

# La Grande Evening Observer

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CITY AND COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER

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THE FIRST AND THE LAST.—I am the first, and I am  
 the last; and besides me there is no God. . . . Is there a  
 God besides me? yea, there is no God; I know not any.  
 Isaiah 44: 6, 8.

## Perishables

All but an insignificant minority of the novelists of today, it is believed began their writing careers with the desire to achieve fame or to satisfy a creative urge as the main incentive. The making of money through the sale of their books was a secondary consideration; probably it was not until they had published one or two volumes that most of those who now depend upon their novels for a livelihood decided to make the writing of fiction their principal occupation.

Since fame, glory, and a place among the immortals of literature are the guerdons that have been most prominent in our novelists' minds, there is a good deal of irony in the statement made by Simon L. Nye, president of the American Booksellers' association, at the annual convention of that organization in New York City that almost without exception a contemporary book of fiction, after having been published three months, is "practically dead, forgotten, and awaiting removal to the bargain tables." Merit or lack of it has nothing to do with the phenomenon; admirable novels may last no longer than poor ones.

There is something pathetic in the idea of a writer's putting the energy, the thought and feeling of a year or more into a work which, though excellent, should be so evanescent.

The situation directs attention to certain conditions of modern life which are not to our credit—the constant craving of the public for something new, even if the old is good and has not been utilized as it might be, and the tendency to follow a fad in an unreasoning way as a flock of sheep follow their leader.

Contemporary novels have become, from the bookseller's standpoint, perishable goods because the craze for novelty has advanced to the point where book buyers are not satisfied unless they can get fiction which is just off the press. Each wants to be able to talk about novels that are new and have not yet been much discussed. Literature suffers grievously as a result.

It suffers also from the fact that not merit so much as some lucky bit of advertising will frequently make a book a "best seller." The situation is the same in the field of fiction as in the field of popular music or the stage. How often have we seen a trashy song or a play of no special worth take the country by storm just because people had been led to believe it was a "hit." A poor novel may achieve "success" in the same way, and a good one be ignored.

## Those Old Styles

There are a lot of folks who call themselves conservatives and laugh at the young landlubbers with the nautically full and flappy trousers. But let them beware lest they open themselves to the recounting of some discomfiting history.

It isn't necessary to be a centenarian to bear witness to the historical fact that the flaring trousers and high-buttoned jackets in vogue today were copied in their entirety from the styles of 50 years ago. Specimens from the original patterns exist in those rural homes where the head of the family is using his wedding costume for his Sunday best. It wasn't more than two years ago that the well-groomed townboys were "guying" the country rustics for the same wide trousers and short and high buttoned coats now gracing the windows of the most exclusive city tailors.

But let those who are prone to make merry over modern styles, whether for men or women, and to pride themselves upon being the product of a more sensible generation of youth, hearken back to the days of the Ascot tie which consumed more silk than a shirt, and of the Prince Albert and other obsolete cut-aways, which would precipitate a riot if displayed in public today; and of the light gray and lavender pants, which without exaggeration would make two pair of the most extreme specimens of the modern make.

With styles in clothes coming and going over night, it ill behooves the most conservative dressers to criticize or ridicule others for the manner in which they decorate their persons. We may be wearing tomorrow that which we laugh at today and, after all, while the city boy has been calling his country cousin a rube the country boy has been calling his city cousin a boob. The city generally sets the styles for the country, but fashions follow a prescribed cycle and as in the case of the "wavy pants" it sometimes appears that the country decrees what the city shall wear. It does no especial harm to laugh at another's distinguishing marks, but it is highly disconcerting to find that we have been laughing at ourselves.

## THE OLD HOME TOWN

By Stanley



TED TROTTER HAD TO GIVE UP HIS TRIP TO THE CITY. HE FOUND RATS HAD EATEN UP HALF OF HIS SATCHEL — AND IT'S THE ONLY SATCHEL IN TOWN THAT WILL HOLD HIS EXTRA PAIR OF SHOES.

## OFFICE CAT



BY JUNIUS

My check from one Saturday in another.

Charley formerly began at four but now seems to begin at the oil well.

Speaking of adaptation, how about singing "When the Leaves Come Tumbling Down" in the Garden of Eden?

When a man is sorry about a thing, he wishes it hadn't happened; when a woman is sorry she wishes it hadn't been found out.

Noah kept getting two of a kind until he got a full house.

Never argue with a fool or woman. The fool can't think and the woman can't stop.

The more blessed to give than to receive, said the heavy-weight champion as he soaked the challenger another one.

Women are braver than men. No man would dare try on \$125 garments if he had only 15 cents.

A "dead one" does not count for much in the world excepting in the cemetery.

Missing Cashier Back.

MARSHFIELD, Ore.—John L. McDuffie, the missing cashier for the C. & O. company of Brookings reappeared last night as suddenly as he left the lower part of Curry county. McDuffie, who left his accounts short at Brookings, had been in Los Angeles and before returning advised Sheriff Huntley of his prospective return.

Sheriff Huntley met McDuffie at the harbor and conducted him to the county jail at Gold Beach. McDuffie was returned to Brookings today to plead before Justice Miller and it was understood he would plead guilty to embezzlement and waive extradition.

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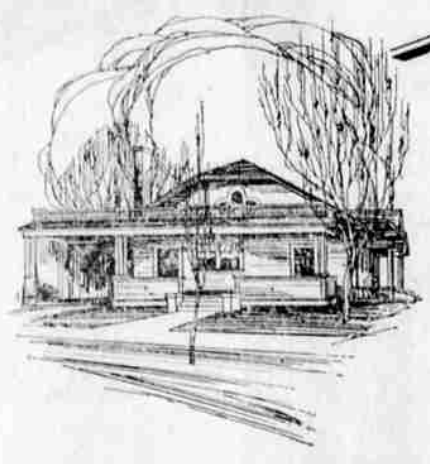
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FIFTH AT SPRING STREET

## Much Copper Used at Ford Firm's Factory

It takes more than 254 miles of copper tubing a day to supply just one requirement in the radiator department of the Ford Motor company's plant at Highland Park, Detroit, under the present high production schedule. In other words the copper tubing used annually for Ford radiators would go round the world three times or if bent into a circle would stand the earth in the center it would stand 3000 miles away from the earth's surface, according to information presented to W. C. Perkins, local Ford dealer.

The radiator department is called upon to produce 9000 radiators a day and materials necessary to attain this output run into surprising figures. In addition to the copper tubing of which 95 pieces 13 7-8 inches long go into every radiator, other materials used in a single day's production of radiators comprises 28 tons of sheet steel, 6 tons of ternite plate, 67 tons of brass, 9 tons of solder, 18,000 malleable castings, more than 4 miles of brass tubing for drains and 1968 gallons of acid.

In the making of a single radiator 149 operations are necessary and every step of the manufacturing process requires unusual care. High inspection is maintained all through the process. Every part is closely scrutinized before assembly, and assembled radiators are tested under water at an air pressure of 15 pounds per square inch. Before the finished radiator is sent out from the department it is given a final inspection for quality and appearance.

Water Job Is to Start. PENDLETON, Ore.—An extension of the Pendleton municipal water system at its source of supply to cost about \$25,000 will be started next week, according to a statement by D. D. Phelps, superintendent of the department. This work is expected to be concluded in 60 days or so.

The purchase of a tract of 20 acres was closed with the heirs of Longhair, an Indian. The land is about one and one-half miles east of Shapish springs, one of the present sources of Pendleton's water supply. A concrete retaining wall or dam underground on the bedrock is to be constructed to hold the spring water that at present seeps into Squaw creek. The water will be diverted to the pipe line which is to be extended to the new springs and conveyed to Pendleton.

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