

The Observer

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER
Published daily and weekly at La Grande, Oregon, by La Grande Evening Observer Publishing Company.
JULIUS DISNEN, Editor

Entered at the Postoffice at La Grande, Oregon, as Second Class Mail Matter.
Address all communications to THE OBSERVER, 1414 Adams Ave., La Grande, Oregon.

CITY AND COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

By Carrier
Daily, per month, 75c
Daily, per three months, \$2.25
Daily, per six months, \$4.50
Daily, single copy, 1c
By Mail
Daily, per year in advance, \$8.00
Daily, per six months in advance, \$4.50
Daily, per three months in advance, \$2.25
Daily, per month, 75c
Weekly Observer-Star, by mail, per year in advance, \$1.50

MEMBER OF ASSOCIATED PRESS.
The Associated Press is exclusively entitled to use for publication of all news dispatches credited to it or otherwise credited in this paper, and also the local news published therein. All rights of republication of special dispatches here also are reserved.

The Waste of Idleness

It has been estimated by the American Engineering Council that \$500,000,000 a year is lost in the building industry alone through unemployment. That is merely the average loss. This year it is probably more. And it is merely the loss in wages. That is serious enough in itself. To the people directly concerned it means hardship, sickness and disability, and the ultimate cost to them may be double the original loss in earnings. But that is only a beginning of the story.

The man who, by constructive work, makes money for himself also makes money for the man he works for—or more accurately speaking, he enables the man he works for to make money. Neither can make money without the other, any more than one blade of a pair of shears can cut without the other. The employing contractor, therefore, loses money. The capitalist or owner for whom he operates loses money. The unskilled buildings mean a loss for all who would use them. The dealers who sell materials for building lose money, and the people who manufacture and transport them lose money. Everybody who loses, directly or indirectly, causes incidental loss to those from whom he buys goods or services when he has the money. The loss thus finds its way, by all sorts of routes, through the whole structure of our economic society.

So idleness is the most destructive of all losses, because when one economic group loses through inaction, all the other groups lose, too.

Much of this loss is due to strikes and lockouts. More of it is due to the fact that building trades are "seasonal occupations" and it is regarded as inevitable that a large part of every year should be spent in idleness.

It is not inevitable. It is simply bad management. sooner or later some way will be found to keep builders employed the year around. The Federation of Labor is now taking that problem up with the federal government. Workers, employers and government, co-operating, ought to get somewhere with it.

They ought to get somewhere, too, in the elimination of strikes and lock-

outs. To let building stop because of disagreements over wages and working conditions is just as shiftless as to let it be regulated by the caprice of weather or climate.

Aerial Freight

Men have dreamed of aerial freight ever since the Wright brothers proved that men might fly. Long before the great war, Kipling's "with the Night Mail" was no less truly prophetic than truly imaginative.

The burden of high explosive bombs borne by German Zeppelins and allied aircraft on many fronts was proof enough of the possibilities which the future held. Now the British government makes public the actual value of aerial imports and exports passing through the customs of the United Kingdom in 1920.

Last year such imports, mostly of cloth and fur, totalled \$1,355,235 in value, and exports \$1,695,540. There is promise in these figures, as well as romance.

In this country commercial aviation has, as yet, been limited to the mails and to occasional freighting trips in which advertising, rather than business, ends were served. Passenger traffic has nowhere approached 11 volume that across the English channel. In fact, we have yet to develop our first regular air route for those on business bound who hope to reach their destinations safely as well as quickly.

There must be some reason for this strange inertia on the part of a people which has always boasted of its inventiveness and of the progressive spirit which actuates its business activities.

What is the reason, anyhow? Or are the progressiveness and the inventiveness alike figments of patriotic press agents' imagination?

At the Fair

The county fair has grown to be something more than a miscellaneous display of big apples, potatoes and pigs delicately interspersed with patchwork quilts and cheap side-shows. The fair today is a dignified demonstration of every phase of the life of a community.

Home and school are as vital as farm and garden. One big fair soon to be held in the Middle West is to feature displays dealing specifically with these two great factors.

Two homes will be shown, one poorly arranged for comfort and efficiency, the other well arranged and with modern equipment to make work easy. Two schools will be displayed, one badly lighted, seated, ventilated and equipped, the other arranged to the best possible advantage of teacher and pupil. The wrong kind of school is painfully prevalent everywhere, and much is hoped from this vivid demonstration.

Well balanced meals and good cookery will be a feature of the home exhibit. Proper school lunches ought to be a part of the school display. Both exhibits are to be in charge of persons especially fitted to answer questions and make helpful suggestions.

A fair run on such lines becomes more than an annual merry-making. It helps to make everyday life easier and more effective, and it gains in importance proportionately.

Sensible Traffic Arrests

Several progressive American cities have adopted a scheme for saving the time of police officers and traffic offenders. When the policeman halts a traffic violator, instead of halting him off to the police station on the instant he gives him a chance to appear in court on a certain date of his own free will. If the offender promises, he is allowed to proceed on his way. If he refuses, he is taken to the station at once and put under bond to appear. There are of course some serious violations which permit no such leniency.

Under the new system the officer is saved many unnecessary trips to the station, and can assemble for a single day all the cases in which he must prefer charges. The driver of the car in his turn is saved a tiresome and often serious delay.

Many offenders deserve immediate arrest, but more do not. Most traffic offenses are unintentional and trifling, working no real harm, while the errand upon which the offender is bound may be exceedingly important. In such cases the method which saves time for the officer and the driver, yet assures that the offender will receive due attention, is best for everybody.

IN THE OLD HOME TOWN



After some snoots looked right off the porch during an argument today, the ladies' thrumble club decided to hold all future meetings on the lawn.

ASchool Scandal

New York state probably likes to think of itself as "highly refined and thoroughly educated," like the Wogge-Bug in the Oz book, but its school reports do not point that way.

A recent survey shows that the state has 15 schools in which there is only one pupil, 62 schools with two pupils each, 167 with three pupils each, 392 with five pupils each, and over 3,000 with an enrollment not to exceed ten children each. Although all of these schools are too small to permit of efficient equipment and maintenance, virtually no steps for improvement are taken because of the indifference of the community," says the survey.

Many a western state settled long after New York would blush at such a report. Their fine centralized schools bear evidence of the intelligence which established them. But New York is not alone in her shame. The wretched little rural school, which costs out of all proportion to what it gives, is far too common in this country of reputed enlightenment.

There is no excuse for any such system in this day. The centralized school has proved its practicality, economy and worth. It is time that New York and a good many other states wake up to the fact.

Motor Foot

A new disease has been discovered. Strangely enough it is not one whose cure depends upon the use of alcoholic beverages. It is "motor foot," and consists of a displacement of the metatarsal bones of the right foot due to continued pressure upon the accelerator of a motor car. It is said to be very painful, and so many cases have been reported among western tourists that the California Police Society proposes to take the subject up for study at its convention next month.

The worst thing about this stylish trouble is that it makes walking hurt and interferes even more with golf, tennis and other active vacation sports, leaving the poor victim delugedly poised on his good foot beneath the devil and the deep sea, with no way to amuse himself except by sitting in a chair or walking on his hands.

Of course there will be mean souls to ask, "Why stop on the accelerator to offend? Why try to pass all the other cars on the road?" And such disagreeable questions the motorist will not be able to answer. He would not have motor foot if he were in the habit of using his head.

Oh, Judge Boyd of North Carolina seems to be against the child labor bills. Perhaps he thinks the average child does not work enough. He might be right.

Perhaps that billion dollars which congress has raised to export grain will not have as many hangers-on to draw salaries as did the shipping board during the war.

A robber in Portland held up a girl and cut off her hair. He was probably a bald-headed robber and appreciated the girl's hair more than her money.

The man who builds a house now has the courage of a Bengal tiger. If you don't believe it, try to do something about that line.

HIS STEADY JOB



It looks like the financial world was about to realize the worth of Union county bonds and make some attractive bids for them.

Pendleton murders are coming thick and fast. But Pendleton never takes a back seat—even when a crime wave is on.

A wild hawk was noticed on the spire of a Fifth Ave. church in New York the other day. Owing to the pigeons in the church belfry, it is supposed he came there to prey.

THE OFFICE CAT



—By JUNIOR—

A PARODY

(To the tune of "Old Black Joe")
Gone are the days when the boys were young and gay;
Gone are the bars, where they gave free lunch away;
Gone are the songs that we sang those days of yore;
No more we hear their voices calling "Just one more."

I'm drinking, I'm drinking, at the soda fountain now;
It seems that thing are going to the box-wow-wow.

Why do I weep when I see a grocery store?
Why do I sigh when I'm getting less for more,
Grieving for food at the prices long ago?
It seems my pocket book keeps saying "So Long Ho!"

I'm blowin' my dough in, with the prices staying high;
Like Bonnie Annie Laurie, let me lie down and die,
(Kindly omit flowers.)

A horse in the road is not half as dangerous as a pony of hootch in the tummy.

They used to carry corn to mill

PICTORIAL REVIEW PATTERNS

PICTORIAL REVIEW QUARTERLY 25c

Materials For Making

NEW FALL APPAREL

The coming of the new season ushers in many new and lovely weaves in rich autumn colorings for Fall Suits, Frocks, Skirts and Coats. Every yard of these materials ranks foremost in quality. There are new plaids and checks in medium weight materials—suitable for shirts. Also a number of fabrics, besides the serges, tricotine, jersey, etc.—in deep toned colorings for Autumn.

Here are suggested just a few fabrics that are attracting much attention at this time.

BOLIVIA

\$5.50 yd.

This popular material promises to be the big fabric in coats for the coming season. Rich in its colorings and weave of the material that drapes in long loose lines; is very choice for the seamstress and is inexpensive. 54 inches wide. Price, \$5.50 yd.

WOOL JERSEY

\$3.00 yd.

A material in a class by itself—wonderfully adapted to dresses for afternoon or street wear. It is in brown, navy and green. 54 inches wide. Priced at \$3.00 yard. One shade on display in our dress goods department.

COATINGS

Such a variety—the woman who is contemplating a coat, will be surprised to find how inexpensive these materials are, and how economical she can be in making her own coats as well as the children's. To appreciate the quality, the variety, the coloring, etc., these must be seen. Prices range from \$2.50 yd. to \$5.50 yd.

SILKS

Offering wide varieties in shades of taffetas, satins, messalines, Skinner's satins, Monte Carlo crepe, crepe satin, crepe mouton, crepe de chine, Georgette, etc. Also lining satins, figured and plain, wash satin, kimono silks and china silks. Let us help you with your ideas.

Clothes for Autumn

That Enhance Her Loveliness

The style notes of 1921-22 are going to be a joy to modern, practical women. Conservative, becoming and serviceable attire predominates everywhere.

Beautiful fall suits, coats, dresses and skirts are in our ready to wear department awaiting inspection of those who seek the new. Every woman's inspection is invited now—early enough to help crystallize your ideas.

Fall Millinery

THE NEW FALL MODELS IN GAGE HATS

May be seen in our millinery department (batterly) now, at their very best. You'll enjoy the spirit that prevails here, which goes far in making your selection the pleasurable event that it should be.

WE INVITE YOU NOW

PICTORIAL REVIEW PATTERNS
To Aid You in the Making—Cost 20c to 35c
There are none higher than 35c

Worthy

We have proven that we are worthy of the public's confidence. Our equipment is dignified and controlled. We plan our services carefully and execute them conscientiously.

Henry Funeral Directors

1505 Fourth St.
Phone Main 62
CLYDE E. ZIMMERMAN, Manager.

THE TELEPHONE

—is a servant always at command, that never tires; night or day, hot or cold, snow or rain, it is always ready to quickly, cheaply and cheerfully perform tasks that otherwise require time, expense, exposure and in cases every day, by its celerity, it saves lives and property of value almost beyond computation.

Home Independent Telephone Co.

USED CARS

- 1920 Baby Overland \$500.00
- 1917 Dodge \$500.00
- 1918 Dodge \$575.00
- 1919 Dodge \$700.00
- 1918 Buick Touring \$500.00
- 1917 Studebaker Six \$250.00

Smith's Garage

LA GRANDE, ORE.

VELTEX GASOLINE

LUBRICATING OILS and GREASES
"None Better"

The following dealers will sell you the High Test "VELTEX" Gasoline and Oils

- L. C. Smith
- Union Motor Co.
- La Grande Imp. Co.
- W. H. Bohnenkamp
- R. W. Leighton
- Clyde Kiddle
- Lindsey & Mires
- Highway Service Sta.

In Cove call for it at W. F. Brashear's Store
In Union at Oregon Trail Garage
C. G. Craver
Union Hdw. Co.
In Imbler L. B. Kiddle
A. Page & Son
O. L. Squires

Call for the "Veltex" products before you fill. I am sure the results will please you.

Grande Ronde Oil Co. Inc.

T. R. MAXWELL, Mgr.
Phone Main-1203 Rings — Plant at Island City