

LA GRANDE EVENING OBSERVER

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Editor and Owner

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PAST AND PRESENT SCHOOL DAYS.

It will only be a few days until school will have adjourned for the summer vacation, and with that adjournment comes more or less reflection on what used to be and what is today in the way of public schools.

Most of us can remember when we went to school, all right enough, but who can say that the old form of teaching brought results?

It took ten years of practical life out of school to realize that we ever attended. We seldom thought of using what we had learned, for the truth is few learned practical things. Outside of a little arithmetic and spelling the remainder of one's education came through the university of every day life.

Things are different now. Children are taught to reason, to perform actual duties and so much attention is not given to events of less importance.

The manual training in schools has been of great benefit to children and will continue to be. It brings out that element of judgment, which, under the old form of teaching, remained dormant.

To teach the girl how to sew and the boy how to saw a board means that the coming generation upon leaving school will be equipped for the battles of life. And it is found that these things go very nicely with book learning. They round out the pupil, make him more independent, appeal to his personality.

With manual training departments firmly established in all of the schools the desire to visit the old swimming hole will leave the minds of boys, for they will become interested in making something.

AN ARGUMENT OF WORTH.

At a dinner a few evenings ago Fred Gelbel, one of the leading business men of La Grande who has a keen business judgment, offered the following land argument that is worth remembering:

"It might truthfully be said," remarked Mr. Gelbel, "that men can get land in the Grande Ronde valley for nothing when compared with land that is selling on the coast." He explained this statement by recalling to the minds of all present the necessity of clearing the coast land of

stumps which never costs less than \$75 an acre, whereas in this valley land under the plow and producing excellent crops can be bought for that price.

And the best of the whole matter, the Grande Ronde land will actually produce more dollars worth of crops per acre each year than will the stump land.

When the reader is talking to a stranger about this valley let him remember the remarks of Mr. Gelbel and repeat them to all who will listen.

DOES IT PAY TO ADVERTISE?

G. D. Roe, who represents the Underwood typewriter, happened into La Grande recently and being an old friend of the editor of this paper, immediately made a call at the Observer office. We made a personal mention of him being in the city and the next evening Mr. Roe received a telephone call from a man in the country asking that he call and sell him a typewriter. The man explained that he had seen Mr. Roe was in town by the Observer and was anxious for a machine, so he called him up.

If there is anyone who believes for a moment that the columns of the Observer are not the proper means for reaching customers, let him carefully think over the above true story. Also remember that the people of this valley are consumers; they buy good goods, and they read newspapers. You must not try to job the trade around La Grande, but if you have an honest product at a reasonable price an advertisement in the Observer is the best investment you can make.

VALUE OF AN INSPECTOR.

The Observer has no other doubt than the city administration has already planned for an inspector of cement sidewalks during the building period and an inspector for sewer construction as well. These men are the most important on the job. Many people will pass by when the work is in progress and remark, "what is the city paying that man for? He just stands around and does nothing." But, nevertheless, if the inspector is the right kind (and no other kind will be employed) he will save this community hundreds of dollars on every piece of work.

All contractors are not tricky but a whole lot of them are, and should it fall to La Grande's lot to draw one who was inclined to slight plans and specifications it would mean a serious loss. Judging from some of the cement sidewalks now in use the inspector, if one was employed in the past, went to sleep on the job for there is cement sidewalk in this city that is not making good.

Few people know when work is properly done. The property owner, who has to pay the expense, invariably knows nothing of what it takes to make a properly built sidewalk. The mixture and the parts of sand and cement are set forth in the specifications, but by slighting those specifications it is very easy for the contractor to add dollars to his own pockets at the expense of the citizens.

The inspector needs to be a man with a backbone like steel; a man who is willing to stand for a "cussing

match" if necessary, to make things come right. We saw at one time a whole section of storm sewer torn out because the contractor took advantage of an inspector's absence and used inferior material. It made a stormy scene when the order was forced through to tear it out, but the storm sewer then put in will last indefinitely and the people are thus benefited.

The California negroes are taking out insurance against Halley's comet, which reminds one of the early day ghost stories. But Halley's comet is going to be a factor while it lasts. Not a dangerous one, but a thing so thoroughly out of the ordinary that the country as a whole will take notice.

Continual planning is now going on by local people for the Chautauque assembly. Many La Grande folk will camp during the entire meeting and it is a pleasure to hear the discussion of the camp grounds. There have been few things of a public nature that met with the general enthusiasm that the assembly is meeting with. The day Joe Folk speaks we believe there will be special trains run into this city from three directions.

Vermont Odd Fellows.

Burlington, Vt., May 17.—With a council of Patriarchs Militant, the annual convolve of the Vermont grand lodges of Odd Fellows was commenced here this morning. A parade will be held this afternoon. The grand encampment will convene tomorrow, the grand lodge on Thursday and the Rebekah assembly on Friday.

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Notice to Contractors
Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received at the office of the Recorder of the City of La Grande Oregon, for the construction of 43,920 square yards of macadam pavement, to be constructed according to the plans and specifications now on file in this office. Bids will be received until 4 o'clock p. m., May 25th, 1910, and must be accompanied by a certified check of 5 per cent of the amount of the bid. The Council reserves the right to reject any and all bids.
D. E. COX,
Recorder of the City of La Grande.
May 12-23.

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION—180-LATED TRACT
Public Land Sale. Department of the Interior, U. S. Land Office at La Grande, Oregon, April 16th, 1910.

Notice is hereby given that, as directed by the commissioner of the General Land Office, under provisions of Act of Congress approved June 27, 1906 (34 Stats., 517), we will offer at public sale, to the highest bidder, at 10 o'clock a. m., on the 2d day of June, 1910, at this office, the following described land:
The S 1-2, SE 1-4 Sec. 32; SW 1-4 SW 1-4 Sec. 33, T. 2 S., and the NW 1-4 NW 1-4 Sec. 4, T. 3 S. R. 37 E. W. M., Serial No. 06729.
Any persons claiming adversely the above-described land are advised to file their claims, or objections, on or before the time designated for sale.
F. C. BRAMWELL, Register.
COLON R. EBERHARD, Receiver.

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