

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, 1416 Adams Ave., La Grande, Oregon.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

By Carrier.
Daily, per month \$1.00
Daily, per three months \$2.75
Daily, per six months \$5.00
Daily, per year \$9.00
Sundays, single copy 10c

CITY AND COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER.

By Mail.

Daily, per year, in advance \$9.00
Daily, six months in advance \$5.00
Daily, three months in advance \$2.75
Daily, per month \$1.00
On sale in other cities—Oregon Hotel News Stand, Portland; Imperial News Stand, Portland; Multnomah News Stand, Portland.

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A LOVE FEAST—Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith.—Proverbs 15:17.

Ready to Reform?

Cable reports that Russia is now ready to give up communism for "capitalism" may indicate the recurrence of a lucid interval in the Bolshevik economic mania or they may mean the beginning of a new drive for official American recognition of the Soviet government.

"Capitalism" as used in this connection may be assumed to mean the system of private ownership and operation of business and the payment of regular wages to workers, the owners being entitled to a fair return for their invested money, provided they can get it in other words, a system of fair and free competition in which private enterprise asks no favors from the government and in return is unhampered by official interference. Russia is the only large country which has given a thorough trial to any other system, and its experience has been so disastrous it is not surprising it should seek to get out of the dangerous whirlpool and back to solid ground.

Ever since 1917 Russia has been a laboratory for experimenting with almost every known socialistic and communistic theory. Lenin and Trotsky have made real what Karl Marx and the rest only dreamed. They started in by "nationalizing" all industries, manufacturing, agriculture, transportation. The peasants were made to hand over to the state all surpluses of grain and cattle. The nationalized manufactures were supplied with raw materials by the government. The foodstuffs which the government took from the peasants it gave in the form of regular rations to the factory workers. The goods produced by the factory workers were distributed to the general population, most gratuitously.

This there seemed practically no us for money, and it was even announced that the dictators had decided to abolish it, but they changed their minds. One reason the whole beautiful scheme came to smash was the peasant's reluctance to raise more food supplies than he actually required. He saw no advantage in turning over the surplus to the state. Then, just two years ago this month, the dictators announced a new policy, a sort of combination of socialism and private initiative. Peasants were to be permitted to sell their surpluses to the co-operative societies and workmen were to be paid in money. But the peasants had curtailed production so greatly that they had no surpluses left, and there was no money for the workmen because nobody was able to pay cash for the goods they produced.

In the meantime there had been the ruinous inflation of the currency. Now, apparently, the leaders who have brought Russia to this pass are beginning to have some glimmerings of sense. But how is Russia ever to get back to a straight business basis? It is known that she looks to America as the only source of help, but Secretary Hughes has made our government's position plain: that there must be a different element in control of Russia's affairs before we can lend any assistance.

Support the Team

Baseball, long termed the national pastime, will open its summer reign in Union and Baker counties Sunday afternoon, when the La Grande players, dubbed the Pirates, will cross bats with the Baker City Colts in a game to be doubly purposeful, that will not only usher in the grand old game for another season but will also serve to dedicate Baker's new park, now practically completed.

Baker is planning on making that day a gala one on their sport calendar. Constant work and boundless enthusiasm mark their preparations and if the Pirates ride in the same carriage with the Colts it means that their spirit must be avowedly greater. Needless to say, both cities have first class baseball nines—about on a par with each other, and with all things even, spirit always wins.

The La Grande athletes are doing their share, practicing nightly whenever possible, whipping into the necessary shape, and grinding ahead with victory as their goal.

And it is only just and right that the city support its team, in reality the only team truly representative of the city as a whole, and by support we mean not only the financial variety but the moral kind, for the moral kind is mightier after all and with that spirit in evidence, financial support cannot be wanting.

The Pirates are not likely to lose many games if a crowd of ardent rooters are cheering them, urging them, helping them on to victory. Back them up. Show them they have the community behind them. Give them the kind of support you would wish if you were a member of the team.

Why Three Miles

The three-mile limit figures in a great many things. Every international matter that comes up one hears a lot about the three-mile limit. Now, the supreme court has decided liquors may be sold by any ship outside of the three mile limit.

But why three miles? Every nation is supposed by common consent to control the sea three miles from her coast, because in early days the longest ranged gun was three miles. Today we have the thirty and forty mile gun, but the nations have made no change in the three mile limit.

If the area set aside for each nation from its coastline is to be gauged by the range of the guns of the nation, why should not the three miles be raised to forty? In this event the ruling of the supreme court relative to the sale of intoxicating liquors would be different and the general trend of international matters would be revised.

THE OLD HOME TOWN

By Stanley



OFFICE CAT



BY JUNIUS

A TOAST

The man who provides for a rainy day
Is a truly intelligent guy.
But here's to the man, wisest of all
Who provides for the days that are dry.

Junius does not believe that anything will make the average man squirm like calling his bluff.

Wolves ate a Canadian trapper, so now he can't be a movie star, sighs Amos Tash.

If it is believed by astronomers that there has been a collision among the stars. One of them wanted to hog the celestial stage, probably.

Be a live wire and you won't get stepped on; it is the dead ones that are used for doormats.

It's always the safest to be natural; even a natural fool is the most endurable kind.

In grandfather's day people used to be chased by hungry wolves. In grandson's day they are chased by hungry creditors.

Don't be disillusioned, Awchie. The Knight of the Bath has nothing to do with Saturday night.

When the car is wrecked the mortgage isn't.

A lot of folks are going to be disappointed when they find that there aren't enough end seats in heaven to go around.

John Hamfitt of Milwaukee, Wis., has been a detective for 38 years. "Imagine being baffled thirty-eight years!" marvels Cy Kology.

One lesson to be learned from a republic is that one-half of the peo-

ple can't force the other half to do anything.

INFORMATION, PLEASE

I've read my history over.
From the present way back to the ark.
But which of the Smith Brothers' name was Trade?
And which of the boys was Mark?
F. O. B. Detroit is a synonym for automobile.

In spite of the warning to be on the lookout for counterfeit \$50 bills, I fear that I am going to grab the first one that is shoved at me, sighs a La Grande merchant.

One of the Pullman porters says portering is much harder than it used to be. In the old days it never was necessary to gather up empty flasks in the wash-rooms.

Courtesy is the quality that keeps you waiting patiently and sweetly while the man who howls for service gets all the attention.

SIGNS OF SPRING

The iron hat is turning green.
The Christmas tie is frayed.
Installments on the overcoat
Are just about half paid.

Who says the modern girl doesn't know how to use the needle. She changes it after every record.

Wonder if women's rights include scratching a match on the seat of their—dresses?

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RED CROSS DRUG STORE

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