

The Observer

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

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

Address all communications to THE OBSERVER, 1115 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 \$8.00; Daily, six months in advance \$4.50; Daily, three months in advance \$2.25; Daily, per month 75c; Weekly Observer-Star, by mail, per year, in advance \$1.00.

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IN THE OLD HOME TOWN



WALTER M. PIERCE. I still believe in the people, and in the people ruling. I do not believe there is anybody born with a divine right to rule or can they acquire that right by great wealth. Yours—very truly, WALTER M. PIERCE.

THE OFFICE CAT



SAD Beneath this stone lies Nick MacMurray, Who always drove in a helluva hurry! Once too oft he turned on speed That's why this record now you read. "Oh, my," she exclaimed impatiently, "We'll be sure to miss the first act. We've been waiting a good many minutes for that mother of mine." "Hours, I should say," he replied. "Ours," she cried joyfully. "Oh, Jack, what a neat way to propose!"

Bible Thought For Today

WAY TO LIFE.—He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.—Micah 6:8.

Quite True—Quite True

Recently a lecturer in the high school auditorium said: "It is not what we have, but what we think of what we have, that actually counts."

Now, the lecturer was no wizard. He is one of those old hackneyed boys who has globe trotted for years delivering lectures at so much per; he is not a bright and shining star in the chautauquus or lyceum circles because he has no press agent. Yet that old sport from Michigan who talked in La Grande the coldest night of the winter uttered a fact that if properly planted, nursed and cared for, would give more happiness to America than all the fur coats, Cadillac cars and costly diamonds.

"It is not what we have, but what we think of what we have," says, does it begin to soak in? The Observer does not have to delineate on this truth; it is not up to us to sight you illustrations; we need not uncover the selfishness in mankind; neither need we urge in fearful language that son and daughter halt in their careers and think of mother and father; we need not tell mother and father of to-day the mistakes they have made in worshipping the golden calf—in believing that happiness would come with the new home or the new car, only to find that the new article brings further discontent and further breaking of home ties.

The old home was all right, the old car was all right, the old dress and the old suit of clothes was all right, for listen—

"It is not what we have, but what we think of what we have—"

Happiness is a matter of viewpoint but that viewpoint must be properly based, or there will be no happiness. Increased wealth does not make happiness—no, no. Having more things in the home, more things to wear, more things to do with—none of these bring happiness, for again—

"It is not what we have, but what we think of what we have—"

Might we suggest that the key to that room wherein dwells contentment, possibly is—

"Thou shalt have no other Gods before me."

With a complete understanding of this commandment it might be much easier to apply the lecturer's fine thought which we repeat once more in order that all may remember—

"It is not what we have, but what we think of what we have—"

Crowded Courts

Chief Justice Taft complains that the federal court system is "threatened with most discouraging ineffectiveness because the dockets are crowded with arrears of business which, under the present system, it does not seem possible to get rid of."

To remedy the situation, Justice Taft is urging the passage of bills in congress which would have federal judges to the present force, and restricting the jurisdiction of the federal courts.

The latter consideration, at least, certainly, deserving of support. There does not seem to be any sound reason why the federal courts should be crowded with business which is not their proper province.

NOTE—The question as we see it is whether pure democracy, which Mr. Pierce, W. S. U'Ren and Mr. Jackson's Portland Journal, has fastened on the state of Oregon shall permanently supplant representative (republican) form of government; and shall this pure democracy continue to add its tremendous tax by popular vote? Mainly to our mind, the people do not sacrifice their right to rule when they elect representatives to handle the country's business rather than have the entire mass of voters pass on routine matters and taxation matters at the polls. On questions of vast importance, such as slavery, wars, etc., where the people's attention is centered on the question they comprise a safe jury, but in routine business of a state or nation the general public will not take time to study the question submitted and the jingle of slogans, the claptrap of the propagandist always them in many instances. These statements may not sound good to our old friend, Mr. Pierce, who has shed more tears for the "down trodden people" than any other man in Oregon, but in his gizmo he knows that the time has come to either be practical and stop this sentimentalism or face a bankrupt state.—The Editor.

The Forum

WALTER PIERCE REPLIES

Editor Observer:—I read your editorial of February 27th with much interest.

I have not lost my faith in the people. I still believe that they should rule. I believe in direct legislation even though property interests have suffered severely by reason of laws passed by the people. They have often been misled by reason of the propaganda which has been so effectively used in this state.

It is true that the American people rely upon the newspapers, almost exclusively, in forming their opinion on public questions. It seems to me that the papers of this state have not clearly explained to the people the effect of the various measures that have been voted on by them.

The College millage would have been defeated by twenty thousand votes in the state if the election could have taken place immediately after the special session of the legislature submitting the question. Out of four hundred papers in the state, only three weeklies opposed this measure. The people voted by an immense majority for the millage, proving conclusively the power of the press in Oregon.

How many papers in the state explained to their subscribers the effect of guaranteeing interests on irrigation bonds? The measure was supported by practically the entire press of the state, carried by barely five thousand, and will probably cost the taxpayers of the state a million dollars or more which must be raised by direct taxation.

If my memory serves me correctly, you were very instrumental in securing the vote of the people in favor of the six million dollar road bond issue, and it seems to me that I can see how remember a remark having been made that this six million dollars would pave the roads, and the automobile license tax on gasoline had not yet been thought of, would pay all interest and liquidate the bonds at maturity. We know now that in a few years there will be a deficit, even though business on cars have been doubled, and gasoline added, which deficit must be met by more taxation on property.

More than fifty-one million dollars have been spent by the highway commission, and the roads are far from completed. We will soon have forty million of state bonds for road work and the highway commission asking for more. No man in the state did more than the editor of the Observer to educate the public opinion in favor of this bond legislation.

Have you forgotten Bruce? Don't chide the people now for following you; they were your willing slaves and many a day they must labor to pay for their error, which you were, at least partially, to blame for their making.

I think you should shoulder your part of the blame for the errors of the people, if they made any, for they have followed the press implicitly as the children of the serpent have followed the serpent.

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 24.—Editor Observer:—Since my last letter I have been at the San Bernardino Orange Show. It was one of the grandest affairs we have been to since we arrived in California. The display of oranges and the manner in which they can be worked into exhibits was interesting.

C. C. Welch has left for home. From the orange show we went to Riverside and visited some of the missions. The collection of antiques displayed in the old missions is one of the largest I have ever seen. A gown that has been burning for more than a week, shooting a hundred feet in the air, is one of the interesting sights seen in the last few days.

UNCLE SAM BROOKS.

THE PNEUMONIA MONTH.

March is a typical pneumonia month and usually gives a high rate of mortality for the disease. After a long and hard winter the system loses much of its resistance and people grow careless. When every cold, no matter how slight, is given prompt and intelligent attention there is much less danger of pneumonia. It should be borne in mind that pneumonia is a germ disease and based in the throat. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is an expectorant and cleans out the germy mucus and not only cures a cold but prevents its resulting in pneumonia. It is pleasant to take. Children take it willingly.—adv.

Wanted More

Tid-Bits, London: A school boy was very quick at mental arithmetic, but on one occasion he failed to volunteer an answer to what the schoolmistress thought was a very simple problem. "Come," she said, "Two and a half per cent on \$200 for six months. How much is that. Can't you work out that little sum?" "I could," said the boy, "but 2 1/2 per cent don't interest me."

Every normal married man feels a little bit sorry for the poor spinsters who can't get a man like him. Modern version: Marry is haste and repeat at pleasure.

Not Down that Low

Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph: It was a very seedy restaurant and the ill but bankrupt broker was eating the cheapest meal possible. Presently he looked up and saw that the waiter was an old friend and former light of Wall Street. "Good heavens, Charlie!" he cried. "Have you come down to this?"

Charlie drew himself up. "I wait here, Bill," he replied coldly; "I don't lunch here."

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ELGIN ASKS FOR MONEY. WASHINGTON, Mar. 1.—Senator McNary has received a communication from E. G. Bailey, secretary of the Elgin Ad. Club of Elgin, Ore., asking that \$50,000 be set aside from federal forest road funds to provide for improvement of the national forest portion of the highway between Joseph and Freewater. Elgin will improve the highway to the forest on the one side and Freewater and Walla Walla will take care of the expense on the other side, it is stated. The road is said to be in an unsafe condition, but one of high commercial and scenic value if properly improved. Senator McNary has referred the matter to the forest service for an expression of its views. Gans to the Dogs. Headline—"Heralds Dog Graves and Bark." We should rather expect them to moop or whiny.—Boston Transcript. If you want something special in Candy or Patches of Ice Creams or Ices for parties, you can have them made to your order and as you may wish at The Palace. 1-21-2c

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