

La Grande Evening Observer

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CURREY BROTHERS,
EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS.

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The past few days Judge Henry's juvenile court has been busy with cases wherein boys have been charged with transgressing the law. In two instances the boys have been found guilty of offenses sufficiently serious to warrant the judge in committing them to the state reform school. In each instance these boys have demonstrated that they have average intelligence, but have developed tendencies, which if allowed to go uncontrolled, would undoubtedly result in their becoming confirmed criminals. There must be a reason for these youths developing such dangerous characteristics, and the one most apparent is that they have been reared in an atmosphere devoid of the proper home influences. The parents have simply taken it for granted that the boys would work out their own salvation, and have made little or no attempt to protect them from evil associates or surround them with the proper restraining influences. They have been allowed to roam the streets at will, and attend school when they cared to, and play "hookey" when they so desired. They have been allowed to choose their associates regardless of their fitness. They have been permitted to continue practices, which the parents must have known were at least not above suspicion. When the officers of the law have felt compelled to administer a restraining hand the parents have been loud in their denunciations and perjure in their promises of watchful care, but their spasm of attention was of short duration and soon the offenders were again making their presence felt in the community in the same old manner. One of the boys which will be taken to the reform school has hardly had a fair chance. His mother is dead, and so far as any assistance he has received from his father, he, too, might as well be with the mother. At the tender age of 19 he was sent out into the world to make his own way, but his fate seems to have been no worse than that of the other. In neither instance has the home influence, or rather the right sort of home influence been exerted.

There has been no appreciable effort made to inculcate that element of manly character which must be present in every boy to save him from wreck and ruin. Nature did enough for these boys, but the physical authors of their being have utterly failed to fulfill their paternal duty, and the state has been compelled to assume

the position of parent. The experiment will be an interesting one. These fragments of humanity were but accidents to begin with and it will be but an accident if they escape a more serious end.

La Grande is destined to become the leading city in eastern Oregon, and even if you do pull back in the harness you can't keep it from going ahead and becoming the metropolis. But if you straighten out the tugs and lean up against the collar right good and hard, you will help things along and hasten the day when this good old town comes into her own. Speed up a little and don't be simply a bump in the road.

The La Grande Commercial club is doing noble work in securing contracts for the irrigation project. There is really no way to estimate in cold dollars the value to this valley which will result from the completion of this project. Are you offering the matter any assistance?

La Grande seems in a fair way to secure many good things this coming year, and one of the most valuable acquisitions will be the public park which the ladies are going to present to the city.

NO "DRIVE" ANY MORE.

Will Deck Logs at Perry, Thus Doing Away With Annual Drive.

The log drive, the signboard of primitive logging, is doomed to disappearance in Union county, as the result of plans adopted and now being put into execution by the Grande Ronde Lumber company at Perry. To avoid the "drive" each spring, when a greater or less degree of timber is scattered along the river banks, the company is going to deck about 2,000,000 feet of logs at Perry instead of at Hilgard as heretofore. To do this the company is now building an extension to the spur at Perry that will halt surround the mill pond. In this way logs that were formerly brought to Hilgard and decked, will be taken to Perry and there decked for summer use. The change is a radical one, and for the present the schedule is for one year only. On the face of the change it seems the logical thing to do. However, the many who annually witness a portion of the drive from Hilgard to Perry will be disappointed to know that hereafter that exciting race down the Grande Ronde, foaming with melting snows, will be no more.

Something New.

A beautiful line of the famous Kiser hand-colored photographs of American scenes. The latest Christmas greetings and mottoes. Only a limited supply of each. If interested in these you will do well to call at once at THE LITTLE SHOP, 806 Main Avenue.

EASTERN STAR ELECTS.

Full Set of Members to Be Installed at Joint Meeting Soon.

The Order of the Eastern Star held its annual election of officers last evening. They will be installed jointly with the new Masonic officers at some date to be announced later. The new officers are:

Mrs. Rachel Worstell, worthy matron; A. C. MacLennan, worthy patron, Pauline Lederlee, associate matron; Mary Warnick, secretary; Mrs. C. W. Noyes, treasurer; Carrie Hunter, conductress; Cynthia Stein, associate conductress; Mrs. David Bay, Mrs. Arthur Curtis, Mrs. Ed Reynolds, trustees.



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Cab Girls with "Little Johnny Jones" at the Steward Opera House Thursday, December 17.