are going to meet you with the band because your car has come from Portland, Maine, or Poudre, Kentucky, because no one gives a rap about you. You are just one of the herd who has a bug to travel in the open, and you are going to pay for it—don't forget that.

Sympathy for tourists does not exist. The northwest is providing a lot of free things for tourists which sooner or later tourists will have to pay for. There is no essence of good judgment in providing everything free for people. Free things are never appreciated. Make things extra good for tourists and then charge them for the service. They will be happier after their first trip, for the first trip cures even the worst lightwad on this expensive business. He learns what a cold world he is living in and he learns that no one particularly cares whether he is driving a Packard or a Ford—no one but himself.

He can't swing through any of these towns and have people admire his car, for the fellow who runs a peanut stand around the corner has one of the same make, only a later model.

If you are bound to get out in the open space and travel on air and rubber, get it into your cocoon that you are going to pay. The railroads still have the edge on cheap transportation, even though one does have to rob a bank nowadays before taking a railroad trip. But if you decide to go by auto you will have to rob two banks.

The "American" Plan

The American Hotel Association, which recently concluded its annual convention in Chicago, inclines to the opinion that most American hoteliers may be expected soon to return to what we used to know as the "American plan" of operation. The change should occasion little regret.

Not so many years ago there was sharp distinction between the American and European plan hotels. The former charged you so much for "bed and breakfast" and so much more by the day. Dining-room service was table d'hôte. The latter charged enough, of course, but on the theory that one should pay only for accommodation and meals eaten. Gradually the European plan houses gained the upper hand, especially in the larger cities, and the two-dollar-a-day houses seemed on their way into oblivion.

The war, and the era of high prices which followed, may be credited with bringing the change of which hotel men hint. The price of hotel accommodations and meals rose amazingly, even as did the cost of service and foodstuffs to the management. Hotel men began to realize that, though their bedrooms were filled, their dining-rooms were not. Dairy lunches and cafeterias began to crop up within a few doors of the grand entrance, and they thrived on the patronage of hotel guests. It was disturbing, to say it mildly, and a good many hotels

put in their own cafeterias by way of reprisal.
Now the hotel men are talking of the advantages of the well-balanced menu which the table d'hôte makes possible, and of the guests' interest in knowing in advance what their bills will be. It sounds reasonable, and it is. There are obvious advantages to the guest in the American plan, and to the hotel man, in times like this when men are watching their loose change more carefully. One might even argue that this report from Chicago indicates an increasing national preference for the boarding house rather than the restaurant. It comes about so that.

Weather Effects

Revolutionary things are happening in England. No, this comment is not concerned with the Irish question or the imperial council or the American armament conference. It has to do with the weather.

As a result of the abnormally hot weather, the English people are learning to use ice in the American fashion. They put it into their drinks. More remarkable still, they are developing a taste for American ice cream and soda water. And what is perfectly extraordinary, they are drifting toward American sartorial effects.

Vests are actually being discarded in London, so that the natives give as good an imitation as they could be expected to do of wearing American two-piece suits. And the most extraordinary thing of all is that "clarks" have observed working without their coats, and sportsmen have dared to go coatless on the golf links or cricket field, after the shocking American fashion introduced recently by Ambassador Harvey.

All this comes from having a dose of our hot American weather in England this summer. Much has been written by historians and scientists about the determining effect of climate on the character and habits of nations, but evidently the half has never been told.

Suppose the situation were reversed, and we had a long spell of English weather in this country. No doubt we'd all be having tea and marmalade for breakfast, and, passing up ice cream soda for Scotch and soda, and following the prescribed sartorial rules of dear old London. Or wouldn't we?

The editors of the country have presented President Harding a chair to replace the one purchased by Mr. Wilson's friends when he left the White House. It is some chair—brought from the timbers of the old war vessel Revenge, which was sunk at the battle of Lake Champlain. Sentimental things to this chair as thick as Portland fog, and every editor who contributed to its purchase has quite a pride in the matter. The Fourth Estate, in a recent issue, devoted a whole section to the chair and its presentation. Mr. Harding's speech of appreciation was a plain talk-full of intense feeling and good sense. Somehow, Mr. Harding is keeping up his record for being a good old fashioned country editor with plenty of gumption and grit.

Paris need not get all puffed up over its flesh colored frocks for the ladies. Here in America we have reached the point of abolishing the frocks and letting the flesh act in natural way—all same as Indian did before white man came.

Already the farmers wheat pool of the northwest has become active and a half million bushels of wheat have been sold at what is said to be an advance over the prevailing market price. Not bad for a starter.

The cost of living has dropped twenty-one per cent in the last year, according to the government's figure factory, most of which was taken off of the fellow that produces food stuffs.

FORUM

New Scenic Route Suggested

La Grande, July 26, 1921—Editor La Grande Observer.—I have noticed for several evenings the items in your paper concerning the proposed route of the scenic highway. The trouble with all of these routes mentioned in your paper is that they are not high enough. The proper way for a real scenic route to go is to start in at the west end of Washington avenue which already is up on a bench, and grade up the hill through the canyon there to the city limits, then swing around north and go on the west side of the hospital, high enough so that there will be no hay land or orchards or small tracts whatever to interfere with it.

Yours very truly,
GEORGE F. COCHRAN

LIGHTNING STRIKES FIELD.

PENDLETON, July 27.—Lightning struck the stubble in a wheat field on the Claude Hanson ranch about nine miles north of town Sunday noon, and setting it afire, burned about 50 sacks of wheat which were scattered on the ground. Neighbors fought the blaze, and kept it from spreading.

THE OFFICE CAT



By JUNIOR

By Cracks!

A gentle warning in the form of a sign on an Oklahoma farm: "Not a Trespasser" will be persecuted to the full extent of 2 mangled dogs which never was over-schibed to strangers and one dubbel barrel shotgun which ain't loaded with a sofa pillar—dammed if I ain't getting tired of this hell raisin on my farm."

Speak For Yourself, John

"Some time ago Harry H. Huett of La Grande, Ore., wrote to Mayor Cowgill asking his aid in obtaining a wife from Kansas City, 'the most American city in the United States'." John A. Eames, secretary to the mayor, undertook the task. He gave publication in the Star to Mr. Huett's letter. Mr. Eames wrote to Mr. Huett asking to be informed if he received any replies. In due time Huett replied that he had received forty letters and ten telegrams and prospects looked good. "Since then Eames has succeeded in getting a wife from the 'most American City' for a man in Jackson county. When his term of office expires he contemplates opening a matrimonial bureau, he says."—Kansas City Star.

In going over the above paper we read of this La Grande man who wrote to a mayor of Kansas City, asking his aid in obtaining a wife. We wish to emphatically state that we did not live here, then or we are quite sure that man would never have written that letter. We ain't wish to state that the letter was not written during leap year, so you missed your guess again. Thirdly, we will say that we have a poor opinion of a man who has to ask help in obtaining a wife. It is a pretty sure sign that he will soon be asking help in order to get rid of her. And, lastly, we are a firm believer in home products as we do not care for imported goods. If some of our home boys would live up to this there would be fewer old maids running around La Grande. (We hope this brings results, as we are one ourselves.)

Harold Tall stepped to the front of the rostrum this week and offered this wonderful remark— "Even a color blind man can tell a greenback when he sees it."

Add Important Discoveries.

Sir, I have just discovered that there is a pawnbroker in Chicago named Chancey. 'T strikes me that the usual sign turned right-side up and painted green, would do nicely.

TOOPER CENT.

An Inward

Gone from this life
Is Abner Beck.
He asked his wife
To shove his neck.

Why Not?

When Junis was writing some of the "bunk" for the Office Cat, a friend sat at his elbow and said: "Men are put in jail for less crimes than writing that kind of bunk."

California, Attention!

Lady going to Chicago soon wishes to reduce expenses. What have you?

N.W. West & Co.

THE QUAMT STORE

New Fall Oxfords!

Just In By Express—Black and Brown
"ARMSTRONG" MAKE

Today we are able to show you three new oxfords, that show you the newest in styles, colors, etc. These are all ARMSTRONG make—our highest grade shoes.

Those who desire something late in footwear need only to visit our shoe department now and try on some of these new oxfords. They are heavy, suitable for winter wear, if desired.

Those who have difficulty in securing the proper fit, should take advantage of this first opportunity to secure the new and be properly fitted. These are in all sizes now, from 3 to 9 and AAA to D widths. See our windows.

Harvest Tan Calf Oxford \$10	Plum Calf Oxford \$9.50	Black Lightweight Calf Oxford \$9
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Entirely new in color as well as style—harvest tan, a beautiful shade of brown. In medium weight calfskin with ball strap effect. Pedestrian heel and welt sole. In all sizes and widths.

Plum color, a very dark rich brown. Medium round toe, with imitation saddle strap stitching. Pedestrian heel and welt sole. The fitting qualities of this oxford are excellent. In all sizes and widths.

Black kid calf, a leather similar in appearance to calfskin, but nearly as light as kid. This oxford is very plain and dressy in appearance, and fits very smooth in all sizes and widths.

THE PICTORIAL REVIEW COLLEGE BOYS!

Three students of O. A. C. are canvassing La Grande for subscriptions to the Pictorial Review. The profits thus earned are paying their expenses through college, while you receive the Pictorial Review each month at the regular subscription rate. Should any of these young men call at your door, they are duly authorized to take subscriptions—yours will help them.

Please remember these young men are in no way connected with this store. Subscriptions taken by them come directly from the Pictorial Review Co. It is merely our desire to help them along.

you?—Want ad in Los Angeles Times.

We know of a home here in La Grande in which the sixteen-year-old daughter has seven beaux and the twenty-six-year-old daughter never even has a caller. What's the answer?

Bill Allison horns in with this one: "Beauty is only skin deep, and because a bride looks lovely in her crepe de chine veil is no sign that her pie will be edible."

Boarding House Pome
Little hunks of leavin's
Little bits of traab,
They boll them all together
And call the mixture hash.

Waste of Time and Space
Tom Wallace has completed his series of special articles on the resources of eastern Kentucky without saying anything definite about the thing Luke McLuke wanted most information about.

To Whom It May Concern,
Greetings & Salutations: The time has come when we cannot meet the changed conditions without additional revenue. The cost of things is absolutely beyond our control and depends entirely upon the price we are compelled to pay for materials and labor required to produce it. Every fair-minded person therefore can readily see that we have no choice but to increase our rates to a point that will permit us to exist. Since we are a VOX POPULI P. S.—The above isn't original; it was adapted from the ad of an Indiana public utility, but it seemed to fit our case so well that we decided to copy it. V. P.

'Round The County

Incidents with Human Interest Attached, Gathered by The Observer.

Meteorite Going in Pendleton
Meteorite, the famous thoroughbred stallion which the government has tabbed at Union for the summer in a national campaign to improve the breed of horses in this country, will be sent to the Pendleton Round-up for exhibition purposes.

West Virginia Exports Gas.
West Virginia exports to other states natural gas to the amount of nearly 125,000,000 cubic feet a year.

State News

(Observer Salem Bureau.)
SALEM, Ore., July 27.—The Polk county road case in which certain residents of that county are endeavoring to hold up the construction program of the state highway commission because of alleged irregularities in the proceedings, has been transferred from the circuit court at Dallas to the court at Salem. The reason is that Judge Skipworth, of Eugene, who was to try the case, discovered that one of the attorneys was his brother-in-law. Judge Percy R. Kelly will hear the case.

The state treasury recently has been replenished to the extent of \$200,000, and James Crawford, assistant state treasurer, gives out the information that persons holding state warrants "not paid for want of funds" should present them at once.

The traffic department of the secretary of state's office has purchased weighing jacks by which loads on motor trucks may be weighed to ascertain if the owner is violating the law relative to the maximum loads allowed on the state highways.

Attorney General Van Winkle has handed down an opinion holding that the county treasurers are the custodians of the funds of school districts unless the county court rules otherwise. In that event the district clerks are the custodians.

Exact addresses are required of real estate brokers applying for licenses under the state law, according to Attorney General Van Winkle.

J. B. V. Butler, Arthur Beattie and Miss Jessica Todd, all members of the faculty of Oregon Normal School at Monmouth, have been appointed by the board of regents to conduct the school until a successor is named to the late President J. H. Ackerman.

Frank Davey, of Salem, member of several sessions of the Oregon legislature, has announced himself as a candidate for secretary of the state fair board.

Only four forest fires have been reported this season to the office of F. A. Elliott, state forester. None did serious damage.

Governor Olcott has announced the appointment of J. H. Cramer, of Portland, Dr. W. H. Lytle, of Salem, and C. W. Lassen, of Pendleton, as members of the state veterinary medical examining board. The first two are re-appointed and the latter succeeds Dr. F. T. Notz, of Baker, who retires to go into another profession.

Sam A. Kozar, secretary of state, has announced to the several counties of the state a total of \$6,630.50, representing 5 per cent of the receipts of sales of public lands for the year July 1, 1919, to June 30, 1920. The apportionment is based on the area of public lands in each county. In the state the total acreage is 61,188,480.

The total enrollment of the schools for Sherman county during the past year was 818, according to a report filed with the State superintendent of schools by Sherman county superintendent, Columbia county reports an enrollment of 3132 and Lake county 890.

A recent fire at Medford which destroyed two dwellings is being investigated by A. U. Barber, state fire marshal.

The Slide irrigation district has applied to the state irrigation securities commission for the certification of a bond issue of \$5,000. Some time ago the district asked the certification of \$95,000 in bonds.

Sam A. Kozar, secretary of state, and George G. Brown, clerk of the state land board, were in Astoria during the week investigating certain tide lands relative to a proposed lease of the lands.

On account of the retrenchment policy of the federal government, it will not be possible to have the famous battleship Oregon sent to Portland permanently at federal expense, according to a communication received by Colonel George A. White, adjutant general of Oregon, from Theodore Roosevelt, assistant secretary of the navy.

IN THE OLD HOME TOWN



INTER-STATE BASE BALL

CHAMPIONSHIP

Cove vs. Weiser

LA GRANDE BASE BALL PARK

Sunday, July 31

Admission 50c, Grand Stand Free!

"HELP COVE" is the Slogan!