

THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS,
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AS A COMMENTARY ON COLLEGE SPORT.

Young McCoy, of Bethany College, accused of killing the captain of a rival team from the University of West Virginia, in a recent football game, is dismissed from prosecution by the Coroner's jury, which found that the evidence in the case was not sufficient to convict. The finding was on the recommendation of the prosecuting attorney, remarks the Portland Telegram.

Yet we have the fact that the captain of the University of West Virginia team was killed as the result of rough and malicious tactics, and from all that has been given out with reference to the matter it appears, and will remain as the public conclusion that the man discharged from custody on the recommendation of the prosecuting attorney was chiefly responsible for the tragedy. The discharge of McCoy does not relieve from reproach the spirit in which that game was played, which is the spirit that permeates college athletic sport altogether too strongly.

Football at the best has not been in good repute for several years. It has been generally believed, however, that the rules of the game brought about hazardous conditions in the course of play that were unavoidable, and to this, rather than to any malicious intent, has been ascribed to injuries and fatalities that have been of record on the football field. In this McCoy case we have an instance of actual malice which the ambition for football supremacy has engendered, so far as any one may judge from the record, and the game itself is actually brought to the bar of criminal justice.

As a matter of course, this Bethany-University of West Virginia tragedy cannot and should not be construed as a sweeping indictment against college athletics, nor against football in particular; but it does show what sensible people have strenuously contended, time and time again, namely, that we are inclined to take our college sports too seriously, and that the tendency is one that needs to be curbed. There is too much buncombe

about the honor of the school or college as it is alleged to be lost won on the football field. Supremacy in sport is made altogether too vit a consideration.

If a college youth engaged in friendly athletic sport permits his enthusiasm and ambition to win to develop into malice, that youth is damaged morally by the sport in which he indulges, and the influence he exerts is detrimental to his fellows. The doctrine of the survival of the fittest is all well enough in its place, but to adapt it to sport to the extent where it arouses the savage in the young participant is overstepping his mark.

Much of this sort of thing is brought about, however, because schools and colleges permit the game, to become too prominent and all engrossing a feature of school life. It would seem with reference to many colleges and universities and notably with reference to those of widest influence, that the football contest was the culminating point of the college or university year to which all other activities led up. There is need to change this notion and make sport an incident, and not the chief business of college life.

REJOICE AND GIVE THANKS.

Today this great nation is called upon to stop for one moment and deliberate on the blessings we have all received and enjoyed during the past year. Perhaps with some things it has not been perfectly ideal, but with the great majority prosperity has been abiding and the calendar has been dotted with many successes and pleasures.

In La Grande and Union county people have much to be thankful for. There never was a time when the mass of people had more to live upon and enjoy themselves better. The general health of the valley has been good; advancement in education and enlightenment has been apparent, and the industrial outlook was never brighter.

As we all gather around the festive board today to enjoy the Thanksgiving turkey; as we review the many things that make a free and enlightened population in the Grande Ronde valley let us not take too much credit to ourselves but remember there is a Higher Power that doeth all things well which watches over us and prompts the good that is in all of us.

The Parrots of Mexico.

What the wild parrot once was in point of numbers to the United States, the parrot, of varying shades of color and in sizes, is to our Mexico. Flights of these birds frequently darken the midday sun in the hot country, and they become so tame around the camps of engineers that the birds are given individual names and soon become regular pets. Whenever the parrots desert the forest and alight on the ground in the open spaces of the jungle the natives recognize their actions as sure warning of an impending earthquake. American engineers endorse this belief and assert that serious accidents which might have been averted have resulted when the warning of the birds was noted, but unheeded.

TIGHT HATS.

They Impede Circulation in the Scalp and Invite Baldness.

Ingenious men are continually contriving new kinds of shoes, new suspenders and hundreds of different kinds of braces, but so far, says the Therapeutic Gazette, no one has taken up the idea of making a hat which will hold on the head and not blow off and at the same time not bind the head as around like a constricting band.

Some men go without hats at times with the idea that the hair is improved by ventilation and sunshine. Undoubtedly this does improve it, but the price secret is not in not wearing the hat at all. The ventilated hat will not prevent baldness if this same hat be worn tightly around the head. If a string be tied ever so lightly around the finger the effect upon the circulation may be easily marked in the end of that finger. A tight hat will affect the circulation of the scalp in the same way.

Hats which are easily blown off should never be worn, as they will not stay on unless jammed so tightly upon the head as to impede circulation. All stiff, rigid hats should be very light, and one should select a size larger than the head measurement and correct the over size by inserting felt strips under the sweat band, thus giving a cushion-like effect and preventing the constriction at that portion of the scalp.

FIRST POST HOUSES.

Established by Cyrus, the Founder of the Persian Empire.

The first posts are said to have originated in the regular couriers established by Cyrus the Great about 550 B. C., who erected post houses throughout the kingdom of Persia. Augustus was the first to introduce this institution among the Romans, 31 B. C., and he was imitated by Charlemagne about 800 A. D. Louis XI. was the first sovereign to establish post houses in France, owing to his eagerness for news, and they were also the first institution of this nature in Europe. This was in 1470, or about 2000 years after they were started in Persia.

In England in the reign of Edward IV. (1481) riders on post horses went stages of the distance of twenty miles from each other in order to procure the king the earliest intelligence of the events that passed in the course of the war that had arisen with the Scots. A proclamation was issued by Charles I. in 1631 that, "whereas to this time there hath been no certain intercourse between the kingdoms of England and Scotland, the king now commands his postmaster of England for foreign parts to settle a running post or two between Edinburgh and London to go thither and come back again in six days."

The Active Sloth Bear.

"The sloth bear appears to be the most active of all the bears in the zoo. Whoever misnamed the animal ought to bestow a more appropriate title," said a woman visitor who sat on a bench in front of the bear den.

"A more befitting designation would be 'Ursus pugilisticus' or something like that, for he is certainly the most pugilistic of all the bear specimens here. And he gets away with it, too, although he weighs only 250 pounds. I saw him knock out the hairy eared bear in a fierce fight over a piece of meat, and he gets the better of the great Yezo bear of about 1,000 pounds in the adjoining inclosure. They fight through the bars. You can hear the snapping of the big bear's jaws as he fails to catch his opponent. But the nervous sloth bear is as quick as a cat with his long claws and gets in a dig on the other one's muzzle that makes him snort with pain."—New York Sun.

Logical.

"Mother," asked little Ethel, "now that you're in mourning for Cousin Adelaide, will you wear black night-dresses too?"

"What an absurd question, child!" "Oh, I only thought you might be as sorry at night as you were during the day," ventured Ethel.—Harper's Bazar.

Notice for Publication.

Notice is hereby given that Henry O. Zwicker whose post office address is 25th and Lee streets, Salem, Oregon, did on the 16th day of June, 1910, file in this office sworn statement and application, No. 08295, to purchase the SW 1-4 NE 1-4, W 1-2 SE 1-4, Section 24, Township 3 South, Range 34 East, Willamette Meridian, and the timber thereon, under the provisions of the act of June 3, 1878, and acts amendatory, known as the "Timber and Stone Law," at such value as might be fixed by appraisal, and that, pursuant to such application, the land and timber thereon have been appraised at \$405.00, the timber estimated 375,000 board feet at \$1.00 per M. and the land \$30.00; that said applicant will offer final proof in support of this application and sworn statement on the 16th day of February, 1911, before the Register and Re-

gister, United States Land Office, at La Grande, Oregon.

Any person is at liberty to protest his purchase before entry or initiate a contest at any time before patent issues, by filing a corroborated affidavit in this office, alleging facts which would defeat the entry.

F. C. BRAMWELL, Register.

Nov. 25 Feb. 3.

Notice for Publication.

Notice is hereby given that Henry Kopitke, of Pendleton, Oregon, who, on February 9th, 1904, made Umatilla, purchase No. 824, Serial No. 05606, or SW 1-4 NW 1-4, Sec. 29 (untimbered) and SE 1-4 NE 1-4 (timbered) Section 8, Township 1 South, Range 35 East, Willamette Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make final proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before Frank Salting, County Clerk, at his office at Pendleton, Oregon, on the 11th day of January, 1911.

Claimant names as witnesses:

Thomas B. Wells of Joseph, Oregon, Thomas Burns of Walla Walla, Wash., William A. Slusher and Edward D. Kirkpatrick of Pendleton, Oregon.

F. C. BRAMWELL, Register.

Nov. 25-Feb. 3.

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Notice for Publication.

Notice is hereby given that Edward D. Kirkpatrick of Pendleton, Oregon, who, on February 9th, 1904, made Umatilla Entry No. 825, Serial No. 05607 for NW 1-4 SE 1-4 (untimbered) Sec. 29, and N E 1-4 SE 1-4 (timbered) section 8 Township 1 South, Range 35 East Willamette Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make final proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before Frank Salting, County Clerk of Umatilla County, at his office, at Pend-

ton, Oregon, on the 11th day of January, 1911.

Claimant names as witnesses:

Thomas B. Wells, of Joseph, Oregon, Thomas Burns of Walla Walla, Wash., William A. Slusher and Henry Kopitke, of Pendleton, Oregon.

F. C. BRAMWELL, Register.

Nov. 25-Feb. 3.

Classified
Advertising

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WANTED—Girl for housework. Enquire of Mrs. T. J. Scroggin. Wages \$5.00 per week.

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