

# LaGrande Evening Observer

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Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.—Ephesians 4: 30.

### STIFLING AN AMERICAN INDUSTRY

When the government's own statistics show that less than four per cent of the coconut oil imported into this country is used for food purposes, it becomes rather difficult to understand the 200 per cent increase in excise tax upon that product included in the revenue bill of 1934 now before congress. An excise tax of 5c a pound is placed upon importation of coconut oil and sesame oil in the revenue bill on the excuse that such heavy tax is necessary in order to "protect the farmer" from the designs of the butter substitute oleomargarine, in which coconut oil is a principal ingredient.

It is not surprising that soap manufacturers of this country, using over 90 per cent of coconut oil imported in the manufacture of their product and who, discovering this joker in the revenue bill, have set up complaint. And it seems a natural complaint, particularly in these times when success of American industry of all kinds needs every support for the continuance of payrolls and relief of workers employment.

That the makers of the bill, in their ever conscious effort to hold and encourage farm votes and support, should have overlooked consideration of a great American industry is not so surprising as their continued passiveness in the house of congress after the matter had been called to their attention. Inclusion of the present plan of heavy excise tax on coconut oil will, it is contended, result in 50 per cent curtailment of American soap production, an industry that has grown in this country to where it is one of the outstanding manufactures. A 50 per cent curtailment in its operations could not fall but throw from employment thousands of men and women and out of circulation their pay checks of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Coconut oil is the ingredient in soap which loosens dirt. There is no suitable fat or oil at the present time produced in this country from which soap may be manufactured that will contain such satisfactory properties. Without the coconut oil present in the soaps she now uses the American housewife may find herself returning to the old wash boiler and scrubbing board methods. Unless — and there's the funny thing about this coconut oil tax because on the opposite there is no increase in duty on importation of foreign made soaps. The foreign manufacturer can then sell soaps with coconut oil content in this country at a price not greatly in excess of the present market price.

Can this coconut oil item in the revenue bill be a "nigger in the woodpile" to aid and assist foreign soap manufacturers to replace an American industry that lately has grown and is continuing to grow and prosper to the advantage of thousands of American workers and millions of American housewives? Somehow it has that appearance and it is to be hoped the senate, in its forthcoming consideration, will give heed to this small among numbers but highly important item in the 1934 revenue bill.

### CARELESSNESS' TREMENDOUS TOLL

Elsewhere in today's Observer is printed a news story concerning automobile accidents. It points out that car wrecks in 1933 brought death to 29,900 persons and injuries to 850,700 more, bringing the death toll from this cause to nearly 125,000 for the last four years, and injuries to around 4,000,000.

These figures are staggering to visualize, terrific to contemplate, amazing in every respect. And they serve as the greatest indictment in the world today against human carelessness. After the accidents are analyzed, it is found in

### FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS by Blosser

**THINGS AREN'T GOING SO WELL, IN THE COOK HOME...**

AW, MOM, DON'T WORRY... WE'LL COME OUT ON TOP, LIKE VESUVIUS!! SOMETHING WILL TURN UP... WE'LL GET A BREAK!

THERE GOES THE BELL, SYLVESTER... ANSWER IT AND TELL WHOEVER IT IS, THAT WE'LL TRY TO PAY THEM NEXT WEEK!

JUST A MINUTE... I'LL CALL MY MOTHER! WONT YOU COME IN AND HAVE A CHAIR?

OH, A WISE GUY, EH? AIN'T THAT A LAUGH... HAVE A CHAIR, HAH!! WE'RE GONNA TAKE TH' WHOLE BUNCH OF 'EM!

HEY! YOU CAN'T DO THAT... YOU CAN'T CARRY OUT ALL OF OUR FURNITURE!!

WE KNOW IT, BUDDY... SOME OF IT'S PRETTY HEAVY! WILL YOU GIVE US A LIFT WITH THE BIG PIECES?

KEEP YOUR CHIN UP, MOM... WE'LL GET BY, SOMEHOW!

I HATE FOR YOU TO HAVE SO MUCH RESPONSIBILITY... BUT WHEN YOU'RE YOUNG, YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO WEAR LONG TROUSERS. TROUBLE IS, NOW YOU WEAR THEM LONGER THAN ANYONE!

HE splashed into the shallow. As he did so there was a staghast movement in the tangle of water plants between him and the slope ahead. Golden, black-slitted eyes observed him; a wide tooth-fringed maw gaped.

Attentive! He stood still. The reptile did not attack. Instead it slid to one side and away from him. A

### DIANA DANE

WHAT'S THE BIG SURPRISE, DIANA?

WANT TELL DAD GETS HOME, MOM, YOU'LL SEE.

GEE... I'M GETTING HUNGRY.

YOU'RE LATE, DAD, AND WE'RE ALMOST STARVED! WHY— WHERE'S—?

I'M SORRY, DIANA, GILBERT DECIDED TO TURN DOWN YOUR INVITE TO DINNER!

DINNER'S READY, COME ON, DAD, COME ON, DIANA, IF YOU'RE SO HUNGRY.

DON'T WANT ANY DINNER, MOTHER, I'M GOING UP— STAIRS.

WELL... IS THIS YOUR SURPRISE?

nearly every year that mechanical trouble caused 10 per cent or less of the total toll — the human element was responsible for 90 per cent of the deaths. Because John Citizen was too busy doing something else besides driving carefully, thousands of persons died premature deaths. Possibly he was thinking of business interests, possibly looking at some object through the side window, possibly he was in too frolicsome a mood to pay attention to safe conduct of his car through the traffic. These and many more reasons for accidents exist, but all in all, they may be summed up in one word — carelessness.

When the driver is prone to ease up on his task at the wheel — the most important one he has at that time regardless of circumstances — he should give thought to this: In a California city there is a large sign by the road side. It says: "Drive Carefully; We Love Our Children". And it was erected through a donation by a man whose own little daughter was killed when run over by an automobile.

### AT THE LIBERTY

Radio pictures dramatization of Louisa M. Alcott's 65-year-old classic best-seller, "Little Women," now showing at the Liberty, brings to accurate and authentic life all the beloved characters made famous by the author. Louisa Alcott, who included herself in the story as Jo, one of the Little Women, is interpreted by the brilliant new star, Katharine Hepburn, who heads the cast of 20 principals. The other Little Women, Meg, Amy and Beth, are interpreted by Frances Dee, Joan Bennett and Jean Parker respectively. All the delightful, lovable characters of the novel walk out of the pages and re-enact this beautiful story about all that is simple, powerful and good in American home life. Grumpy old Aunt March storms and stresses and crabs as of yore in the person of Edna May Oliver; honorable, lovable Fritz Bahner, who fi-

### BLOND GODDESS

A New Serial by Herbert Jensen

**SYNOPSIS:** Death by drowning seems to be the fate of a curiously assorted quartet, caught in a valley by a narrow cañon that is rapidly filling with water. Frank, a grumpy, old prospector, has taken the great chance of his life in order to save the others. Janice Kent, the movie star, whom Frank loves, will Langton, the aviator, is trying to get out of the valley, and the injured high priest of a savage tribe that has tried to kill the other three. Frank is floating down an underground river, trying to reach the coast.

### Chapter 43 DARK HORROR

DESPITE himself, Frank's teeth began to chatter. He had estimated eight to ten hours immersion; would his resistance bear it? Then suddenly the phosphorescent glow disappeared. The water seemed quieter; then apparently the current became a scarcely perceived flow.

He touched the side-wall. His senses had not deceived him. The current had indeed diminished. A sudden fear contracted his heart. He believed that he was at least halfway to the coast—perhaps a little more. Despite the probable inaccuracy of his estimate of time elapsed, he was sure that he had been adrift at least five hours.

Supposing that from this point on, the current flowed sluggishly! A chill that was not from the water swept him. As he splashed forward, hoping to assist with the effort his downstream progress, he began to be aware that ahead of him there glowed a light that was not the greenish yellow of phosphorus.

He could not let himself believe that grayish dimness that suffused the blackness ahead of him was the end of the cavern. His disappointment, he knew, would be too keen. The clumsy life belt impeded his progress; yet he dared not dispense with it lest some weakness over come him, or some mishap occur.

A vagrant eddy caught him and hurried him forward. He was whirled dizzyingly for an instant. He bumped against a buttress of rock projecting into the channel. The stream made a twirl to the left; then to the right.

Suddenly he floated into day light! Sudden pain stabbed his eyes. He shut them tightly for an instant; then slit them against the unaccustomed light.

He was in a cañon. It was not so large as the one below the pyramid, nor so high-walled as the extensive one where he had left Langton and Janice Kent. It seemed, however, deeper. The water flooded within it to a high level on the cliffs. At one edge the cliff had broken down, shabby and craggy grew upon it. With an expectation of hope he paddled toward it. Perhaps from here he could gain the level above.

Instantaneously the thought came to him that could he somehow get word to Janice and Janice that they could drift down to here on the raft and once above ground, could chop through the jungle to the coast.

### The Weather

Oregon: Fair tonight and Friday; freezing temperatures in the east and local frosts in the west portion tonight; gentle to moderate changeable wind offshore.

### LOCAL WEATHER

Wednesday: Maximum 53, minimum 36 above, clear.

Thursday: Minimum 37, 7 a. m. — 37 above, clear.

Finally wins Jo's heart, is enacted by Paul Lukas; Laurie, the irrepressible, impressionable boy next door who wooed Jo, but married Amy, is interpreted by Douglas Montgomery, stage and screen favorite; Marmee, the mother of the Little Women and the epitome of charity, understanding and kindness, is Spring Byington of the New York stage; Brooke, the tutor in love with Meg, is John Davis Lodge. All the rest make their appearance, too. George Cukor directed.

### Three Sisters Have First Reunion in Yrs.

ELGIN—Mr. and Mrs. Fred Lappin of Council, Idaho, brought to Elgin Mrs. Margaret Vandermuelen, who had been visiting there and spent Saturday and Sunday at the E. E. Hartman home. Mrs. Hartman, Mrs. Lappin and Mrs. Vandermuelen, sisters, were together for the first time in 27 years.

### RADIO TALKS FOR FOUR-H CLUBS MAR. 12

Two members of the Oregon State college faculty will talk to the 20,000 4-H club boys and girls of the state Monday night, March 12, at 7:30 o'clock, via radio station KOAC. Miss Lucy A. Case, extension specialist in nutrition, will discuss "Keeping Well in Winter and Spring," and O. M. Nelson, professor of animal husbandry, will talk on "Growing the Lamb."

### Campfire Groups Of La Grande and Union Have Joint Meeting

UNION—The Mi-kan-see girls of the La Grande first and second wards and Union met here Tuesday afternoon at the L. D. S. church with the Union girls as hostesses. The quarterly ceremonials were given by Mesdames Lloyd Welch, Pearl Thompson and Emma Baxter as counselors. Awards were made to the girls. Games were played and refreshments were served. Mrs. David Stoddard, Mrs. Pearl Thompson and Mrs. Ray Williams brought the La Grande girls to Union.

American minnows introduced in Latin provinces, Italy, have entirely freed the area of malaria by eating mosquito larvae.

### TODAY IN BRIEF, IN AND AROUND OREGON

AS CHRONICLED BY THE DAILY LEASED WIRE OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**INDIAN CHIEFS GATHER**  
SALEM, Ore., Mar. 8 (AP)—Indian chiefs and counselors who led their people in war during the early days gathered at the Chemawa Indian school here today to lead their people in peace.

The representatives of northwestern Indian tribes will be told the government's latest plans for them under the proposed Wheeler-Howard Indian bill. Organization for self-government and collective farming and the establishment of a federal court of Indian affairs are prominent features of the measure.

**TO SETTLE C. W. A. WAGE SCALE**  
PORTLAND, Mar. 8 (AP)—Action toward establishing a permanent scale for CWA labor in Multnomah county was being undertaken today by a special committee appointed by the county relief committee, acting under orders from Harry L. Hopkins, national CWA administrator.

**MEIER ISSUES PARDON**  
SALEM, Mar. 8 (AP)—Governor Julius L. Meier today granted a pardon to W. H. Fisher, sentenced to 30

days in the Douglas county jail at Roseburg on conviction of driving while intoxicated. Illness of Fisher was given as the reason for the pardon.

The fine of \$100 was not waived nor was the revocation of his driver's license.

**GRADE I-O-N HIGHWAY**  
SALEM, Mar. 8 (AP)—Grading of 2.2 miles of the Idaho-Oregon-Nevada highway in Malheur county will be included in the project awards to be let by the state highway commission March 22, it was announced last night. The eight projects will approximate expenditure of \$500,000, and will also include about 20 miles of other road improvement and construction of two bridges and one undercrossing.

Wage scales for labor in conformity with the federal scale was announced as 55 cents for common and 66 cents for much skilled labor, with the following exceptions: carpenters 90 cents; electrical workers \$1.10; shovel runners \$1.20; concrete finishers 90 cents; painters 90 cents; drivers operating three-ton trucks or over, 85 cents; concrete mixers \$1.

**LUCKY STRIKE CIGARETTES**

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