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THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS

Editor and Owner.

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WILL THIS SALVE HEAL?

Although the following editorial in the Oregonian is very true and statements made can be borne out by a little research, yet will this kind of salve heal the lacerated wound in Baker's pride? When Pollman, Bodinson, Baer, Dilshelmer and the rest of the crowd think of Bill Furnish, Bill Thompson and E. W. McComas out-

generating them, we think they will whet their knives anew for Bowerman. For it was a case of generalship wholly both with Baker and with Pendleton. When it comes to merit, if it ever should, then Union's flag will proudly wave over all of them.

The Oregonian says. Baker need not buy a suit of sack-cloth and a pile of ashes to mourn in because a site for Oregon's branch insane asylum was not chosen at or near the seat of Baker county. That institution would not make nor its absence break Baker. While it must be admitted that all state institutions bring in more or less "outside" money, it may be doubted whether the real advantage to a city is anywhere near its estimate in the popular mind. As compared with creative, productive enterprise it has small value. Communities that depend on the profit from the expenditure of public funds are generally weak and unprogressive.

Adventitious aid such as comes from state institutions often begets and fosters a spirit of dependence out of keeping with Western energy and self-reliance. These build up towns

and cities. State capitals are not noted for commercial activity. True there are exceptions like Denver, St. Paul and Indianapolis.

Our own state capital has had its greatest and most prosperous period of growth since it began to look upon the institutions located there as secondary and entered into competition for homeseekers and enterprises on the merits of its natural resources and opportunities.

The other day Baker accepted the challenge of a rival and will undertake to prove that her county has more different resources—more ways of extracting wealth from the earth—than any other county in the state. That's something to be proud of, to capitalize with human labor. Let the asylum go where it will. Baker need only continue to devote her energy to securing industrious men to cultivate the soil, open up the mines and multiply the herds upon a thousand hills. A statement at the head of a prospectus that Baker was the seat of an insane asylum would not help one whit to make such energy productive of the larger and truer results.

OPENING THE ASYLUM QUESTION

It was but natural for both Baker and Union to suffer disappointment in the location of the new asylum. Baker seemingly has as much in her favor for such an institution as Pendleton, and it is a matter of common knowledge that Union has the best location of the three. This is said advisedly and we can produce the evidence before any unbiased court in the land.

But, even with these facts apparent, it is a question whether it is wisdom or not to attempt to open the question. It may or it may not be. This much we will say: The Observer is not fighting Baker's battles, but if Union decides after due deliberation to take any action in the premises this paper will be found doing what it honorably can to assist that city. It will not be done as a matter of "doing it for Union," neither will it be done because we are anxious to see an insane asylum located in the Grande Ronde valley, for to be

truthful and frank about this matter we never have thought an asylum would do Union or any other city any good. Then why would the Observer take off its coat to assist in preventing Pendleton having the location?

Purely on humane grounds. There are two classes of people which the state never can do enough for—one class is those whose minds have become unbalanced, and the other class is the children.

It is not in keeping with good judgment to locate an insane asylum in Pendleton, with all due respect to Mr. Bowerman's decision. The climate is not good, the summers are intensely hot, the water is notoriously bad and furthermore, if this institution is to serve Eastern Oregon, Pendleton is not geographically properly situated.

Therefore, if this is to be a fight on merit, and it will be if it is reopened, we would suggest that the matter be reconsidered and if possible leave it to the people of the state as to where the asylum should be placed and let them decide this by their ballots.

We have confidence in the people's judgment when once the matter has been brought to their attention and all sides have stated their case.

BEWARE OF THE STRANGER.

Like all growing towns La Grande is continually invested with the sleek tongued stranger. We had a sample of it in the W. L. Grant alias Leonard who forged several checks on Jack Nice and then skipped the trail-la-laloo night before last.

This man had the appearance of Frances Levison in East Lynne. He was well dressed and put up a good talk. When he showed up at the Observer office and insisted that he go to work, claiming he was a newspaper man of extraordinary ability we looked him over and this thought occurred to us: Mr. Grant (for that was the name he gave) if you are what you claim you are why are you out work? There is a strong demand for such ability in the metropolitan and semi-metropolitan cities.

After sizing the chap up we turned him down. He was a stranger without a recommendation in the world except his face and manner. But he succeeded in "catching on" as a solicitor and every reader knows the rest of the story.

The moral to this whole affair is: Beware of strangers. La Grande is too free to take up with the new "guy" who has a good spiel. Let a shark come into this city selling stock in a chariot line in heaven and he will be given the glad hand and plenty of money. Haven's we had almost the same thing? Look at the Wireless Telegraph and a score of other such enterprises. All worked here by men who could not get ten dollar's worth of credit from their home grocer.

La Grande people make lots of money. Palmer's mill and the O-W alone pay out enough money to keep a good sized little city running. But the trouble here is that innate desire to buy some frog pond or mountain peak miles away because a green eyed solicitor with a phony diamond happens in and makes the talk.

Cut out the stranger until he has shown his credentials and then don't get too chummy with him. For he will do you, sure.

Well, you cannot blame Senator Barrett for making a deal with Bowerman to get his son a position as asylum superintendent. You know blood is thicker than water. But this row that the transaction has raised may cause a re-action. Political trades

are not nearly as popular as they once were in Oregon.

Notice to Stockholders.

Notice is hereby given to the Stockholders of the United States National Bank of La Grande, Oregon, that the annual meeting of the stockholders of the said bank, will be held at their banking house in La Grande, Oregon, on Tuesday January 10th, between the hours of 10 a. m. and 4 p. m. for the purpose of electing a board of directors for the ensuing year and for the purpose of transacting any other business that may come before the meeting.

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