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This paper will not publish an article appearing over a nom de plume. Signed articles will be revised subject to the discretion of the editor. Please sign your articles and save disappointment.

COMMENCEMENT.

Last evening La Grande's public school graduated a class and the commencement exercises were held according to precedent. While everything was extremely successful, the fact remains that merely going through commencement form counts for nothing.

The pupils who last night addressed the audience in their final school effort have hardly begun to live. They are just "commencing." They are now ready to run against the first hard problem—a problem that may leave a scar. Up until now they had parents, close dear friends and teachers to guide them. But after commencement they must to a great extent do their own guiding and according to the history of every individual each will find himself in tight places occasionally. He will see the folly of many acts and wish he had acted differently.

This is to be expected and is bound to follow. But there are a few cardinal principles, which if followed by young people, will carry them safely through no matter how many times they may stub their toes and fall down.

The first of all is honesty. Be honest with yourselves above everyone else for you never can get away from yourself. Resort to no hypocrisy of any sort, for hypocrisy is one of the curses of the world today. At all times be decent for the sake of yourself. It pays. Temperate in all things is essential to round a properly lived life. By that is meant temperate in thought as well as action. Almost anything is harmful if not done temperately.

Remember, it is the individual who must make good. The individual must say yes, and he must say no. No one else can do it for you. And above all do not expect legislation and law making to mould your career.

Listen to the small voice called conscience, which nature has given us all. When it says, no, heed it and you will never go very far wrong. Treat your fellowman with the same consideration you would like to have bestowed upon you if you were him. Never turn from a man who is down for you may be the next to fall. On the other hand, give him a helping hand. Aid him to stand erect, but after doing this if he continues to prefer the fallen life let him remain

down. And one thing that should be impressed upon every child whether a graduate or a beginner at school, is the honor of being respectful and obedient to parents and older people. It costs nothing and it is one of the greatest dividend payers to be found.

HONOR THE HEROIC DEAD.

On next Monday the annual exercises for decoration day will be gone through and a few more graves of soldiers will be decorated than there were to decorate last year. Tomorrow Memorial services will be held and the public is asked for two days to stop at least for a portion of the day and pay proper respect to those who wore the blue and the gray.

To honor one and not the other would indeed be small and un-American for the man who enlisted from the sunny southland and bared his breast to the Yankee bullet believed with all his heart that he was right or he never would have endured the hardships fighting for his cause. Men may start to uphold something they do not believe in but they do not continue in that path for long if they meet reverses.

The reverses met by the men of the south are too well known to be repeated at this time. But suffice to say, it was a battle between brave and honorable men on either side and the cause which we now unanimously believe to be right prevailed.

But throughout the country Monday the beautiful flowers will be spread over the private under Lee and the private under Grant alike. The country has overcome what sectional strife it once held and today the old saying of "No north, no south" is very true indeed. Senator Heyburn of Idaho found this to be true a short time ago when he tried to make a "bloody shirt" speech in the senate and was almost hissed from the floor. American people are thinking along broad lines nowadays. The Spanish-American war forever settled the north and south question, although there was little to settle even at that.

And tomorrow when the La Grande church bells ring out the solemn occasion; when little children dressed in pure white go to the churches to hear a review of that dreadful time which made history very rapidly, let all join the little ones and by so doing pay respect to the man who carried the musket that we might today live in a nation that is not rent asunder by internal strife.

And on Monday pick the choicest flowers from the garden and intertwine them with a few flowers from your soul thus decorating the cold grave that holds a soldier, either blue or grey, not only with a floral tribute but also with your choicest thoughts reflecting the admiration you hold the heroes who have passed away.

Notice for Bids.

Bids for the exclusive restaurant concessions and also for the exclusive confectionery stand concessions on the chautauqua grounds for the coming chautauqua season, July 2 to 13, 1910, will be received by the chautauqua committees at the next regular meeting of the committee which will be held on Thursday, June 2 at 8 o'clock at the commercial club room. The committee reserves the right to refuse any or all bids.

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Secretary of Agriculture's Remedy For Food Cost Problem.

NEED OF GREATER PRODUCTION

Cabinet Officer Points Out Importance of Soil Conservation Before Conference at New York Produce Exchange to Consider Problem of Labor and Best Methods of Farming.

James Wilson, secretary of the department of agriculture, who recently addressed the New York Produce Exchange on the food cost problem and its relation to the farm, said that conservation of the soil both east and west would determine future prosperity and promised government aid in any state movement to increase the productivity and improve the condition of the soil.



JAMES WILSON.

The exchange had called a conference on this subject and invited the secretary, congressmen and the heads of the various big railroads in the east. As an outcome of the discussion a permanent organization was formed, on which the railroads are represented, to educate the farmers of the state of New York in the best interests of production and of inducing residents in cities to go "back to the farm."

"We cannot afford to buy food from foreign countries," said Mr. Wilson. "We must see to it that our western farms produce enough, not only for home consumption, but also to sell abroad and square up the balances of trade."

"It costs more to get anything done in our country than in most others. Production does not increase as fast as population. Prices go up. It costs more to pay carriers, dealers, manufacturers, all classes. The farmer gets big prices now, but it costs him twice as much to grow things as it did ten years ago."

Cannot Afford to Buy Abroad.

"The fact that population increases faster than food sets us thinking. We cannot afford to buy food from foreign countries. The balances of trade for goods bought and sold since the civil war, independent of farm products, have been heavily against us during that time and have been paid by exports from the farm."

"Most of our people in the east are being fed from the Mississippi valley, and the states from the south draw much from the same source. For the last half century the young people of the farms have been educated to leave them. No teacher until recently taught a scholar the way to make more of his day's work on the farm or how to make the acre respond better, and for a very good reason. The teacher had never learned it himself. Education flows downward from the university regarding everything but agriculture. If applied science along this line is not understood at the fountainhead there will be no stream from which to drink."

"Ignorance permitted the soil to become unproductive. The highest intelligence is required to bring back fertility. Generally speaking, our farms are managed with too little capital or the farm is too large for the means of the operator. Help is dearer than it has been, and it is scarce in all sections of the country. Higher prices for farm products will justify more pay to the farm hand and have a tendency to keep workers on the farm."

"The cheap food of the past has been one of the great advantages the manufacturer has had. He has it no longer. Neglect of the soil will very soon impress itself on all classes."

Soil Conservation Urged.

"Importations of food will bring about a change in our economics, a revolution in our policies, which may be avoided by better farming and a comprehensive view of the situation by those who deal in big things, whether carrying commerce, manufacturing or finance. If the America we know today is to continue with its opportunities for all classes, high prices for skill and labor, home ownership for every industrious man, education for every child, an easily acquired competence for every frugal, industrious family, we must look to the soil and its power of production. Other nations prosper by commerce and manufacturing, but their working classes are not as comfortable as ours."

"Every state should organize to conserve fertility of its soils. The department of agriculture would gladly cooperate with all of them. This department has corps of scientists that

could be made useful in this regard. There is no kind of conservation that compares at all in importance with soil conservation, while all are important. We are late in beginning, but high prices are impelling and insistent from every standpoint.

"Some political economists tell us that boys leave the farm because land values are so high, but land values east of the Alleghenies have gone down because the boys left the farms and renters without capital got possession to grow grain and hay for sale."

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