

The Observer.

MORO, OREGON.

Entered as second class matter at the post office at Moro, Oregon, July 25, 1891.

FRIDAY.....December 19, 1919

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



Official Paper for Sherman County.

At a special meeting of the city council held Wednesday afternoon Mayor N. W. Thompson was appointed fuel administrator, it being deemed best that coal and wood be rationed until normal conditions again prevail. It was also decided to allow not more than a ton of coal be sold to any one outside the city and not more than half a ton to a resident of the city, at any one time.

A good combination ranch for sale about six miles from Maupin; 320 acres, 100 acres in wheat and 120 acres to be plowed and all under good hog fence and cross fences; plenty of water and good improvements; a 20 acre water right, paid for, goes with the place; also 10 ton of hay; the price is only \$65 an acre. Write W. C. Hanna, Dufur, Oregon, for terms.

Unusual Weather Conditions

Sherman county last week passed through an unusual experience with winter weather, something entirely new to a large majority of its residents and which brought to mind of one time eastern folks stories of extreme cold in eastern states. Grass Valley and Wasco were both lower in the degree of cold than Moro, Wasco going to 28 degrees below and Grass Valley to 30 below while the coldest at Moro was the nights of December 12th and 13th when the government thermometer at the Experiment Farm registered 20 degrees below zero. Since then it has been warming up until this week 38 degrees above has been registered with an average of above freezing for every day. Thursday night a slight rain fell in the early evening, bordering upon a silver thaw, but not enough to start the snow to melting, although probably the snow now is packed to half its former depth with a good crust that will prevent drifting and help materially in thawing the frost in the ground.

A special session of the state legislature has been called to convene at Salem January 12th. Among the many new laws proposed is one licensing auto drivers in an effort to curb reckless driving. The best way to attain this end is that adopted by Governor Olcott last month when he rescinded the right of a man to drive a car in Portland. Another is to take from the trial judges the right to parole or fine culprits and make all offenders take a jail sentence. Car thefts, also, would be ended if dealt with as suggested above.

Always read the Observer.

Eminently Improper Grammar

"Ain't" is an improper abbreviation of "are not." British writers spell it "a'n't," which properly indicates its derivation. Americans make it an inclusive offense, using it for "am not" and "is not," as well as for "are not." It is unquestionably the worst instance of slovenliness in the common speech of today. Yet it is by no means universal or even common use. It will slip occasionally from the lips, always with a jar to the hearer. But the habitual user of "ain't" is careless of refinement, says Cleveland Plain Dealer. He may be an excellent citizen who never beats his wife nor kicks the cat. But there is likely to be something allspiced about him somewhere. For "ain't" is needless, as well as cacophonous. It fills no void and supplies no need. English observers complain superciliously of the laxness of American speech. American observers who have listened to the marvels of Lancashire, Yorkshire, Devonshire and other shire dialects are inclined to resent any assumption of British superiority. But it is none the less desirable to eliminate our own linguistic sins, and of these "ain't" is the most deplorable.

Bargains in Farm Property

I am offering some extra good values in south Wasco county farm property. These are all priced at a conservative figure and will sell quickly to discriminating buyers. Prices are not mentioned because other factors must be considered as well as the quality of the land. Stock, equipment, location, and some times lease on joining lands have a value to the purchaser more than to the seller.

No. 4. 1100 acres near Maupin. Ditch water right paid on 60 acres. 225 acres in fall wheat. All stock, including 27 head of cattle, 16 head of colts and horses, and 25 head of hogs, and the machinery can go with place. Plenty of water, fair buildings. A mighty fine bunch of all year pasture goes with this place. Easy terms.

For terms and prices write to W. C. Hanna, Dufur, Oregon.

"While looking forward to making laws more suitable to women," writes a mother, "do let us try to make the marriage laws such that our children can't elope." This, she urges, would save many a hasty marriage. No doubt it would, but is it possible? Is not half the reason of more than half the elopements the excitement of doing something that theoretically one can't do? The remedy for elopements is thinking, but can you make people think by law? Romeo and Juliet imagined they were madly in love with each other; and when they reflected that everybody would be sure their marriage was impossible, they were sure of it, says Milwaukee Journal. No doubt our marriage laws can be improved. But would you build a fence 10 feet high with the idea of making the apples on the other side less tempting to the boy?

The Moro Theater has completed arrangements for the presentation here, Christmas matinee and evening, of "Virtuous Wives," the motion picture version of Owen Johnson's celebrated story of the same title. Miss Anita Stewart will make her return to the screen after an absence of months in the role of Amy Forrester, the young society girl, whose husband suddenly discovers, without definite reason, that he can no longer consider her a virtuous wife. See adv.

Be Careful What You Write.

Never get angry on paper. The written word can be used effectively against you long after the spoken word is forgotten, and might place you in a dangerous or embarrassing position in a court of law. Write only with a cool head and a steady hand, never on the impulse of the moment or when under pressure. Our grandmother used to caution us "to sleep on our wrath," and surely that indeed is good counsel, for a night's rest and time to reflect calmly may change the point of view and enable one to form a cool, levelheaded judgment.

Original Personality.

The approach to the comprehension of any original personality in art or in philosophy is slow but full of fascination. One first impulse, I have usually found, is one of tedious indifference followed by rejection, probably accompanied with repugnance. In this sphere the door which opens at a touch may only lead into a hovel. The portal to a glorious temple may be through a dark and dreary narthex, to be traversed painfully, it may be on one's knees, a passage only illuminated in its last stages by exhilarating bursts of light as the door ahead momentarily swings open.—Havelock Ellis.

Three Capital Crimes.

"When I was a boy," states Mr. Patch in Stockton Herald, "there were three capital crimes—murder, blasphemy, and lying abed in the morning. Of the three, murder and blasphemy might sometimes be forgiven, but lying never. One of my grandfathers frequently got up at four o'clock on a winter morning, built a fire in the cook stove and then would sit down by it and go to sleep."—Kansas City Times.

Show Volcanic Formation.

The whole of the west of Scotland and northeast Ireland are of volcanic formation. Look at the Giant Causeway, with its queer pipes of basalt, and the Isle of Skye, which is simply made of lava. Staffa consists of sheets of bedded basaltic lava, and the famous Fingall's cave is excavated from pure lava.

King's Crown Goes Begging

The Red commissary at Budapest has offered Saint Stephen's crown for sale at 100,000 francs—the price to be paid in French and Swiss banknotes. Inasmuch as the crown is a precious historical treasure of Hungary, the bargain seems a good one for the art dealer; while, on the other hand, the commissary gets \$20,000 for something that cost him nothing. Everybody should be pleased, except the Hungarians. Probably the crown which this commissary has for sale is the one reputed to have been sent to Saint Stephen by Pope Sylvester when Stephen was crowned king in the year 1000; according to legend it contains a nail of the true cross. This is a good reason for collectors, art dealers—and Red commissaries.

A Chicago firm has adopted the plan of giving an increase in salary to every employee who marries—and at the time he marries. We are unable to state what the company is trying to get at, says Kansas City Star. There is no doubt that an employee's wedding date is the time when he needs a "raise." But it is too late to do him any good.

It seems incredible that, only seventy-nine years have elapsed since the inventor of the sewing machine took out his first patent, yet this fact is brought to our notice by the observance of the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Elias Howe. Amid the marvels that the twentieth century has developed, it is fitting that the world's inestimable debt to this benefactor should not be overlooked.

If it is true there are immense amounts of food stored to keep up prices, the government ought to have something definite to say about it. For government is instituted for the preservation of life primarily, and food shortage is a matter of life and death. Under conditions of necessity artificial famines become crimes.

At the farmer's breakfast table in 1918 he drank coffee that cost him 10 per cent more than in 1914, and he had sugar that cost 50 per cent more, bread made from flour that cost 92 per cent more, and, whatever use was made of lard, it cost him 133 per cent more than in 1914.

The navy department has the proud record of not having one naval execution during the war. That is testimony of which the nation, too, should be proud, of both the department and the men. It shows the average high grade of discipline and personnel.

For the rehabilitation and education of disabled soldiers, sailors and marines \$25,000,000 will be needed this year, congressmen are told by a federal official. That form of extending help is far better than the old demoralizing pension system.

Lieutenant Shotter, engineer of the R-34, says there is more excitement in driving a taxicab than in managing the giant airship. And, of course, there is the added thrill of trying to collect an extra fare.

Censorship of mail and cables from Germany is to cease forthwith, but the news does not excite us. There's nothing important that we don't know about Germany now.

The demand for a six-hour day fails to take into account the fact that unless sufficient wealth is produced there will not be enough of it to go around.

We are all crazy, says a Boston alienist. Some more than others, as may be seen by the bleachers during a ninth inning rally.

How is it that a man who can talk a great deal about hungry Germany is tongue-tied when it comes to talking about hungry Italy?

At the rate at which the 10-cent piece is supplanting the nickel as a basis of human transactions, it is possible that somebody will soon move that our primal, elemental five senses be increased to twice the number.

Now that the American government has planned to resume trading with Germany, it will soon be in order once more for those who care for them to tell the grocer to send up some pretzels and sauerkraut.

The foreigners who are leaving this country with an average of \$3,000 each in their pockets have an even greater asset in the industrial efficiency they acquired while here. Europe needs it.

A waterspout of red herring in Argyllshire confuses the trail of profiteers in Scotland. Free herring from on high would be a relief, even in this Land of the Free.

"Berlin Scours Rumors," says a head line. Having conducted a rumor factory for four years, Berlin knows the stuff of which they are made.

The cat mascot that made a trip across the Atlantic in a blimp rather had it on the feline that merely went to London to see the queen.

If you are not crazy for speed, \$12 worth of shoe leather will get you a considerable distance through this sale of tans.

Where would the price of meat go if the public were to quit eating it entirely?

Local Church Announcements

Presbyterian Church Announcements

Monkland Church:
Sunday School at 1:30 p. m.
No preaching next Sunday.

Moro Church:
Sunday School, 10 a. m.
Preaching, 11 a. m.
Christian Endeavor, 6:30 p. m.
Preaching, 7:30 p. m.

The pastor is improving and trusts that he will be able to fill the pulpit in town.

Elmer E. McVicker, Pastor.

Christian Science Society:

Services in the Church building, Main street, at 11 a. m. Subject: "Is the universe, including man, evolved by atomic force?"

Testimonial services each Wednesday evening, 8 o'clock.

Sunday School, rear church entrance, 11 a. m. Pupils up to the age of 20 are welcome to these classes.

Reading room, rear church entrance, open each Friday from 2 until 4 p. m., where the Bible and all authorized Christian Science literature may be read, bought or borrowed.

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For further particulars see Omer Sayrs, L. V. Moore, C. R. Morrison, Jess Landry, or

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