

# The Observer

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## Secret Conference Is All Right

There is the sheepest lot of folly attached to the burrah about diplomatic conferences being open to the public. Anyone who has ever attempted to do anything in a public way knows there is positively no argument in such statements.

The coming conference in this country to disarm should be secret and the fellow who stree' corners around yelling what should and should not be done usually has no ideas worth while but merely rattles like an empty wagon going down hill.

The Observer thoroughly believes in secret diplomacy. We do not think this nation, with its many enemies inside its borders, could afford to let the public know its intentions or desires on international affairs.

We elect men to office in the United States because we have confidence in their ability and judgment. If they cannot meet the problems it is

certain that the rank and file cannot do so on a moment's notice.

Secretary Hughes is secretary of state because of his especial fitness for the position. He studies and is familiar with international problems and is therefore best fitted for handling such questions. To make the conference and open forum would only mean a serious handicap on the men who are striving hard to get the best results for this nation.

## Here's to Buffalo

According to the Oregonian's trade expert, Buffalo, New York, has passed the trade paralysis period. Good for Buffalo. Now if the fine idea will only extend across the country until it hits the Pacific coast all will be well.

Buffalo is a manufacturing city. Her wares are made by labor and her markets are the markets of this and other countries. In these agricultural districts things are quite different. We live from products of the soil. There is no way for producers to band together and establish prices, or there never has been in the past, like manufacturers do. The law of supply and demand, subject to a further manipulation by brokers and dealers, has ever governed the destiny of the farm sections.

We are very anxious to see what the trade expert will say when he hits Iowa and states located on toward the Pacific.

## La Grande as a Distributing Center

Location has everything to do with a distributing center.

La Grande has such a location. We did not buy it, neither did we take it from any other city. It is the natural conditions that make it.

All Eastern Oregon could and should be served from La Grande. It is essentially the hub of the great Eastern Oregon country.

To the west is Pendleton and the

Umatilla country, to the north and east is Willowa county and to the south and east is Baker, Malheur and Grant counties, all tributary to this city.

La Grande is in her infancy as a supply point. As time goes on this will be demonstrated. That this city is the place to break car lot shipments in a local freight is very apparent and in years to come many firms will follow the example of the wholesale grocery houses, which have chosen this point as the place for wholesaling and jobbing.

## The City Menace

American pride has often led to the expression of gratification over the astonishing growth of our cities. Of late years urban population has increased more rapidly in the United States than in any other country, and frequently we are tempted to regard this as necessarily an evidence of genuine progress. The Old World is wiser. It knows that while it is good for small cities to grow larger, the process cannot continue indefinitely without danger.

General Pietro Badoglio, second in command of the Italian armies in the World War, who is now visiting America, voices the point of view of his more experienced countrymen. "American cities are growing at an amazing rate," he told interviewers in Chicago. "This growth must be checked at all costs. I have seen between Chicago and New York great stretches of farmland devoid of habitation. This land must be cultivated to keep up the balance between industry and agriculture."

The balance to which the general refers has already been sadly disturbed. The 1920 census showed that more than half of the people of the United States are now city dwellers. For decades the trend has been appreciably in that direction. Latterly the influx of aliens who prove increasingly difficult of assimilation has accelerated our cities' gain.

There are some who find comfort in the belief that "the city is the hope of democracy," but they have not read their history. The story of the ancient world, of mediaeval Italy, of modern France and still more modern Russia, gives their theory the lie.

General Badoglio is altogether right but his statement, which concerns itself largely with the economic phase, is hardly broad enough. The political history of cities has usually shown first the rule of business, then of mobs, and then of tyrants or corrupt oligarchies. No tyrant has ever long oppressed a race which owned the land it cultivated—and no mob.

It's worth thinking about, this Italian soldier's warning.

## FORUM

**MUCH MUSICAL TALENT**  
Mr. Editor: I would like to say a few words to the La Grande people. They have been misinformed about the orchestras in town. There are three orchestra leaders here, Kenneth Gekler, E. K. Parker, G. Lindsey and 80 or 90 good musicians besides the ones that play with Lindsey.

It looks like there was something wrong that there can't be but one orchestra playing at a time when there are so many musicians in town. As for myself, I don't play anything.  
—An Outsider.

**MORE HISTORIC DATA**  
Editor Observer: In the Observer of August 5-21, in an article under the heading "Retain Historic Names"

that is well worded and no doubt will meet with the approval of all. And there is another historic name in the grande Ronde valley that is slowly but surely slipping away from the people of that country. I refer to "Hendershott's Point" as it was called in years gone by; and has since been called "Phy's Point" and "Conley's Point" and as years go by will be called "Brown's Point," "Jones' Point," etc. according to who owns the place. Something should be done to preserve its first name for the future. But who will take the burden upon themselves to do this?

It is not at all probable that the pioneer association has any surplus cash for this purpose but at their annual meeting can't something be done in the way of personal subscriptions to erect a small monument by the roadside at the "Point" with proper inscription to preserve the original name Hendershott's Point? Who will take the burden upon themselves to do this? You can depend on me to do my share.  
GEO. E. CORPE,  
El Monte, California, 8-20-21.

## THE OFFICE CAT



**THE POET'S CORNER**  
There is simply nothing to it. I have always been aware personally of my fatal beauty, but somehow or other it never seemed to attract much outside attention. At last, however, some positive proof of the tremendous influence I exercise, as set forth in the following lines from our little friend "L. H. W."

Sing, sing ye little birds a joyous carol from each wooded dell,  
And let the roving winds that romp across the fields in glad news tell:  
Ring out a joyous anthem from the towers! and let the echoes shout the news again! For Junius is back,  
My blues are put to rout.  
Once more I spend my hard earned Jiney for an Observer and quickly turn  
Each evening to read his column, and I spurn  
The work of lesser lights that shed their rays across the pure  
To see how Junius his matchless satire will engage  
And reading—laugh—and laughing, find the day  
Is brighter than it was while Junius was away.

Some time the hardest blow you can give an enemy is to ignore him.

Who knows anything better to eat than fried chicken, roasting ears and watermelon?

**CONSISTENCY**  
"Oh, doctor, I am suffering so much I want to die!"  
"You did perfectly right to call me."


The tariff on poker chips has been cut ten per cent, if you wanted something to rejoice about.

Did you ever hear of a beach censor objecting to a man's bathing suit?

A La Grande telephoreon says a man really in love will never admit that white shoes make his girl's feet look larger.

Relatives naturally expect you to spend more than your vacation with them.

A La Grande bachelor says parents should make their daughters promise not to smoke until they're 21.



# Trade Marks

## And Your Money's Most

How much is your signature worth? We don't mean how big a check your bank will honor over your signature, but what price would you put on your signature to the man who wished to purchase it and use it for any purpose he saw fit?

Such a question borders on the absurd, but there is a mighty pertinent application of that idea as applied to the purchase of merchandise under present conditions.

When HART SCHAFFNER & MARX sew this trade-mark into a suit or overcoat, it endorses the quality and workmanship in that garment with the full force of its responsibility. It stakes its reputation on the degree of service that garment will render the purchaser, regardless of the price he paid.

There is no over-stock of quality clothing—good clothes undoubtedly cost you more. Some may bid for business on the basis of pre-war prices, but the intelligent buyer will not be deceived—a low price for cheap clothing, or a higher price for good clothing is inevitable.

We offer what is probably the most comprehensive showing of fabrics, patterns and colors in this community. We offer the finest clothing, ready to wear under an endorsement as to service and satisfaction.

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**NK West & Co**  
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# 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.

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All HUMIDOR furnaces are equipped with ALL cast radiators and triangular clinker-crushing grates as regular equipment and no extra cost. Registers also are cast and EXTRA LARGE.

Fire bowl is in two sections, which prevent fire crack so common to the old style one-piece type. All joints are double-grooved and set in asbestos cement, making them gas tight.

Both outer and main inner casings are rust proof galvanized iron. Inner casing is lined with both asbestos and bright tinned corrugated steel, making a triple wall of insulation.

Main front is full cast with cast offset, or wings, giving a rigid, substantial construction, which likewise is easily fitted to the casing. Each furnace is equipped with cast water pan located directly under the fire door for convenience, and coming in close contact with the fire bowl itself to insure generous evaporation so essential to winter health. (It is a generally accepted fact among doctors that a large percentage of colds is due to lack of HUMIDITY in artificially heated rooms.) It is because of its wonderful humidifying qualities that our furnace has been named the HUMIDOR.



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## Worthy

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

# LABOR DAY

## THREE BIG BANDS

will be observed in La Grande this year with three cities participating — Pendleton, Baker and La Grande, with the Central Labor Councils of these three cities arranging the program with the assistance of commercial bodies in their respective cities.

**AFTERNOON OF SPORTS**  
At the baseball park during the afternoon there will be sports, horse racing, baseball games and music. Three solid hours of genuine fun and amusement.

**FUN AT NIGHT**  
One and all are urged to participate in the evening fun and amusement. Three dances, a band concert on streets, prize fighting and a general good time.

**COME!**  
People will flock from far and near to help labor celebrate this important day. Are you doing your part? If you are, you will be part of the big celebration.  
For particulars, write  
**General Chairman, Labor Day**  
La Grande, Oregon

## IN THE OLD HOME TOWN



EARLY TODAY AMOS TROTT WASHIT ON THE HEAD BY A SET OF FALSE TEETH AND KNOCKED SENSELESS.

however, our creditors would be after us on mass.

Prof. Hampton says any boy who hates arithmetic can tell you how many hours it is until school starts.

Another sad fact is that if a man happens to marry his first love she isn't always his last love, says one applicant for divorce in Union county.

**SUCH ASSININITY**  
At one of the special events, a lady had responded beautifully to several encores. Another woman sitting on the side turned to a friend sitting near her and remarked:

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Golf ball struck tree. Retured immediately. Struck abdomen. Victim doubled. Indemnity did not.

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La Grande, Ore.