

The Observer

MORO, OREGON.

FRIDAY, May 16, 1919

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 12 1/2 cents per month. A Blue Mark here will answer an inquiry, when entered upon our calendar, giving the date of the paper as the date at which your current subscription expires.

HELD PRISONER FOR FOUR YEARS

French Judge Returns to Battered Remains of Cambrai Home.

HID PRICELESS CITY RECORD

Refused to Leave Post When Hun Herds Poured Through His Country—Tells of Cruelties Inflicted by Invaders.

Paris.—There reached Paris recently a fine-looking old French gentleman, sad-eyed, hollow-cheeked. For four years he had been held prisoner by the Germans in the city of Cambrai. He had seen the Hun Kaiser three times passing through the streets of his city which previously had been swept by the French women. Night after night he had been forced to go and sit in the railroad stations of the city while the British bombed them. He had seen his friends, people once wealthy and of high birth, sent out to dig trenches, to bury the dead and to cultivate and sow the fields. For two years he had only soup and cocoa for his dinner and a semi-monthly allowance of three-quarters of a pound of meat and black bread.

Henri Bergier reached Paris just as the news came from the front that British and American troops had freed his home. As soon as he is strong enough to travel again he will return there to find, if possible, the priceless records of the city which he hid in 1914 when the Huns swept across Belgium and invaded northern France.

Stuck to His Post.

As a judge of a tribunal or court of Cambrai, Bergier refused to leave his post when the German herds poured through his country in August, 1914. By a trick of chance he had just sent his wife and three daughters to Boulogne-sur-Mer, on the coast of France, for a holiday and was planning to join them early in September. The meeting was deferred just four years. He was captured, but was spared the bitterness of seeing his family subjected to the humiliations which came to the other women of Cambrai. His wife and daughters at once volunteered for hospital service and worked so heroically for three years that they were decorated by the French government with the medal "des epidemiques et du deuil."

The story which Bergier brought back was one of want and suffering. The Germans held him as hostage so he was not maltreated. Whenever the city was bombed, however, he was sent with three other judges, also held as hostages, to sit in the railway stations so that they would be killed if the traffic centers were destroyed.

The people of the city who did not hold official positions were treated more summarily. The women were all made to do menial work of some kind, such as sweeping the streets of the city or cultivating and weeding the fields. The young boys and men were sent out to dig trenches and to bury the dead. No one was allowed to leave his lodgings after seven o'clock at night, and no lights were allowed at any time.

Family after family was turned out of homes to make place for the wives of the German officers who came to stay in Cambrai with their husbands and for German actresses and singers who were brought from Germany to stage performances of grand opera and to make merry in the casinos. The prisons were kept filled with "offenders." One woman was thrown into jail because she had hidden a copper vessel, a family heirloom, in defiance of the German order requiring everything of metal from the people. Another woman was arrested because she read a copy of a French paper which had been dropped into the city by allied airplanes.

Early in September Bergier was told that an exchange had been effected and he was to return to France. He would be permitted to take with him what belongings he could carry. He found an old baby carriage with two wheels off and patched it up with wheels from a dismantled gun. His clothing, though threadbare, still held together, but he had no shoes at all. He took the leather portfolio which his youngest daughter had used to carry to school and made a sort of footgear out of it, using for soles the belting from a machine in an abandoned factory.

Part of his journey to Belgium he made on foot, pushing his belongings along in the old baby carriage. Part he made by train.

From Belgium Mr. Bergier went to Switzerland, finally arriving in Paris where he rejoined his family.

Four Average Ninety-Two Years. Bowdoinham, Me.—Living together in this town are Mrs. Eleanor Sparks, aged one hundred years; her sister, Mrs. Mary A. Green, aged ninety-eight years; their brother, William K. Denham, eighty-five years, and his wife, aged eighty-five years.

Multiply in Transit. Ellsworth, Me.—A local man sent a pair of Belgian hares from New Hampshire to his family here. When the crate was opened at the Ellsworth home there were 14 hares.

YANK SOLDIERS ROBBED BY FOE

Men Captured at Seicheprey Tell of Harsh Treatment by the Huns.

REFUSED TO BE BROTHERS

Attempt Later Made to Effect Reconciliation Spurned by Americans—Corporal Who Refused to Work Hurled Down Mine Shaft.

London.—"When they took us prisoners they held revolvers to our heads and made us give them our shoes, but when the armistice came and we were set free a socialist leader made a speech to us, saying: 'We are now brothers.'"

This was what American soldiers who returned to London from Germany—the first to reach here after the signing of the armistice—had to say about the change in the attitude of their captors from the time they had fallen into German hands in April until they were released on November 12.

"When we were captured at Seicheprey," said Private James E. Mitchell of Providence, "the German soldiers held pistols to the heads of some of us and demanded our shoes. I managed to hang on to mine, but others weren't so lucky. They had to walk barefooted through No Man's Land, cutting their feet badly on barbed wire or pieces of shell. All of us had to walk 30 miles to the rear, where wooden shoes were given us, and no one was permitted to keep his boots. They told us—one general did—that they had attacked to get prisoners, but the next time they attacked the One Hundred and Second they would take no prisoners, because they had fought too fiercely."

This was corroborated by Private Frank Butler of New Haven.

Prisoners Exhibited. The Americans were eventually taken to Friedrichsfeld, and no opportunity was missed to show the American prisoners to the populace, for they were among the earliest to be taken.

These Americans were taken to a camp where there were prisoners from all the other allied countries, and though there afterward seemed to be an attempt to single out Americans for better treatment, according to the returned men now here, they fared much the same as the others during the earlier part of their imprisonment. Until their own food parcels began to arrive they got considerable food from the generous British and other allied compatriots.

More than 80 were detailed to work in coal and salt mines, and one man, Corporal Lucien, who, it was said, refused to work in a mine when ordered to do so, was marched off to the pit head and given another chance to decide what he would do by the two German guards who had him in charge. When he again stoutly refused, saying he was not required, as an under officer, to do so, he was thrown down the shaft and killed. The burial was witnessed, his comrades said, by a British sailor, who told about it on the following day.

Eventually the Americans were taken to the prison camp at Opladen. For their work they got six cents a day.

Armistice Starts Riot

On November 9 they learned of the armistice. On that day riots were precipitated in the town in which the Americans were stationed, and marines had been hurried up to quell the disorders. On November 11 word came that the armistice had been signed and that all the prisoners were now free.

It was arranged shortly afterward that they were to be sent to Holland for transportation to England with English prisoners. The men were permitted to go through the town at will, and the people, as well as their former guards, were anxious to fraternize, but got short shrift from the released men.

A German who styled himself as an International Socialist, went to the camp to tell the prisoners how glad he was that the war was over. "We are all brothers now," he said with much gusto, but this was too much to swallow after months of hard work, poor food and overbearing treatment, and one of the prisoners greeted this exclamation with boos and groans. The Socialist departed as disconsolate as did Sir Roger Casement when he ineffectually tried to curry the favor of Irish prisoners in other camps.

An uneventful trip to Holland ensued, and then the men were taken in charge by the British Red Cross and went to Hull along with British Tommy soldiers who had been in the camp with them.

How It Would Help.

The "patriot" who talked a lot and did very little was holding forth as usual.

"I'm thinking seriously of offering my motorboat to the government," he boasted.

"Do you mean the boat you had me out in last summer when the engine stopped and we had to row ten miles back?" asked his friend.

"Yes, that's the one."

"Well, if you want to do your country a service," said the friend earnestly, "you should have given that boat to the Germans."

Portugal and Her Colonies.

The population of Portugal numbers 5,567,985 and the area of the country is 35,400 square miles. Her dependencies are Cape Verde Islands, Guinea, Principe and St. Thomas Islands, Angola, Mozambique. Her possession in China is Macao and her Indian possession is Goa. The population of the colonies is 8,735,554. Lisbon is the capital of Portugal.

MANY INLAND TOWNS TO GET LOWER RATES

Senator Poindexter Seeks to End All Unfair Railroad Freight Charges.

INTERIOR POINTS VICTIMS.

Have Had to Pay for the Costly Fight of the Railroads Against Water Carriers.

Washington, D. C.—(Special)—There is a strong probability that Congress, at its coming session, will enact Senator Poindexter's bill to amend the long and short haul clause in the Interstate Commerce law, so as to abolish discriminations in railway freight rates. This means that hundreds of inland cities and towns, for the first time in their history, will get a fair deal from the transportation companies. The bill passed the Senate at the last session, but was lost in the House owing to the pressure of war matters and the congestion which developed during the closing weeks. It is believed, however, that a large majority of the members favor its adoption.



SENATOR POINDEXTER.

In an interview today, Major General William M. Black said: "The Poindexter bill is a long step in the right direction. The abuses connected with railway freight rates first attracted my attention in connection with army work. In fact, there is no question but what the present railroad tariffs constitute one of the grossest impositions ever practiced in this country."

"The tariffs for freight are still based upon the old principle of charging all that the traffic will bear, a relic of the days of unregulated monopoly. The railroads have practically driven water transportation out of business in many parts of the country, by making low cut rates at competitive points where water carriers were trying to do business. Then they made up the losses by overcharging in other localities where there was no such competition. The system was a distinctly selfish one devised for the greater prosperity of the railroads and involved the exercise of autocratic powers which do not rightfully belong to common carriers of goods."

"Water transportation can be revived in many parts of the United States as a result of proper regulation of railway freight charges. There are many classes of freight which might profitably be sent by water to the benefit of the railroads themselves."

Persia's Favorite Beverage. The great beverage in Persia is sherbet, which is plentifully supplied and of which there are many varieties—from the bowl of water with a squeeze of lemon to the clear concentrated juice of any sort of fruit to which water is added to dilute it. Only among the rich and fashionable are glasses used; in all other cases sherbet is served in china bowls and drunk from deep wooden spoons carved in pearwood.

Significant Hint.

"Bill says you insulted him when he started to tell you of the number of enemies he had killed and captured at the front single handed."

"I never said a single word, but listened in silence. All I did was to put on my gas mask."

Cooties Come in Letters.

Wooner, O.—The tarantula which escapes from a bunch of bananas and terrorizes freight handlers or grocery clerks is going to have a rival in the news columns if a recent incident in the post office here is any indication. A large, active and hungry cootie was discovered on the wrist of a clerk handling soldiers' mail from overseas. It apparently had escaped from one of the letters.

Vegetable Diet.

A well-balanced diet does not necessarily mean meat. The leafy vegetables, like cabbage, spinach, celery, onions, etc., are now in their prime, and should be used as the basis of a number of appetizing dishes. Supplemented as they can be by a liberal allowance of milk, cereals and a limited number of eggs, the proper food values are fully maintained.

PANCAKES IN OSTEND

Correspondents Get First Made There in Four Years.

Hotel Manager Tells of Sufferings at the Hands of the Germans.

American Press Headquarters, British Front.—The first pancakes made in Ostend in four years were served the other day at the Crown hotel. But the American correspondents got them under false pretenses.

They had had a very good lunch of vegetable soup, roast beef, browned potatoes and peas.

"What have you for dessert?" was asked the exceedingly attentive waitress. Her face fell. "There is nothing, messieurs," she said plaintively. "No fruit, no sweet."

In a moment she was back with the manager, who had been hovering near the door.

"The manager and the chef will be happy to make you pancakes," she announced delightedly. "We got some milk and flour from the British ships today, and are able to make pancakes for the first time in four years." Then she added solemnly: "The manager and the chef will do it, because you are English."

Whoever cooked the pancakes had lost no mastery of the art in four years. The American correspondents were served four pancakes, masterpieces each sprinkled with sugar. They were so good that we had no qualms later when we were told that the roast beef of Ostend was really roast horse.

The Crown hotel, Ostend's finest, had suffered at the hands of the Germans. The manager showed us through two floors, pointing out where wall ornaments, chandeliers and everything of copper had been torn off.

All wool had been plucked from the mattresses. Nine thousand bottles of wine had been carted away. But the hotel had receipts for everything stolen!

Nor was this all. The hotel was set apart for German officers, and it had been a great trial to endure the tyrannical mood of most of them.

Narrow Escape.

One morning the youngest pupils were obliged to sit upon a movable bench to rectify; soon there was a commotion in the midst of which Edith waved her hand excitedly and said: "Teacher, Johnnie tipped the seat and I almost fell off the class!"

Origin of One Proverb.

One obtains historical glimpses in proverbs. The familiar "robbing Peter to pay Paul" is said to derive its origin from the fact that in the reign of Edward VI the lands of St. Peter at Westminster were appropriated to raise money for the repair of St. Paul's.

Synopsis of the Annual Statement of the LONDON & LANCASHIRE FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.

Of Liverpool, England, United States Branch 57-59 William Street, New York City, on the 31st day of December, 1918, made to the Insurance Commissioner of the State of Oregon, pursuant to law:

INCOME
Net premiums received during the year \$5,556,540.24
Interest, dividends and rents received during the year 209,971.21
Income from other sources received during the year 28,045.50
Total income \$5,794,556.95

DISBURSEMENTS
Net losses paid during the year including adjustment expenses \$1,442,738.13
Commissions and salaries paid during the year 840,100.39
Taxes, licenses and fees paid during the year 245,198.28
Amount of all other expenditures 620,146.09
Total expenditures \$2,548,182.89

ASSETS
Value of real estate owned (market value) \$300,000.00
Value of stocks and bonds owned (market value) 8,577,108.79
Cash in banks and on hand 1,340,886.07
Premiums in course of collection written since Sept. 30, 1918 868,887.18
Interest and rents due and accrued 157,214.88
Due on paid losses \$11,894.76 66,669.31
Total assets \$12,444,647.01

LIABILITIES
Net claims for losses unpaid \$237,258.56
Amount of unearned premiums on all outstanding risks \$274,216.26
Due for commissions and brokerage on all outstanding risks 9,000.00
All other liabilities, salaries, taxes, etc. 1,800.00
Total liabilities \$541,274.82

RESERVE FUND
Total liabilities, exclusive of capital stock \$541,274.82
BUSINESS IN OREGON FOR THE YEAR
Gross premiums received during the year \$141,749.58
Premiums returned during the year 27,855.61
Losses paid during the year 30,321.45
Losses incurred during the year \$1,826.46
LONDON & LANCASHIRE FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.

A. G. McILWAIN JR., Manager.
HENRY W. GRAY JR., Assistant Manager.
Statutory auditors selected for service: EDWARD STREET, Portland, Or.

Synopsis of the annual statement of the COMMERCIAL UNION ASSURANCE CO. OF LONDON, England, on the 31st day of December, 1918, made to the Insurance Commissioner of the State of Oregon, pursuant to law:

INCOME
Net premiums received during the year \$3,755,373.45
Interest, dividends and rents received during the year 425,576.18
Income from other sources received during the year 247,825.55
Total income \$4,428,775.18

DISBURSEMENTS
Net losses paid during the year including adjustment expenses 4,897,456.22
Commissions and salaries paid during the year 2,874,299.98
Taxes, licenses and fees paid during the year 541,718.22
Amount of all other expenditures 1,850,281.79
Total expenditures \$9,169,756.21

ASSETS
All other assets 287,583.90
Value of real estate owned (market value) 900,000.00
Value of stocks and bonds owned (market value) 8,521,900.00
Cash in banks and on hand 28,266.50
Premiums in course of collection written since Sept. 30, 1918 2,469,257.30
Interest and rents due and accrued 157,214.88
Due on paid losses \$11,894.76 66,669.31
Total assets \$12,444,647.01

LIABILITIES
Net claims for losses unpaid \$237,258.56
Amount of unearned premiums on all outstanding risks \$274,216.26
Due for commissions and brokerage on all outstanding risks 9,000.00
All other liabilities, salaries, taxes, etc. 1,800.00
Total liabilities \$541,274.82

RESERVE FUND
Total liabilities, exclusive of capital stock \$541,274.82
BUSINESS IN OREGON FOR THE YEAR
Gross premiums received during the year \$141,749.58
Premiums returned during the year 27,855.61
Losses paid during the year 30,321.45
Losses incurred during the year \$1,826.46
LONDON & LANCASHIRE FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.

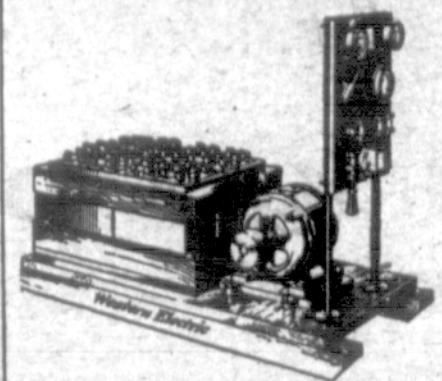
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PEPPER-GROSSMATER CO., When Bldg.

Seemed incomplete. A new baby had come to the home, and the neighbors' little ones were allowed to come in to see him. A little one looked him over generally, then moved down to the bottom of the long dress and, quite puzzled, asked, "Ain't he dot his feet yet?"

German Efficiency.

Workmen, engineers and superintendents in factories caught in the north of France when the German army invaded the region have gradually worked their way back to Paris as repatriation has been accomplished. They bring the information that practically nothing remains of the industrial establishments anywhere in the invaded districts.



Western Electric

Farm Lighting Plant

Brighten Up

The Farm

This is what a Western Electric Lighting Plant on your place will mean to you:

- No dark nights.
- No gas to explode.
- No pressure tank to blow up.
- No water to carry.
- No lamps to fill.
- No matches to burn.
- No smoky chimneys to clean.

Turn a Switch anywhere day or night and get a good strong flood of light.

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The Dalles, Oregon,

Agent for Wasco and Sherman Counties

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You men are saving every cent you can. You ought to know that this quality tobacco costs less to chew—not more!

You take a smaller chew. It gives you the good tobacco taste. It lasts and lasts. You don't need a fresh chew so often.



THE REAL TOBACCO CHEW
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RIGHT CUT is a short-cut tobacco
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MORO BARBER SHOP

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J. C. WRIGHT, Proprietor.

Moro, --- Oregon.



Special Rates

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Fifth and Washington Sts.
PORTLAND, ORE.

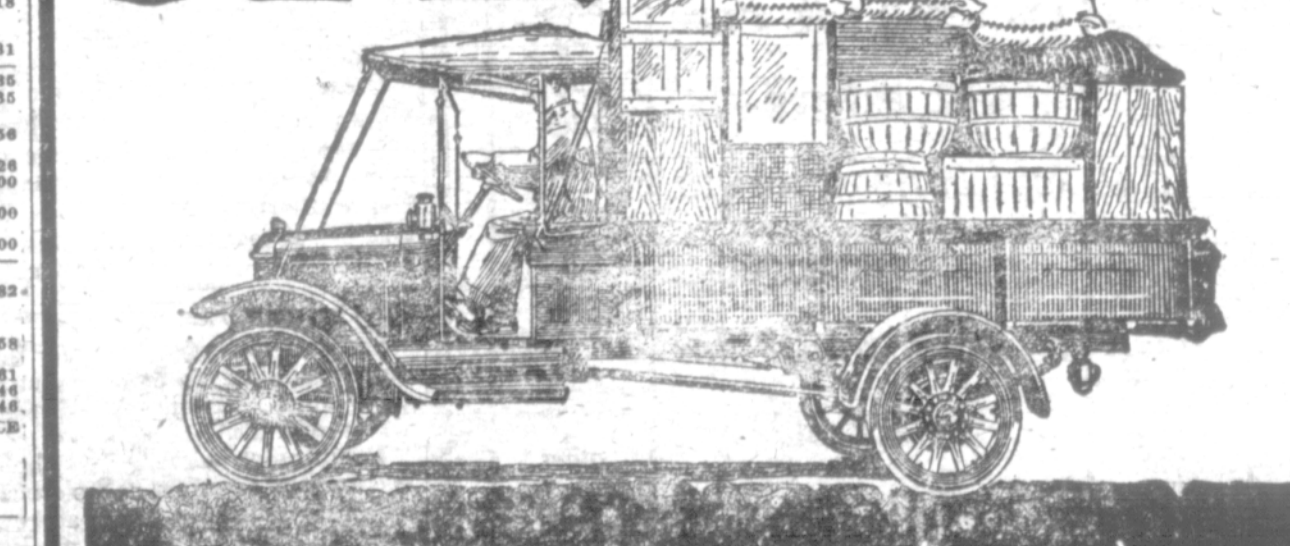
Room with privilege of bath, single, 75c up; double \$1.00 up.
Room with private bath, single \$1.50 up; double \$2.00 up.
Auto Meets Trains. Street cars from Union Depot pass our doors.
Transfer at 5th and Gilean streets from North Bank Depot.

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DO A LITTLE MISSIONARY WORK IN YOUR idle days by telling your neighbors of the good qualities of The Observer. If you can't get their subscriptions, send us their addresses and we will send them sample copies. We pay for all soliciting you do.

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