

THE OBSERVER

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THEIR GREAT OBLIGATION.

With Eastern Oregon's educators assembled in La Grande for a few days for the purpose of enjoying themselves and also for the purpose of hearing lectures by eminent men, the people of this city have an opportunity to observe the kind of people who teach the young in this state.

It is decidedly pleasant to note the quality of intellect to be found in the rank and file of the teachers. Most of them are possessed of that broad judgment, common sense or purpose and careful deliberation which insures not only the continuance and advancement of the public, but also the bright future for each individual.

As we looked over the assembly last evening in the Elks hall it occurred to us that the men and women who teach the young have less assistance in their labors probably than any other class of public workers.

The average good citizen pays his school tax willingly but with that he disjuncts from his mind the education of his child. He never visits the school building and talks with a teacher on school matters unless an accident happens or he thinks his child has been unjustly treated.

With such a man as W. T. Wright at the head of a delegation it would seem to us that the committee who will decide location of the new hospital will take notice of Union's claims for recognition.

Think of it, you business man engaged the year round in chasing the dollars. Take the lesson home to thine own heart and ask yourselves what those teachers are worth to Oregon. Not in money, for no money value should be mentioned in a question with so high a moral standing, but what are they worth to the home, the state and the nation?

The time may come, and we sincerely hope it is not far distant when there will be an awakening of public

efficiency on this side of the river there will be no quibbling as to the price paid to able and efficient teachers; when there will be a stronger bond between the parent and the one who has charge of the child. What a difference it would make in the schools of La Grande and every other community if the parents would advise with teachers, take an interest in the course of study planned for the young ones and be of assistance in the matter of discipline and deportment.

But let's turn to the bright side of this question and take note of what has been done. The modern buildings, improved ventilation, stronger feeling for the teachers, even though these can be traced back to the dollar raised by taxation. Every improvement is welcome, but we need improvements not made by money, improvements that come from the heart, the conscience and the soul.

CLAIMS OF UNION.

The claims made by Union as to location of the new insane hospital are in every way worthy, and if this question is to be decided on its merits, as we have reason to believe it will be, there seems to be little doubt as to Union landing the institution.

Yesterday a delegation from Union visited La Grande to confer with our people regarding the campaign to be made, and it was really a remarkable gathering where all oldtime feeling and prejudice was laid aside and buried and the idea of harmony prevailed on every hand. One character, picturesque from a pioneer standpoint and admirable from the point of honor and integrity, was W. T. Wright, who came to this valley in 1865. In a speech he reviewed the story of progress in the valley, told of the many little conflicts that had occurred, assured all that these days and feelings had passed never to return, and insisted that this city and Union join in close communion on all propositions that may benefit either one or the other.

The human side of Mr. Wright was made plain when with the most tender feelings he mentioned some of the old pioneers of the Grande Ronde valley who have passed to the Great Beyond. In several instances the old gentleman's voice trembled as his heart poured out the earnest love he entertained for those hardy men who, with himself, had come into this valley to conquer nature and build homes.

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THAT RATE CASE HEARING.

Since the rate case hearing has been transferred to Baker City and the state commission announces November 26th as the date, there is positively no reason why La Grande cannot be on the ground with as many facts and figures as any other city to show why jobbing rates should and must prevail here.

La Grande is the logical jobbing center for Eastern Oregon. We have always contended that from a matter of common sense standpoint and it would be discriminatory in the extreme

to equip Eastern Oregon cities with jobbing and distributive rate, letting this city remain on the old schedule.

There is no danger of this being done, as we see it, for Chairman Eke of the Merchants Protective Association is making preparation to go in to that fight to win and he must have behind him both the moral and financial support of every business concern in this city. With the proper freight rates the warehouse district of La Grande will double in size and a great area of territory will be supplied by jobbers located here.

This is the largest thing on the bulletin board at the present time for La Grande. See to it that your support is added to that already given and do not be afraid to take part in so great an undertaking.

SNAP SHOTS.

If there is any consolation in having killed one more elephant, the Colonel can make the most of it.—Atlanta Constitution.

Deep down under that thick feeling of jubilation there is a suspicion that some of the Democrats are fully as much surprised as the Republicans.—Indianapolis News.

The City of Mexico appears to be taking advantage of the fact that it is not a port of call for one of our gunboats.—Indianapolis News.

A rural postmaster in Wisconsin died the other day at the age of 95. He attributed his longevity to the large amount of mail he had absorbed during his many years in office.—Vancouver Province.

There was a moaning heard over that of the bar, when Taft put out to sea.—Atlanta Constitution.

Now that a Los Angeles person has broken his collar bone it is plain that man will never be happy until it buttons in the back and he can let out the job to his wife.—Los Angeles News.

If the undertakers of the Southern States were to hold a conference at Savannah, where the big auto races are on, it might be convenient for all parties.—Calgary Herald.

The spiritualistic medium who says Mrs. Crippen is alive and in Philadelphia is manifestly guilty of a contradiction in terms.—Anaconda Standard.

Dr. Wiley, the government food expert, says that dangerous sports make men, not mollycoddles. But what is a dangerous sport—Playing football or merely trifling with a powder magazine?—Philadelphia Times.

When his motor stops 6000 feet up in the air, the intelligent aeroplane operator knows that it is time to come back to earth.—Chicago News.

Joe Bailey is erecting a house in Washington with five bathrooms. That means Joe has abandoned the race for the Democratic Presidential nomination.—Los Angeles Times.

An ordinance to regulate the speed of airships at the Los Angeles aviation meet Christmas is suggested. That would require the service of a corps of fly-cops.—Los Angeles Times.

Between now and then you ought to be able to think of something to be thankful for.—Chicago News.

In splicing on new hands or feet the surgeon will please be careful to select mates.—Chicago News.

Which reminds us that John Kendall Bangs hasn't run for anything in quite some time now.—Baltimore News.

SKIN SUFFERER SAYS "IF I HAD ONLY KNOWN."

"If I had only known how quickly Eczema can be cured what long years of awful suffering it would have saved me," writes F. A. Will of 2506 Washington St., San Francisco, Cal.

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When the Deacon Gave In
By M. QUAD
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The Widow Spicer and Deacon Williams attended the same church and had known each other for a long time. The widow had known the deacon's wife in life and was with her when she died.

"The Widow Spicer was a church member, but there were a few things she shied at. For instance, she didn't believe the whole swallowed Jonah.

Strangely enough, Deacon Williams had never heard of the widow's disbelief. It did not come to his ears until he had been a widower for three years and until a new minister took the pulpit. When he learned of it his surprise was great. He was also inclined to resent the heresy. He volunteered to call and have a talk with Mrs. Spicer, and the minister thought it might be a good thing, though he added:

"But I hope there won't be no heated argument. Brother Williams, argue gently. Argue on the large size of the whale and the small size of Jonah. Gentle argument and persistence may accomplish much."

The deacon called and talked about the weather and the tater bugs until he had opportunity to introduce Jonah. He wanted to go right in the chopping wood, but he remembered the minister's caution and argued gently. The widow didn't get fierce over it, but declared that until she saw the thing done with her own eyes she shouldn't believe the whole story. Deacon Williams left in apparent good humor, but he didn't feel all right just the same.

"Perhaps we shouldn't be too anxious about it," said the minister when he saw that the matter was being taken very seriously.

The deacon had married a woman who firmly believed that the sun moved around the earth. It had taken him three years after marriage to bring her to his way of thinking, but he had won the victory. Why not marry the Widow Spicer and bring her to believe the whole story? That was the starting point. From thence the deacon brought himself to see that Mrs. Spicer had a comfortable home, was said to be a fine housekeeper and was president of the Ladies' Aid society and treasurer of the Ladies' Heathen Benevolent association. Taken all around, it would not be a bad thing. He could have let the minister into the little plan, but he figured to wait and surprise him.

The Widow Spicer thought pretty well of Deacon Williams, as all other folks did. Perhaps her condition was forlorn. Perhaps she wanted to be cheered up. Perhaps she fell in love. No one can tell about these things, and it's no one's business anyhow. In due time they were married. When the minister congratulated the deacon the latter smiled knowingly and said: "Ask my wife a month hence whether she believes the whole-swallowed Jonah."

"Ah, the influence of a husband! I shall be very pleased." "But he wasn't. He called one afternoon when the deacon was working in his sawmill and introduced his subject, and it was hardly off his tongue when the ex-widow replied: "I have had three or four rows with the deacon about it, but I'm doubting more than ever. He says I've got to believe, and I say I won't, and there you are."

From thence on, as the neighbors got to know and whispered about, that was a sad house. There was never an hour in the day that some reference was not made to Jonah. It would have been a great relief had they changed off to Daniel in the lions' den, but they never did. It had become the scandal of the church and the gossip of the village, when one day a tin peddler came along and heard all about it. Among other houses he called at to exchange his wares for cash or paper rags was that of Deacon Williams. All his talk with the unbelieving wife was not about trade. He threw out a hint or two as to what could be accomplished by a determined woman. Then he went down to the sawmill and got up a talk with the deacon and during the conversation managed to announce the fact that when a widower married a widow and there were no children all her property at her death went to her relatives. The deacon hadn't considered this fact, and it gave him a start.

When he went home at noon he said nothing about Jonah. The wife seemed to have been weeping. His dignity forbade his asking why. Even when she kissed him he couldn't sacrifice his pride. Jonah or bust was still his watchword. However, he didn't feel just right, and he started for home an hour earlier than usual. It was to find the wife on the bed, apparently breathing her last, and a note on the stand that she had taken poison. The deacon hustled for the neighbors. He humped for the doctor. He galloped to the drug store. He called himself names. He kicked himself. He actually swore like a lightning rod man. And when all was over and the doctor said the patient would live, and the patient said she should still stick to her old opinion, the deacon shouted out: "Hang old Jonah! Hang the old whale! You can believe what you want to, and we shall have a happy home after this!"

And the tin peddler drove out of town with a happy smile on his face. He had made good. Gibraltar, Gibraltar, is the smallest British possession and measures less than two square miles. Canada is the largest, with 3,746,000 square miles.

The Spectroscope.

The spectroscope is an optical instrument used for forming and analyzing the spectra produced by the luminous vapors of bodies. It consists of a collimating lens, a prism and an observing telescope. The spectroscope in its present form was invented by the German chemists Kirchhoff and Bunsen about 1850.

An Old Law.

In the early days of Virginia a law was made punishing with death the man who killed a hog, goat or sheep. This was done to provide for the increase of these animals.

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