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HALE, HEARTY EZRA MEEKER

As our readers already know La Grande was honored yesterday by a visit from that sturdy old pioneer, Ezra Meeker. He called at this office and we could not help but gaze admiringly at the veteran of the range; this man of more than ordinary quality.

He is travelling back over the old Oregon trail, partially for the purpose of locating it definitely and partially because he has reached that age when men live in the past rather than in the present. Ezra Meeker takes more pleasure in reviewing the early days of Oregon life than he would eating a ten-dollar-a-plate dinner in the Portland grill. He loves nature and breathes a great deal of Oregon ozone. This is noticeable in his face and excellent physical condition.

His desire is to interest present day people in the old trail so that historical societies will perpetuate the remarkable stories told of it. Whether he succeeds or not it is commendable of him to give of his time and means along this line.

Mr. Meeker was welcomed to La Grande very cordially and he was delighted with his reception. He may never reach the east with his outfit, for age is ripening the old fruit until it may fall from the vine at any moment. But should he pass peacefully away while camped on the great desert he will soon cross, no doubt such ending would be what he wishes for. Surely it would be in line with the pioneer life he has led.

"OUT OF DEBT"

The sweetest expression next to tender things that surround a man's private life is, "out of debt." When the average American, after a struggle for years under a load of debt, makes the last payment and touches a lighted match to paper containing his signature, he is usually a very proud man.

That is the position that Union county is in today. She is out of debt. She owes no person a cent, of herself in a way that insures she has no bonds and is able to take care

and honor, not only for the present generation, but for posterity as well.

This county, not so much unlike other counties, has for many years carried indebtedness. At times increased and at other times it was necessary for an increase, for counties, like individuals, carry on a business concern.

Anyone who imagines that a county is not like a large business concern and needful of the closest business ability at its head is very much mistaken. And right here we cannot help mentioning a condition that prevails throughout Oregon—the man who guides the county's destiny usually gets a salary that does not compare with a skilled laborer. But that is not the question before the house, as old Daddy Withycombe would say. The fact that Union county is out of debt increases the absolute necessity of breaking away from a time-trodden path and trying the new idea in building communities.

Don't you suppose that the settler looking for a home will be delighted to hear that this county is free from indebtedness? Then tell it to him, and tell it so that he can understand it. When you meet a man from a neighboring county don't let him get past you without driving home the frigid fact that Union county is out of the red column, that her people are prosperous, that her bank deposits are large, and La Grande has a future without parallel.

Really, there are so many talking points for this community it would make John Hartog, the Eugene booster, scratch his head to know where to begin.

All of these things are known at home and we as a people treat them as common place. But don't you know friends, the world at large is looking for communities like La Grande and Union county, where public debts do not sap the vitality of every man who locate there? Why, sure, that is a fact. The world is looking for good, prosperous communities just the same as corporations are looking for men who can make good.

The taxpayers here should not overlook the administration that has brought this county out of the red ink column. It took some work, some careful, business-like manipulation to accomplish this task. Men who attend to such duties do not as a rule do so for the money they receive, nor yet for the honor that is attached to public office. Usually it is done because they realize it must fall on some one's shoulders and they as progressive citizens, are willing to bear their share of the load.

The first statement of the county since it has shaken the mantle of debt appears in today's Observer and we earnestly request that it be given thorough and honest consideration by everyone interested in this community.

The first rose of 1910 in Eugene has bloomed out. One appeared in Roseburg about a week earlier.

Some Polk county mohair sold at 31 1-2 cents, says an exchange.

GOLDEN RULE

Quality the Same, Price Less



Dainty Under Muslins

Special attention has been given to the selection of new patterns in the laces and embroideries used on our muslin underwear for women and children.

Our undermuslins are different and as usual prices are less than elsewhere. Our line is now most complete including combinations corset covers, drawers, skirts and gowns.

A special offering is a skirt with wide lace edge and inserting with pretty embroidery inserting, wide flounce and dust ruffle. Price only **\$1.50**

Don't Forget the

PACKAGE SALE

Saturday--Choice 25c for Values to \$10.00. Ask someone in Store

La Grande's Great est Store.

Give the Boy a Chance

In our Boy's Suit Department may be found the best and most servicable clothes to be had, and best of all, the prices are lower than most stores for inferior quality. Styles are "Buster Brown" Norfolk and Mannish. We can please the boy as well as the parent. New Grays, Olive and Blues dominate.



SPECIAL Attention is called to a "Buster Brown" suit in all sizes, 2 1-2 to 16 years, at \$4 the Suit.

Golden Rule

PERT PARAGRAPHS.

A grouch is both an offensive and defensive weapon and generally very busy.

An old bachelor talks loudly about the pleasures of independence to cover up the evidence that he is in the discard.

Two can now live as cheaply as one will be able to live in another year if prices keep on at their present rate of high flying.

In this day of get-divorced-quick a man may have his courtship of No. 2 under way to the extent of being certain he won't be refused before his wife realizes that she is slated for the unemployed class.

Keeping up appearances at the same time that one is engaged in keeping down expenses calls for the united efforts of a diplomat and an expert.

The difference between a lawmaker and a lawbreaker isn't so much as might appear on first sight.

The woman who knows her own mind is often found not at all averse to extending its acquaintance.

Many labor saving devices turn out to be simply money spenders in disguise.

A self made man may as well appear to be proud of it, for he can't go back on the hallmark that is in plain sight.

When women break into the law-making class they undoubtedly will show the men some new stunts along the line of getting what they want.

Band Dance Friday Night.

The La Grande Band dance will be given next Friday evening. A ten-piece orchestra will supply the music.

Fully nine out of every ten cases of rheumatism is simply rheumatism of the muscles due to cold or damp, or chronic rheumatism, neither of which require any internal treatment. All that is needed to afford relief is the free application of Chamberlain's Liniment. Give it a trial. You are certain to be pleased with the quick relief which it affords.

SIRES AND SONS.

Frederick H. Weyerhaeuser, the lumber king, is a German and came to this country in 1852.

The English Admiral Sir W. M. Luard, who is in his ninetieth year, sang the national anthem at an entertainment at Witham recently.

John Wanamaker, now in his seventy-second year, is still at the head of the great Wanamaker stores in New York and Philadelphia and is to be found in his office almost any day, between 8 o'clock in the morning and 6 at night.

When Edward Payson Weston isn't traversing the continent on one of his long walks he spends much of his time daily in the office of a New York broker. Next to walking, stocks are his great hobby, and his knowledge of the way of Wall street is only second to that of the science of pedestrianism.

Captain James F. Wenman, oldest member of the New York Cotton Exchange and its first vice president, recently celebrated his eighty-seventh birthday anniversary. Mr. Wenman is known as the "father" of the exchange and is more regular in attendance at its sessions than many of the younger members.

Mr. Balfour is in his sixty-second year. He first entered parliament as member for Hertford in 1874. Here he remained till 1885, when he went to East Manchester, where he remained till 1906, when he was defeated by Mr. T. G. Horridge, and since then he has occupied a seat of which he is hardly likely to be dispossessed so long as he chooses to retain it.

Things Theatrical.

Klaw & Erlanger have secured the American rights to "Miss Dudelsack," the Viennese operetta which has been much in demand.

Frank Stayton, the English playwright who wrote "The Inferior Sex" for Maxine Elliott, is to write a play for her sister Gertrude, the wife of J. Forbes-Robertson.

The little boy, David, who plays such a prominent part in Margaret Anglin's play, "The Awakening of Helena Richie," is a young woman of twenty-one who is only three feet in height, but is perfectly formed and carries out the stage illusion very well. Before going on the stage she was a stenographer.

About The City

Meeting Tomorrow Night.

Worthy Matron Pauline Lederle is urging the attendance of all Eastern Star members tomorrow night when initiations will be carried out.

M. W. A. Initiate

Deputy Head Counsel Alsbury was a guest of honor last at a meeting of the M. W. A. One candidate was initiated and the deputy addressed the lodge in warm words.

Draw Plats for Meeker

J. T. Williamson's land office is today drawing plats of the old Oregon trail from Kamela to Weatherby, in Baker County. The maps will be ready by tomorrow when Mr. Meeker will resume his journey.

C. E. Members Meet.

All members of the Presbyterian Christian Endeavor Society are urgently requested to be present at a special business meeting at the church at 7:30 p. m., Wednesday evening.

Many Baker People File.

Chief among the visitors at the land office today were the homestead filers from Baker City. Among them were George W. Stringer, James J. Welsh, Charles A. Hindbury. Another filer was George A. Lee, an heir of the estate of William C. Lee.

Memorial Committee Named

A committee of the G. A. R. members have been appointed to prepare a program for Memorial Day in this city. I. W. Faulk is chairman, and with him are J. W. Oliver, George Jacobs and Mr. Grider. The Memorial services will be held May 29th and the decoration exercises on the 30th.

K. of P. Initiation.

The local lodge of Knights or Pythias held an initiation last evening of two candidates. Important business matters were transacted during the evening.

Home Missionaries to Meet.

The Ladies Home Missionary Society of the Baptist church will meet at the home of Mrs. A. A. Couch 1306 Jackson Ave., Wednesday afternoon at 2:30. All are cordially invited to attend.

Be sure and take the children to the Star Theatre Thursday to see Roosevelt's trip through Africa pictures.

Facts From France.

The new French navy bill fixes twenty years as the maximum life for the larger classes of ships.

In a disastrous flood in France in 1840 60,000 acres were inundated and over 600 houses were swept away.

Luminous ink has been invented by a French chemist. It is used to print posters and handbills, which may be easily read in the dark.

President Armand Fallieres of the French republic, who is reported to have resigned his office because of ill health, the resignation to take effect May 15 after the general election, has been at the head of the republic since 1906.

Proverbs.

Big mouthfuls often choke.—Italian Proverb.
The rude jester is brother to the fool.—Irish Proverb.
Nothing overcomes passion sooner than silence.—French Proverb.
Avoid the ford in which your friend was drowned.—Gaelic Proverb.

5 Acre Tracts
ADJOINING CITY LIMITS
Low Prices Easy Terms
Rich Soil

You Will Double Your Money in a Year
Get One of these Tracts While they Last
Will be Sold in Thirty Days

LET US SHOW THEM TO YOU
AND QUOTE YOU PRICES AND TERMS

LA GRANDE INVESTMENT CO
Foley Hotel Building La Grande, Oregon

Strawberries

WE HAVE THEM IN NOW

We Now Have **BANANAS AND SWEET ORANGES**

Asparagus H. H. Lettuce Rhubarb Radishes Spinach Celery and Green Onions

CITY GROCERY AND BAKERY

ROYAL BAKING POWDER

Makes the food of maximum quality at minimum cost