La Grande Evening Observer

(Incorporated)
An Independent Newspaper

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"The king from his brow his coronet flung
At a flaming forge his anvil rung.
With feverish haste he worked the gold,
Till a clanking chain on the stone floor roller,
That circled his limbs and held him down
With an iron grasp, though made from his crown.

"While far below in a dungeon dark,
With a feeble flame, from a dying spark,
A manacled slave forgot his pains,
And toiled with patience at iron chains.
Then proudly he threw his hammer down—
From his bonds he had forged for himself a crown

"Thus may each man at his own forge gain
Whatever he will—a crown or a chain."

—Edward P. Fitch.

According to an English magistrate, girls who stay out after 10 p. m. will lose their latchkeys. Well, if that's all they lose—.

A Newark, N. J., health officer mailed to each and every new-born babe in his city a bib upon which was printed, "I don't want to be sick. Do not kiss me"—one means of preventing the spread of influenza. Maybe there's an idea that could be adopted by some older people to curb stomach trouble.

Lindbergh has accomplished a dual service. He has won a charming, intelligent and thoroughly American girl for his bride. And he has vacated the hearts of thousands of sentimental young things and thus contributed to national conservation by stopping the use of tons of paper for mash notes. Nothing can prevent his being the world's most attractive hero for many a year, but he no longer can qualify as the world's greatest matrimonial catch.

Mr. Chrysler's valet must be a heavy drinker. Being caught with 81 bottles of assorted alcoholic beverages in Honolulu would indicate as much. No doubt Mr. Chrysler is glad to have his valet thus separated from so large a source of supply. Valets can't be quite as efficient in caring for their master's wardrobe when worrying about several dozen quarts of fine liquor. And it's quite possible that he would lay out the wrong shirt when under the influence of a bit of rum or gin. Yes, we are confident that Mr. Chrysler was well pleased at this enforced separation of his valet from liquid temptation. A trip to the Orient is always more pleasant if one's valet can be kept perfectly sober. Being a big business man and a motor magnate, Mr. Chrysler didn't say so. He didn't say anything. But he must have been very much gratified, don't you think?

BELONGERS

Some one, as a popular cartoonist frequently reminds us, is always taking the joy out of life; and among the most implacable purveyors of gloom are the concocters of statistics. Most of us can take figures or leave them alone; but these infatuated persons are helpless addicts of the vice, and the issuance of a statistical report is enough to send them on a debauch of analysis and deduction. They are mildly intoxicated, for example, by the mere announcement in a census bureau bulletin to the effect that during the year 1928 the American public spent $10,500,000 for emblems and insignia of the multifarious organizations of the country.

Well, what of it? What if this does corroborate the traditional charge that the American is by habit a "jiner," a slave to the gregarious instinct and a psychological urge to "belong" to something or other, especially if membership endows him with a glittering uniform? The wearing of a society's regalia is surely an innocent diversion, often symbolic of a lofty idealism. Besides, there is nothing that has a more beneficial effect upon sufferers from an inferiority complex.

Let a man be conscious of his obscurity in the social scheme, or of subordination to a stronger personality in his family relations, and what could be more solacing to his mind, more stimulating to his spirit, than the privilege of appearing from time to time in uniform and with a sword, even astride a charger? Democracy does make life a rather drab affair, and an occasional parade of richly caparisoned citizens is really in the nature of a public service. We have known men who satisfied their desires in this direction by hoarding the badges and buttons acquired at political conventions.

Anyway, why this implication of the statisticians that the traffic in insignia is a deplorable extravagance? Can it be that their disclosure is inspired by the women, a subtle act of reprisal for department of commerce reports reciting feminine expenditures for face powder and lipstick?

ABE MARTIN

"Next to gittin' all cuddled up in bed to read an' findin' the pages uncut, the most provokin' thing is squeezin' into a dinette an' then findin' you've forgot to put the butter on," says Mrs. Lafe Bud. Prohibition wuz goin' to save the home, an' yit ever' time a home is raided a truckload of assorted booze is found.

THE OPEN COURT

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

GET READY FOR THE BIG BOOM

Editor of The Observer.
Dear Sir:

The writer of this article, having been in the fur raising business the past four years, has been the subject of many inquiries regarding muskrat raising since the appearance of the writeup touching on this subject in a weekly paper recently. Most of the inquiries seemed to take the figures as stated therein in good faith and were already millionaires — on paper.

Now we do not claim to be an authority on muskrats, except that we investigated this end of the business when we first started raising fur bearing animals, and in correspondence with the world's best authorities ascertained that from 35 to 50 muskrats would be what could be raised and harvested per acre per year under natural conditions; that is without feeding and employing a caretaker. We were also given to understand that this number would be about as many as could be depended upon, as nature, through a survival of the fittest, would keep the increase down. We were also informed that we could not expect to make any profit unless we could purchase swamp land at not over $5 per acre to use for farming purposes.

But it seems we overlooked a bet, from the figures in the article, which gives as the natural increase from one pair of muskrats in three years 9,240 rats. That is, if you place one pair of rats in an enclosure, that you can go back in three years and kill that many rats from the one pair. Now the usual muskrat farm is not less than 160 acres in the west, and thousands of acres in the swamp lands of the south. But the southern rat farms are not enclosed with wire fences, just immense hunting and fishing preserves where no one but the owners are allowed to hunt or trap, hence the natural increase is at its best, and even though 50 rats are trapped to an acre the returns are immense. So we do not need to take into consideration in our calculations of increase and profit the southern rat and hunting preserves, but need to confine our selves to the Grande Ronde Valley and nearby territory. We know for a fact that the muskrat farms conducted in Idaho, not over 150 miles from here, and along the same lines as would need be here, have not paid any big dividends, also that their natural increase has not been anything tremendous, as we have been handling their stock and have thus been acquainted with conditions as to increase for two years.

However, coming back to the three year increase the article quoted as being 9,240, by the use of a pencil and a few more figures we find that if we started our rat farm of 160 acres with 500 pairs of rats, in three years we would have 500 times 9,240, or 4,620,000 rats. Now in 160 acres there are 6,969,600 square feet, or, in other words, a rat to every foot and a half square of land. That is, we would have until we tried to confine that number of rats for one year in the 160 acres. As the usual muskrat fence is only four feet high, if nothing happened to any of these rats and we fed them properly, we would have them for a short time only, because (here nature again asserts her sway) it would not be long before every rat would be over the top and we would have 160 acres of fine fertilizer. (Question—confine a muskrat in a box one and a half feet square, four feet high and never clean the box, how long before said rat would be over the top.)

Continuing our figuring, provided all these rats were in said enclosure when we went there to harvest them, and disease had not taken the whole lot because of being packed in like sardines. It is a sure thing that there would not be an iota of sustenance on the one and a half feet square in about five minutes (unless the rats ate its own droppings and thus made a continuous merry-go-round) so we would have to provide feed and water for said rats. (Some merry night at feeding time, we'll say and a lot smothered). Say we fed them apples. As a basis to figure on, say we used 200s (200 apples to the box). Two apples a day for 4,620,000 rats is 9,240,000 apples, or at 200 per box, 46,200 boxes of apples a day, 365 days—oh, heck, our pencil broke. (We refere this to the apple growers and the Commercial Club). Also, when pelting time came, at 50 rats a day per man, it would take 92,400 men one day to pelt these rats. Then there would be employment for a great number of teams, or trucks, to haul away the carcasses (or perhaps it would be better for the population of the valley to move out.) And if one farm of 160 acres will do this, why not have three or four rat farms in the valley. Not only would the muskrat growers be millionaires, but the apple growers, carrot growers, trappers, skinners, truck men, root gatherers, fur garment manufacturers, railroads through hauling in food for man and beast (muskrats) would all profit immensely.

Seriously, however, and we are now holding with the authorities who give 35 to 50 rats to the acre as the increase that can be safely depended upon, unless we are in a locality where eagles, hawks and owls do not take their daily toll from your farm, we believe there is good money to be made from lands that are naturally suited to muskrats, which is cheap, swampy acreage. Say a man had 40 to 160 acres of such land. Breeding stock will cost him $10 to $12 per pair. One pair to an acre will, at the natural increase, allow for losses and the harvesting of the 50 rats, and leave enough to raise 50 more to the acre each succeeding year. It will take the first year's proceeds to pay for the fencing and breeding stock, at least. After that the returns can be figured at $50 per acre, net, of $8,000 if 160 acres were enclosed. On this basis no feeding would be necessary unless for a short time in the winter. Precautionary measures, such as trapping, shooting and otherwise disposing of hawks and owls would be necessary under any conditions, for once they began catching the rats one a day would be their toll unless disposed of, and that would not take long to do away with profits and all.

This article is not written to throw cold water on any deserving project, and we only wish that actual muskrat farming was as profitable as paper muskrat farming. That it is not has been proven time and again, for there are numerous muskrat farms in Canada and the United States that have been in operation for years and the increase has been nothing to brag about. In fact most of our muskrat skins still come from outside trapping operations today, the same as they have for years.

Some exploiters are now booming the raising of muskrats in small steel pens, but their figures are subject to the same treatment as the other paper methods. The one big drawback being that a pen raised pelt is not worth nearly so much as one raised in the wild.

C. N. Palmer

P. S. In "paper" figuring we can show where a pair of Chinchilla rabbits will yield returns of $1,289,828 in three years by keeping all the does and breeding them, and selling off the unneeded bucks, provided we can sell each rabbit for as much at the end of three years as we sold rabbits for this past year. But in actual returns we only realized a little over $1000 from ten does.

OFFICE SALARIES REPORT IS MADE

Tentative Draft of Measure Reported to State Legislature

SALEM, Ore., Feb. 16 (AP)—The house committee appointed to classify the counties of the state and the county officers for the purpose of securing uniformity in salaries made a tentative report Friday dividing the counties in five classes and providing a definite salary schedule for each class. Equalized valuation is made the basis of classification. The first report incorporates substantial salary increases for Marion county officers.

J. P. Clark, representative from Clackamas, stated definitely that this first report is not the final report, and is not the recommendation which his committee will make to the house before the close of the sessions. Any discrepancies or possible weaknesses in the first report will be ironed out before the final report is made. Other members of the classification committee are Norton of Coos, Hazlett of Hood River, Potter of Lane and Wells of Multnomah.

In its first report the committee has classified the counties as follows: First class, counties having a valuation of over $500,000,000; second class, counties having a valuation of more than $75,000,000; third class, counties having more than $45,000,000; fourth over $25,000,000; fifth, all counties having a valuation under $25,000,000.

County Classification

At the present time, based on equalized valuation figures secured from the state tax commissioner's office, the counties of the state would fall in the following classification: First, Multnomah; second class, Lane, Marion, Clackamas and Umatilla; third, Washington, Linn, Klamath, Douglas, Jackson, Coos and Clatsop; fourth class, Yamhill, Baker, Union, Tillamook, Polk, Wasco, Columbia, and Benton; fifth, Deschutes, Malheur, Wallowa, Morrow, Hood River, Lake, Gilliam, Sherman, Lincoln, Harney, Josephine, Grant, Cook, Jefferson, Wheeler and Curry.

Salary schedules have been drawn up as follows: In the first class the sheriff would receive $6,000 annually, the treasurer, $2600; the clerk and judge each $6000; the school superintendent, $2600, and the assessor, $6000.

Second class: Sheriff, $2700; treasurer, $2000; judge and clerk, $2400; school superintendent, $2,400; assessor, $2400, and county commissioners $2000.

Third class: Sheriff, $2500; treasurer, $1800; clerk and judge, $2200; school superintendent $2,200; assessor, $2200; county commissioners, $1500.

Fourth class: Sheriff, $2400; treasurer, $1500; judge and clerk, $2100; school superintendent $2,100; assessor, $2100; commissioners, $6 per day.

Fifth class: Sheriff, $2300; treasurer, $1350; judge and clerk, $2050; school superintendent $2,000; county commissioners, $5 per day; assessor, $2000.

MARKET NEWS OF THE DAY

CHICAGO GRAIN

Wheat	Open	High	Low	Close
Mar.	1.27½@1.27¼	1.29⅝	1.26½	1.26⅝
May	1.31½@1.31⅝	1.32	1.30⅝	1.30⅞@1.31
July	1.34	1.34½	1.33	1.33 @1.33¼

LIVERPOOL WHEAT

LIVERPOOL, Feb. 16 (AP)—Wheat close March 9s 3⅝d per 100 lbs., 1.35½; May: 9s 5⅝d, 1.37¼; July, 9s 8⅝d, 1.41¼.

PORTLAND WHEAT

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 16 (AP)—Grain: Wheat Big Bend bluestem, hard white 1.56; soft white, 1.22; western white 1.22; hard winter 1.19; northern spring 1.19; western red 1.20.

Oats: No. 2-35 lb. white, 39.00.

Today's car receipts: Wheat 76, flour 10, corn 7, oats 6, hay 2.

CHICAGO CASH

CHICAGO, Feb. 16 (AP)—Wheat, No. 2 hard 1.28½.

Corn, No. 5 mixed 89½@90; No. 5 yellow 89¼@90½.

Oats, No. 3 white 49½@50½; sample grade 47½.

Rye, no sales.

Barley, 69@75.

Timothy seed, 5.10@5.70.

Clover seed 22.25@30.25.

Lard, 11.85.

Ribs, 12.80.

Bellies, 13.00.

Wheat Unsettled And Some Lower

CHICAGO, Feb. 16 (AP)—Opening ¼ to ½c lower, wheat afterwards kept near to the initial range. Corn started at ⅛ to ⅜c decline and subsequently continued to point downward. Oats were easy, provisions likewise tended to sag.

Wheat closed unsettled ⅞c to 1¼c net lower, corn 1c to 1⅝c down, oats ⅝ to 1¼c off, and provisions unchanged to a setback of 15c.

CHICAGO LIVESTOCK

CHICAGO, Feb. 16 (AP)—(U. S. Dept. of Agric.)—Hogs: Receipts 20,000; mostly steady with Friday's averages; top 10.25 paid for around 200 pounds; largely 10.10@10.25, market for desirable, 17-220 lbs.; shippers took 5,000; holdovers, 3,600; butchers, medium to choice 250-300 pounds, 10.00@10.20; 200-250 pounds, 10.00@10.25.

Cattle: Receipts 300. Compared to a week ago, better grade fed steers and long yearlings, 25@75c lower; rough heavies off most on a decline which hit all heavy steers hardest; light yearlings, especially kinds scaling over 800 pounds, downward 50c higher; largely steer run; better grades showing most decline. Vealers largely steady; decline in steers, uncovered new low prices and the heaviest losses to finishers on the current crop; many weighty steers $2.00 under original cost as feeders and basic conditions such as dressed beef trade hide market and potential cattle supply to run at once remained bearish; extreme top 14.25 paid for yearlings; best heavies 13.85; bulk 11.00@12.50; all slaughter steers and yearlings around 11.50.

Sheep: Receipts 3,000. For the week, 41 doubles from fed lots, 29,500 direct; shipper demand light; yard traders operated sparingly quality of supply plainer; compared with the close last week: Fat lambs largely 25c lower; aged sheep fully 25c off; top prices for the week: Fat lambs, 17.35 early; yearling wafers 14.50; fat ewes, 9.50; bulk prices for the week: fat lambs, 16.00@16.75; yearlings, $13@14.50; fat ewes, 8.25@8.25; feeding lambs unchanged; bulk 15.00@15.50; few loads of westerns, 15.75@16.00.

PORTLAND LIVESTOCK

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 16 (AP)—Total for week, approximately: Cattle 2040, calves 180, hogs 5060, sheep 3445.

Cattle market compared with week ago: All classes steady. A few loads of good light steers $11 to 11.25. One load 11.50. Good strong weights at 10.85 to 11.15. Others 10.50 down to 8.50. Good heifers 10.00@10.50. Good cows, 9.00@9.25. One load at 9.35. Less desirable kinds 8.75 down. Low cutters down to 5.00 but mostly 5.50 or better. Good bulls mostly 8.00 to 8.50. Best light vealers 14.50. Bulk 13.00 to 14.00. Calves 12.00 down. Heavies and thins down to 8.00.

Hogs compared with week ago: Killing classes mostly steady. Feeder pigs 25 cents lower. Bulk light butchers for week 10.75 to 11.00. Nothing over 10.75 after early Monday. Over and under weights 10.50 down. Heavies mostly 9.50 or better. Packing sows 8.50 to 9.00. Slaughter pigs largely 10.00 to 10.25. Feeder pigs generally 9.50 to 10.00. A few early Monday at 10.25.

Sheep and lambs steady with a week ago.

BUTTERFAT

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 16 (AP)—Butterfat f. a. b. San Francisco, 52c.

Speculators In Mad Scramble to Get Out of Mart

NEW YORK, Feb. 16 (AP)—A mad scramble to get out of the stock market as a result of the federal reserve campaign to force a reduction in brokers' borrowings brought about another sharp decline in prices in today's brief session. Scores of active issues sank $2 to $8 a share, and a few high priced specialties crumbled $10 to $21 under an avalanche of selling for long and short accounts.

Total sales were 2,455,700 shares.

Radio (old stock), which sold as high as $410 this year and at $420 in the closing weeks of 1928, broke $21 a share to $335. Wright Aeronautical, Union Carbide, Montgomery-Ward, Johns Manville and a score of the other so-called "blue chip" issues closed at net declines of $5 a share, or more. Such popular bills and industrials as Canadian Pacific, U. S. Steel Common, American Can, Sears Roebuck, American Telephone, Woolworth, Packard, Anaconda, and National Cash Register lost $2 a share or more.

WOOL MARKET

BOSTON, Feb. 16 (AP)—Prices on fine graded territory wool including 58-60s and quality above 60s have eased slightly during the past week. While in many cases the lower prices were on odd lots of clean up sales, limited demand here has been filled to some extent from such offerings. Some fair sized quantities from large offerings, however, have sold at slightly lower figures than owners have been willing to accept. Bearish pressure has had little effect as yet on 56 and 58-56s quality.

BOBCATS CLAWED BY TIGER QUINT, SCORE 28 TO 19

(Continued from Page One)

to fouling. The visitors excelled in free throws, scoring 60 per cent to the Tigers' 40.

Summary

Union (19)			(28) La Grande
Delap (5)	F		(2) Braden
E. Parent (3)	F		(4) Wallsinger
J. Parent (10)	C		(3) Wolfe
Wilde	G		(4) Roe
Davis (1)	G		(1) Thompson
Meyers	S		(6) F. Newlin
G. Miller	S		(8) V. Newlin
J. Miller	S		Faus

Score by Quarters

	1	2	3	4	
Bobcats	7	3	5	4	—19
Tigers	7	5	6	10	—28

Free throws: La Grande 15, converted 6; Union 15, converted 9.

Field baskets: La Grande 11, Union 5.

Referee: Fred Wolf, of Baker.

Butter Breaks Sharply; Eggs Remain Steady

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 16 (AP)—Three grades of butter broke sharply today, influenced, perhaps, as much by the warmer weather as any other factor. Extras and standards slumped half a cent to 47 and 46, respectively, while prime firsts took a drop of a full cent to 45. The lowest grade remained unchanged at 44.

Butterfat went down one cent to 46, station, and 47 track, with the Portland delivery price quoted 48@52.

Eggs showed no tendency to move one way or the other.

Poultry and other country meat supplies were easier with larger supplies promised, equalled, however, by the weekend demand.

Fruits and vegetables were unchanged.

PORTLAND PRODUCE

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 16 (AP)—Wholesale prices—But ter, lower. Extras 47c; standards 46c; prime firsts 45c; firsts 44c. Creamery prices: Prints 2c over cube standards.

Eggs: Steady and unchanged.

Milk: Butterfat cent lower. Butterfat, station 46c; track 47c; delivered at Portland 49@52c.

Poultry, onions, potatoes, wool, nuts, hay, cascara bark, hops: All steady and unchanged.

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There are many forms of stomach trouble, some of which are not due to stomach weakness, but to the weakness of other organs in the alimentary tract, which include the liver and other intestinal organs. When any of the alimentary organs are out of order, it may affect the stomach.

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