The Observer
MORO, OREGON.

FRIDAY........ March 10, 1916

The price of The Observer is $1.50 per year, 75 cents for six months, 50 cents for four months—but if paid in advance we accept $2.50 in full for 2 years. Shorter terms than one year 12½ cents per month.

A Blue Mark here will answer an inquery, when entered upon our calendar, giving the date of the paper as the date at which your current subscription expires.

Bits of Byplay

By Luke McLuke

Ever Notice It?

Just chase a street car, and you'll see
How fast a car can go.
But, after you have caught it, gee,
It certainly runs slow.

Huh!

"A scientist is engaged in the task of counting the stars, and he expects to complete the count in about ten years," remarked the old fogy.

"What's the use?" commented the grouch. "As soon as he gets through some mean cuss will come along and demand a recount."

The Printer.

The printer is a sober man,
He never takes a sup;
And yet he is an artisan
Who likes to set 'em up.
—Cincinnati Enquirer.

He also is a kindly chap,
The rag he will not chew;
And if you should fall out with him
He will make up with you.
—Macon (Ga.) Telegraph.

He's peaceful as some woodland lake,
He's never known to fight,
But when he's got a good, phat take
He slugs it with delight.
—Boston Advertiser.

Poor Old Paw!

Willie—Paw!

Paw—Well, my son, what is it?

Willie—Could you be arrested for passing a counterfeit bill when you see it lying on the pavement?

Paw—You come down in the cellar with me, young man, and I'll pound some of the smartness out of you!

Pants.

Doc Mary Walker is one dame
Who likes to advertise her name.
And it is very plain to see
She pants for notoriety.

Sure!

"What does taking French leave mean?" asked Brown.

"Saying 'Adieu!' I suppose," replied Smith.

Draw.

The great cartoonist, Oswald Blawe,
Went on the stage; but, pshaw!
They canceled all his dates because
They found he couldn't draw.

Yes, if It Will Runenhour.

Will Ridenour of London has a new car. Can he get a place in the taxicab service of the Names Is Names club, Luke?—Wilmington (O.) Journal-Republican.

Wuff!

Said a man, "I would buy a nice comb
In this drug store and take it right home,
But what good would it do,
For it's only too true
That I haven't a hair on my dome?"

Thanx!

Dear Luke—I am an invalid, and I want to thank you for the many laughs you give me daily. He who scatters the sunshine of laughter along the thorny path of life is greater far than one who sits within the radiance of a great white light that beats upon a throne.—McG.

Contained Everything but an Ice Cream Freezer.

Lost.—In East Fifty-fifth street, near Euclid avenue, black leather grip containing lady's pocketbook, pair of trousers and pumpkin pie. Reward. Rosedale 1757 R.—Ad. in Cleveland Leader.

Names Is Names.

John Will Fall lives at Lawrenceville, Ill.

Our Daily Special.

Success isn't in the cards you are dealt; it is in the way you play them.

Luke McLuke Says:

Do not get the idea that a man is a fire eater just because he spouts hot air.

When father has to economize he tells mother to quit buying the articles of food that other members of the family like and he doesn't.

A man is a queer cuss. If his neighbor's wife had been the bride he married and his own wife had been the bride his neighbor married he would imagine that the woman his neighbor married was much superior to the woman he landed.

Somehow or other the man whose luck barely enables him to eke out an existence is the same fellow who always has a horseshoe nailed over his door.

Tell a lie to save a woman and she will always remember you as a gentleman; tell a lie to save a man and he will always remember you as a liar.

It isn't as easy to bull the people as it used to be. The people do not fall for big words nowadays because they know what the big words mean.

If you leave it to a man he will tell you what a light sleeper he is. But if you leave it to his wife she will tell you that the children could bawl all night and he would never hear them.

The trouble with most of the golden opportunities offered you in this life is that the lad who offers them is usually an agent who has everything to gain and only his voice to lose.

Most of us need less starch in our shirt bosoms and more in our backbones.

An engaged man imagines that it is sentiment that makes his girl tie baby ribbons around his love letters and save them. But it isn't.

Price Advanced by Sisal Trust.

A complete monopoly of the sisal fibre output of Yucatan, Mexico, has been obtained by the Comision Reguladora del Mercado de Henequen (committee to regulate the sisal fibre market), a body created by Yucatan law.

A big advance in the price of binder twine will be one of the results.

The Comision Reguladora is now composed of supporters of Gen. Carranza, head of the de facto government of Mexico. To finance the monopoly the Comision has enlisted the aid of New Orleans bankers, who in turn have prevailed on banks in New York, Chicago and St. Louis to take parts of the large loan required, and which will be secured by warehouse receipts on the fibre stored in New Orleans and elsewhere. A company composed of American bankers and members of the Comision has been formed and will receive a large commission on all fibre sales in addition to the interest paid the banks on loans.

The Comision Reguladora was created three years ago to buy surplus stocks of sisal fibre to prevent them from being dumped on the market and beating down the price. The Comision fixed a certain price as the one required by planters to make their crop profitable, but was unable to get sufficient financial backing in Mexico to carry out its plan. With the power of Carranza behind it the Comision has driven out the fibre dealers and no Yucatan sisal can be purchased through any agency other than the Comision.

Having a complete monopoly the Comision can dictate the price at all times. The price it is now demanding is 2 cents higher than the price it pronounced profitable to the planters in the beginning. It is 3 cents higher than the price which prevailed a year ago. It is 1¾ cents higher than the average price paid for sisal by binder twine manufacturers last season; hence, if no further advance is made, the price of twine is sure to be increased that much over the price of 1915. And there is no telling how high the price will be raised by the Comision before the required amount of fibre for next season's twine supply has been purchased, and in the succeeding years.

In advancing the price the Comision has ignored the law of supply and demand; for last year, notwithstanding the consumption of sisal fibre was the largest in the history of the trade, there was a large surplus in Yucatan. Under normal conditions of competition, such as existed before the Comision seized the market, the price would have declined from last year's figure. The price is therefore arbitrary and unwarranted.

Thus the American farmer is to be forced to pay tribute to a fibre trust financed with American capital; for until such time as other fibres suitable for binder twine can be obtained in sufficient quantities, the farmer must depend on sisal for the greater part of his twine supply. Conditions make it impossible to obtain an adequate supply of manila fibre at this time. For every cent added to the price of twine through the operations of the sisal monopoly, $2,500,000 will be added to the binder twine bill of the American farmer.

Is this monopoly amenable to the anti-trust laws of the United States? If it were purely a Mexican affair, or if the financial backing were obtained from other countries, the United States would be powerless to interfere. But since the capital is contributed by American banks from deposits of American depositors, the combination should be amenable to American law. Justice to the farmer requires that the government take such steps as may be taken lawfully to prevent the financing of the monopoly with American money.

Royal Nicknames.

William I. of England was William the Conqueror. He conquered Harold and became king of the first Norman dynasty that gave England four rulers. His father was Robert the Devil.

Leopold I. of Germany was called the Little Man in Red Stockings.

Juana, widow of Philip the Fair, was the Mad Queen.

James II. of Scotland was the Just.

James IV. of the same country was called King of the Iron Belt.

Charles the Great of France, son of Pepin the Short, extended the limits of the empire from the Baltic to the Mediterranean and from the bay of Biscay to the coast of Illyria. His son was known as Louis the Pious.

HOPEFULNESS.

Hope means the trimming of the lamps and the girding of the loins and the resolute attitude of strife. It is help and comfort, hope and inspiration, that we want even more than knowledge.

Synopsis of the Annual Statement of THE HOME INSURANCE COMPANY, of New York in the state of New York on the 31st day of December, 1915, made to the insurance commissioner of the state of Oregon, pursuant to law:

CAPITAL.	
Amount of capital paid up	$ 6,000,000.00
INCOME.	
Net premiums received during the year	$18,345,129.47
Interest, dividends and rents received during the year	1,581,214.14
Income from other sources received during the year	62,970.67
Total income	$19,989,314.28
DISBURSEMENTS.	
Net losses paid during the year	$ 9,708,418.48
Dividends paid on capital stock during the year	1,200,000.00
Commissions and salaries paid during the year	5,072,017.81
Taxes, licenses and fees paid during the year	657,542.[illegible]
Amount of all other expenditures	1,340,271.[illegible]
Total expenditures	$17,978,250.40
ASSETS.	
Value of real estate owned (market value)	$32,243,257.00
Value of stocks and bonds owned (market value)	5,500.00
Loans on mortgages and collateral, etc.	2,190,910.81
Cash in banks and on hand	3,167,578.65
Recoverable for insurance on paid losses	208,208.47
Interest and rent due and accrued	269,736.00
Total assets	$38,080,230.93
Less special deposits in any state (if any there be)	97,487.00
Total assets admitted in Oregon	$37,982,749.93
LIABILITIES.	
Gross claims for losses unpaid	$ 1,736,203.32
Amount of unearned premiums on all outstanding risks	15,878,826.00
Due for commission and brokerage	150,000.00
All other liabilities	681,535.36
Reserve as a conflagration surplus	2,000,000.00
Total liabilities, exclusive of capital stock of $6,000,000	$20,446,565.68
Total premiums in force December 31, 1915	$30,696,308.00
BUSINESS IN OREGON FOR THE YEAR.	
Total insurance written during the year	$10,064,222.00
Gross premiums received during the year	189,083.37
Premiums returned during the year	37,176.71
Losses paid during the year	61,552.84
Losses incurred during the year	62,963.83
Total amount of insurance outstanding in Oregon, December 31, 1915	$13,008,645.00

THE HOME INSURANCE COMPANY,
By John D. Coleman, Portland.

Wasco Warehouse & Milling Co., Agents
Moro, Oregon

Where He Made His Money.

Years ago a gentleman settled in the south of England and became very popular in the neighborhood. The county families could never discover how he had made his money, but were satisfied by his solemn assurance that it was not in trade. Nothing could exceed the ordinary gravity of his demeanor, which indeed caused him to be placed on the commission of peace, but now and then, without any apparent provocation, he would burst into such a laugh as no one ever heard before except in one place. Where they could have heard it puzzled the county families for five and twenty years, but at last he was betrayed unconsciously by his own grandchild, who, after a visit to a traveling circus, innocently exclaimed, "Why, grandpa laughs just like the clown!"—James Payn.

Feminine Suggestion.

Hub—Things were awfully dull in the stock market today. Absolutely nothing doing.

Wife—Why don't you mark some of the stock down and advertise a bargain sale?—Boston Transcript.

Synopsis of the Annual Statement of THE INSURANCE COMPANY OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA of Philadelphia, in the state of Pennsylvania, on the 31st day of December, 1915, made to the Insurance Commissioner of the state of Oregon, pursuant to law:

CAPITAL.	
Amount of capital paid up	$1,000,000.00
INCOME.	
Net premiums received during the year	$2,282,886.80
Interest, dividends and rents received during the year	166,952.28
Income from other sources received during the year	60,208.31
Total income	$2,509,547.39
DISBURSEMENTS.	
Net losses paid during the year	$1,258,486.00
Dividends paid on capital stock during the year	60,111.96
Commissions and salaries paid during the year	723,399.66
Taxes, licenses and fees paid during the year	76,470.06
Amount of all other expenditures	192,981.16
Total expenditures	$2,310,396.89
ASSETS.	
Value of real estate owned (market value)	$ 866,214.05
Value of stocks and bonds owned (market value)	2,820,013.57
Loans on mortgages and collateral, etc.	53,850.00
Cash in banks and on hand	242,333.47
Premiums in course of collection written since Sept. 30, 1915	512,607.70
Interest and rents due and accrued	37,359.86
Total assets	$4,032,378.65
Less special deposits in any state (if any there be)	20,033.97
Total assets admitted in Oregon	$4,012,344.68
LIABILITIES.	
Gross claims for losses unpaid	$ 259,351.91
Amount of unearned premiums on all outstanding risks	2,287,347.46
All other liabilities	39,224.61
Total liabilities, exclusive of capital stock of $1,000,000	$2,585,923.98
Losses incurred during the year	27,668.45
Total premiums in force December 31, 1915	$3,410,319.72
BUSINESS IN OREGON FOR THE YEAR.	
Total insurance written during the year	$5,253,455.90
Gross premiums received during the year	69,204.59
Premiums returned during the year	14,468.43
Losses paid during the year	29,525.00
Losses incurred during the year	27,668.45
Total amount of insurance outstanding in Oregon Dec. 31, 1915	2,061,931.72

THE INSURANCE COMPANY OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA.
By JNO. J. P. RODGERS, Secretary.
Statutory resident general agent and attorney for service: JOHN H. BURGARD.

Synopsis of the Annual Statement of the **United States Branch of the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company** of London and Edinburgh, in the Kingdom of Great Britain, on the 31st day of December, 1915, made to the insurance commissioner of the state of Oregon, pursuant to law:

CAPITAL.	
Amount of statutory deposit with state of New York capital paid up	$ 200,000.00
INCOME.	
Net premiums received during the year	$4,777,197.55
Interest, dividends and rents received during the year	333,676.73
Income from other sources received during the year	234,502.45
Total income	$5,345,376.73
DISBURSEMENTS.	
Losses paid during the year, including adjustment expenses, etc.	$2,364,922.86
Dividends paid during the year on capital stock	Nil in U. S.
Commissions and salaries paid during the year	1,452,631.91
Taxes, licenses and fees paid during the year	149,404.41
Amount of all other expenditures	1,220,955.03
Total expenditures	$5,187,914.21
ASSETS.	
Value of stocks and bonds owned (market value)	7,692,767.06
Cash in banks and on hand	357,769.38
Premiums in course of collection written since September 30, 1915	923,082.88
Other ledger assets	3,381.00
Interest and rents due and accrued	96,925.95
Total assets	$9,073,875.71
Less special deposits in any state (if any there be)	5,885.16
Total assets admitted in Oregon	$9,067,990.55
LIABILITIES	
Gross claims for losses unpaid	$ 382,376.96
Amount of unearned premiums on all outstanding risks	4,624,821.98
Due for commission and brokerage	17,462.87
All other liabilities	110,470.00
Surplus	3,932,858.72
Total liabilities	$9,067,990.55
Total premiums in force December 31, 1915, including perpetual	$9,119,213.38
BUSINESS IN OREGON FOR THE YEAR	
Gross premiums received during the year	$ 104,102.78
Premiums returned during the year	26,000.75
Losses paid during the year	48,062.53
Losses incurred during the year	52,877.53

By E. G. RICHARDS, United States Manager.
Statutory resident general agent and attorney for service: H. E. Smith, 524 Henry bldg., Portland, Or.

Synopsis of the Annual Statement of the NEW ENGLAND MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY of Boston, in the state of Massachusetts on the 31st day of December, 1915, made to the insurance commissioner of the state of Oregon, pursuant to law:

CAPITAL.	
Amount of capital stock paid up	none
INCOME.	
Total premium income	$ 10,192,309.85
Interest, dividends, and rents received during the year	3,176,503.81
Income from other sources received during the year	141,581.57
Total income	$ 13,510,394.78
DISBURSEMENTS.	
Paid for losses, endowments, annuities and surrender values	$ 5,267,716.74
Dividends paid to policy holders during the year	1,978,079.78
Commissions and salaries paid during the year	1,425,860.19
Taxes, licenses and fees paid during the year	182,258.68
Amount of all other expenditures	579,566.05
Total expenditures	$ 9,422,481.44
ASSETS.	
Market value of real estate owned	$ 1,766,372.84
Market value of stocks and bonds owned	42,705,952.00
Loans on mortgages and collateral, etc.	14,333,221.92
Premium notes and policy loans	12,612,950.04
Cash in banks and on hand	1,218,400.83
Net uncollected and deferred premiums	669,659.36
Other assets (net) interest and rent due and accrued	948,364.17
Total assets	$ 74,274,980.68
Total assets admitted in Oregon	$ 74,274,980.68
LIABILITIES.	
Net reserve	$ 65,647,500.38
Total policy claims unpaid	434,155.19
All other liabilities	3,073,135.43
Unassigned funds (surplus)	5,120,189.68
Total liabilities	$ 74,274,980.68
Total insurance in force December 31, 1915	$309,690,971.00
BUSINESS IN OREGON FOR THE YEAR.	
Total insurance written during year	$ 457,476.00
Gross premiums received during the year	39,065.80
Losses paid during the year	13,110.00
Losses incurred during the year	14,136.00
Total amount of insurance outstanding in Oregon December 31, 1915	1,155,006.00

NEW ENGLAND MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.
By J. A. BARBEY, Secretary.
Statutory resident general agent and attorney for service: HORACE MECKLEM.
327 Morrison Street, Portland.

Synopsis of the Annual Statement of the NORTHERN INSURANCE COMPANY of New York, in the state of New York, on the 31st day of December, 1915, made to the insurance commissioner of the state of Oregon, pursuant to law:

CAPITAL	
Amount of capital paid up	$ 350,000.00
INCOME	
Net premiums received during the year	$ 817,062.46
Interest, dividends and rents received during the year	60,277.31
Income from other sources received during the year	21,138.50
Total income	$ 896,478.27
DISBURSEMENTS	
Net losses paid during the year	$ 442,485.40
Dividends paid on capital stock during the year	21,000.00
Commissions and salaries paid during the year	290,960.10
Taxes, licenses and fees paid during the year	45,219.95
Amount of all other expenditures	30,445.84
Total expenditures	$ 830,131.29
ASSETS	
Value of stocks and bonds owned (market value)	$1,218,864.00
Loans on mortgages and collateral, etc.	128,000.00
Cash in banks and on hand	58,503.12
Premiums in course of collection written since September 30, 1915	118,061.51
Interest and rents due and accrued	8,071.92
Total assets	$1,521,500.55
Total assets admitted in Oregon	$1,521,500.55
LIABILITIES	
Gross claims for losses unpaid	$ 54,314.51
Amount of unearned premiums on all outstanding risks	797,789.69
All other liabilities	15,000.00
Total liabilities, exclusive of capital stock of $350,000.00	$ 867,104.20
Total premiums in force December 31, 1915	$1,514,478.34
BUSINESS IN OREGON FOR THE YEAR	
Total insurance written during the year	$ 274,138.00
Gross premiums received during the year	9,596.14
Premiums returned during the year	2,325.88
Losses paid during the year	5,305.80
Losses incurred during the year	5,896.30
Total amount of insurance outstanding in Oregon December 31, 1915	300,898.00

By JAMES MARSHALL, Secretary.
Statutory resident general agent and attorney for service: J. C. CORBIN, Lewis Building, Portland, Or.

Synopsis of the Annual Statement of the STANDARD FIRE INSURANCE CO. of Hartford in the state of Connecticut on the 31st day of December, 1915, made to the insurance commissioner of the state of Oregon, pursuant to law:

CAPITAL.	
Amount of capital paid up	$ 750,000.00
INCOME.	
Net premiums received during the year	$ 769,519.88
Interest, dividends and rents received during the year	61,576.19
Total income	$ 831,096.07
DISBURSEMENTS.	
Net losses paid during the year	$ 478,321.01
Dividends paid on capital stock during the year	60,000.00
Commissions and salaries paid during the year	237,388.56
Taxes, licenses and fees paid during the year	40,107.73
Amount of all other expenditures	74,528.84
Total expenditures	$ 890,346.14
ASSETS.	
Value of stocks and bonds owned (market value)	$1,358,253.00
Cash in banks and on hand	68,088.27
Premiums in course of collection written since Sept. 30, 1915	119,962.68
Interest and rents due and accrued	17,193.60
Total assets	$1,563,497.55
Total assets admitted in Oregon	$1,563,497.55
LIABILITIES.	
Gross claims for losses unpaid	$ 57,535.15
Amount of unearned premiums on all outstanding risks	596,326.05
All other liabilities	15,501.97
Total liabilities, exclusive of capital stock of $750,000	$ 669,363.27
Total premiums in force December 31, 1915	$1,109,827.52
BUSINESS IN OREGON FOR THE YEAR.	
Total insurance written during the year	$ 881,849.00
Gross premiums received during the year	10,625.62
Premiums returned during the year	2,453.57
Losses paid during the year	2,282.14
Losses incurred during the year	2,751.60
Total amount of insurance outstanding in Oregon December 31, 1915	568,308.00

STANDARD FIRE INSURANCE CO.,
By H. B. Anthony, Secretary.
Statutory resident general agent and attorney for service, Lloyd R. Smith.

Synopsis of the Annual Statement of the HAMBURG-BREMEN FIRE INSURANCE CO. of Hamburg in Hamburg, Germany, on the 31st day of December, 1915, made to the insurance commissioner of the state of Oregon, pursuant to law:

CAPITAL.	
Amount of U. S. deposit capital	$ 200,000.00
INCOME.	
Net premiums received during the year	$1,133,929.20
Interest, dividends and rents received during the year	69,152.42
Income from other sources received during the year	201,018.83
Total income	$1,404,100.45
DISBURSEMENTS.	
Net losses paid during the year	$ 723,954.20
Commissions and salaries paid during the year	378,501.20
Taxes, licenses and fees paid during the year	56,138.61
Amount of all other expenditures	270,714.42
Total expenditures	$1,429,308.43
ASSETS.	
Value of stocks and bonds owned (market value)	$1,539,735.00
Recoverable for reinsurance on paid loss	46.02
Cash in banks and on hand	34,589.37
Premiums in course of collection written since Sept. 30 1915	246,556.32
Interest and rents due and accrued	22,416.87
Total assets	$1,843,343.58
Total assets admitted in Oregon	$1,843,343.58
LIABILITIES.	
Gross claims for losses unpaid	$ 100,114.00
Amount of unearned premiums on all outstanding risks	1,094,905.98
Due for commission and brokerage	1,250.00
All other liabilities	37,500.00
Total liabilities, exclusive of U. S. deposit capital of $200,000	$1,243,769.98
Total premiums in force December 31, 1915	$2,212,167.42
BUSINESS IN OREGON FOR THE YEAR.	
Total insurance written during the year	$ 360,500.00
Gross premiums received during the year	3,094.85
Premiums returned during the year	2,079.75
Losses paid during the year	271.40
Losses incurred during the year	267.40
Total amount of insurance outstanding in Oregon December 31, 1915	$ 368,498.00

HAMBURG-BREMEN FIRE INSURANCE CO.
By H. N. Kelsey, Manager.
Statutory resident general agent and attorney for service. A. H. Birrell, Portland, Or.

Synopsis of the Annual Statement of the KANSAS CITY LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY of Kansas City in the state of Missouri on the 31st day of December, 1915, made to the insurance commissioner of the state of Oregon, pursuant to law:

CAPITAL.	
Amount of capital stock paid up	$ 100,000.00
INCOME.	
Total premium income	$ 2,415,828.76
Interest, dividends, and rents received during the year	412,594.99
Income from other sources received during the year	5,779.76
Total income	$ 2,835,201.51
DISBURSEMENTS.	
Paid for losses, endowments, annuities and surrender values	$ 609,900.85
Dividends paid to policy holders during the year	288,208.55
Dividends paid on capital stock during the year	12,000.00
Commissions and salaries paid during the year	740,258.46
Taxes, licenses, and fees paid during the year	42,158.58
Amount of all other expenditures	235,121.36
Total expenditures	$ 1,927,646.70
ASSETS.	
Market value of real estate owned	$ 32,885.50
Market value of stocks and bonds owned	68,210.00
Loans on mortgages and collateral, etc.	3,735,159.05
Premium notes and policy loans	1,069,041.99
Cash in banks and on hand	690,994.23
Net uncollected and deferred premiums	201,319.35
Other assets (net)	96,253.60
Total assets	$ 5,887,363.73
Total assets admitted in Oregon	$ 5,887,363.73
LIABILITIES.	
Net reserve	$ 4,841,080.49
Total policy claims unpaid	73,885.70
All other liabilities	972,947.53
Total liabilities, exclusive of capital stock of $100,000.00	$ 5,787,363.73
Total insurance in force December 31, 1915	$77,187,929.00
BUSINESS IN OREGON FOR THE YEAR.	
Total insurance written during the year	$ 18,500.00
Gross premiums received during the year	12,849.61
Total amount of insurance outstanding in Oregon December, 31, 1915	$ 470,625.00

KANSAS CITY LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY,
By J. B. REYNOLDS, President.
Statutory resident general agent and attorney for service: Charles Gramm, Portland, Oregon.