

# LaGrande Evening Observer

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## LAUGHTER AND TEARS

A British playwright in an attack on the general joviality of the theater denounces those bursts of laughter that "destroy the illusion." He objects strongly to "the degraded thing called the laugh, which is one of the curses of the English stage."

The illusion of the theater does really fade when some poor clown is throwing his jests to a silent, unresponsive audience. In that chill air the actor's fire dies and the audience grows more uncomfortable, fidgety and disillusioned. But if there is appropriate and roaring response, the mimes grow merrier, the audience forgets the footlights and the make-believe, and the fun grows fast and furious.

Does not one go to the theater to laugh, or at least to seek laughter? Tears are far more dangerous than laughter to the delicate fabric of illusion in the theater. When tragedy piles high upon the stage, and the wretched hero bows beneath the weight of accumulated sorrows, the audience sits silent, breathless. A snuffle then, a choking sob, and some too sympathetic follower of the drama has broken the spell of illusion. His neighbors look about them, ashamed, self-conscious, mopping eyes and nose with furtive dabs, no longer bound up in the hero's plight.

The curse of the stage is not he who laughs aloud but he or she who has learned to weep silently.

## A NEW IDEA FOR FARM RELIEF

In a recent editorial in the Liberty magazine a proposal for the solution of the farm problem was outlined in which the same tactics that would be used under conditions of over-production in the steel industry would be employed for the farm industry. Liberty suggests that agricultural production be reduced by the government buying farm land with the two billion dollars now planned for marketing aid, let it lie idle or plant it to forests. Reduced production would follow and prices would rise, so the magazine contends.

That's exactly the system that would be followed by the steel industry to bring about a more profitable condition, it is true—plants would be shut down and production curtailed. If prices of agricultural commodities rose with the government owing two billion dollars worth of land left idle, the land value would increase as population totals grew and the government would probably regain its entire investment eventually, with all carrying charges.

But there are some impractical angles to the proposal, which offer an opportunity for interesting speculation. Taking an average price of \$100 an acre for all varieties of farm lands now producing a surplus—wheat, corn, cotton, etc.—two billion hard dollars would buy twenty million acres for the government to take out of production. If it were all wheat land producing an average of 15 bushels to the acre, wheat production would be cut in half, according to this year's estimated crop of 600 million bushels in this country. Which would probably send the price sky-rocketing for those who still raised wheat.

But the government purchased land would have to be divided in the right proportion among the commodities requiring relief. That would be the first difficulty. Next it would be necessary to get farmers to sell their land on a basis of its present earning power, not on a basis of the anticipated earning power of that which remained in cultivation. That would be no small difficulty. And third, the successful operation of the scheme would require some means of preventing the owners of pasture land and other land not now in production from putting that land to crop and up-setting the whole apple cart.

No one but the crop experts know exactly where it comes from, but there is always a great increase in acreage of wheat, for example, whenever there is a suspicion that the wheat price is going to increase. That is what happened this year, with some sort of farm relief keenly anticipated from the present special session of congress. And the price of wheat hits the lowest level in 15 years.

The Liberty magazine contends that its solution is practical but unlikely to be adopted because congress is political rather than practical. A fair criticism—but the magazine would do well to tell how these other difficulties could be worked out satisfactorily before worrying about the attitude of congress. And at that, the plan seems to have more merit than a good many that have already been given serious consideration.

**AIRMEN APPOINTED**  
error Patterson as members of the state board of aeronautics to fill vacancies that have long existed on the board. Other members of the board are A. B. McKenzie and Archib. J. Holt.

## What Would La Grande Be Like If All Bought Elsewhere, Dollar Asks



"White traveling around in a man's pocket today," said "Bill" Dollar. "I heard my owner say, 'What kind of a place would La Grande be if everyone here were like you?' Your suit is from Portland and your hat is from Walla Walla and I'll bet everything else you have on comes from out of town."

"We would have a fine place to call home if every man who makes his living here as you do, bought everything he could out of town. You would be a small town fellow sure enough, with none of the civic advantages of this city."

"Look at the faces our merchants pay to give us all of the modern improvements we have and then ask yourself what you are doing to help support the home stores. 'I couldn't hear what the other fellow answered,' said "Bill" Dollar, "but I related the experience to Los Angeles 'Bill,' who had just reached the city as change for an order of supplies made by a local firm, and he replied, 'you will find that type of man in a great many cities, and they don't contribute much to the place they call home.'"

"Undoubtedly the one remark that carries the greatest amount of weight in all of the talk that is occurring is that the mounted men are the worst offenders in buying away from this city, because the man who makes a small salary must necessarily make all of his purchases at home, because he has neither the time nor the money to make trips to far away places for goods he uses every day."

"The bulk of the criticism falls on the men who have been blessed with more money than the average citizen. To the extent that the criticism is just lies with the man himself. He needs but ask himself the question—am I buying everything that I can here at home?—and then let his actions prove how sincere he is in his dealings with the home merchants."

"If the business men of La Grande are offending in this respect," continued "Bill" Dollar, "and justify the criticism that has been leveled at them, they should remember that the man who is not a familiar face in the business places of this city is not a man who attracts many business friendships. He creates very little good will."

"People will buy from him if they have to if he has bargains which simply cannot be resisted, but when things are about equal they never go out of their way to serve him. Such a man has a reputation for cold isolation, and if wins it is by sheer hard work. Friendships never help him."

"A great many of the prizes of life go by favor. The man who feels interested in his fellow townsmen, who takes every opportunity to throw business deals in the way of a neighbor has created a host of friendly and willing debtors."

"These factors are not forgotten. They seem like bread cast on the waters of a shoreless sea; then some day when he least expects it, along comes some man to whom he has done a business favor and feels it a pleasure to make some return."

## Women Organize For Temperance; Score Hypocrites

CHICAGO, May 29 (AP)—A nation-wide organization of women, seeking temperance but opposing prohibition, is being formed under the leadership of Mrs. Charles H. Sabin, of New York, former republican national committee woman.

Plans for the organization were discussed yesterday at a meeting of women from 26 states interested by Mrs. Sabin. Temporary headquarters will be opened in New York and state leaders will immediately launch membership campaigns.

Although the Women's Christian Temperance union, which favors temperance through prohibition, was not mentioned by name, leaders of the new movement intimated their organization would oppose its program.

"This is the first time that women who favor temperance, but oppose prohibition, have been articulated," Mrs. Sabin said. "The organization is a result of the demand from women all over the country who realize the deplorable effects of the prohibition law upon their country and their children."

Mrs. Sabin made it plain that public officers who vote dry but drink wet will be exposed by the organization and vigorously opposed politically. She said the temperance society would "dabble a little in politics."

**ABRAMS TO GO EAST**  
SALEM, Ore., May 29 (AP)—Carle Abrams, secretary of the state board of control and state purchasing agent, will leave today for Buffalo, N. Y., to attend a national meeting of purchasing agents. He will take two patients from the state hospital for deportation to other states.

**EXPLOSION KILLS WORKMAN**  
SEATTLE, May 29 (AP)—Neil Christoferson, 42, a shop foreman at the National Steel Construction company's plant, was killed instantly here today when a compressed air tank which he was testing exploded. A. F. Gifford, mechanic, who was working with Christoferson, was severely injured.

**CAPITALIST DIES**  
BOSTON, May 29 (AP)—Washington B. Thomas, 72, capitalist and former president of the American Sugar Refining company, died here today. He was president of the United States Golf association in 1899 and 1906 and was commander of the Eastern Yacht club in 1909.

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**ABE MARTIN**

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You will remember the name  
I'll be the next to bite the dust.  
She's been back an' forth from Detroit forty times an' her haint a bullet in her," said Joe Kite while tryin' to sell his coupe.

**CALLAHAN IS STILL JUNIOR CHAMP TODAY**

LOS ANGELES, Cal., May 29 (AP)—Mushy Callahan still wore the Junior welterweight crown today, the flistic coronet bearing two slight dents as the only evidence of the unsuccessful attempt by Fred "Dummy" Mahan, deaf mute boxer to lift it here last night.

Callahan defended his Dadean by knocking out the Columbus, O., fighter, but only after some of the wildest milling ever seen in this section had been crowded into the two and a half rounds the titular bout lasted. The champion twice was sent sprawling flat on his back by the deaf mute's powerful right. He in turn, dropped Mahan three times.

Mahan crumpled to the canvas under terrific punishment meted out by the champion in the third round, and his second flung a towel into the ring to cut short the referee's count. Mahan, was carried from the ring.

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