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O Lord, revive thy work in the midst of the years.—Habakkuk 3:3.

BUSINESS AS USUAL

Business in La Grande has suffered considerably from economic strains and shocks during the past year, the same as the majority of the cities and towns of the nation. Low market prices for farm products and the lack of a market for lumber have been the chief factors in the slowing down of the business machine.

We were all doing our best to carry on under such conditions, and doing a better job of it than many other communities, when the city treasury was suddenly found to be some hundred thousand dollars short through the cleverness of the treasurer in covering up her appropriation of public funds for private use. That put the city government in a tight place and required strict economy to avoid the necessity of increased taxation to offset the loss.

Then, after adjusting ourselves to that situation, we were running along fairly smoothly when both of our banks suddenly closed their doors on a Saturday noon last March—the United States National closing because of the large amount of paper classified by the bank examiners as frozen assets, and the La Grande National following suit because of the danger of a run on its deposits.

That occasion was a test of the loyalty and confidence of the people of La Grande and the surrounding territory—a test that was passed with flying colors. Depositors of the United States National promptly signed waivers on a large percentage of their accounts in order to make possible the organization of a new bank which would take over the deposits and such proportion of the assets of both old banks as might be approved by the examiners.

As a result of the fast work accomplished between Saturday evening and Monday morning, the necessary waivers were signed and \$150,000 in capital and surplus for the new bank was raised by the local business men and citizens of the county, and the First National bank opened for business at nine o'clock Monday morning. This could never have been done if our people had lacked confidence in the future of the community.

The new bank made it possible to continue the ordinary course of business, and conditions over the nation during the late summer showed considerable improvement and furnished some encouragement for the railroad and brighter prospects in the lumber industry. The recent announcement of plans to re-open the Mt. Emily mill was the most optimistic news in this vicinity in the past several months; so it was with great surprise that most people heard that the First National Bank had decided to go into voluntary liquidation and close its doors.

The fundamental cause for the closing of the bank was the continuous withdrawal of deposits, almost half of the total deposits having been withdrawn during the past seven months. The bank, because of widespread economic stress, was unable to collect enough of its loans to offset such heavy withdrawals, though it might have stemmed the tide with the aid of the Federal Home Loan bank and the Agricultural Credit corporation in the next two or three weeks.

But the declaration of a bank holiday in Pendleton last Tuesday evidently frightened many local bank depositors who withdrew their money to the extent of some \$70,000 during a single day, and by Tuesday afternoon someone had started a rumor that the La Grande bank was going to close its doors. Rumors and the consequent spread of fear finally made necessary the very action which the people feared, and the directors decided to go into voluntary liquidation rather than risk a run the next day.

(Speaking of rumors—on Wednesday morning there were stories in circulation to the effect that several large business firms in town had withdrawn all their money and caused the bank to close. The Safeway Stores, Montgomery Ward & Co., the J. C. Penney Co., and the Interior Grocery were among those accused. In surrounding towns and even in Baker the story was told that Safeway had broken the bank in La Grande. Investigation revealed that all such rumors were groundless, especially the latter, since Safeway was one of the stockholders in the First National, and it would have been directly contrary to their own interests to cause the bank to close.)

But all that is now a thing of the past. The damage is done, and now our energies should be engaged in repairing it. Business is greatly handicapped with no bank in the city, but it is surprising to see how rapidly men can adjust themselves to the most difficult situations. By some means or another we are all managing to get along. There is a considerable amount of cash in circulation, and more use is being made of bartering than ever before, for labor and various services as well as for goods. In a city where it would ordinarily seem impossible to get along without a bank, "business as usual" is the slogan in spite of the absence of any financial institution.

There is considerable doubt that another bank can be organized right away; it may be some time before a sufficient number of people can be persuaded to put their money in a bank again. But if conditions improve at all in the next few months, we shall undoubtedly have a new financial institution in La Grande. People will sooner or later outgrow their

present lack of confidence and start all over again to reconstruct the system of trade.

Here in the Grande Ronde valley we have a good foundation on which to build. As a visitor remarked just a day or two ago, a former local resident, "the valley is just as beautiful as ever, the soil just as fertile, the crops just as plentiful, the weather just as fine; our troubles are not the result of the failure of Nature, but are entirely due to maladjustment of human relationships and lack of confidence in each other." These conditions can be remedied, though it takes time to heal the wounds, and then we will find ourselves back on the road to normal living conditions.

HAIL HINDENBURG!

Those shouting thousands of Germans who trooped down the streets of Berlin to shout birthday greetings for President Von Hindenburg represented, when you stop to think about it, one of the most encouraging factors in the entire European situation today.

Their celebration was an expression of the profound loyalty and respect which the average German feels for the aging warrior; and that sentiment is, perhaps, about as good a bulwark as Europe today possesses against disaster.

Germany is being pulled about sorely these days. Revolution is hardly more than a hand's breadth distant. Hitler, the Hohenzollerns, the Communists—all are watching their chance, all have strong public support, all would seize power tomorrow if conditions were just a little bit more favorable. And no one needs to be told what such an event could mean to the peace of Europe.

But in all this confusion Germany has one thing to tie to—it's stalwart, incorruptible old president. And it is that very feeling of confidence and love which gives us our best reason for hoping that the final outcome of things in central Europe will not be as bad as it easily might be.

All of this, of course, is only another way of saying that the intangible things in human affairs are usually the most important.

The feeling which a large number of people happen to have for one man is something you cannot put into the scales. You can't measure it, as you can Hitler's shock troops; you can't dissect it, as you can dissect the group which seeks to restore the Hohenzollern dynasty; it is simply there, more potent than any of these more material things, just as India's love for Gandhi proved, not so long ago, to be so much more potent than any of the more tangible elements in the Indian equation.

Other Papers Say:

TRUTH ABOUT THE HAWLEY TARIFF

Probably no tariff measure ever enacted in American history has been more lied about than the Hawley-Smoot tariff. The Democratic spellbinders are now damning it from Maine to Texas and laying on it the burden of our woes. At the same time the Democratic nominee as he travels from place to place assures localities that their specific tariffs will be preserved. What is the tariff but a compilation of local demands?

This editor is not a high-tariff Republican. In our opinion the change in our national status from a debtor to a creditor nation called for attention in our tariff policy. But the Democratic position on the tariff is now thoroughly hypocritical. In their 1928 platform they approved the principle of the protective tariff and Al Smith campaigned with the definite assurance to Wall street that high protection would be maintained.

When individual schedules were up for adoption the Democrats voted precisely as the interests of their districts dictated. Thus we had Dilley voting for a tariff on lumber, Thomas of Oklahoma for a tariff on oil, Walsh of Montana for a tariff on copper, Broussard of Louisiana for a tariff on sugar. When the whole list is completed the Democrats rage with fury and brand the tariff measure as one of the deadly sins.

Pres. Hoover urged a revision of the tariff in his first message to congress with particular application to agriculture. Most of the tariff upping which was done was on agricultural items. While numerous changes were made in industrial items as well, the tariff was distinctly one for the protection of agriculture.

The Hawley-Smoot tariff has been assailed as the highest in our history, which is not true. The average rates of duties for the several tariff acts, at the date of passage as applied to imports for the preceding year were: McKinley tariff 48.49%; Dingley tariff 46.39%; Payne tariff 40.83%; Fordney tariff 38.85%; Hawley tariff 41.24%.

Thus the Hawley-Smoot tariff was lower than the average rates of the Republican tariffs of the last 40 years.

At the time of its enactment the tariff act of 1930 showed a net decrease, weighed average, in four schedules of 8.17%; and a net increase in 11 schedules of 7.41%; or a net increase for the act as a whole of only 2.39%.

The average on all imports, free and dutiable, is about 16%, or an increase of 3.2% over the act of 1922. Such average was 23% under the McKinley act, 20.9% under the Wilson (Democratic) act, 25.8% under the Dingley act, and 19.4% under the Payne act.

Now take the matter of change of items. In the 1929 tariff there were 3300 dutiable items. Of these 890 were increased in the Hawley-Smoot act, 234 were decreased, and 2170 were left unchanged.

The percentage of imports admitted DUTY FREE under the Hawley-Smoot act is the largest with a single exception in 40 years. The percentages are as follows, of the items which came in free of duty:

McKinley tariff	52.4%
Wilson tariff	49.4%
Dingley tariff	45.2%
Payne tariff	32.5%
Underwood tariff	66.3%
Fordney tariff	63.8%
Hawley tariff	66.9%

We cite these figures, not to defend the tariff of 1930, but to refute the false assertion made by Democratic spokesmen who preach low tariff and practice tariff high-jacking. For example APTER the Hawley-Smoot tariff was adopted, those who really led the fight for MORE protection on oil, lumber and copper were DEMOCRATS. Democrat Henry H. Van Duser of this state was lobby-

OUT OUR WAY



By J. R. Williams

THE OPEN COURT

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

A. L. Gralapp, Oct. 12, 1932
Principal La Grande High School
La Grande, Oregon:

Dear Mr. Gralapp:
My attention was called last evening to an article appearing in the La Grande Evening Observer which stated that the Enterprise school and the Enterprise team was offering the condition of the field at La Grande as an alibi for losing the game. We hope that this report is not accepted as true by the La Grande school and team. At no time has the school or any member of the team offered any excuse or alibi for the score. I am sorry that such a report should get so far as to be published as authentic. Of course we cannot be responsible for individual reports which may get out. We wish to assure the La Grande school and team that we consider that we did our best to win the game but that our best was not good enough, and that your team won the game by playing football.

Again assuring you of our best wishes for the continued success of the La Grande squad, we remain,
Yours truly,
L. Lee Williams, superintendent.
Paul E. Schiller, coach.
Vern White, student body pres.

Thoughtful Bobby

Bobby, age four, was to accompany his daddy to a shooting match for the first time. Bob arrived on the scene with his hands full of matches. When we asked him why he carried the matches, he replied indignantly, "Why, for daddy to shoot at, of course."

Ancient Roman Empire

The Roman empire included the present countries of Italy, Great Britain, France, Spain, Austria, Hungary, the Balkan peninsula, Asia Minor, Palestine and northern Africa.

Importance of Meat

Meat is a healthful, nutritious food which furnishes complete proteins, excellent minerals (iron and phosphorus), and some vitamins (glutathione meats—A, B, and G; lean meat—G and E).—Exchange.

the facts about how the Hawley-Smoot tariff gives protection to Oregon agriculture products adequately FOR THE FIRST TIME in post-war history.—Sales Statesman.

In Washington

By Herbert Plummer

WASHINGTON — Just over the broad east plaza of the capitol the other day, in the presence of the foremost jurists and lawyers of the country, a ceremony took place that might well have been called a memorial to William Howard Taft.

It was the laying of the corner stone for the state new home of the nation's highest court.

The late president and chief justice long dreamed of the day when

that should come to pass. For it was under his steady pressure that general plans for the building were completed, title to the land acquired and the structure itself authorized by law. He died just before the actual appropriation could be made.

Far back in the first years of Taft's Washington life, Theodore Roosevelt, then his chief, suggested that Taft was available timber for the presidency. Taft, however, let it be known that what he wanted was a place on the supreme bench.

REALIZED AMBITION
Taft was drafted for the presidency, however, if a man ever was. And it brought him in the end one of the bitterest political defeats any man of his party has known.

Yet time brought him consolation. As chief justice he reached the pinnacle of his lifelong ambition.

At the start he set himself to intensive study of the practices and processes of the court. Under his driving force much was done to speed up federal judicial machinery.

Yet his heart was not set upon that so much as it was on the realization of his long cherished dream of a state independent building to house the court—a structure in keeping with the dignity and power of the judicial arm of the government.

A MEMORIAL
Now the court is to have its home as he had dreamed it. Even the architectural design bears the stamp of his individual taste.

And, whether it is so designated or not, to many the structure will stand as a memorial to his long and distinguished public service.

We Recommend These Purchases

In this issue you will find a number of advertisements of real interest to you.

They offer for sale a variety of products that are often enough vital necessities. Sooner or later you will have to buy many of them anyway. You will undoubtedly buy some of those we advertise.

We recommend these heartily because we know from long experience that when a product bears the name of its maker and finds a friendly market throughout the country it must have survived the most exacting tests as to quality, desirability, and value!

In this day when a manufacturer or merchant reaches the point where he is willing to offer his wares for sale through the advertising columns of the press, you can depend upon it that it must be worth purchasing... because otherwise the business wouldn't last long!