

The Observer

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BRUCE DENNIS, Editor

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The South Diversifies

A Department of Agriculture report shows that ten leading cotton states have cut their cotton this year to the extent of 19,194 acres, or 28 per cent of last year's average. This is not so great a reduction as some cotton men urged, but it is remarkable, nevertheless. There have been considerable reductions, too, in rice and tobacco, though they are far less expensive.

And what has been done with the acreage withdrawn from the main crop of the South? More than 6,000,000 acres have been devoted to the production of foodstuffs. Corn leads, with a gain of 4,500,000 acres, or 13 per cent over last year. Wheat has gained 10 per cent in planted area, oats 13 per cent, hay 5 per cent, sorghum and cane 10 per cent, potatoes 10 per cent. There have been also increased plantings of cowpeas, soy beans, velvet beans, and other less important food crops.

Thus the unfortunate experience of the Cotton Belt with suddenly deflated prices is producing results which are impressive this year and may be still more so hereafter. The Cotton Belt as a whole seems to have learned its lesson. Some sections have ignored the plain teaching of experience, and neglected to diversify their crops, and are now suffering accordingly, having neither cotton-money to buy food nor food raised by themselves. The figures given, however, indicate a very pronounced swing to the production of foodstuffs along with cotton, giving a balanced production on which the wise and provident planter making this change can at least live, and live without danger of pellagra, whether cotton pays or not.

These figures, too, do not give credit for the increased production of beef, dairy products, poultry and eggs. A few years of continued progress along this line, and the South need no fear again such a business blight as that of these last two years.

Retain Historic Names

Many historic names and places, especially familiar to the early-day people, are vividly re-impressed by the road activities along the Grande Ronde river canyon toward Kamela. To the majority the names imply nothing, but to those who lived here as far back as the '70s or early '80s, they have sentimental value and importance.

Everybody is familiar with Oro Dell, and the new bridge there will probably retain that name in the nomenclature of bridges and overheads up the Grande Ronde river. As time goes on, need of specific names for bridges and overheads will impress itself on the public, and the Observer arises to remark that it would be just the right thing to hook up the new bridges with old tradition and leave them as permanent monuments to familiar old names.

For instance the bridge just below Perry should be known as Bear Canyon bridge, to our way of thinking. That is the name of the canyon close by.

The overhead just above Perry connects with the south side of the river at the Matheson point, a place named after a pioneer millman of Perry, Ole Matheson. Black Flat is also a popular and well-known term at present, and as a bridge is to span the river and tracks near there, "Black Flat Overhead" would be a good addition to the bridge nomenclature. It conveys traditional lore.

Hawes bridge is fresh in the minds of the old-timers who wended their weary way to and from the Stacey Prairie, or the John Day, and "Hawes Bridge" it should remain, even if the structure is wholly new and vastly more substantial than the old. The Hawes bridge will also have the double significance of being the junction point of the mountainside grade with the Grande Ronde river canyon.

Our Troops in Germany

There is well-defined sentiment in Washington, as throughout the country, in favor of prompt withdrawal of American troops from German soil, now that a state of war between the United States and the imperial German republic has ceased to exist. Some have even argued that we no longer have a right to be there.

But this country has maintained military forces in China ever since the Boxer rebellion. There is a regiment of infantry permanently stationed in Tientsin, and a detachment of marines at Peking. The Marine Corps is also represented in Haiti and in Nicaragua, and has been for years.

The Treaty of Versailles, which Germany signed, canceled the right of the "allied and associated nations" to maintain troops in German territory. The United States has not ratified that document, but that fact has no bearing on the right of occupation. Moreover, withdrawal at this time might greatly handicap any effort to compel Germany to pay the indemnities she has promised.

The Army of Occupation is costing approximately \$150,000,000 a year, but under the terms of the armistice Germany must foot the bill. If Americans, or Germans, desire to hasten the withdrawal of these troops, they should interest themselves, first of all, in enabling and inducing the German

IN THE OLD HOME TOWN



SKINNY TIBBETS RETURNS HOME FOR A VISIT AFTER BEING AWAY FIFTEEN YEARS.

government to discharge all its obligations. The troops are there to make sure that Germany does not forget.

When a Political Unit Runs Out of Money

When a state, a county or a city runs out of money and its borrowing ability has been hedged in by state laws, then such a political unit is "broke," so to speak. It becomes very much like the substantial citizen who ties himself up in property so that he cannot obtain any more "liquid" funds. "Liquid," in short, means coin of the realm—cash—filthy lucre—MONEY; and without it business grinds and groans much as does a heavy piece of machinery without grease.

That is what is the matter with Union county at the present time—she is short on grease—liquid funds—and, therefore, the wheels of her business are grinding. The banks of the county are carrying their portion of the load for they are each counting several thousands of dollars in county paper. For them to go stronger would mean poor banking, as the farmers are now in need of funds to buy twine, pay harvest labor and harvest the big crop. No banker can afford to let his ranch customers suffer at a time like this, and we do not believe any good rancher will suffer for immediate funds to take care of anything that will perish. But to do this the county has been informed by the banks that they are done cashing warrants.

What happens when such a condition confronts an individual?

He usually piles up his tools and plays a waiting game. It looks like the county would have to do the very same thing. In the fall tax money will begin to come and then business can proceed, and under ordinary conditions when county credit could command funds to meet expenses in the interim there would be no particular rough spots encountered as funds could be borrowed and work continued with the knowledge that in autumn tax money would come in and cover the loans.

But this is rather an unprecedented condition in financial matters. That circulating medium called money is dodging and hiding worse than a sage hen before a band of Union county hunters. Money is almost impossible to procure for any purpose, and therefore it should not be surprising if the county work planned had to lay over and wait until funds are available.

The Schools

Following is an editorial in the Eastern Clackamas News, from the pen of Rev. Upton H. Gibbs, formerly of La Grande:

"The question concerning the public schools which Bruce Dennis, editor of the La Grande Observer, addressed to the Oregonian, which we printed in this column last week, with a part of the Oregonian's reply, were answered more fully by Dean Straub of the University of Oregon. He is apparently reasonable, but reads too much like the attorney for the defense.

However, the fact remains that there is a serious questioning as to the efficiency of the present system of education in the public schools, as so many graduates are deficient in the common branches, being poor readers, poor writers, poor arithmeticians, poor in spelling and poor in grammar. Dean Straub claims that of the 15,000 students that have passed through the university during his residence, 70 per cent were fairly well grounded in the fundamentals, 30 per cent being well grounded. But how about the 30 per cent who were not even fairly well grounded. These must have been graduates from the high schools.

"It is significant that the university dropped 100 lately, for not being up to the mark, and the University of Washington, year before last, dropped 500, or about 5 per cent of its student body.

That the present school system tends to superficiality instead of thoroughness, was acknowledged at Atlantic City recently, where the National Educational Association met. This body suggested longer school terms as a possible correction of the

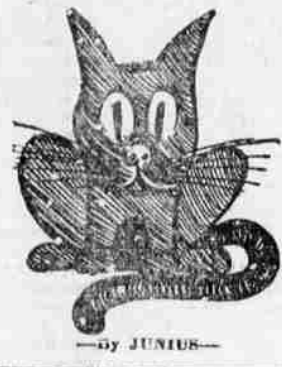
unmistakable modern tendency to make education "easy" at the expense of thoroughness.

Here is the root of the matter. For some years past, there has been a continuous effort to make things easy for the pupils. An old teacher, some twenty-five years ago, remarked to the writer that there was too much mental masturbation done for the pupils.

The result has been disastrous and detrimental to their true interests. And along with this there has been a speeding up process, so that instead of putting the book through the pupil, the pupil has been put through the book. In education, slow and sure is the safest motto.

The road to learning is of necessity, steep and arduous. If the attempt is made to level and hard surface it, those who travel it will be doomed to failure and disappointment.

THE OFFICE CAT



—BY JUNIUS—

If root beer ran in the river,
If food had been found in the
I wonder how much (at the fountain)
A glass of plain water would bring

If one might have for the making
Things smothered with good things
And water was sold by the glassful,
I wonder how much we would pay?

The brew of the lime and the lemon
Will both be found pleasantly nice
With a frosting of beads on the goblet,
To the tune of the tinkling of ice.

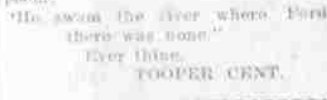
The kids who dispense at the fountain
Have hundreds of drinks at their call,
But when THEY get thirsty they grab for
The water, the first thing of all.

So I wonder, if grape juice were gratis,
Right when the weather was warm,
If we wouldn't pay well to get water,
As the real drink to quench that old thirst.

TOOPER CENT.

TOOPER'S Startling Discovery
Says—Did you know that the fly-
ver was immortalized by the late
Sir Walter Scott in his Lochjivva poem?
"He swam the river where Ford
there was none."
Ever thine,
TOOPER CENT.

Cruel, Cruel, Woman
IT IS SOLELY NOT
TO EAT THESE
GREEN APPLES



OH-OH-OH

W. West & Co
THE QUALITY STORE

What A Man Wants For A Summer Shirt

Variety of Sheer Light Fabrics Just in.

Shirts with soft attached collars of finest imported Silk Pongee. A style very popular this season. These are in all sizes now and priced at \$5.50.

Also dress shirts with stocked neckbands of fine imported Silk Pongee. All sizes complete. Priced at \$5.50.

A lovely soft material in pongee color. The laundering and wearing qualities of this material are the best of all cotton fabrics. These are made with soft attached collars also. All sizes. Priced at \$2.50 each.

Clearance Sale of PALM BEACH SUITS \$16.90

Sizes 35, 40, 42 and 46 only are the sizes in this final clearance, at a price a trifle less than their cost. These suits should find enthusiastic buyers as the styles are very staple—plain tailored suits that will be worn with even more popularity next summer than at present. Choice at \$16.90 each.

Golf Shirts

Pure white Golf Shirts of coolest of white materials—in style they are like the Pongee shirts, with soft collars attached, buttoning down at each corner. All sizes complete. Priced at \$5.50 each.

New
HART, SCHAFFNER & MARX
Samples

Several dozen new fall samples of tailored suits and overcoats arrived this morning. Those who desire their suits made to measure will delight in looking over these latest additions to our exceptionally large variety.

Staggering Figures

Last evening's issue of the Observer contained figures on the proposed water system improvement by engineers who have devoted time and energy to ascertaining feasible routes for pipelines, estimating costs of construction and recommending to the people of La Grande what seems best for future as well as present needs.

The engineering work has been done honestly and fearlessly. No attempt has been made to minimize prices and deceive the people into starting a system which after once started would require a second and perhaps a third bond issue to complete.

But the figures on every proposition outlined are staggering, perfectly bewildering and the Observer confesses that it feels like some one had hit us on the head with a club. Everyone in the city feels the same way and it will take a few days for us all to get our bearings again.

Which course is the best to pursue is a matter to be determined and it should be considered in a thoroughly dispassionate manner with the view to getting a permanent water supply for the city at the least possible cost.

One thing remains a certainty—La Grande must have water and plenty of it. Just how and from what system is a matter for consideration, but water we must have.

We'll Have to Back Up

The Observer is going to offer an apology to the large crowd that filled the Arcade theatre last evening expecting to see La Grande homes and La Grande children handsomely photographed. This paper urged attendance on the strength of recommendations the Balboa artists presented. As a matter of positive fact it was the poorest attempt at photography we have ever seen and this city has a hundred amateurs who can and do make better pictures. The statement made that the Arcade equipment would not show the pictures clearly is erroneous entirely for the theatre is equipped with modern projecting machines and every performance shows that when pictures are properly made they show up clearly on the screen.

The boys who made the local pictures must be beginners in the work. They fooled us all, and the Observer apologizes to the people for having recommended the pictures. It might be mentioned that the Arcade management was as badly disappointed in the work as any of us.

Henry Ford's generous offer of \$2,000,000 for a nitrate plant that cost the government \$80,000,000 or so, shows very neatly the difference between private and public enterprise.

The end of business depression will probably come when people have taken their summer vacations, and recovered from them.

The Russian famine belt isn't the only one. Why not a little aid for the Cotton Belt, right here at home?

Maybe America needed the rest cure after the armistice, but what it needs now is the work cure.

Those war bonds are going up now, but Uncle Sam's word is still a good deal better than his bond.

Old Colonel Remorse gets all of us once in a while and the old boy is right on the job when it comes to "collecting" for misdeeds. He makes us lose sleep and causes our hair to turn grey and the best thing we can do is to keep on good terms with him.

We own no soda fountain, or we would change the tune. We will rewrite the above impassioned outburst and boast any good soft drink on the market if the proper arrangements are made. Soft drink makers will find that we can be reasoned with.

Dr. Mossman has discovered that Dr. C. E. Golly is a dentist in Spencer, Ia. Tip for advertising slogan: "Have your teeth pulled by Golly."

Many a man who thinks he is the picture of health is only the picture of high blood pressure.

When're the calves are lean and lank,
The skirts grow long and ought-to
But when she yields a shapely slank,
Then it grows short and shorter.

Paylove says the less you wear the longer you live. That being the case some of the girls will never die.

Good horsemanship is not necessary in riding a hobby, remarks Robert Withycombe, of Union.

Our Own Hall of Fame
Der Ed.—Did you know that Will Fall lives at North Vernon, Indiana?

The Charter Election
A discussion of the different amendments to be voted on August 9th.

Amendment No. 11
(Providing for repeal of certain sections)

If the public adopts the method of issuing warrants for sale of property, for delinquent improvement assessments, as explained previously, Sections 6, 8 and 9 of the City Charter will become useless and should be repealed. This amendment repeals such measures of the present charter.

This concludes the series of explanations on charter amendments to be voted on August 9th.

Same Old Story But a Good One.
Mrs. Mahala Burns, Savanna, Mo., relates an experience, the like of which has happened in almost every neighborhood in the country, and has been told and related by thousands of others, as follows: "I used a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic and Diarrhoea remedy about one year ago and it cured me of flux (dysentery). I had another attack of the same complaint three or four years ago and a few doses of this remedy cured me. I have recommended it to dozens of people since I first used it and shall continue to do so for I know it is a quick and positive cure for bowel trouble."

Special For Saturday

2 pound roll of butter	88c
Fresh salted Peanuts, lb.	15c
Fresh Tomatoes, lb.	10c
Fresh green roasting ears, doz.	35c
Fresh Tomatoes, by the crate	\$1.40

Full line of fresh fruits and vegetables

Satisfaction Guaranteed—Free Delivery

Joel's Grocery

Superfine Bread

Made With Milk
Demand it from your Grocer

English Madeira Cake 40c each
Vienna Coffee Cake Filled with Citron and Orange peel 40c each
Lemon Cream Pie
Made from luscious California lemons and rich custard cream 25c and 35c each
Afternoon Tea Sponge Cake
Cuts into 8 good slices 25c each

Machpherson's Bakery