

# The Observer.

MORO, OREGON.

Official Paper for Sherman County.

FRIDAY.....January 5, 1917

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C. L. IRELAND.....Manager.

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At any time when requested to do so, the paper will be discontinued. But we expect that all arrears will be paid before such request is made. It is easy to ask us for a statement, which will be cheerfully rendered at any time.

## Another Side of the War.

Two English workmen were discussing the war. "It'll be an awful long job, Sam," said one.

"It will," replied the other. "You see, these Germans is takin' thousands and thousands of Russian prisoners, and the Russians is takin' thousands and thousands of German prisoners. If it keeps on, all the Russians will be in Germany, and all the Germans in Russia. And then they'll start all over again, fightin' to get back their 'omes!"

## The Year 1916 in Retrospect.

At the close of the old year it could be truthfully said that the goose hung high in Sherman county and the pole that supported him was imbedded in a firm foundation. Crops last year were exceptionally good and the prices realized were higher in the aggregate than ever before in the history of Sherman county.

At the same time the people were facing the new year in a contented and happy frame of mind, and there was a gratifying outlook for prosperity. While no man can foretell the ultimate outcome of the next crop the indications are that both in price and yield it is such as to bring very substantial encouragement. Nature has favored the fields during the past months and with winter nearly half gone we have had no severe weather to try the growing crops.

Financially, the county as a whole was never better placed than it is at this time. Notwithstanding large areas of land under sale from the Eastern Oregon Land Company to their tenants the record mortgage indebtedness of the county has been reduced during the past year more than \$300,000. At the same time bank deposits in the county, as a whole, is in excess of \$700,000 greater than ever before.

Another feature showing the prosperity of the county that will be reaching into the yet distant future is the sale of land from non-resident holders to residents of the county. More than 7,000 acres of this class of ownership changed hands during the year, and this does not take into consideration land transactions where

both parties are residents in the county.

The holdings of the Eastern Oregon Land Co. has been the largest single landed interest in the county. A few years ago the amount of their holdings was assessed at 61,445 acres. Since then they have been selling to their tenants, but not a very large amount in any one year. During the past year a total of 14,175 acres were sold by them to their tenants and several sales aggregating a considerable number of acres is awaiting action by the company.

Added to the two classes above is also to be recorded the selling of the Wasco Warehouse Milling Co. of about a thousand acres to those who will live on the land purchased. Nothing concerns the future prosperity of the county to a larger extent than the ownership of the land by those who manage it. And the willingness to buy by those who best know the land and its productiveness augurs well for the future substantial betterment of the county as a whole.

Thanks to Congressman Sinnott there is yet another division of prosperity that came into Sherman county at the close of the old year. The federal government disbursed a net total of \$94,782.33 among those settlers who were dispossessed of their farms when the United States Supreme Court affirmed title to the Eastern Oregon Land Co. of lands disputed and homesteaded by those who now receive a portion of what they lost under that decision.

Coming closer to home we may say that the city of Moro has improved greatly during the year just ended. The new Freeman building and Foss & Co.'s concrete garage has been added to the business portion of the city; an old eye sore and danger spot, the Blue Barn, has been purchased and torn down by progressive men of the town; new residences have been completed by L. W. Ross, G. B. Bourhill, O. L. Belsh; others like R. C. Byers have materially improved their property, making a total expenditure for public and private improvements to Moro property that amounts to \$25,400. Not counted in the above is the cost of more than 3000 linear feet of concrete walks finished during the year and the cross walks that the city has built to connect them. The bonded indebtedness of the city has been reduced another \$1000 and now is \$8000 with the warrant indebtedness very little, and when taxes are available in the spring they will be on a cash basis.

The records show that for the past two years the state land board has disposed of 10,722 acres of public land. It is not known whether this was sold to actual settlers or to logging or cattle companies and thus was further monopolized.

The point is only raised that the state should adopt a policy, selling lands only to bona fide home builders.

The one purpose of the state government should be to help people who are willing to make homes on the land get an opportunity to settle.

All the functions of the state should unite to keep down land speculation and enable actual settlers to get homesteads.

The homestead may be ten acres or it may be a quarter section, but it should be occupied by those who are willing to cultivate the land.

## New State Highway Code.

The 8th annual state commonwealth conference of the University of Oregon, held this week in Portland, is for the purpose of agreeing upon a highway code to be submitted to the state legislature. Practically all the organizations interested in securing needed road and highway legislation will participate in the conference.

Oregon's need of an up-to-date highway code is exceedingly urgent. Federal aid to the amount of nearly \$3,000,000 during the next few years for the improvement of Oregon roads is available but will not be forthcoming for the state unless our system of road construction and maintenance is put in order through the adoption of a code based upon principles proved best in older states.

See Mullikin "the harness maker" at Wasco, Oregon.

## The New Year.

The Sherman County Observer wishes all its friends and every member of the growing circle of its acquaintance a happy new year. It hopes that all will try hard to deserve happiness, in which case, even if they miss connection with the objective point, they will have a serene and solid satisfaction that will go far toward consoling them in such sorrows and disappointments as the year may bring.

The millions who each year wish and are wished a "happy new year" utter words in a restricted sense, knowing that absolute happiness is a rare, if not impossible, attainment. There are griefs for every heart, afflictions for every life, and each of the three hundred and sixty-five days in this new year will bring its weight of woes to crush the hopes of youth and embitter the memories of age. The wisest cannot mark out a path on which the sun of prosperity will always shine. The purest and noblest cannot so direct their steps that affliction will not meet them by the way.

## Something Is Wrong.

That the republican claim that the federal reserve law needed amendment, in some instances of its operations, was right is borne out by the news from Chicago. There it has been learned that by the use of credit extended on warehouse receipts storage dealers have been able to make \$10,000 stretch into \$100,000 and have thereby been enabled to hold in storage for a much longer period than they otherwise would have been able to do large amounts of eggs, butter and other foodstuffs. And it is further contended that such practices as this are what is contributing heavily to the jumping cost of living. Apparently, while extensions of credits is what the law was aimed to create, an over-extension has occurred and the public is suffering from it.

## New Scenic Road.

A new state road is being asked for by the people of Albany and Lebanon. The petition as filed asks for a road from The Dalles running south to Tethlow Buttes and thence west across the Cascades by way of Sisters, Santiam Pass, Fish Lake, Clear Lake, Marion Lake, Cascadia and Foster. Such a route would furnish a loop of 400 miles in circumference and provide a resort section of unlimited possibilities.

Fish Lake and Clear Lake at the summit of the Cascades are the wonder of all who visit them. They are large, transparent bodies of water 2000 feet in depth on the bottom of which large fir trees are visible, the lake being in a bowl of a sunken mountain. These lakes are within the Santiam National Forest and summer cottage tracts can be rented from the Government for a small fee.

At the present time there is a road through this section which is passable for only a few weeks in the year.

## Store Will Not Close.

My store will not close promptly at 6:30 during the winter. Myself and boys will be on the job to give you prompt service.

Geo. N. Crosfield, Wasco, Ore.

## Seven Eclipses for the New Year.

Four eclipses of the sun and three of the moon, the greatest number possible in a single year, will occur in 1917. The last year in which seven eclipses came was early in the last century and the next will be in 1935.

On January 8 there will be a total eclipse of the moon by the earth's shadow, visible throughout the United States, beginning at 12:30 a.m. and ending at 4:39 a.m. eastern standard time. Between 2 and 3:39 a.m. eastern standard time the eclipse will be total.

## Gas Engines for Sale.

One new 2 1/2 h. p. Stover.  
One new 2 1/2 h. p. I. H. Co.  
Less than cost.

Geo. N. Crosfield, Wasco, Ore.

W. J. Bryan's portrait to be hung with other former secretaries of state represents the statesman with one hand full of peace treaties and the other thrust into a trouser pocket. It's lifelike.

## News Items From Kent.

Ruth Wilson went to Shaniko Tuesday evening.

Errat Wilson returned home from Portland Sunday evening.

Roy Barnett came home for the holidays, returning to Portland Monday.

School opened last Tuesday in the new school building. The 2d semester started with 62 pupils.

O. C. Hogue has sold his quarter section near Kent to J. C. Wilson for \$5200 cash consideration.

## Seventh and Eighth Grade Notes.

By Alida Douma and Herbert Ellsworth.

Gherardino Douma and Revella Calbreath were absent the first of the week on account of sickness.

The seventh and eighth are very sorry to lose Bessie Mortensen.

Greeta Freeman has returned to school after an absence of two months.

A very enjoyable time was spent Friday in the high school room.

The seventh and eighth have reformed and turned over a new leaf.

## Autos for Sale.

Will give terms.

One Hudson Six. Run less than 10,000 miles. This car is for sale at a snap.

One 1914 Ford. Dandy for the money. This car has had good care. Good tires and Presto-Lite. Don't fail to see this Ford.

One Reo Four. Just out paint shop. Looks like new. See

Geo. N. Crosfield, Wasco, Ore.

## Celebrate Wedding Anniversary.

A family dinner was enjoyed at the home of T. J. Henkle, of Monkland, on New Year's Day to celebrate the 65th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Henkle, who were married January 1, 1852, in Appanoose county, Iowa, and crossed the plains to Oregon in 1853, settling near Philomath, Benton county.

There are 18 grand children, 10 great grand children and four children living. Mrs. A. C. Thompson and T. J. Henkle of Monkland, F. M. Henkle of Priest River, Idaho, and J. W. Henkle of Lone, Oregon.

The ages of those present at the dinner ranged from 88 years to six weeks.

Covers were laid for Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Henkle, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. M. G. Melzer, Dewey, Orval and Faye Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Henkle, Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Benson, Robert Benson, Mark, Clarke and Hazel Henkle, and Harry Bowersox, all of Monkland, and Mrs. Lucetta Bowersox of Corvallis.

Congressman Sinnott has received notice from the department of agriculture that he has been allowed a limited number of packages of alfalfa, field pea, millet, Sudan grass and white clover seed. Because of the very limited supply the rule has been made that only one package of seeds can be sent to a person. Those wishing a package of the seeds should write to Congressman Sinnott at once before the supply is exhausted.

## Get on the Firing Line



If you want to succeed in life you must know what is new in business and industry. The invention of the automobile and the airplane are but a few of the things that have changed the world. Read out of the rut get on the firing line. Read

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MORO, OREGON

**BUY HARNESS NOW!**  
Buy It From Us

You may think you can get along without that new set of harness this winter, and possibly you can—BUT WILL IT PAY YOU? The time lost in repairing and tinkering and causing on old and broken and unreliable harness will just about pay for a new one. And time is money these days. Then broken harness often cause runaways, and they often result fatally to the driver or the animals. No, unreliable harness does NOT pay. Buy a new set NOW, and buy it from US, where it is BEST and CHEAPEST.

**MORO HARNESS SHOP,** J. F. BELSHEE Prop.

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