

THE OBSERVER

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AN AWAKENING NEEDED.

Such immorality has been suanted in the faces of La Grande and community of late convinced everyone that there is an awakening of the public conscience needed in this city.

Police court yesterday furnished a pathetic spectacle when four children of tender years were arraigned charged with immoral conduct. Mere babies, they are—just the age when tender care and home training should count.

Who is to blame? That is the serious question. Everyone looks with pity and charity upon the acts of the child no matter how bad they may be, but the child is a product of older people who are serious and grave. The child is but plaster in the hands of the moulder and parents are those moulders.

Then why this fearful scene in police court—a scene that should shock every man and woman in the city, for what is worse than to see bright boys and girls starting on the primrose path?

Some one at once says, "the officers do not do their duty." In a small measure this may be true, officers may not do positively everything they should do, but in our opinion the parent is to be censured before the officer.

Then are we to understand that some parents in La Grande are failing to do their duty. Positively true.

Walk down the streets in the evening. Notice the young girls without their mothers; observe the freedom of their manner. In many cases there is nothing bad and nothing absolutely wrong in their actions, but there is lack of restraint; there is a freedom that takes away refinement; that destroys the finer feelings if persisted

in. The same is true of the boys. Curfew ordinances cannot be enforced unless the parents are heart and soul in favor of that enforcement. Occasionally officers will be able to gratify some boys, but it is only occasionally for La Grande is too large to be covered on such errands by two policemen, and besides when boys decided to disobey such ordinances they are sly in their work.

MAY INJURE ALL OREGON CITIES

In another column of this issue will be seen an account of a letter received by La Grande officials from the bond buying firm of E. H. Rollins & Sons, of Denver, in which that firm calls attention to a tax amendment passed by the people at the last election. The firm states that its legal department is working on an opinion regarding this law and if found to be as anticipated this firm of buyers will withdraw from Oregon and refuse to accept municipal bonds from any city in this state.

Should such a thing happen public improvement will be hung up indefinitely, for once the bond buyers begin to pass up a state it takes some time to get them back even if the statutes are changed and radical measures eliminated. The rural districts will not suffer from this proceeding, except to the extent of a sympathetic suffering, for no matter what men may say land values advance and recede in proportion to the way the nearest city of size advances and recedes. This natural law is frequently overlooked by men who own land when they become convinced that the country can live without the towns. Such a thing is as impossible as it is for the towns to live without the rural sections. There is a common interest between the two that no one can get away from.

It happens that Rollins & Sons have been good customers for La Grande securities for this one firm has handled a great deal of the bond issue made here. The information coming direct from them that there is a possibility of leaving this field causes those who have the handling of the business end of the city take notice. And what effects La Grande will also affect every other city in the state.

For quick work the circuit court of Union county must be reckoned with. A prisoner was arraigned for trial yesterday on a serious charge. He was found guilty and sentenced to four years the same day. England may have rapid courts, but this is going some.

It is hardly to be expected that Tawney will get a cabinet job? The day of putting "crippled ducks" in appointive positions has about passed. Formerly when a man was defeated for the house or senate in his district or state the rumor was at once started that a cabinet position was open to him.

T. Roosevelt has been heard from once more. He addressed a gathering of business men but strange to say the metropolitan press did not print his speech in full. How the mighty do fall.

Governor Benson is now in California and there is good reason for believing that he will soon be much stronger.

WILSON NO EXCEPTION.

In turning down the men who helped him win Woodrow Wilson is only following the modern example of politicians, and it has ceased to be a crime or even to receive special attention. Roosevelt turned down the men who started him in national politics. Joe Folk turned down Sam Cook and the remainder of the old machine after that machine had backed him and given him state prominence. Joe Bristow is a product of the old Kansas machine and for years saluted Boss Leland on every occasion, but he turned them all down when he saw a band wagon labeled "insurgency." And the list grows just as fast as one would care to repeat names. So Mr. Woodrow Wilson is not doing anything out of the ordinary when he frowns upon the ladder by which he did ascend.

Peary has deposited his medals with the United States museum and Dr. Cook has publicly confessed that he is a fraud. Let us call the North Pole incident closed.

Ancient Engineering. When Moses smote the water Long time ago The children they passed over, Walking in a row. It was, as you must all agree, The first canal dug through the sea.

Thinking Ahead.



"You heartless man! Coming home with four summer engagements!" "What could I do?" "When are you going to break the news to them?" "Not till after Christmas."

Would She Enjoy It? "Her husband is a conductor." "Then she ought to be able to ride for nothing." "I don't know how." "Just get on the car. A married man never can see his wife when other girls are around."

Funds. "What are you doing?" "Raising hens." "Getting anything out of it?" "You bet!" "What?" "A big fund of experience."

Getting Ready. "You know the old saying, 'In time of peace prepare for war.'" "That is just what I am doing." "How are you going about it?" "Practicing foot racing every day."

Always Follows. "What would be the first thing you would do if you found yourself rich?" "What! I found myself rich?" "Yes." "Wake up."

It's Easy. "He hasn't hardly any brains." "Great Scott! How does he manage to get on?" "Oh, he hardly notices the lack."

Nowadays. "Is he married?" "Well, he was the last time I saw him."



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Royal Has Mixer.

In last evening's issue of the Observer the City Grocery and Bakery was mentioned as having received a new bread mixer. The story should have read the Royal instead of The City.

LID ON IN BAKER CITY.

New Mayor of Baker City Orders Reform in Tenderloin.

Mayor C. L. Palmer has instructed Chief of Police Riley to see that no more liquor is sold by the women of

City Herald. There is a state law prohibiting the granting of a liquor license to a woman and there is a city law to the same effect. In the past some of the women have bought small quantities of liquor which they sold at a good profit. This order will be strictly enforced and will have the effect of cutting out much of the roughness and trouble that has occurred in the district.

There is a law against bawdy houses and Mayor Palmer stated that he

had not fully decided what course would be pursued in regard to the district in this city. All the women were arrested recently and paid their fines but it is not known whether this will be a monthly occurrence or not. If the women were fined every month it would be a virtual license from the city, and this would be against the state laws.

An effort will be made to prevent trouble in this district and keep all minors away.

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