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Lodge Directory.

KAGLER—La Grande Aerie 259 F. O. E. meets every Sunday night in K. of P. hall at 8 p. m. Visiting brethren invited to attend.
J. A. Matott, W. P. J. E. Pollock, W. S.

100 F.—La Grande Lodge, No. 25 meets in their hall every Saturday night. Visiting members cordially invited to attend.
Country plan can be seen at office of City Recorder.
G. W. Robertson, N. G.
H. E. Coolidge, Sec.

STAR ENCAMPMENT No. 21, I. O. O. F. meets every first and third Thursdays in the month in Odd Fellows hall. Visiting pairs are always welcome.
L. R. Snook, C. P.
Edmond Robinson, Scribe

EASTERN STAR O. E. S. Hope Chapter No. 11 meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 p. m. in Masonic Temple.
Mertie Aldrich, W. M.
Mary A. Warnick, Sec.

M. W. A.—La Grande Camp No. 1703 meets every first and third Wednesday of the month at I. O. O. F. Hall. All visiting neighbors are cordially invited to attend.
E. Reiland, V. G.
John Hall, Clerk.

FORESTERS OF AMERICA—Court Maid Marion, No. 22 meets each Thursday night in K. of P. hall. Brothers are invited to attend.
T. S. Tullson, Chief Ranger.
C. E. Williams, Fin. Sec.
Board of Trustees—Dr. G. L. Biggers, John Hall and Herbert Palmsen

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PEDANTRY TO BLAME

The teachers Association closed a most interesting and instructive session of four days duration, yesterday, wherein many things were said about interesting children in their studies and some of the difficulties which teachers find in getting the young to take an interest therein. The Observer paid as close attention to all that was said as it could and now ventures the assertion that the principal reason why children do not take an interest at once in the several studies presented to them, is the unintelligible, to them, names which pedantry has given to the several studies.

The makers of school books, and most books on scientific subjects, give the books intended for young English speaking children, not English names, but long ones, concocted from dead languages that have not been spoken for centuries and of which the children know nothing. The child sees one of these big meaningless words on the title page of his new book without even exciting his curiosity, for to its mind it makes no suggestion and is as unpronounceable and meaningless as his or her own name would be spelled backwards. From this introduction the child intuitively concludes that a package thus labeled must be full of dead stuff and unpleasant conundrums. The book is taken up with fear and trembling as a traveler in a strange land would enter upon a road with a finger board on which were words from the vocabulary of a people dead for a thousand years and of the meaning of which neither he nor the natives of the land know anything. Does the road lead to the graves of the people whose words have been mangled, for the finger board inscription, or is the inscription a warning of his fate should he take that road?

Take the name given to the book intended to teach our American children how to talk and write properly their mother language. Is there anything in the long word, grammar, that suggests to the child what he is going to learn in that book? It is not an English word, but a Greek word, changed so that Plato, the most learned of the Greeks, would not know it, and have no idea what it means. Not one half of the teachers of grammar can define the term so that an American child, however bright, can catch but a vague glimmer of its meaning. Children do not like to grope in the dark, or play hide and seek under the peril of losing a standing mark, or it may be the ferule on their tender hands, hence they take no interest in grammar.

Arithmetic is another word inflicted upon the American

children by the vain pedantry of the men who prepare books for the young. The word does not belong to our vernacular, and to make it, two old Greek words are patched together. Look into your dictionary and you will see that there are, and were, at the time of its making words enough of common English words to define the meaning of the exhumed Greek, which shows that an English word could have been selected, the meaning of which every child would know at sight or sound, or if not his mother would and could define it in common every day language. It is safe to say that one half of our children work more than half way through the Arithmetic in a blundering manner before they know the meaning of the term.

The same difficulty is encountered in Geography, Agriculture, Anatomy, Hygiene, Biology and in nearly every subject taught our children in our schools. This dead weight that Pedantry has fastened upon our children crushes out enthusiasm, renders it difficult to interest them in subjects so hidden with words from the dead languages, to the neglect of our mother tongue, that it takes years of child life to find out just what their instructors are trying to teach them.

TREASURER'S CALL FOR CITY WARRANTS

Notice is hereby given that there are now funds on hand to pay all outstanding warrants issued on Water Fund of La Grande City, up to and including, No. 5551 endorsed June 15th 1905.
Interest on all warrants on water Fund from No 5168 to No 5551 inclusive, ceases from this date.
La Grande, Oregon, Aug 3rd, 1905.
E. J. WALSH
City Treasurer.

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