

# The Observer

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BRUCE DENNIS, Editor

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## Take the Loan, Buddies!

So practical is the advice offered by the editor of the Pendleton Tribune to his fellow ex-service men, that we take this opportunity of reprinting the editorial in question for the benefit of the local service men, who will receive aid through the soldier's bonus bill, recently voted on by the people of Oregon. The editorial follows:

Word from the state aid commission promising application blanks in the hands of service men within a month has hastened consideration of what feature of the bonus law to take advantage of, and sentiment in favor of the cash bonus seems to be on the increase.

This is a sad mistake and one which beneficiaries of the act will always regret if they pass up the superior advantages of the loan over the cash. The reason for this growing tendency is the service man's prejudice against red tape and delay and the necessity of filling out accurate and detailed application blanks, of having property appraised—in short, he does not want to be bothered.

But it was on the avowed supposition on the part of the American Legion that at least 75 per cent of the service men would take the loan, that the bonus bill received such a huge favorable vote June 7, and the boys should not avert, now that the bill has passed. It would work hardships on the state financially and amount to taking a considerable loss in each individual case, to say nothing of the splendid chance to develop Oregon through reclamation and the building of homes.

Of course the administration of the state aid law will mean the filling out of numerous forms. Every service man should realize that the commission is handling the taxpayers' money and that the manner in which it is handled means much to the average per capita wealth of the people of Oregon of which he is one. But how much better would it be to have a \$3,000 credit available at any time within the next thirty years than to receive \$200 hard cash tomorrow. The latter would go for a month's vacation trip, or an outfit of clothing or the like and be gone and forgotten in a few months, while the loan would enable a man to make a nice first payment on a home, allow him to buy a piece of land, pay existing debts or improve real estate that he may already have.

In a majority of cases the service man will either have a piece of real estate or some one in his immediate family will have it, and be willing to let him take a loan on it. When figured out in cold dollars and cents acceptance of the loan feature means about twice as much to the average beneficiary as the cash payment, and this alone is sufficient argument to pass up the line of least resistance and go through for the loan.

This is not the time to weaken, buddies—take the loan.

## College Seamen

Operating managers of Atlantic steamship companies report that every day scores of university undergraduates are making application to them for jobs as seamen or stewards. Since most of these have in mind only a vacation trip to Europe, to South America or to the Pacific Coast, those who find employment are few.

Just now unemployment is widespread among seamen, and those who have gone down to the sea in ships before have the preference. The vessel managers, however, make no secret of their feeling in the matter. They wish they might take on many of these college boys, if only as a means of encouraging American youth of the proper type to go to sea. They know it would be good for the service, for the boys and for the public.

Men who follow the sea, today as since men first built ships have to work harder than almost any business men. They work, too, under discipline of a sort, and discipline never hurt anyone. Moreover, they are as a class rather a hard lot.

The majority of the men who go to college in America, on the other hand—and less than one-tenth of one per cent at all—have been educated

lives. So have those with whom they come in contact in their undergraduate days, which may account for the crop of weird economic and social theories which our higher institutions of learning sometimes produce. It won't hurt college men at all to work for a couple of months with men whose points of view differ widely from those to which they are accustomed. The real function of the university is to teach one to live with his neighbors in this world as pleasantly and usefully as possible. The college boy who spends his summer in a fo'castle, perhaps under a bucko mate, should know more about his world and the people in it by fall.

## Private Homes

It is rather surprising to learn from a report of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States that apartment houses are increasing faster in cities under 100,000 population than in larger cities. It seems clear that the adoption of "multi-family dwellings" has not the same economic necessity in smaller communities. There is not the same argument of limited space and prohibitive rent for single houses. There is the same sort of economic pressure, to be sure, but it is not so great.

Perhaps a good deal of this apartment house development in small cities is due to emulation of the metropolitan centers. Little cities are big ones only too much, in matters where they might better follow their own natural lines of development.

The superficial conclusion from this report might be that the American people are to become a nation of apartment-house dwellers. This is not necessarily true. If families are subject to such a centralizing force, lured by the comparative cheapness and ease of housekeeping in flats, there are also decentralizing forces in operation. Better transportation is taking people out into the suburbs, and modern household machinery and improved facilities of many kinds are tending to give the private house all the comforts and conveniences of the luxurious apartment house, with far greater privacy, healthfulness and all-round satisfaction.

The reaction from communal life is a fact to be reckoned with, no less than the material improvements that are making individual homes more inviting and attainable. There may be a good deal of phophecy in Kipling's story, "As Easy as A. B. C." That tale foreshadows a time when crowds will be viewed with horror, and "invasion of privacy" will be an unpardonable offense. Every family will live by itself, protected from intrusion by the most elaborate electrical safeguards, and will still, by the progress of scientific discovery, be able to keep in touch with all the world and enjoy dramatic performances, concerts, public addresses, etc., without personal contact with strangers.

That is going pretty far, but there is a good deal of human nature in Kipling's conception. People are not only social but solitary. Communities, so far as centripetal, may turn centrifugal, so far as they have any choice in the matter. People get tired, eventually, of living in public. Family life is the oldest of social facts. Civilization began with family groups, and may end with them, each family living a patriarchal life again, with a private home that is a veritable castle.

## Why Leave Out Union?

The La Grande Observer in its issue of July 27, has a column review of the camp-ground conditions in 25 cities and towns outside of La Grande, and entirely overlooked the Union camp ground—recognized as the finest in Eastern Oregon, where there is running water, city water, shade, sanitary toilets, free fuel, cooking range in large kitchen, out-door drinking fountains, grass, camp-tender, and altogether the finest and best appointed camp-ground in this part of the state, full of tourists every night. One Twin Falls man last week went so far as to say that the Union camp-ground is the best between Twin Falls and Los Angeles. And that isn't all—Union citizens often visit the camp-ground and extend the glad hand to travelers and ask them to come again. Certainly our camp-ground is worthy of mention.—Union Republican.

The list of camp-grounds referred to above was prepared by a Portland automobile trade journal, but we stand corrected, nevertheless. If La Grande had as fine a camp-ground as Union there would be less worry in La Grande. The Observer was at fault, too, for not arbitrarily adding Union to the list prepared at Portland.

Governor Small of Illinois pleads that "the king can do no wrong," and seems to be getting away with it. If Kaiser Wilhelm wears out his welcome in Holland, he knows now where to go.

Jack Johnson has come back, looking for a fight. And he'll get it, with another knock-out, if he runs afoul of the law again.

Edward Bok is certainly an optimist. He has offered an annual prize for the citizen doing the most for Philadelphia. We didn't suppose anything could be done for Philadelphia.

Congress doesn't seem to realize that business won't go up until federal expenditures and taxes come down.

## IN THE OLD HOME TOWN



WHILE TOBE BEASLEY WAS CUTTING GRASS AT THE SCHOOL YARD TODAY THE LAWN MOWER BROKE DOWN.

## THE OFFICE CAT



—By JUNIUS—

Who Said So?  
Junius, our cat, oh may his jokes increase,  
Awoke one morning from a dream of fleas  
And saw within the moonlight of his room  
Oodles of people each with face of bloom.  
Plentiful gab had made our Junius bold  
Although some shivers made his back feel cold.  
"Why lookest thou?" Each person  
Raised his head,  
And gave them looks that should have knocked him dead,  
And with a groan these people made reply  
"We are the guys that awful cat did guy."

"And did I die?" asked Junius.  
"We'll say so,"  
Replied the people. Junius spoke more low  
But cheerily still and said: "Why, bless my heart  
To be a first class liar is an art."  
The people sighed and vanished. The next night  
They came again, and now with faces bright  
And showed the names of those who really had the best  
And in The Office Cat led all the rest.

Several Birds, With One Stone  
A Virginia editor threatened to publish the name of a certain young man who was seen hugging and kissing a girl in the park unless his subscription to the paper was paid up in a week. Fifty-nine young men called and paid up the next day, while two even paid a year's subscription.

Well, It's Near Enough Anyhow  
Dear Mr. Junius:  
I never was graduated from college, but isn't this a subjective clause?  
"I always enjoy reading the La Grande Evening Observer (adv.) better if I read the column, 'The Office Cat.'"

Pussy Mistle  
"Cleopatra," observes Lot Snod-

grass, "has been accused of almost everything except dancing the shimmy."

EAT DOWN THE MARBLE STEPS  
—reads a sign on a 9th St. restaurant, Cleveland. "Not with the poor teeth I have," says Hardie Abel.

"Ladies, watch your skirts, we are not responsible," is the warning sign in a shoe-shining place. "Those guys must be very temperamental," says Ben Zinc who wrote us about it.

Ye Poor Colyum Editor  
Getting up a dally colyum is no picnic. If we print jokes, folks say we are silly—if we don't they say we are too serious. If we publish original matter, they say we lack variety—if we publish things from other papers, they say we are too lazy to write. If we don't go to church we are heathen—if we go we are hypocrites. If we stay in the office, we ought to be out rustling news—if we rustle for news, we are not attending to business in the office. If we wear old clothes we are slovenly—if we wear new clothes, they are not paid for. What in thunder is a poor editor to do anyhow? Like as not someone will say we swiped this from an exchange. We did.

Two-faced humans are so common here in La Grande that it is seldom that they are placed on exhibition at the drug stores, yet they are frequently seen there. Now that America's as dry as Sahara fewer still will be preserved in alcohol.

At Coldwater, O., there's a big sign on the side of a factory, that reads: "The Now Idea Spreader Company." At least here's a place to take your ideas that you want to spread.

An electrician had arrived home at 1 a. m. and was preparing to undress when his wife glared at him and said: "Wait the matter? Wire you insulator?" But the shock was too great. The electrician dropped dead.

Moo!  
A fairly good singer was Ed. Her voice, sympathetic and melodious. Her voice simply rang. When some songs she sang. But on other days simply a-bee-bee.  
Anyway a married man doesn't have to go into court to have his objections overruled.

Ancient Women Had "Rights."  
In an ancient Babylon province there have been discovered records on clay tablets belonging to the period of about 2400 B. C., showing that a woman's "college" or "university" had been established in a suburb of the city called Bama, and that women had equal rights with men in commercial property and political affairs.

## Reduce Clothing Expense

AN OLD SUIT REMODELED IS OFTEN AS ATTRACTIVE AS A NEW ONE.

## MAKING NEW SUITS

is our regular business, and if you want a new tailor made outfit we can give you the perfection of the art at remarkably low prices—a reduction in expense even in the new product.

BUT, if you want to economize, bring your old suit to us for remodeling, cleaning and pressing. We can make a marvelous change in that old suit—a change that will add tone to your appearance and much longer life to the garment.

## The Wardrobe

WOOD W. BERRY

—Dry Cleaning a Specialty—

"DURA BELLE" Hair Nets 2 for 25¢

**N. K. West & Co.**  
THE QUALITY STORE

"CARMEN" Hair Nets 2 for 25¢

## It's The Goods Behind. The Price That Counts

The goods—that's exactly what we mean. It's not price alone we take in consideration when we advertise our merchandise. Our merchandise has to be of quality character. It has to come from reliable sources, before we put it in the hands of the public. If you buy price only, you must not expect reliable merchandise—but if you consider both quality and price, N. K. West & Co. is the place for you to shop. Twenty-five years of quality merchandising.

Many Fine New

## Woolens

Here for Fall Showing

Already we have received several new pieces of fall woolens—plaid and fancy skirtings, Tricotines in brown and navy, Flannels, Serges, Wool Jerseys, etc. All very new and at prices that mark a new level in woolen dress goods.

Women who like to do their sewing early, and who liked to have the pick of material at their first showing should visit this store often during the next few weeks.

WEARWELL SHEETING For Service

This staunch, firm fabric is the same material as used in the "Wearwell Sheets," famous for their durability. It is sold at this store only in La Grande.

Housewives who demand the best in bed linens should examine this material. Its quality can be easily seen in contrast to the others. Prices of Wearwell bleached sheets are:

Seven quarter	42c yard
Eight quarter	45c yard
Nine quarter	49c yard
Ten quarter	56c yard

MONTE CARLO CREPE New for Fall

A new silk material for early fall showing, 40 inches wide, in Harding blue, rose and zinc. A material suitable for blouses, skirts or dresses, priced at \$6.00 yard.

Silk UMBRELLAS For Rain or Shine

These novelty umbrellas in colored silks with swagging ring handles, or leather straps, and stub ends are fast replacing the parasol. Far more attractive, more useful and fast in color, they combine a parasol and umbrella. In colors of brown, navy, gray, green and red—also black and white. Prices are from \$6.00 to \$12.00.

Men! The Best Thing We've Ever Offered

## Florsheim Shoes

\$6.50

Few men there are who haven't remarked about this sale—and few who haven't taken advantage of it. Several men bought two pairs, others who came too late could not be fit at all.

Perhaps we have understated the facts in this sale when we said \$19, \$12 and \$15 values—proceeding on the theory that it is better to understate than to overstate. However, every pair of these shoes sold at \$15.50 to \$18.00 just ten months ago. We say they are \$19, \$12 and \$15 value now because new price levels would bring them down to two-thirds their original value. NOW! We are offering the remainder of the stock at this ridiculously low price. If you haven't invested, visit this store today—if your size is here you'll save several dollars.

DRAPERY FABRICS Stocks at Their Best

Never were our stocks of draperies so complete, and never were so many new materials shown at one time.

Several large shipments have brought the most beautiful fabrics—beautiful in colorings, weaves and in their soft, loose draping qualities.

Anyone who contemplates new drapes this coming season should see these while quantities are sufficient of one pattern. Prices range from 10c up to \$4.00 yard.

In Learning. In learning, age and youth go for nothing; the best informed take the precedence.—Chinese.

J. BLACK—L. A. STOOB

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Watch This Space for Bargaining

This monument, erected to the memory of Joseph Bradford Carr, in Oakwood Cemetery, New York, is a combination of classic and modern ideas in monument work.

—We have made a profound study of monument building, and an order placed in our hands is sure to receive faithful, intelligent execution.

We Will Gladly Furnish Estimates

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1502 S. Ave., La Grande, Or.

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—MACHINE SHOP AND FOUNDRY  
All kinds of machinery, automobiles and tractors repaired, overhauled and rebuilt.  
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Cylinder boring and oversize pistons.  
Crankshafts, Pistons and Piston Pins reground.  
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D. FITZGERALD, Prop.