

La Grande Evening Observer

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CURREY BROTHERS,
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THE W. C. T. U.

About 35 years ago a mere handful of women organized the Women's Christian Temperance Union. It was constructed on a broad basis and kept expanding until a few years later it became a world-wide organization. To many who have not watched its detail workings, they may think that it has not accomplished much in a general way, but herein is where they are mistaken. It was due to the efforts of the W. C. T. U. that our public schools taught the harmful effects of liquor and destroyed the prevailing idea then that liquors were necessary. The W. C. T. U. at about the same time introduced Temperance day into the International Sunday schools, whereby once during each quarter, the Sunday schools of the United States emphasize temperance work. For instance, Sunday, September 27, was one of these days, and temperance was taught in 140,519 Sunday schools, which means that the 1,451,835 Sunday school teachers of our country yesterday presented the quarterly temperance lesson to 11,329,253 Sunday school attendants. Not only in the Sunday schools, but also in the Epworth Leagues, Christian Endeavors and Young People's societies, whose combined membership means several millions more. This has been going on for quite a number of years. The planting time has been going on ceaselessly and patiently, and it is no wonder that the harvest time is here. Many of these boys who had these temperance principles instilled into their hearts 15 and 20 years ago, are now holding positions of trust. Many of them are governors, congressmen and United States senators. While the W. C. T. U. has not contributed all that has been accomplished towards the present temperance movement, this organization has done much. The above is only a portion of their work, but had they accomplished nothing more than above enumerated, it would have been sufficient glory for any one organization, but in all it has 46 complete departments for active work and somewhere and in some place active work is in progress every moment of the 24 hours.

This will probably be the last season of low homeseekers' rates. This seems to be the consensus of opinion of the managers, who maintain that since the two-cent fare has become general, it has greatly reduced the revenues. That while they are hauling more passengers the roads are not taking in as much money as formerly. This may be the basis for an attempt to return to three-cent fares, or it may result in higher rates to the west. There is another side to this story, however. The railroads are interested in the development of the Pacific coast and if these rates materially assist in adding to our population it is a business proposition for them to continue these rates.

Nothing succeeds like success. Governor Hanly of Indiana for instance. His term of office expires on January 1 next. Were it not for a constitutional prohibition against any governor in the state of Indiana succeeding himself, he undoubtedly would be returned by an immense majority. On the other hand, had he been a candidate to succeed himself, he might not have been the Frank Hanly he is today. That is a wise provision in the Indiana constitution. Four years is long enough for any one man to preside in the executive chair of any state.

As usual, Grande Ronde always comes out among the best. During the past week frosts have visited the Pacific northwest generally, and has done considerable damage. We have been damaged some in this county, but the total, from a dollars and cents standpoint, will not be noticeable. It has worked havoc to most of the flower gardens of the county, and aside from the prune and plum crop little else has been injured.

When governors begin to call special sessions of the legislature to pass local option laws, it does not take much of a prophet to foresee the end of the sale and manufacture of liquor in the United States. There is little question but what the next session of congress will pass legislation preventing the shipment of liquor from wet territory into dry. Uncle Joe Cannon may wish before the next few months roll around that the last congress had.

Georgia is the only state to hold an election prior to the presidential contest, and a few thousand votes one way or the other would indicate nothing in that state. Four years ago Parker received 8,472 votes to Roosevelt's 24,000. Tom Watson, the populist nominee, received 22,885.

There is a large independent vote in our country who are being delightfully entertained as a result of the campaign exposures on both sides and are applauding both leaders, crying: "Lay on, McDuff, and damned be he who first cries, Hold, enough!"

There is no question but we as a nation are taking higher ground morally than we have ever occupied in the past. It was no discredit in the past to be an attorney for large corporations and received a certificate of election to the United States senate. Look back over the history of our own state. We seldom selected a senator who was not a railroad attorney. The people entertained the same feeling then as they do now, but they saw no relief. Things are different now. The people have relief and the past few years has resulted in a general cleaning up of the senate and the next few years may see a still greater change. This all speaks well for our national future.

This is fair week. Remember, there is to be no admission charge. There has been considerable interest manifest the past 10 days and there is evidence of quite an exhibit.

Governor Haskell is mighty fortunate that the state of Oklahoma has no recall law. As it is, he will continue as their notorious chief executive for two years more, at least.

The assurance of light and power is welcome news to Grande Ronde valley. We do not want any repetition of last year.

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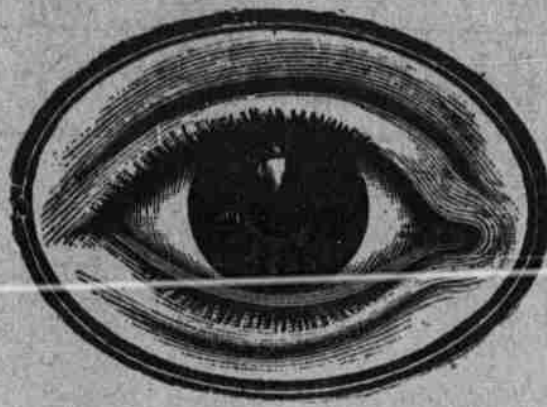
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