

# The Observer

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

Entered at the Postoffice at La Grande, Oregon, as Second Class Mail Matter.

Address all communications to THE OBSERVER, 1416 Adams Ave., La Grande, Oregon.

CITY AND COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER.

On sale in other cities—Oregon Hotel News Stand, Portland; Imperial News Stand, Portland; Multnomah 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, 5c

By Mail.  
Daily, per year, in advance, \$5.00  
Daily, six months, in advance, \$2.50  
Daily, three months, in advance, \$1.25  
Daily, per month, 75c  
Weekly Observer-Star, by mail, per year, in advance, \$1.00

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## Bible Thought. For Today

THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT:—Thou shalt not steal. — Exodus 20:15.

## Cashing In on Disarmament

The administration has ordered discontinued all work on additional fortifications on the island of Guam and in the Philippines, in accordance with the treaty establishing military status quo in the Pacific, and also the suspension of all work on naval craft now building which are marked for scrapping by the naval reduction treaty.

Such action, taken before the actual ratification of the treaties by the senate, may be expected to arouse some criticism in that body, jealous as it is of its prerogatives, though it is merely what Great Britain did some weeks ago. The public, however, heaves a sigh of relief. "Here," thinks the man in the street, "is concrete expression of those highly technical treaty clauses. Thank Heaven we're not going to have to keep on paying for useless fortifications and battle-ships!"

The nation, collectively and individually, can use its building materials and its tax money more profitably in other ways.

## Coercing Commerce

Fordyce Jones, a big English business man, now in this country, has a disinterested word of advice for Americans. In a recent interview he spoke especially of the rubber business. America leads the world, he admits, in the design, quality and finish of her rubber products, but yet is not getting what is coming to her in the rubber trade and in other lines, for this reason:

"Many American manufacturers and merchants seem to have been spoiled by a prosperity which was handed to them, and made the mistake of thinking that what suits the polyglot population of the United States will suit the rest of the world. "That, unfortunately for American salesmen and for American industries, whose increased productive capacity now needs foreign markets, is the thing which is hurting. America has built an ocean fleet and has all the facilities necessary for the building up of a great ocean trade, but she isn't going the right way to get it. First she must learn that no country can coerce the commerce of the world. You must give a customer what he wants and not what you think he ought to want."

It is the same old story that has been told a thousand times, told now a little more pointedly than usual, at a time when it seems more likely to be heeded.

American merchants and manufacturers had, indeed, got into the habit during the war boom of trying to "coerce" even the domestic trade. Now that they are beginning to make a real effort to give the American customer what he wants, they may take more easily to following the same process with foreign customers.

## Automobile Lights

At a meeting of motor vehicle commissioners in 10 eastern states recently, it was agreed to work for the standardization of headlights. The commissioners are taking up the matter with the Society of Automotive Engineers and the Illuminating Society of America, to see if a system cannot be found that would be adaptable to every type of car. If a standard equipment is evolved, automobile manufacturers will all be urged to adopt it.

This would be a highly desirable improvement. At present there is much confusion and inefficiency in headlights. It should be no difficult matter to solve the problem of adequate illumination without glare. Once solved, the desired system should be made compulsory. And while they are dealing with the subject, the reformers should give attention to automobile tail lights, as well as headlights, making a special effort to develop and standardize a device that would show a following car unflinching. Is just what the car ahead intends to do when it is about to change its speed or course.

A "Brighter London" society has been formed in the British metropolis. They can never quite realize the possibilities of a thing over there. Any American would have made a "Brighter London" society, long ago.

## IN THE OLD HOME TOWN



JIM WATSON, THE BARBER, SPENT SEVERAL DAYS IN THE CITY AND RETURNED WITH SOME GLOOMY NEWS.

## The Job Increases

The unemployed are less numerous than they were even a month ago, and all signs point to a further decrease in the ranks of the idle, proceeding steadily and leading to a marked improvement in the whole industrial situation in the spring. This is the glad assurance offered by Francis Jones, director of the United States Employment Service.

Reports on unemployment collected by the service from 65 of the principal industrial centers show an increase of 4.2 per cent in January over the December figures. It is a particularly hopeful indication that the increase persists in spite of the seasonal falling off in a number of occupations on account of the inclement weather.

To the man out of a job 4.2 per cent increase may not look like much to brag about, but the tendency is almost certain to grow in succeeding months.

## The Insured Millions

Last year was, by general agreement, a dull and despondent year. But was it really so bad as people thought? The question is suggested by life insurance statistics.

How do you explain the fact that in the slump year of 1921 the American people signed up for \$8,500,000,000 of new life insurance, one-fifth of the total amount now held by American insurance companies.

Or how do you explain the still more impressive fact that the number of Americans taking out new life policies last year was 15,000,000?

Certainly the insurance companies, at any rate, were doing plenty of business last year. And did those thirteen millions take out policies because they thought they were going to die right away, and wanted to "stick" the companies? It doesn't sound plausible. It takes more or less energy, ambition and hopefulness to buy life insurance. The man who feels down and out seldom has the gumption to do it. And if those newly insured millions had really felt as bad as they talked when discussing business the insurance companies probably would have turned them down.

There were 13,000,000 healthy people, anyway, which is a pretty good fraction of our population. It speaks well for the physical health of the nation. It speaks well, too, for its intellectual and political and business life. All those people have little fear of what is going to happen to this country. They don't expect any national or world catastrophe. If they did, they wouldn't bother about life insurance.

Now, if that \$10,000,000 American heiress had married Lenin or Trotsky, instead of a penurious Russian nobleman, it would have been a romance worth gossiping about.

The Mexican Congress proposes to give ex-presidents a pension of \$20,000 a year for life. We reckon that'll never cost the Mexican government much.

Primitive life was all stomach, and people are still mostly stomachs, so that whether this is the best of possible worlds or the worst of impossible worlds depends largely on the state of one's digestion.

After being informed that the people of Austria—the little, shrunken Austria left by the war—spent 209,000,000,000 crowns for alcoholic liquor last year, we don't know whether Austria is drowning itself in a sea of booze or a sea of inflated currency.

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## THE OFFICE CAT

—BY JUNIOR—



## YOUR CAR.

To see that every part is safe, take heed, And for "No accidents" be always striving; Loose auto nuts are dangerous indeed, But most of all when one of them is driving.

## DOING WELL.

"I guess my daughter has taken a course in housework at college." "Heh?" "She writes that she is on the scrub team."

## HOW IT HAPPENED.

"And have you a father?" asked the charity worker of a ragged urchin. "Nope," he replied, "pa died of exposure." "Poor man! How did it happen?" "Another guy snitched, and they hung him."

A woman thinks Columbus' discovery of America pales into insignificance when compared to the things she has discovered about the poor fish she has just married.

## PA MUST BE A PESSIMIST.

"Pa, what is romance?" asked Clarence. "It's the calm before the storm of matrimony, my son," replied Pa.

China wants a billion dollars for the island of Yau. We had supposed such islands were quoted at about three for twenty-five cents.

## OH, SLOSH.

He wore a fine brand of must "toshes" Also some new fangled galoshes— As he twirled his mus'tosh" This gent said, "My gosh!" I forgot to put on my eye "toshes"

Practice makes perfect—and it often makes the neighbor feel like smashing the piano.

## NOT TO BE MISSED.

"I've just had this card of invitation to go on a motoring trip but what does R. S. V. P. mean in the corner?" "Rum Served Very Plentifully, I imagine." "Quick! Let me get at the telephone."

## HE WAS COMPLETELY OVERCOME IN FACT.

(From the Springfield, Colo., Democrat Herald.)

The bride was beautifully dressed in blue satin and georgette, and the groom was nearly tired in a blue serge suit.

Germany wants to pay us two billions in her own money—or \$3.85 in ours.

Speaking and thinking of things that mix, we'd like to call your attention to booze and gasoline as being two things that won't mix.

When Mr. Will Hays, postmaster general, earning \$12,000 per year, was offered \$150,000 per year to reorganize the motion picture industry, he took a month to think it over. Most of us would have decided the matter in two seconds.

## TAKING NO CHANCES.

He: "Why is it that you women never are on time when you are to meet your husbands, and yet every one of you will be right on the dot when you go to the card club, and from which, by the way, neither storm, nor plague, nor earthquake can keep you away?" She: "That's the only way we can keep the other members from talking about us."

## Chinese Slayer of Missionary is Now Held a Captive

(By Associated Press) PEKING, Feb. 14.—When General Chang Tso-lin, the military governor of the Three Eastern Provinces and the most powerful tuchun in China, recently came to Peking, he brought under his protection the notorious Chang Ching-yao, who had in 1920 been virtually outlawed by the Chinese government upon the insistence of the American legation. It was through his negligence that a missionary of Yochow, of the province of Hunan of which Chang Ching-yao was then governor, was killed by flogging soldiers. The death of the missionary, the Rev. W. Reimert, occurred at the hands of troops of the Seventh Division, commanded by Chang, while the protection promised by the governor to the missionaries never made its appearance and left them altogether at the mercy of the disorderly brigands who were enrolled in his forces.

For many months the death of the missionary was the subject of negotiations between the American and Chinese governments, the former demanding that Chang Ching-yao be removed from his command and be held responsible for the murder. The Chinese government finally complied with the American demands but the trial never took place for Chang fled to Japan to avoid further difficulties and had not reappeared until his advent in Peking a few days ago in the train of General Chang Tso-lin. On arriving in Peking Chang

Ching-yao, was well protected by a bodyguard of the soldiers of his patron. To date nothing has been heard of the projected re-instatement of the former Hunan governor and on the other hand the Peking government has taken no steps to secure his arrest or question Chang Tso-lin as to his right to harbor an official virtually outlawed by the government.

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