

La Grande Evening 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.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

By Carrier:
Daily, per month \$3.00
Daily, per three months \$8.25
Daily, per six months \$15.00
Daily, single copy 10c

OFFICE AND COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER.

Editorials From Over the Nation

HOW COURTS LOSE RESPECT

St. Louis City Tribune: Joseph Sommer of St. Louis was laid off by a packing plant. He had a wife and two small daughters to support, so he hustled around and took the best place available. It was a job at \$2.25 a day at the quarry of a cement company. Part of his work was setting off blasts of powder.

On the eleventh day on his new job there was a premature explosion, and the ambulance carted Sommer off to a hospital. Hour after hour the doctors picked bits of stone from Sommer's body, moved up his face, and placed wet bandages over his eyes. Sommer patted through, but when the bandages were removed from his eyes he was surrounded by darkness. He had lost his sight.

This was in the summer of 1916. The rich and powerful cement company offered \$2,000 to Sommer for his lost eyes and scarred body. Sommer refused to settle for that amount and there being no compensation act in Missouri, he was forced to consult a lawyer. A jury awarded Sommer \$25,000; but the rich and powerful cement corporation appealed.

In the meantime the stork had arrived at the Sommer home a short time after the accident and the sightless man now had three children to feed and clothe and educate. He went out on the streets to sell bread and shortbreads. The eldest daughter, who should have been in school, went to work washing tin, and the mother helped out as best she could.

Three years later the appeal of the blind shoeing peddler came before one division of the state supreme court. The judges affirmed the judgment, but expressed the opinion that the amount should be reduced to \$20,000; although it is safe to think that neither of these judges would part with his sight for \$25,000.

For a few hours there was happiness in the blind peddler's shack, but the dissent of the two judges as to the justice of the sum leveled against the cement company gave the defendant an excellent opportunity to appeal again. It did so, moving that the case should be submitted to the court en banc, and the other day, six years after the accident, the learned judges ruled that the trial judge had given conflicting instruction, "such as to mislead, rather than guide the jury," on the question of negligence.

"The court found that instruction No. 1 was in error," the St. Louis Post-Dispatch explains, "and did not mean the same thing as the phrase, 'not reasonably safe,' as used in the other."

"Not reasonably safe," the court pompously informs the world, "was the proper form," thus, "The courts in this country will soon be 'not reasonably safe' if they don't mend their habit of nullifying the meaning of words and phrases and delaying justice on technicalities raised by legal sticklers; for justice delayed is justice denied. By the time Sommer carries the case up to the higher court again, he probably will have paid out a large part of the money needed for his wife and children in food and expenses.

It is an amazing coincidence that at about the date the courts passed for the third time on the Sommer case, lawyers and judges of the Missouri Bar association were meeting in St. Louis to consider means of avoiding the "law's delays." Well, perhaps the greatest evil is the reversing of decisions on technical errors, the judges setting aside common sense and opening their time in hooting in with a shrill cry: Why not start the reform there?"

BACKSEAT DRIVERS

Indianapolis News: It seems strange that in all the discussion of the proposed legislation intended to place additional restrictions on the automobile, nothing has been said about regulating the backseat driver. Conservative investigators estimate that fully 97.8 per cent of the wives of automobilists direct the driving from that position by explicit command, obvious hint, suppressed excitement, telepathy or suggestion. Where the wife drives it is estimated that fully 98 per cent of the husbands do the same thing. The back-seat driver who has no actual control over gears, levers or brakes comments on the rate of speed, the margin by which he drifts, the trouble with the engine, the most approved manner of using the accelerator, the necessity of dimming headlights or giving them full power, the angle of the windshield, the mysterious rattle, the irritating squeak, etc. Such comments have nearly wrecked home and happiness as well as the motor car. It has been suggested that a set of rummy pedals be installed in family cars, because the person who is not driving gets so little satisfaction out of pushing against the footboard when the driver should slacken speed. The dummy pedals would have no effect on control of the car, but pushing against them would produce a feeling that something was being accomplished.

Flings at Folly

Saturn of world problems draws steadily nearer in spite of all statesmen can do.

The dismal prophets who think conditions in Europe will grow worse have wonderful imaginations.

A conference is a gathering where everybody expects the other fellow to make concessions.

Edison de Valera does not try to men not to obey the law. What a wet advocate that man would make!

An ardent progressive is a man who has grown weary of watching somebody else hold the reins.

"Everybody should learn to drive a car." This is especially true of those who now sit behind the steering wheel.

You can't wrap a quart of vinegar in a wet sock suspicion, but you can't do that with any other kind of glass.

THE OFFICE CAT

MOTHER
Lists all made and party planned; Holly in the hall; Sister's party dress 'Most done, Who has done it all? Mother!

COOKIES IN THE COOKIE-JAR
Cakes all luscious looking, Pies and doughnuts on the shelf; Who did all this cooking? Mother!

Tinsel Shining on the Tree,
Candles placed with care, Gifts arranged so beautifully; Who has put them there? Mother!

Perhaps they call them telephone exchanges because they swap right numbers for wrong one.

Stand 'Em in the Corner.
"A certain employe in the office," says an employe of the Observer, "went to buy a pair of shoes last week, but he remembered he had a hole in one of his socks, though he couldn't remember which one it was. Darned if he didn't wait around for an hour trying to decide which foot the good sock was on. He put off getting the shoes for another week."

"Talk about typographical errors," blushes an exchange, "Just about the limit occurred in our Thanksgiving offering." The type made up says, "Praise ye the Ford," which of course wasn't so much wrong in this day and time but which are words not found in the Psalms.

"Enthusiasm," declares A. M. S. Tash, "breakfasts on obstacles, lunches on objections and dines on competition."

Life is short—that is why people insist on a few luxuries even though they are not necessary.

'SUE CINCH!
Now they are talking of corsets for men. Some people will go any length to get tight.

We bought a stick of chewing gum the other day with what we have saved as the result of the disarmament conference.

Either the girls are not taking kindly to the longer skirts or they feel they have too much invested in them to discard them now.

We hear from the Fashion Art League of America that the new dresses are designed for the slender girl. Very likely, but the stout girl never will believe it.

When you take into consideration some of the things people will do for money you wonder why there are not more millionaires.

ASK JIGGS
A prominent woman's club—the Rolling Pin.

There are two kinds of men—those who do as their wives tell them, and bachelors.

"If the voice over the telephone grows importantly," advises a La Grande wisebird, "it is not the great man, but his secretary."

Records Still Being Broken.
Young man who married a 17-year old chorus girl found later that she had been married before and had a son 15 years old. Age nowadays is not so much a matter of eonidays as cosmetics.

Guest in New York hotel reached for a bed quilt and thought he had found a one-dollar bill.

Income Tax Facts

By Clyde G. Huntley Collector.

Clyde G. Huntley, Collector of Internal Revenue, calls the attention of Oregon taxpayers to the fact that without any exception the following persons must file income tax returns for the year 1922 not later than March 15.

Every single person who had a net income of \$1,000 or more.

Every married person who had a net income of \$2,000 or more.

Every head of a family who had a net income of \$1,000 or more.

The exemption for a single person is \$1,000; for a married person \$2,000. If a person does not exceed \$5,000. If the net income of a married person exceeds \$5,000, he is allowed an exemption of only \$2,000.

The exemption allowed for dependents under 18 years of age or incapable of self-support is \$400, but a return must be made in order for the taxpayer to claim credit for the exemption. In other words, a return must be filed, although the taxpayer may not be liable to the payment of a tax after claiming the exemptions to which he is entitled under the law.

Don't forget! March 15 is the final day for filing returns. Taxpayers who fail to file by that time will be liable to heavy penalties.

Fifteen thousand tons, or 150,000 barrels, of Astoria flour are awaiting shipment to the Orient at the Astoria port docks.

Because of a smallpox epidemic at Salem, all students of the Washburn high school were compelled recently to submit to vaccination.

Dividend checks amounting to \$47,726.45 were mailed from Medford Thursday to 1277 stockholders of the California-Oregon Power Company.

During the past week approximately 100 cartons of shoes were received at the Astoria terminals about 25 per cent of the amount coming from Montana.

Salaries of Screen Idols

The salaries of moving picture stars, even though the figures announced are discounted 50 per cent in tribute to press agents, are sufficiently impressive to make even the most faithful, conservative worker pause to consider in what direction his chosen trail leads. "The worker is entitled only to that which he produces," repeated twenty or even a hundred times a day. In the approved Coue fashion, is hardly suggestive enough to combat the thought that a pretty child and a homely comedian are paid more in a year than are a dozen average men in a lifetime. It is no wonder that fake moving picture "dramatic" studios and correspondence schools find it easy to separate the ambitious and their money.

It is well to consider at this time, that the moving picture field is not the only one in which stupendous salaries have been paid, and fortunes accumulated overnight. The same conditions prevailed in the early days of oil, steel manufacture, and automobile development. Fortunes went to the pioneers. Big premiums were paid to those with courage, perspicacity, or both. Unheard of salaries were given experts who dared not venture into the fields on their own account.

Certain moving picture stars who have won public favor now name their own salaries. They hardly could be expected to work for \$20 a week when they have put thousands into the pockets of their employers. They accept the offers of the highest bidders. High salaries indicate many bidders are in the field, and the more bidders there are, the greater are the financial possibilities of rival stars.

Eventually, the industry will be stabilized as others have begun. Then as now, salaries will not exceed to any great extent actual producing value.

Germany's Comeback

Statistics of motor vehicles in Germany indicate the practical manner in which the Teutons have been "coming back" since the armistice. In 1914, there were in use in the country 60,867 touring cars, 9,639 motor trucks and 22,567 motorcycles. The wastage of these vehicles during the war was enormous; from reports which came through a fair presumption was that it was 100 per cent. But the indispensability of motor vehicles was impressed as never before during hostilities, and in midsummer last year the figures stood: touring cars, 82,505; motor trucks 43,587; motorcycles, 37,941. The totals of all kinds of automobile vehicles were 93,063 in 1914 and 165,315 in 1922.

But after the war the Germans invested in a greater proportion of motor trucks for business purposes than before the great conflict in arms. Of the motor vehicles owned before the war only 10 per cent were trucks, while 65 per cent were touring cars, used in large degree for pleasure. Last year motor trucks accounted for 27 per cent of the total. The increase of motor trucks apparently indicates the earnestness with which the business element has been going about the task of reconstruction.

If American experience may be accepted as indicating German practice, it may be concluded that the ownership of touring cars does not represent so many as 82,505 persons or families going in for expensive pleasures. In this country it is calculated around 75 per cent of all the nominally pleasure cars are used in part as business accessories.

An Ocean Newspaper

Great is the power of the press, and great its necessity. A new and momentous chapter was added to its history by the announcement of the London Daily Mail that in February an "Atlantic edition" will be established.

The edition will be printed and published aboard all the great Cunard liners, which run between England and New York and other North Atlantic points. The news will be flashed by a special wireless service from both England and the United States, and the papers will be edited by experienced journalists on board the liners.

It is not long since taking an ocean voyage meant shutting oneself off from the world. But for a casual encounter with a passing boat, it would be impossible to keep in touch with current events for weeks, perhaps months, until finally port was reached. With the coming of wireless, an immense step was taken. It was possible to post daily bulletins of the chief happenings.

Now one may embark upon a voyage, knowing he may remain in close contact with the world. He can have his morning paper just as usual. Everything that characterizes a daily paper will be present—news, editorials, even pictures by a new process may be wireless. And to the interest of world news will be added a great ocean liner during a voyage.

The magic of the wireless has extended the power of the press over land and sea alike.

SUCCESS

SUSTAINED commercial success is not accidental nor is it chance—nor a matter of luck. From the very beginning and up through our twenty-eight years of business history, La Grande women have found in the N. K. West Company apparel characteristics that influenced its preference.

Success Through Quality

We hold infidelity's good will season after season, through quality prestige. We've found that it pays to give quality—pays the customer and ourselves. Quality distinguishes all N. K. West Co. merchandise with the hallmark of individuality and establishes a bond of trust with our patrons that is beyond reckoning.

Success Through Style

Not only does the N. K. West Co. merchandise give wear satisfaction, but there's a style correctness that's absolute. There is no uncertainty. Our connections are only with reliable manufacturers and garment makers, whose judgment and knowledge of style must be correct. Our buyers are constantly on the lookout for new apparel, and the new merchandise as it appears on the market.

Success Through Business Thoroughness

Underlying the great principle of this store is a desire to have a spirit of thoroughness permeate every detail of the business—buying, selling, stock keeping, office work, delivery, etc. It is ever our fixed determination to slight nothing that is worthy and of benefit to our patrons.

The N. K. West Company Merchandise Has Always Been Fairly Priced — Today It Represents Greater Value Than Ever

NK West & Co
JEWELRY, HATS, FURS

For Twenty-Eight Years La Grande's Quality Store.

SHARP SHOTS

A political writer says women instinctively favor the best man. They might as well. The groom is already taken.

How did professional viewer-with-alarm get along in the old day before Japan was opened to civilization?

Somehow, Germany reminds us of the man who was sentenced to hang and didn't have chain enough to hold the noose on.

Correct this sentence: "Of course you may love it," said the mother; "I think it's so nice to have a pup about the house."

Those who think oratory is a dead art should hear some of the lines addressed to an alarm clock at 6 a. m.

FRANK R. SUYDAM
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The largest frozen salmon shipment ever taken from Astoria went out Tuesday on the Royalstar. There were more than 1200 boxes of commodity and the weight exceeded 250 tons.

Thrift

The Highway of Thrift is the sure road to independence and success. The man of industry and thrift inspires confidence and he finds his banker anxious to help him because he demonstrates his inclination and ability to help himself.

Conserve some of your earnings each day by opening a savings account with this bank. It is a safe investment that will earn four per cent, compounded every six months. Many are taking advantage of the facilities of our savings department and the savings deposited with us have increased nearly one hundred per cent. in the last year.

We Solicit Your Account

La Grande National Bank
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OBSERVER ADVERTISING will bring results

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