

SHERMAN COUNTY OBSERVER

Oregon Historical Society
Auditorium

Established 1887

The Sherman County Observer, Moro, Oregon, Friday April 26, 1929.

Price Five Cents

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URGE REFORM IN HOUSE OF LORDS

Would Limit Membership of British Body.

London.—The house of lords is demanding a reform which would limit its membership and provide for certain peers to be elected.

It seems likely that the country will eventually adopt some sort of plan like this, since it is widely asserted that the present constitution of the British upper house renders it not only impotent but inefficient. There are many who would like to see it as a par with the United States senate. Others would like to see it abolished altogether.

Would Limit Members.

This situation is recognized by the house of lords itself. The latest move was to vote by 62 to 8 that "it is desirable that early steps should be taken to limit the number of members of the house of lords and to make provision for an elective representative or nomination as a fair position in the house of lords."

Three Parts to Parliament.

Theoretically, parliament is divided in three parts, the king, the house of commons and the house of lords and the assent of each component is required before an act of parliament can become a law, with certain exceptions. Actually, the house of commons makes the laws, because the king supports its decisions and the commons control the lords with the threat of creating any number of peers needed to pass a bill through the house of lords should the upper house prove recalcitrant.

Signal Hill, Calif., Claims Title as Richest City

Long Beach, Calif.—The richest city in the world is Signal Hill. That is, for its size it is the richest.

The title was claimed in a report filed by the captain of its fire department. According to his statement, each of the 3,373 acres of producing oil land included within the city's boundaries bears an average assessed valuation of \$10,500, or a total of \$35,300,000 for the entire city.

The same report placed the per capita wealth at \$6,820.

Signal Hill has existed as a corporate city for a little more than five years. It withdrew from the jurisdiction of Long Beach as a result of the enormous oil activities then going on. It is this wealth of petroleum products that is held responsible for its financial position.

A news item that means little to you may be of paramount interest to many Sherman County Observer readers.

Parrot in Bird Store Aids Thief's Capture

Portland, Ore.—"Hello! Hello! Ha, ha, ha! Lookie!"

And with such a hubbub from the favorite parrot in a Portland bird store two clerks stopped work to look. They saw a man going through the store safe evidently searching for valuables.

While the parrot screamed applause the clerks went into action and overpowered the prowler. The police were called and the man was taken in jail. The clerks explained to officers that the stranger came into the store several times to admire the parrot and finally paid a small amount down on the bird, agreeing to return with the remainder.

According to the story of the clerks, he returned to visit the safe rather than his "installment" parrot, which turned burglar alarm.

Incidentally the "For Sale" sign has been taken off the parrot's cage.

First Sailboats

The paintings and sculptures in the early records of Egypt show regularly formed boats constructed of sawed planks of timber propelled by numerous rowers and also by sails.

These vessels were long galleys with one mast and a large square sail which was sometimes of linen and sometimes of papyrus. The oldest authentic record as to these sailing vessels is the illustration of one of them used as a decoration of an Egyptian amulet (in the British museum), judged to have been made about 6000 B. C. It is noted, however, that these boats could sail only with the wind. The science of sailing against the wind was unknown for thousands of years. They sailed only when the wind was favorable. The onsmen worked when the winds were unfavorable.

The Time Test

Two Scots were discussing the domestic troubles of a friend.

"That woman leads poor Sandy an awful life," said one.

"Humph! what else could ye expect?" asked the other. "He only courted her for seven years, an' I hold that no man can understand a woman in that time. Now I courted Maggie Deans for twenty-two years."

"And did complete happiness follow this lengthy courtship?" asked an Englishman seated opposite.

The speaker was given a scornful glance by the "ardent wooer," who replied: "I found out at the end of that time that I didna much care for the woman an' cried aff!"

How Lovely!

Sao Paulo, Brazil.—Polletem here wear white suits over high, black boots, also long-tailed coats and Sam Browne belts, with short swords.

The Hand of Destiny

By CORONA REMINGTON

(Copyright.)

"TOMORROW'S Miss Carter's birthday—you folks want to chip in on some flowers or something?" asked Williams.

"How'd you know about it?" demanded Tom Jenkins.

"She told me. No, she didn't exactly tell me either, but one day we were talking about the signs of the zodiac and I asked her what sign she was born under. And then, of course, she told me the date. That was several weeks ago."

"Huh, you've got a good memory, Williams. You must have a crush on her."

"Oh, can your kiddin', Jenkins. Foster, the head bookkeeper, threw away his cigarette and glared at the offender. "It seems to me Williams is pretty fine to let me in on this when he could have hogged it and got all the glory. As to the crush, you've got one yourself. We've all got one, so why deny it or try to kid somebody else? I'll bet half of us have proposed to her already."

Jenkins looked sheepishly out of the window.

"All right, boys," he said at last, "I guess I was a rotter, but you hit it right; I have a crush and I have proposed and I was a little jealous."

After much argument it was finally decided that the pretty little stenographer, the pet of the office, should receive a ten-pound box of candy and a corsage bouquet and that they should present themselves in a body and invite her to dinner and the theater afterward, her escort to be chosen by her.

When the time came for the presentation the next day, Jenkins was visibly pale.

"I know she'll never choose me," he said mournfully to Williams. "You're to be the spokesman, but isn't there anything you can possibly say or do to help me?"

"I can think of nothing," Williams answered.

Charles Carter always ate her lunch at her desk while her employer was out, so it was easy for the men to give their remembrances and extend the invitation.

When she saw the huge box of candy and the lovely flowers she was quite overcome with joy.

"You're the very, very nicest men I ever knew," she told them warmly, her eyes sparkling, "and I just can't thank you; I don't know how."

"Tell her the rest," said one, trying to cover up his confusion with words.

"Oh, yes we want to take you to dinner and the theater afterward and you're to choose your escort from among us."

The girl looked at them for one baffled moment.

"How can I? I just love you all. Oh, please one of you ask me."

"I'll tell you what we'll do," said Williams, "we'll draw for it."

"Great! Great! Williams, you write the names on some slips of paper and put 'em in a hat."

No sooner said than done.

"Here," said Williams, "blindfold Foster."

For a breathless second everybody watched as Foster gropingly placed his hand in the hat and drew forth a tiny white slip of paper.

"Jenkins!" cried half a dozen voices as the men crowded around Foster.

"You win! Hurray! Congratulations!"

"But she doesn't want me," said Jenkins dolefully.

"I do, I honestly do," said Miss Carter sincerely.

That night coming home in the taxi he took Williams' advice and tried his luck again and she accepted him.

"Why did you turn me down last week?" he asked when the first rapturous minutes were over.

"I—I was just in a panic and didn't know what to do or say, and then I was afraid you'd never ask me again."

"You darling!" he said, kissing her again.

The next morning bright and early he was down at the office waiting to greet her. As she always came in fully an hour before her employer, he boldly walked into the office and sat down at her desk. Blissful feeling! She had sat there; she had talked over that telephone; she had signed letters here; she had thrown away letters in that wastebasket. He glanced down at it, not emptied. The miserable janitor had neglected to empty her wastebasket. He'd speak to him himself. His eye caught a ball of bits of paper crumpled up and tossed into the basket. He recognized them as the ones that had been in the hat yesterday when Foster had drawn his name.

Sacred bits of paper! He would keep them forever. Upon how tiny a thing does one's destiny hang! If Foster had drawn one of the other slips! Stopping down he picked up the ball and began straightening out the little white bits. Upon the first one was written "Jenkins" in Williams' bold hand. Funny. He thought Foster had handed him the paper when he had drawn it and he had put it in his pocket. He examined the second slip. "Jenkins." A third. "Jenkins." Then it dawned upon him what Williams had done.

"Dear, good old Williams!" he said softly. "Destiny, did I say? Well, it was after all, and Williams was the hand of destiny."

COSMIC RAY FINDS RADIUM IN ASHES

Millikan Machine Picks It Out of Last Barrel.

Pasadena, Calif.—When one of Dr. Robert A. Millikan's electroscopes, developed in connection with his cosmic ray experiments, was enlisted as a detective, a problem as difficult as "looking for a needle in a haystack" was solved within two hours.

Through the use of the delicate instrument \$4,000 worth of radium which was accidentally thrown out with some ashes at the Pasadena hospital was recovered.

John Ransom, California Institute of Technology technician, was sent to the hospital with one of the cosmic ray machines and, after barrel after barrel of ashes had been brought in front of the electroscope the instrument indicated that radium was present in the last barrel.

While hospital officials anxiously watched the proceedings in the basement of the institution the barrel containing the capsule filled with fifty milligrams of the most precious substance in the world was emptied into small boxes. It was only when the servers were about to give up hope that the brass tube, about the size of a match-end, was discovered in the last box.

The electroscope, it was stated, picks up the radium emanations, being so sensitive that it can record them from a radiotele watch. Two quartz fibers that are suspended almost together are charged with electricity, which repels them. When the fibers are exposed to radium, which absorbs electricity from the air, they are brought together, the speed with which they approach each other indicating the amount of radium in the vicinity. No matter how minute the radium particles, the instrument is said to be capable of detecting them at a distance of 100 feet.

The radium which was recovered is the property of Dr. Paul Ferrier, and is one of the two largest supplies of the precious substance in this city.

Dragons May Be Dead, but Their Blood Stays

Medan, Sumatra.—Fairy tales of knights and dragons may pass with more credulous generations, but trade in dragon blood goes on.

Only the modern dragon blood is a red gum obtained from the ripe fruit of palm trees growing in Sumatra and the Dutch East Indies, which finds prosaic uses in pharmacy and for coloring vanilla.

Production is purely a native industry, the American consul reports. Although some natives have lands planted to palms, most of them use the wild trees as a source of supply and sell the blood, obtained by steaming, crushing or both, to Chinese traders in the villages.

When traders have acquired considerable quantities they ship to Chinese dealers in Penang and Singapore, Straits Settlements, whence the material is exported to Europe and America.

New Forests Will Cost More Than \$6,000,000

Washington.—Embracing Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan, the new Great Lakes district, to be known as national forest district No. 9, already contains ten national forest units with a total of nearly 1,200,000 acres of government land.

W. M. Jardine, secretary of agriculture, has appointed Earl S. Tinker district forester, with temporary headquarters at Madison, Wis.

In recognition of the acute need which exists in this region for reclamation of large areas of land adapted to timber production but at present denuded and unproductive, the national forest reservation commission has approved a program contemplating eventual acquisition of an additional 2,500,000 acres of land in the three states. The purchase program will involve the expenditure of more than \$6,000,000 of federal funds.

Runaway Building Nearly Wrecks Railroad Train

Red Wing, Minn.—A railway wreck was narrowly averted here when an engineer brought his train to a stop just a few feet short of a "runaway building" which blocked the tracks. The building, it may be explained, got away from workmen who were moving it from one location to another. The Chicago Great Western railway engineer saw the obstruction in time to halt his train. Workmen hauled away one corner of the building and the train continued its journey.

Bees Buzz Busily for 800,000 in U. S.

Madison, Wis.—More than 800,000 people in the United States are keeping bees and the value of the honey crop runs from \$40,000,000 to \$50,000,000 annually, figures compiled by H. F. Wilson of the agricultural staff of the University of Wisconsin reveal.

Wilson says beekeeping has splendid prospects for the future and great possibilities in almost every state. However, he insists, the industry lacks leadership and finance.

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1 lb. tin	35c
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3 Cans for	44c
Swansdown Cake flour, 2 3/4 lb. pkg.	35c
Burt Olney's Brand Pumpkin, 2 1/2 can	15c
Citrus Bar Soap,	
6 bars for	25c
New Peas - Full Pods	
2 lbs.	25c
Fresh Local Spinach 4 lbs.	25c
Wesson Oil, Quarts	48c
Hershey's Cocoa, 1 1/2 lb. tin	14c
Buffalo Matches, 6 boxes for	17c
Holiday Oleomargarine, per lb.	20c
Royal Club Jelly Powder, 3 pkgs.	20c
Solid Pack Tomatoes - Royal Reds 2 1/2	
3 Cans	45c



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Knitting Craze Sweeps Through Smith College

Northampton, Mass.—A knitting craze has broken out like an epidemic at Smith college.

The more severe manifestations are as yet confined to dormitories, but it is feared that campus and classrooms may yet feel the effects of the sweep. In its wake are found such utilitarian articles as sweater suits, rather than the more strictly domestic comforters.

The most desolate locality in the stricken houses is the dining room. Students, according to a newly passed regulation, are not allowed to bring their knitting to meals, lest, perchance, the yarn become confused with the food, it said, including that food with the Italian name.

The Victorian pastime is explained by the victims, not as a return to naive artlessness, but as a triumph of sophistication.

Proof of Scotch Thrift Found in Bankbooks

Glasgow, Scotland.—Scotch thrift is not fiction.

One of every three of the population has a bankbook, and savings for 1928 constitute a record, says the annual report of the Glasgow Savings bank.

The amount due depositors is \$120,000,000, an increase of \$4,900,000 over last year, while 40,000 "homesaves"—small cash boxes—are in use.

The number of depositors, the volume of business transacted, the balance at depositors' credit and the bank's reserve each constitute a record.

Different Now
"Times have changed," remarked the man who had been reading of a new record made in the air.
"Yes," replied the other, "those non-stop flights used to be made by abducting bank cashiers instead of aviators."

Auntie Agreed
Pretty Niece—Woman's dresses are becoming longer, Auntie.
Puritan Aunt—Yes, my dear, very much more becoming.

Separation Coming
Harrington—I am wedded to my art.
Carrington—Cheer up, there'll be an uncontested divorce.

Wife Loses Her Ring, Hubby Finds It in Pie

Mil City, Ore.—L. G. Foster claims the distinction of having had one of the most valuable pieces of lemon pie in history. When he attacked a generous piece of the pie, Foster discovered an expensive diamond ring. He was jubilant until his wife exclaimed, "That's mine!" Mrs. Foster had removed the ring and placed it on a window ledge just above the table where she made the pie. When she finished her work, she searched for the ring, without success. Foster found it—with his teeth.

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