

# The Observer

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## IN THE OLD HOME TOWN



### These "Gloomy Gus" Days

Theodore Price, business expert, finds a "strange recrudescence of pessimism" throughout the country lately, in contrast to the spirit of hopefulness that had begun to spread.

"During my entire career," he says, "I have never known a time when the minds of men were more receptive to unfounded rumors of bad news."

Every pretext, plausible or absurd, is seized upon as a harbinger of evil. Business men seem so bent on giving events the worst interpretation that they strangely overlook the factors which, in their normal state of mind, would be self-evident proof of improving conditions.

Never, suggests this writer, was there more convincing evidence of a "psychological" depression. The business world seems to be infected with what in an individual would be termed melancholia.

Since the condition is mainly mental, so is the cure. That is to say, it is not so much a case of waiting for improving business of itself to chase away this gloom. It is a case of attacking the gloom as the perquisite of improving business. Every logical analysis shows that the basic conditions are right for a great increase of activity in manufacture and trade. It is only a question how soon the activity will start, and what its rate of speed will be; and those factors will probably be determined mainly by the state of mind of business leaders. If business men are hopeful, confident and courageous, prosperity will come thick and fast. If they are doubtful and hesitant, the revival may be so slow as to realize their own forebodings.

"Thoughts are things." This is true in business if it is true anywhere. The way to resume prosperity is to resume thinking prosperity, and acting accordingly.

### Claim That is Questionable One Cent--But Who Gets It?

Granting the legitimate grievances of the railroads, which are many, the public is inclined to think they were putting it on a bit thick when, as a part of their claims for reimbursement, they handed the government a bill for many millions for alleged inefficiency of labor during the federal guarantee period.

The Interstate Commerce Commission has ruled that the government is responsible only for the guarantee it gave the roads of a definite income for a certain period following federal control, and intimates that if employees failed to do their duty during that period, it is up to the railroad authorities themselves.

The allowances made to the transportation lines for that period were intended mainly to cover the wage increases allowed by the government. The commission thinks that if employees failed to do their duty during that period, it is up to the railroad authorities themselves.

It is not altogether apparent that the railroad operators themselves worked with the old-time efficiency in the period now happily ending. If what Henry Ford has been doing with a broken-down railroad is any criterion, the transportation business as a whole has not been earning its pay for some time, and would not earn it as long as there was any chance of government subsidy.

After reading that an Austrian was recently sentenced to pay a fine of 30,000 crowns or spend 10 days in jail, we conclude that there's only one other thing as bad as Austrian jails, and that's Austrian money.

Water may be an acquired taste, but it doesn't taste so bad, after all, when people once get used to it.

The Georgia legislature has levied a tax of one cent a gallon on gasoline and other motor fuels in anticipation that by this means the revenue of the state will be increased \$1,000,000 a year. The gasoline distributing companies, in order to reimburse themselves, have raised the retail price one cent a gallon and are collecting from the public.

This was the expected result, since the bill places the tax upon bulk shipments into the state, and the state treasurer is directed to collect from the distributors. The consumer, who had been paying 22 cents, now pays 23 cents, and everyone seems happy.

Dispatches do not make plain to just what purpose the odd cent is to be devoted, but one thing is sure. If the Georgia legislature will put the money into highway improvement there will be comparatively little complaint. There are, indeed, few motorists in any state who would balk at such a tax were they assured that the receipts served that purpose.

Since the first automobile ran, the funny papers have assumed that the motorist and the agriculturist are necessarily enemies. If the city motorist's money is to build roads along which the farmer may take his crops to market, the ill-feeling cannot long survive.

### The Triumphant Bathing Suit

One philosopher wants to make the world's songs and another its laws but the man who is looking for profit should consider making the world's bathing suits.

Right now, when the best hope of the bather is that his old suit will last through the season, the manufacturer and dealer are busy with next year's stock. Men's suits, it is reported, will be of somber hue, mostly but the women's will be gayer than ever. For cut, the three-piece suit of wool has become practically a standard.

Even more interesting than the change in styles and colors which have marked the progress of the bathing suit during the last decade is the amazing growth of the industry itself. Not only has the practice of swimming increased to great proportions wherever there are good natural facilities for such sport, but its popularity has penetrated far inland. In fact, the building of pools in inland sections is increasing to such an extent as to make the provision of suits for that trade alone an important business.

What more cheerful and wholesome news could a nation ask? Before we sink into hopeless pessimism, as to the nation and its habits, let us scan the report of the bathing suit dealers.

The motor industry has revived, while the building industry still languishes. Looks as if we've been all wrong about the housing shortage, and it isn't homes that are needed, but automobiles.

No doubt Mr. Volstead is to blame, too, for the hot, dry summer.

## Three Things That Save You Money On Fall Clothes

- 1—General Price Reduction of 34%
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put into their clothes saves you, because they last longer. And because we want to get prices lower yet.

We're selling on as small a margin of profit as is possible. You'll find we've brought together some real values here this fall, for the business man, the young man and the student. And let us advise you fellows who are going away to college, to come in and pick the cream now. They're here, \$20 to \$60.

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### THE OFFICE CAT

Oh, what is so rare as a nose in bloom?  
Those were surely the good old days,  
Then we drank all that we could consume  
And still on our noses a soft glow stays.  
But hope has revived again, for just this week,  
We heard we could start to recolor our beak.  
We can make all the home brew the boiler will hold,  
No pesky neighbors will dare now to scold.  
Of course, we won't sell it, why certainly not  
Just leave us a dollar in some well-known spot.  
If a bottle should stand where the dollar reposed,  
Why, just help yourself, sir, and keep your mouth closed.  
For in this fair city in which we now dwell  
No home brew or moonshine could you buy or sell  
Wherever you'd look or whenever you'd listen  
You would always hear talk of this "Strict Prohibition!"  
So go to it boys, drink your moonshine and brew  
And to "Strict Prohibition" bid a last fond adieu.

The Poet's Rosary.  
The hours I've spent in writing  
Were long and weary, I'll confess,  
I've written had—I've written worse  
To gain success, to gain success!  
I count those hours one by one  
That now have gone beyond recall,  
And though great stacks of work I've done  
Success is small.

Some screen stars should be behind it instead of on it, says Don Meyer.

From the same flower the bee extracts honey and the wasp gall.

There isn't much credit in being an optimist when every little thing is going smoothly. Smiling under difficulties is the true test of a man's mettle.

So Look, Brown.  
"Sorry, Brown," said the doctor after the examination. "You're in a very serious condition. I'm afraid I'll have to operate on you."  
"Operate?" gasped Brown. "Why I haven't any money for an operation. I'm only a poor working man."  
"You're insured, are you not?"  
"Yes, but I don't get that until I'm dead."  
"Oh, that'd be all right," said the doctor, consolingly.

In the Dark  
He seized her in the dark and kissed her;  
For a moment bliss was his.  
"Oh," he said, "I thought it was my sister!"  
She laughed and said, "It isn't!"

Remember the fellow whose job it was to shoo the flies away from the horse as the blacksmith nailed on iron galoshes?

Jack Dempsey doesn't care whether the bonus bill passes or not.

O. C. Silverthorne says a man is as old as he looks; a woman is never old.

Mother is the necessity of inventing some way to keep house these days without indulging in luxuries.

Girl slinks into department store and asks for a pair of roll tops. Floor walker doesn't know whether to conduct her to the office furniture section or shoo her to the hosiery.

"Rubber heels," claims an ad, are a great relief to the spine. Yeah, when the spine is anchored to a swivel chair, rubber heels keep the feet from slipping off the desk.

There are no millionaire poets.

If you want to make people unpleasant, look unpleasant.—If you want to inspire happiness and confidence, look pleasant.

William Jennings Bryan has been pinched for speeding. This never happened to him when he was running for office.

More than likely you were considered a handsome baby.

### Country Club Notes

High Lights About the Links, Club House and Natatorium.

New Approach Constructed.  
After this week the temporary and rather inconvenient approach to the Country Club picnic grounds will have been abandoned and a new one put to use, farther down the park. The contractors building the high-way have freened in sufficient loose dirt and rock to make an even-grade approach, reachable from either direction, and also improves the appearance of the place a great deal.

Handicaps Being Fixed.  
All scores turned in this week and next will be used to fix handicaps for the President's trophy, which President G. Earl Stoddard will award this fall. The actual play for the trophy will take place September 4th, but in order to have handicaps determined, the scores made by all players between now and a week from Sunday must be turned in. This tournament is open to all, and because a player is now at the game in no wise means he is outclassed. The handicaps will be so arranged that positively every person will have equal chance, whether shark or dub.

Pick Tournney Fight.  
During the coming 10 days scores turned in will determine which eight men shall represent the La Grande club in the four-cornered tournament to be held here the Saturday and Sunday following September 4. On that account many who play consistently around 55 and under, are taking particular pains with their strokes these days.

Being relatively new at golf as a whole and tournaments in particular, it behooves members who are itching to witness the big tournament, to brush up on the etiquette of the game. There are some things a gallery must not do, and in order to be right, it is safest to get right in advance. The rules are simple but their observance must be rigid if La Grande attain the reputation of being a courteous host.

Candies for Occasions.  
Candies for occasions. The higher qualities and the favorite kinds of box candies for gift purposes can be had at Al Cain's Palace Confectionery.

Everyone should get to the woods for a few days now before the chills blast off Mt. Emily make it more pleasant to sit by the fireside.

Russia couldn't be saved from the Bolsheviks, but it will be saved in spite of them.

The Very Best Medicines—When You Need Them Most.

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Delivery is a specialty at Silverthorn's and this particularly in relation to prescriptions. In all other lines also—anything that you want at any time during business hours you can get by the simple process of telephoning your order. Remember our store, remember our goods, remember our service and remember the facility which your nearby telephone allows, placing you in instant touch with our store and on our promise to deliver to you anything that you may want.

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