

# LaGrande Evening Observer

(Incorporated)  
An Independent Newspaper

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LOVE MASTERS FEAR:—There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear.—1 John 4: 18.

Football scores prove some betting experts poor judges of distance.

It is estimated that cigarets have burned one billion holes in the shirts of the country. And that's not a starter for the number of holes they have burnt in pocketbooks.

When you hear the statement that peace reigns in Europe and possessions, you are supposed to forget about Morocco and Syria. Cats and dogs will fight in the backyards of the best families and it takes time to secure perfection in every little detail.

The Supreme Court of the United States and its chief justice, William Howard Taft, deserve a great deal of credit for the work accomplished by that body during the last year or so in cleaning up the docket. Formerly when a case was taken to the Supreme Court it was unlikely that it would be heard for at least a three-year period, the delay causing much inconvenience and resulting in many settlements out of court rather than wait for a decision. This congestion has been relieved and the members of the court plan to be able to give decisions on all cases at least within one year from the time they are filed. A similar clean-up in local courts might well be undertaken.

### JUST GOOD BUSINESS.

An Iowa newspaper recently congratulated the administration of that state on its contract with a Des Moines public utility company for electric service to the state capital and other state buildings, whereby several thousand dollars are to be saved annually over the operation of the state's own plant, which is to be dismantled. Surely the state is to be congratulated on effecting such an economy but no congratulations are in order for the failure of its officials to practice that economy many years ago. The amount of public money that might have been saved by this sound business move a long time back would be appalling.

That state and municipal officials—and the general public whom they serve—are coming around to such a view of public affairs indicates we are making real progress. People no longer cling to the foolish idea that it is always and eternally better and cheaper to have publicly owned institutions simply because they render a public service. A large majority of our citizens have become educated to a surprising degree in the years since the war to an appreciation for the economy and efficiency of existing private enterprise. They know that an existing company, for example, already enjoying a large volume of business from a wide and varied territory, can furnish lights for our city streets more efficiently and much cheaper than we could possibly do by having a municipal plant which would have to carry the overhead of such an operation on just one small volume of revenue.

As in the case of the Iowa state plant, it is merely a matter of good business to turn to existing enterprises as a means of effecting government economies along this line. There are some cases of publicly owned utilities that are great successes, but they are few and far between. As a matter of fact, municipal ownership, especially in smaller towns and cities, is becoming a thing of the past. And the tendency is economically correct. Not only are we saved operating deficits, but we are also given the benefit of increased tax receipts from the private owners, we are freed of the eternal buggaboo of bond issues and heavier tax burdens which go hand in hand with such public activities, and we have one less pie to tempt the fingers of self-seeking politicians.

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A normal American town is one that needs another school building.

Dumb Bell: "Who is the smartest man living?"  
Wise Guy: "Thomas A. Edison. He invented the phonograph and the radio so people would stay up all night and use his electric light globes."

Smith: Say, Jones, I think my wife would make a very good member of congress.  
Jones: How's that?  
Smith: She's always introducing bills into the house.

The question is, shall we save civilization or let it go to thunder and start all over again?

What a pity we can't find out how fine the dead are before they are dead and tell them so.

Man: I would like—ah—you see—I want—  
Salesman in jewelry store: Take the elevator, diamond rings third floor.

Half the world doesn't know how the other half lives—until some officious gossip spills the beans.

They speak of the "man higher up" in the bootlegging business, but isn't one as low down as another.

Police Sergeant: "Is the man dangerously wounded?"  
Patrolman: "Two of the wounds are fatal, but the other one isn't so bad."

One of the encouraging signs of the times is the decline of oratory.

The first secret a husband keeps from his wife concerns the sum yet due on the mortgage.

An optimist had his right arm amputated as a result of an accident.  
"Well, anyway," he said, "I'll be able to take off my shirt now without unbuttoning the cuff."

### PROTECTING THE COLLECTION.

A clergyman gave out the hymn, "I Love to Steal Awhile Away," and the deacon who led the singing began, "I love to steal—" but he found he had pitched the note too high.

Again he began, "I love to steal," but this time it was too low. Once more he tried, "I love to steal—" and again got the pitch wrong.  
After the third failure the minister said: "Observing our brother's propensities, let us pray."

Shoppers have their doors shielded to prevent leakage.

## Poets' Corner

### ARMISTICE DAY.

The boys in khaki are unsharpening today.  
In memory of the time they went away  
To train in camps near and far  
And prepare for a terrible war.

Then overseas they were sent in haste.  
The war was on, and no time to waste.  
All unexpected came Armistice.  
And the boys quit the awful strife.

But not before many of our boys were laid away  
In foreign lands forever to stay.  
We still grieve for those who had  
To go.

Today our thoughts are with them who lie low.  
We march with slow step and bent head,  
For we hear the bugles calling  
O'er our dead.

As they were laid to rest in a foreign land,  
And the boys marched back with the khaki band.  
Jeannette Tuttle, Nov., 1925, Summerville.

Publisher of Books of Dead War Heroes Rewarded By Debt AMIENS, (AP)—Publication of book written by French writers killed in action during the World War put M. Edgar Mallere in financial straits, but it may obtain

## Unshaken



The belief in evolution does not shake a Christian's belief in immortality in the slightest degree. Bishop Francis J. McConnell declared in Chicago during a debate with Clarence Darrow. Father, he said, a belief in God follows logically on a belief in Darwin's theory.

for him the decoration of the Legion of Honor.

The publisher ventured all his fortune in posthumous writings, which in part was a labor of love, because Mallere's brother, an author of promise and a host of war-time friends, met death in war. Wishing to provide a literary memorial to them, Mallere got out expensive collections. Their sales did not reward him.

Former public writers of France, for the most part too poor to assume the loss of their publisher friend, have asked the minister of the arts to decorate Mallere with the Legion of Honor for unselfish and patriotic services.

French President Remains "Neighbor Gaston" at Home PARIS, (AP)—Gaston Doumergue, President of France, is still "Neighbor Gaston" to his old acquaintances in his native department of Gard.

The husband of one of these old friends spent too much time and money at the village inn. "He is called Gaston, too, you know," the wife wrote to President Doumergue. "I wish you would write to him and shake him a little. Tell him that a man who has the same Christian name as yourself ought to behave better."

HONEST MAN IS WANTED SALMON, Ore.—A person who

aspired by the large number of applications received by Mrs. Jordan, a mystery woman, who recently advertised in a local newspaper that she would pay \$400 to any re-

spectable man who would lead her to the altar, Mrs. Trella Allison of Salem today sent a letter to the newspaper—publisher indicating that she would be pleased to obtain one of the anonymous applicants for

husband. She wrote: "Dear Editor: I have been read- ing the letters written to Mrs. Jor- dan and want to say if there is any good, honest man among them who wants a real home-making, good-

natured woman, I want to ask such a man to write to me. I am nearly 40 and have two small children. I am in earnest and want to marry dan and want to say if there is any good, honest man among them who wants a real home-making, good-

Mrs. Allison's letter has been re- warded to Mrs. Jordan.

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