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La Grande Evening Observer

BY EY BROS., Editors & Pr ps

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FRIDAY EVENING, DEC. 23, 1904

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor the mighty God, the ever-lasting Father the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end.—Isaiah ix, 6, 7.

"Hosannah to King David's Son, Who reigns on a superior throne! We bless the Prince of heavenly birth Who brings salvation down to earth."

"Let every nation, every age, In this delightful work engage; Old men and babes in Zion sing The crowning glories o' her King."

Most of us know that the Christmas tree comes to us direct from Germany. And we know of the tree-worship of the Druids which obtained in England and France, and which probably had some influence on the later use of the tree in the Christian festival. But we do not all know that a similar festival with the tree as a crowning feature is observed among many heathen nations and that it comes from sun-worship which is older than history. The revival of the sun after the winter solstice has ever been the subject of rejoicing and of celebration by ceremonies which represent the new light brought back to the world. Our tree, with its small candles, its gilded knickknacks and toys for

the children, is a direct descendant of this old festival in honor of the sun.

Traces of it exist in Iceland where the "service-tree" is adorned with burning lights Christmas night. The English yule log is a faint survival of festival. But it is beyond these that I wish to draw your attention, back further even than the Druid mysteries of the Gallic forests. It is to China, that home of all wonders and of all history. It has been shown that as long as 247 B C a tree with a hundred lamps and flowers was placed on the steps of the audience-hall. This appears again in the records of Princess Yang, who lived 713-755 A D and who caused a hundred-lamp tree 80 feet high to be erected on a mountain. It was lighted during New Year's night and the illumination was seen for hundreds of miles, eclipsing the light of the moon. This candle-tree is no longer lighted in China, being replaced by an unusual number of lanterns, which are hung everywhere. A suggestion of the tree however, still survives in Japan. At the New Year two evergreen trees are placed without, on either side of the door. Their tops are tied together with the sacred band of straw, and various objects, dried lobsters and oranges are fastened to their branches.—Stewart Culin, in Woman's Home Companion.

Amalgamated Copper people have asked for a fraud order against Tom Lawson's circulars, because, as they allege, his statements are false and he profits by them. The probability is strong that the real reason is that Amalgamated folk are losing by them. But it is of no importance, as the request has been denied.

It is real sweet to note the improvement in the little people—as Christmas time approaches.

Our city warrants are now settled for 90 cents and there is every indication that the 95 cent mark and even better will be reached after the first of the year.

President Hill, that meek and humble magnate, has discovered the Interstate Commerce Commission to be "a haughty autocrat and a direct menace to the Republic." It's too bad, so it is!

Stewart, of Nevada, has introduced a bill in the Senate raising the salary of the President to \$200,000. And if the bill should happen to reach the Executive office it would meet with a cold, yet strenuous, veto.

The Pendleton Tribune has just issued an illustrated edition containing an exhausted review of the industries and resources of Pendleton and Umatilla Co. It reflected credit to the publishers as well as the county which furnishes the basis of such an undertaking.

First class job printing, Observer.

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