

The Observer

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER
Published daily and weekly at La Grande, Oregon, by La Grande Evening Observer Publishing Company.
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Entered at the Postoffice at La Grande, Oregon, as Second Class Mail Matter.
Address all communications to THE OBSERVER, 1116 Adams Ave., La Grande, Oregon.

CITY AND COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER

On sale in other cities—Oregon Hotel News Stand, Portland; Imperial News Stand, Portland; Mulnomah News Stand, Portland.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
By Carrier:
Daily, per month \$1.75
Daily, per three months \$5.25
Daily, per six months \$10.00
Daily, per year \$18.00
By Mail:
Daily, per year in advance \$18.00
Daily, six months in advance \$10.00
Daily, three months in advance \$5.25
Daily, per month \$1.75
Weekly Observer-Star, by mail, per year in advance \$1.50

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Railroad Business Improves

Do you hear the puffing of the switch engines these clear nights as they kick the loaded cars around in the La Grande terminal, making up trains for the east and west?

Well, that means more railroad business. That means that the worst is over and hereafter there will probably be a steady increase even though it be slow.

A few nights ago eighty-seven carloads of fruit were handled in these yards. Grain is also moving, and the shipments from east to west are getting much heavier. It all looks better. There is cause to feel that the rough place has passed and that more normal conditions will prevail in the future.

If the lumber business was going at all the railroads would have all they could do.

The coal miners say they will strike now and the mine operators tell them to go to it, for the operators claim they are making no money. The general public is not giving a rap while the weather is warm either, so pull it off you fellows who don't care whether you eat or not.

Oil is running out of the mountains of Nome but John D. Rockefeller, who has gone through all the years of experience, says let 'er run, and goes out to play his daily game of golf.

Seaside had a bathing girls parade, which is said to have been "most charming." Soon the fig leaf.

Newspapers now are crime bulletins. What will next year bring?

A Monumental Prison

The state of Ohio, normally upset about something or other, is concerned just now with the problem of a new penitentiary. The plans call for the expenditure of \$27,000,000. That is a lot of money, even for a lavish commonwealth. The public, though, would probably have stood for it as usual if a level-headed and plain-speaking architect had not announced that same penitentiary building could be built for \$9,000,000. The other \$14,000,000, he explained was for "architectural gingerbread work" and other superfluities.

The trouble arose from the fact that the authorities who planned the penitentiary deemed it necessary, as usual, to construct a "monumental building." Just why a place meant to house criminals must be "monumental" is a question that has never been satisfactorily answered, yet it is considered the proper thing nearly everywhere in the United States.

Why, indeed, does the idea persist that every public building, regardless of the use to which it is to be put, must have the exterior lines of a Greek temple or a Roman palace? Many a postoffice and city hall has its usefulness cut in half by such procedure, though the cost is several times as much as private enterprise would have paid for a more suitable structure. Sometimes these buildings are artistically impressive, thus compensating partially for their cost and inconvenience. But often they are not even that.

The most useful type of building for most public business, as for most private business, is the several-story office-building type, which can be made more attractive than it usually is, without great additional expense. A good architect always conforms his building plans to the functions which the building is to perform, as a suit of clothes is fit to the body by a good tailor. Utility does not preclude beauty. The Woolworth Building is regarded by many as the most beautiful building in America. Too many of our "monumental" public buildings are monumental humbugs.

FALSTAFF.

"There was a man who had the right outlook on life. He had a good digestion. We need more men of his type in the world today. He was a great figure."

It is Maurice Casenave, French high commissioner in the United States, talking, and he is elaborating upon his declaration, "The greatest figure in history of the English-speaking world is undoubtedly Sir John Falstaff."

We wish that Mr. Casenave's interviewer had gathered more detail, but we may guess the high commissioner's reasons. Sir John, we know, was not all that he might have been in public or private life, but his failings were comfortable ones. He had a wholesome respect for the law and, though he might evade it, he never despised that it was fair. He had never heard of "social justice" and "unarmed increment" meant, even less to him than Pistol's mouthings. He had no desire to reform the world. He was an optimist. He had "a good digestion." Whatever his failings, he was good company, and good company can be forgiven many sins.

We must not misunderstand M. Casenave. The distinguished Frenchman is not blind to Falstaff's appetites and habits. He does see, how-

ever, the advantages of his state of mind. His "good digestion" was mental as well as physical. Just now the world is overburdened with indigestible ideals and desires.

Inspection Versus Repair

An automobile concern is establishing a service whereby every car of its make in the country can have a monthly inspection if the owner so desires. The mechanical condition of the car is thus ascertained frequently and the owner knows whether any small adjustments or repairs are needed. Attention to the small repairs prevents many a large repair bill due to negligence.

While the motives of the company may not be entirely altruistic, they are founded on a principle which all car owners would be sensible to consider. Even if the particular company from whom a car is bought does not maintain an inspection service, it would be money in the owner's pocket to have some competent mechanic look over his car regularly and often. If a stitch in time saves nine in the garment, how much more will a faulty part renewed in an automobile prevent increased damage and perhaps actual disaster.

Because women are notoriously ignorant of machinery, many of the dealers in household equipment offer inspection either free or for a ridiculous small sum. As a result the washer and the iron and the vacuum cleaner last long and do good work without expensive or extensive repairs.

When it comes down to brass tacks, most car owners know as little about the true inwardness of their cars as the woman does about her washing machine. For such as these, expert inspection means money in the pocket. And while we are on the subject, regular inspection of the human machine to detect weak spots is a pretty good thing, too.

It would never do, protests the Colorado Springs Gazette, to teach the Constitution in the schools. The children would grow up to be radicals. And really, when you sit right down and read it through with mature and conservative understanding, it's surprising how much dynamite there is in that old document.

If the Irish question and the Far Eastern question were settled, and Russia were saved from famine and Bolshevism, and the war in Asia Minor were ended, and the German indemnity paid, what would this poor old world to keep up an interest in life?

There's this much to be said for De Valera's contentment: It might not be any more dangerous for England to have an independent nation next door than it would be for Ireland.

Wanted, by a long-suffering Congress: A kind word from some citizen who is willing to pay some percentage of tax on something.

The Turkish war has got its geography mixed. It's the Turks in Europe who ought to be getting licked and driven out.

If Sinn Fein Ireland is only granted a divorce with the custody of Ulster, she'll waive the alimony.

This is America's golden age. Well, anyway, we've got more gold than ever before.

It's now Japan's turn for reservations and regional understandings.

Chicken Sandwiches.
Do not forget the Palace Confectionery Lunch—beginning Tuesday. Al Cain will serve chicken sandwiches and an elegant salad with his regular midday lunch, also an extra cup of hot chocolate, tea, pie and cake at a minimum price—11.30 to 1.30.

The biggest orchestra to play at a public dance in La Grande in many years will be on hand and work Wednesday night at the band benefit dance. 8-23-11

Call the La Grande Employment Office for your help. Always at your service. Phone Black 801. 8-23-11

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THE OFFICE CAT



—By JUNIUS—

Old Stuff.
We editors may dig and toil
THU our finger-tips are sore,
But some poor fish in pure to say,
"I've heard that joke before."

Alton, Kan. has raised a fund of \$1,000 to shoot away bootleggers. The drought came high.

Beauty is only skin deep, and lots of wisdom is in the same class, smelts a La Grande cynic.

Slow Progress.
It is going on twenty-one centuries since the beginning of the Christian era. Yet there are people of both sexes who will occupy four seats in a day-coach and permit a woman to stand in the aisle with a baby in her arms.

How Can You Ask?
Sir: My landlord likes to be addressed as "Colonel" but, in view of the fact that he has hosted my rent three times in the last four months, it strikes me that "Loot-monster" go to the show.

Her Essay On Man.
A little Western girl had to write a composition on men. This is it: Men are what women marry. They drink and smoke and swear. They don't go to church like women. Both men and women sprang from monkey, but woman sprang farther.

Showing Off.
The young man and his best girl go to the show.

FURS AT ALASKA PRICES!

I have on exhibition and for sale the finest collection of Alaska Furs in the Northwest, at the most reasonable prices ever offered to the La Grande public. Foxes, Mink, Bear, Seal, Muskrat and many others. The public is invited to inspect this collection, some of which are made up ready to wear.

CHRIS MILLER

1510 Adams Ave. Phone Red 671

would be more appropriate title. Are you wit me or ag'in me?"

Tooper Cent.
We often wonder what would happen if an ancient caveman were to marry a modern feminist.

Line. On Discovering That a Favorite Fowl Is A. W. O. L.—
Little bits of bread crumbs,
Little scraps of grub
Patten up a chicken
To feed some other dub.

Patron: (critically) WaYer, this plate you brought me has a spot on it.
Waiter: (apologetically) That isn't a spot, sir. That is the half portion of steak you ordered.

Men are slaves of coats. Even on these hot days, there are a lot of fellows in La Grande who persist in wearing the hot things.



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What the young man thinks that the others think:
"Say, but I gotta peach of a girl tonight; bet every guy in the house is wishin' he was here in my shoes by her side. I guess she ain't tickled with her little self to have me bring her here and get seats right up in front. Maybe I ain't no Adonis but I fit this dress suit like it was made for me. Gotta to get me one some day."

What the best girl thinks that the others think:
"I have to hand it to Bill for knowing enough to get the ol' extra seats when he's got a good-looking girl with him. Gosh, but I bet these dames would like to have my good looks. I guess I made a big bit with Bill tonight, but I'm not going to accept him then maybe I can land a man with a million or two. Nobody has got anything on me in Not a Jealous Girl."

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