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(Incorporated)
An Independent Newspaper

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A REAL TRIUMPH—For Thou, Lord, hast made me glad through Thy work: I will triumph in the works of Thy hands. Psalm 124.

One of the inalienable rights of the defendant in a criminal case is to bar all the evidence against him that amounts to anything.

In Emporia, Kan., the American Legion is going to help the police stop reckless driving. It knows how, too—see what happened to reckless German driving when the legion was on the job over there.

Chicago, it was reported the other day, has found "four un-American books in its public library," and duly removed them. The publicity thereby gained for those books will insure that thousands who never heard of them before will read them now. That's all the good it does to burn books these days.

An American corporation is said to have a concession from Abyssinia for building a \$20,000,000 dam across the Blue Nile at Lake Tansa. Egypt, which depends for her crops on the Nile floods, is much agitated about it, and there are echoes in England, which has a suzerainty over Egypt. A prominent Egyptian is quoted as saying: "The Nile is the life-blood of Egypt. Upon it the existence of the nation depends. Egypt, if need be, will go to war with Abyssinia to defeat the American project and to defend her existence if that project means the curtailment of the waters of the Nile." It's just another example of the importance of water, for irrigation and navigation.

WHITTILING

It may be merely another of those apocryphal tales that always spring up around the White House, but it sounds plausible and carries an appeal to any old-fashioned American. President Coolidge, it is said, when asked what he was going to do on the expiration of his term, replied that he expected to "go back to Vermont and whittle for a year or two."

In how many countries will that be understood? Not in many, we fear, without elaborate explanations. Even the present generation of Americans has to think back a little to recall the time when whittling leisurely with a jackknife was associated unfailingly with thoughtful and fruitful meditation, and when cartoons of Uncle Sam represented him often as a farmer sitting on a rail fence, whittling a soft stick.

There is much virtue in whittling, whether the whittler really makes anything or merely watches the shavings curl up from his knife blade and fall to the ground. One of the main things wrong today with this country is that people have forgotten how to whittle. Perhaps they still whittle in Vermont. Mr. Coolidge's reputed words seem to imply that, for he is an orthodox Vermonter.

There is no more fruitful vocation for a rural sage, or for a retired statesman, or a statesman merely resting and cogitating between jobs. It may be better than fishing. The whittler is likely to be a little more constructive than the fisherman. Surely his is a vocation admirably suited to private citizens who have gone through the ordeal of being president of the United States.

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THE OPEN COURT

CORRESPONDENTS MUST
SUBMIT THEIR NAMES TO
THE EDITOR IF THEY DESIRE
LETTERS PRINTED.

Nov. 12, 1927.

Editor of Observer,
La Grande, Oregon.

Dear Sir:

There has been a great deal of discussion about the City Manager and as to his alleged efficiency or lack of efficiency. The writer holds no brief either for or against the manager, but I do think there are certain facts which should be called to the attention of the citizens of La Grande. There is no question in my mind but that taxation in this city is increasing, and increasing too rapidly.

Every taxpayer should know what an examination of the records shows. The sheriff's office reports the following as to the tax levy and the actual amount of taxes collected from 1917 to 1926, inclusive:

Year	Tax Levy	Amount Collected
1917	11.8	\$5,020.63
1918	12	\$5,592.89
1919	12.4	\$5,639.20
1920	11.8	\$5,661.86
1921	13.2	\$7,043.11
1922	14.1	\$6,970.31
1923	14.5	\$7,006.29
1924	22	\$10,413.85
1925	22.9	\$11,943.02

Examining these figures, we find that in 1926 the City of La Grande collected from its taxpayers approximately \$12,000 more than in 1917. In fact these figures show that the city is today collecting more, than twice as much in general taxes as was collected in 1917. Of course it is understood that this general tax does not include the special tax for local improvements which the citizens are called upon to pay in addition to the local tax, and the above figures reflect only the cost of the city government, including the payments on the bond issues.

As a matter of fact we find that prior to 1925 the city was paying about \$8000 annually upon its bonded indebtedness. We are now paying in the neighborhood of \$35,000 annually upon the bonded indebtedness. In other words, we are now paying some \$27,000 per year more upon our bonded indebtedness than prior to 1925. Deducting this \$27,000 from the amount collected by the city in 1926 leaves \$89,000 as the amount collected by the city in 1926 as against some \$53,000 in 1917. In other words the city is spending today some \$36,000 per annum more than in 1917 and it does not seem to the writer that the increase of population justifies this tremendous increase in expenditure.

We observe a Mack truck used in flushing the streets. We are informed that this truck cost the taxpayers of La Grande some \$7000. It has been the experience of the writer that an automobile or a truck is ready for the scrap heap in from five to seven years. In other words, the depreciation on this truck alone is bound to be enormous and considering the interest on the investment, it seems to the writer that this was a rather extravagant expenditure.

Considering the extremely high taxes which we are paying now, the time has come to call a halt on unnecessary public expenditures. We do not believe that another dollar should be spent in the way of paying for five years, and that every unnecessary expense from now on should be curtailed. The present commissioners are conscientious, able men, who we know desire to do the wishes of the citizens, and the public at this time are saying to the commission that it is time to call a halt.

Respectfully,
R. J. GREEN.

Nov. 11,

Editor of The Observer.

With surprise and sorrow I read the petition signed by 179 neighbors demanding the removal of La Grande's city manager. His crime is extravagance. Doubtless he has been guilty of putting on a white collar, and perhaps using a razor and soap and water once or twice a week. With all due respect to my 179 neighbors who signed that petition, I want that they will pardon me for expressing doubt of their ability, either individually or collectively, to pass on the required efficiency of a city manager for La Grande.

It is not difficult to read between the lines of said petition a note of lamentation over the passing of those happy days when long rubber boots were required to cross any part of Adams Avenue dry shod.

The city manager has helped the city commissioners to put La Grande on the map, and helped her blossom into civilization. With the prospect of continuous growth along lines of comfort and beauty these are considered cheap at any price. Think twice my neighbors before ye deprive any honest man of his job.

Yours truly,
L. GARRICK.

Three Tie For First in Turk Golf Tourney

Charles Hicks, J. C. Batchelder and H. E. Dixon tied for first in net scores of 69 in yesterday's "turkey" golf tournament at the country club course, and received turkeys as prizes.

About 25 golfers turned out for the event and the committee in charge is planning another "turkey shoot" for next Sunday, if weather permits.

Besides the three winners, the next highest scores follow: N. W. Fries and A. E. Kinnison, each 74; and H. D. Crowe and A. W. Nelson, each 75.

The Russian government seems to have beaten its swords into oil shares.

ABE MARTIN



Life's just one new hand-drawn card after another. "Well, I'm glad I don't live in Mexico," says Gabe Crow, who went to the wall yesterday.

4 ELEVENS HAVE TITLE CHANCES

Only Idaho, Stanford and Trojans Undeaten in Conference Games

Pacific Coast Conference	W. L. T. Per.
Stanford	3 0 1 100
Southern California	2 0 1 100
Idaho	1 0 2 100
Washington	3 1 0 75
Oregon Aggies	2 2 0 50
California	2 2 0 50
Washington State	1 2 1 33
Oregon	0 3 1 0
Montana	0 4 0 0

Games This Week

At Portland—Idaho Vs. Oregon Aggies.
At Palo Alto—California Vs. Stanford.
At Los Angeles—Washington State Vs. Southern California.
At Missoula—Montana State Vs. Montana.

PORTLAND, Ore., Nov. 11.—November games have wasted away the football championship hopes of all but four Pacific Coast conference football teams. Of the four, Stanford, Southern California and Idaho are undefeated while Washington has suffered one reverse. All of the undefeated colleges, however, have the games chalked against them.

What title aspirations the California Bears entertained after their 13-0 drubbing at the hands of Southern California went sprawling in the mud at Berkeley Saturday was a Washington Husky used their power to splash through for a lone touchdown victory. The Bears are out of it now with only one game left on their schedule—that with Stanford at Palo Alto next Saturday. However, Wisc. Price's Golden Bruin blocks Warner's Cardinals trail to a second successive coast championship, but the Red Shirts are favored to win.

Stanford Defeat Big Surprise. The big surprise this week came at Stanford, where Santa Clara nosed out the Reds by a 16-6 count. Tiny Cornhill, who was in charge while Port Warner scouted California at Berkeley, started the second stringers, but called in the regulars in the last half, when the score stood 6-6. The regulars could not get going soon enough, however, and the Catholics put over another touchdown to win. This was Stanford's second defeat of the season, losing previously to St. Mary's 16-0. Both games were outside the conference and do not count in the championship standings.

The Washington Huskies have two games left to play, first with the much-abused Oregon Webfoots at Seattle on Thanksgiving day, and next with the Trojans at Los Angeles on Dec. 2, just a week after Southern California battles Notre Dame on Soldiers' field at Chicago. The Purple horde should sweep over the Webfoots' easily enough, but what it can do under the blistering Southern California sun remains a matter of speculation. But the Thunder Herd has no safe assignment, for Rockne's Irishmen will give them all the battle they want at Chicago on November 26, and the long return trip to Los Angeles will leave them very little time to prepare for the Husky invasion.

Southern California had little difficulty in rolling over Colorado 46-7 at Los Angeles in an interconference game.

Aggies Get More Revenue. Armistice day the Oregon Aggies gained more revenue for a long string of past defeats at the hands of their old rival, Oregon, smothering the Webfoots in their annual clash, 21 to 7. Incidentally the Orange victory spoiled Oregon's homecoming. The Oregon Frogs, however, partly atoned for the varsity's loss by noosing out the Aggie Rocks at Corvallis, 19 to 6. The margin of victory was two safeties.

Idaho faces its final test of the season here next Saturday when the Vandals provide the opposition for the Oregon Aggies on stadium field. Idaho, with one conference victory and two ties to its credit, has plenty of power, as demonstrated in its homecoming game with Washington State at Pullman last Friday. The Cougars, however, led by the indomitable Hunch Meeker, fought off the Vandals and gained a 7-7 tie, thus saving their homecoming from ruin. Washington State has a real job this week, journeying to Los Angeles to tangle with Southern California.

Montana, the other conference member, played a scorching tie with Gonzaga 22-22 in a snow-covered grid-

SPORT NEWS

Enterprise Wins From Wallowans By Touchdown

ENTERPRISE, Nov. 14. (Special)—Among the features of the Armistice day celebration held here Friday was a flag raising ceremony and firing a salute of 21 guns by the American Legion.

The annual football game between the Wallowans and Enterprise high school teams was played at the fair grounds during the afternoon with a victory for Enterprise, 7 to 0. The teams were well matched and the game was a fast one. There was a large crowd in attendance and plenty of pep was displayed along the side lines.

In the evening the American Legion gave a dance at the Community hall.

The drum and bugle corps which the Legion is organizing will soon be able to give martial music. There are eight snare drums, eight bugles and two bass drums.

The longest English word recorded by any dictionary is anti-establishmentarianism.

Iron at Spokane. The Grizzlies have completed their conference schedule, failing to win a game. Next Saturday they will meet their traditional foe, Montana State, at Missoula.

University of California, southern branch, which becomes a member of the coast conference in 1928, wound up its season at Los Angeles Saturday with a 13-10 victory over California Tech.

Yale, by Defeating Princeton, Is on Top of Eastern Football Heap

By the Associated Press. With only one major shift involved, in which Yale moved over Princeton to the top of the eastern list, the latest series of college football battles found the following status to the variety conference or mythical sectional championships existing today:

East. Yale, by defeat of hitherto unbeaten Princeton eleven, holds major claim to eastern honors. Yale, neither beaten nor tied, by eastern teams, suffered only reverse in inter-sectional combat with Georgia. Pittsburgh and Washington and Jefferson, with a single tie as result of their own game, closed contenders among major elevens.

Midwest. With eight states of four victors and no defeats in conference games, heads list. The earlier with Iowa state only mar on record. Minnesota, tied by Indiana, ranks second in conference.

Missouri Valley Conference. Missouri, disposing of Iowa state, leads with four victories, no defeats or ties, in conference races. Nebraska with three victories and

FOOTBALL

SATURDAY RESULTS

Pacific Coast

Montana 9, Gonzaga 0.
Washington 6, California 0.
Santa Clara 13, Stanford 6.
Loyola College 18, Regis College 20.
Southern California 46, Colorado 7.
California Southern Branch 13, California Tech 0.
Oregon freshmen 10, Oregon Aggie freshmen 6.
Idaho freshmen 24, Cheney Normal 0.

Rocky Mountain

Colorado Aggies 37, Colorado Mines 6.
Colorado College 33, Western State 6.
University of Utah 20, Brigham Young University 0.

Sharkey-Heeney Fight Postponed

NEW YORK, Nov. 14. (AP)—The heavyweight match scheduled this Friday at Madison Square Garden between Jack Sharkey of Boston and Tom Heeney, New Zealand, was called off today as a result of an injury to Sharkey's left hand. X-ray examination in Boston today revealed a fracture. Sharkey will be unable to fight before January.

Vital statistics prove that lots of folks are putting the quart before the harse.

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Wonder What an All-Star Half Back Thinks About

By BRIGGS

WELL, I'M OFF FOR MY 39TH TOUCHDOWN.... FEET, DO YOUR STUFF



WHAT I'D GIVE FOR A CIGARETTE RIGHT NOW! OH, BOY!



THOSE GUYS WHO'RE YELLING FOR A TOUCHDOWN OUGHTA COME DOWN ON THE FIELD AND TRY TO MAKE ONE



THREE MONTHS WITHOUT A SMOKE! I'M FED UP ON FOOTBALL.



LOOK AT THAT LUCKY STIFF UP IN THE STANDS LIGHTIN' A CIGARETTE



WHEN THIS SEASON'S OVER I'M GOIN' TO BUY ME A CARTON OF OLD GOLD'S AND SMOKE 'EM ALL AT ONE SITTING



OLD GOLD

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