

# La Grande Evening Observer

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THIS IS THE CONFIDENCE that we have in Him, that,  
 if we ask any thing according to His will, He heareth us—  
 1 John 5:14

## Is Slang Slipping?

We believe that those in close touch with the La Grande library could, if they chose to do so, verify the statement that slang is not slipping as many of our classical citizens in this nation would have us believe. It is here to stay, just as bobbed hair has arrived to make its home with American people.

And why not? There is little use in being so precise that it hurts. Occasionally we see a man or woman who is precise in everything, and is it not funny to watch them for a short time, and then what a bore they become. Take a man, for instance, whose language is exact, who delights in making people know that he has been through college and is learned. What a consummate jackass he soon becomes in the community. We would much rather run across Runyan, the fellow who made signs before he could talk, and listen to his line of slang that he has accumulated from the desert in Nevada to the Yukon than to have one of these self-styled "smart" people with their immaculate language bore us for an hour. Runyan will get the idea to you in a way that you will understand; he will drive in a thought with a pungent piece of slang that fairly sizzles while the man with a degree of which he is so proud that he desires to flaunt it constantly, will take an hour to try and deliver the gist of a current event which Runyan will give you in a minute conversation while he is granking his Ford, lighting his pipe and calling his dog at the same time.

We have given you our version of slang as it shows up in La Grande; now let us turn to one who has made a study of it—one of the precise fellows who always knows whereof he speaks and gets away with assertions provided he is not called.

There is doubtless comfort to those who abhor slang in the observations made by this man. He says that none of the by-words or parrot phrases now in vogue originated during the last year, and holds out the hope to the purists that the passion for slang is passing. This is an unjustified conclusion.

As the observer himself intimates, there might be cause for concern if the creation of slang were to cease, for Prof. Brander Matthews and other language students will tell you that the constant addition of slang to the language is a sign that it is a virile, growing thing; and the corollary is that when slang ceases to creep into the language the language is moribund. We may be passing through a period of quiescence, so far as slang is concerned, but the wonder for it, or the need of it, has by no means passed.

Facile as the English tongue is for most uses, it is not yet perfect. There are many ideas which can be expressed with it only in an awkward way; and the function of a considerable part of the newly-coined words and phrases which find their way into the language as slang is to simplify the expression of these ideas, or to make it possible to express them in a way that is not trite. When slang serves this purpose it often becomes good usage. If it fills no need it soon dies.

One interesting by-product of presidential years is the crop of cranks who appear with a panacea for every human ill.

If youthful enthusiasm over scholastic games were carried into business twenty years after what a bustling world this would be.

Residents of Mecca professed conversion to the Wahab- is sect of religionists who had invaded their city and then all joined hands and looted the king's palace.

Politics makes strange bedfellows, but fortunately the campaign ends before cold weather sets in.

Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty and also useful in the conduct of the banking business.

There is much about crime in the newspapers—and in the Bible.

## THE OLD HOME TOWN

By Stanley



UNDER THE PERSONAL DIRECTION OF THE WATER-PROOFING TEST WAS A HUGE SUCCESS—FROM THE FIREMAN'S STANDPOINT

**OFFICE CAT**  
 TRADE MARK REG.  
 By Junius

There's no law to make a girl put a "fresh paint" sign on her face.

The Unusual Request  
 Salesman (wiping the perspiration from his brow): "I'm afraid, madam, we've shown you all our stock of linoleum, but we could get more from our factory."

Customer: "Well, perhaps you had better. You see, I want something of a neater pattern and quite small—just a little square for a bird cage."

The mother-in-law remembers not that she was a daughter-in-law.

With regard to the morality of bobbed hair, we contend that a woman's hair is no more likely to cause her to stray from the straight and narrow path than long white whiskers are likely to make a man a saint.

Some people are always picking up the beans they have spilled.

Many a man's ship is wrecked on a permanent wave before it comes in.

"Judge, your Honor," said the prisoner, "I'm deaf."

"That's all right," answered the judge, "you'll get your hearing in the morning."

Some candidates manage to get elected in spite of their campaign managers.

**ADD LIFE'S LITTLE JOES**  
 High blood pressure, appendicitis, indigestion, or neuritis.  
 So the doctors say:  
 If you don't cut down your rations, and from condimental habitings, deny your teeth entrance,  
 "Can't eat that!" the doctors utter, "sit out greens, red meats and butter."  
 Nothing ever fry,  
 Good Lord, haint! Know what you're doing,  
 Sitting there on pork chops chewing?  
 Do you want to die?  
 They tell you that you've lost your

## HUNT'S LETTER

(Continued from Page 1.)

tended, nor any contempt of court, when we remark that the Supreme Court is a sight.

No one piece of historical interest in all Washington quite equals in interest to visiting tourists the Supreme Court room.

And when the dignified justices in their winking back robes are seated behind the bar, an atmosphere of awe and majesty like nothing else to be found anywhere in our government broods over the big room, adding to its impressiveness.

When the court is sitting there in a constant stream of cases they stand in a long queue outside the door, awaiting a chance to enter. Only six seats are situated in the visitors' section are other allowed to enter. Then an attendant, pulling a heavy silk rope, opens the door and inside an usher whispers the admonition: "Quiet, please."

The court sits in what was, originally, the Senate chamber of the old capitol.

It is a semi-circular chamber, with a low ceiling, designed after the model of a Greek theater. Back and above the seats occupied by the solemn justices is a low gallery.

The white capitol on the East coast, behind the judge's seats, are copied from the temple of Minerva. Heavy red draperies and carpets deaden all sounds.

"The most beautiful court room in the world," it has been called. Certainly it is one of the impressive sights of Washington.



**CLAUDE C. PRATT**  
 A carload of shingles arrived Saturday and on Monday we were compelled to wire a rush order for another carload. Some one told us not to stock up too heavy on hardware, but I think that would be impossible to do, as the builder's hardware doesn't last any longer than a white shirt in a tub. It is grabbed up like a rabbit by hungry hounds. It must be the price that is drawing the trade so far and wide. Some days we sell over a Thousand Dollars worth of building material. Nails, \$1.98 base in keg lots. We will also sell you any amount that you want. We have cash, credit and orders.

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## Armenian Refugees To Return to Native Land

**ALEXANDROPOL, Armenia, (AP)**—In order to assist the Armenian state authorities in their efforts to repopulate Armenia, American relief workers here who are caring for many thousands of orphans, are encouraging the older boys and girls to marry and establish homes. Each girl of marriageable age who signifies her willingness to take a husband is given a full outfit of clothing, a pair of shoes, an outfit of linen and ten dollars in currency as a "dowry" from the Americans. Scores of girls and youths have taken advantage of the Americans' offer and have asked the officials of the Near East Relief, who are in charge of the orphanages, to find them suitable life partners.

For some time past the Armenian government authorities have been alarmed at the rapid decrease, not only in the population of Armenia proper, but in the number of Armenians scattered throughout the world. According to a recent census the present inhabitants of Armenia, which is now under Bolshevik rule, number only 1,100,000. The world population of Armenians, including those in the United States, is estimated at 3,000,000. During the last 15 years, it is stated, by government officials, more than a million Armenians perished at the hands of the Turks and as a result of the World war.

While the government is confident that the natural tendency of the Armenians to multiply will be sufficient to offset the great losses in the race caused by massacres, war and famine, it entertains serious doubts regarding the capacity of the country to support more people than now live within its narrow borders. Not only is the country arid and unproductive, but some of the most valuable areas, notably the Kars, Van and Igdir districts, have been taken from Armenia and given to Turkey. For this reason the government thus far, has found it impossible to find abodes for the 65,000 Armenian refugees now living in Greece, a place outside Armenia, probably in some sparsely-settled section of Transcaucasia, is likely, therefore, to



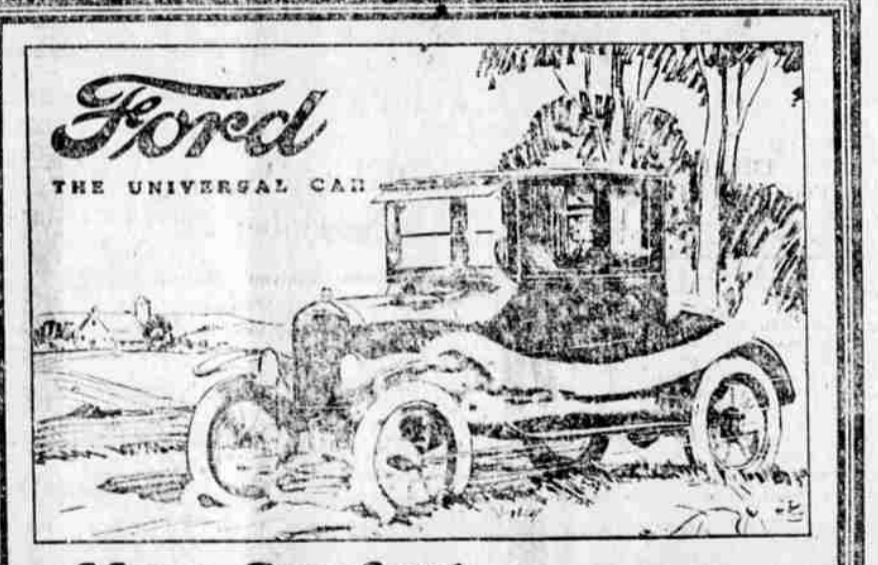
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Phone Main 4

## Red Cross Drug Store

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 Age 3 to 14. Priced—  
 \$4.25 to \$9.00
  - VELVET DRESSES**  
 Age 3 to 10  
 \$5.00 to \$9.75
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 Age 3 to 6  
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## NEMOLASTIC Reducing Girdle

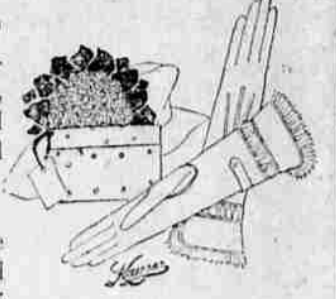
For young girls and women of slender figure who require gentle support to regain and retain their youthful lines. The Nemolastic Girdle is made of pure gum rubber covered on both sides with fine silk jersey—no rubber touches the skin. This fabric is guaranteed.

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Imported wool plaid gauntlets, all shades—the approved cold weather glove. Ladies, misses' and children's—  
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## N.K. West & Co. THE QUALITY STORE

riage, and has been pronounced incurable by experts.

Divorce on the ground of "mutual agreement" or "insupportable aversion" is also advocated by the clubwomen in cases where a couple has been married for five years and have lived apart for two years.

Mrs. Owen suggested the hair-dressers' use of hot air for hair drying as a guide to solving the problem of drying wet crops, and her husband immediately developed the idea with satisfactory results.

"An Observer Want Ad will do it."

## MARKET JOEL'S GROCERIES

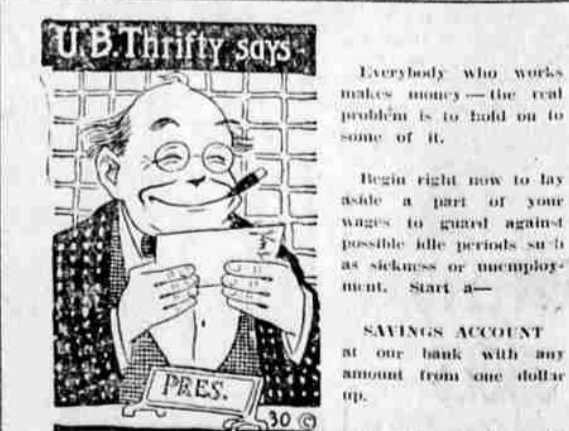
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