

THE OBSERVER
BRUCE DENNIS
Editor and Owner.

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CALENDAR for FEBRUARY 1911 with days of the week and dates.

MR. HOCKENBERRY'S LETTER.

Portland, Ore., Feb. 11, 1911. To the Editor of the La Grande Observer:— I have just received a copy of your editorial in regard to the letter I wrote in reference to Mr. Gauntt. Has it occurred to you that merely because you are editor of a paper and can abuse a man with impunity that it is unjust to do so? You are not acquainted with me. I never wronged you in any manner. And yet you proceed to vilify me about a subject upon which you are absolutely ignorant. Do you not owe me an apology? Will you make it? If not then when I come to La Grande I shall have something to say about "red blood" that may convince you that I am not altogether in my dotage.

My attack upon Mr. Gauntt was a

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F. L. Meyers, Cashier Earl Zundel, Ass't. Cashier

public duty. For weeks he was fomenting discord in Portland by claims about the cheapness of his school buildings, that were false. He claimed that he has built a building at La Grande that cost seven cents a cubic foot and was as good as the Jefferson High school building in this city which cost fourteen cents a cubic foot. If this were true then our school board here were grafters or the architects who built it were incompetent. It was necessary to state the truth or our people would be deceived. I do not know Mr. Gauntt. I have nothing against him. When we refused to enter the contest, if Mr. Gauntt had not been employed by the board some one else would. Why should I be silly enough to entertain any animosity against Mr. Gauntt.

You are laboring under a misapprehension about us in regard to our trying to get the architectural work at La Grande. When I heard that the bond issue had carried in La Grande, I asked Mr. Milton Block, a graduate of the La Grande schools, who was working in our office at the time to make me some crude lead pencil sketches that I might show them to the board and thus get their ideas. They were not prepared for competition. When I went to La Grande a second time and learned that a competition would be held I ordered Mr. Williams to withdraw them. I told the board that we could not afford to enter such a gamble and would not do so as it was not right. To enter such a competition would have cost us more than \$500. Mr. Gauntt and other men, who entered, made plans about as complete as would be done if one had the building. In addition he had to pay \$50 for a water color or make one himself which would have cost still more. After all this he would have about one chance in ten of getting the job. No other business demands that one do the work first and then run the risk of being employed. I told the board all this and in addition I told them that no architect would enter such a competition. It was unprofessional. Only bushwhackers enter such a thing. Not a single architect entered the La Grande competition. If you are inclined to dispute this please give the name of the architect, the architectural school of which he is a graduate, the date of his graduation, and after I have had time to verify the facts I shall make the most abject apology I know how to make, if the facts prove that I am wrong. If I find that he is no architect, I shall tell you how you may convince yourself of the facts.

Please do not make the statement that we prepared plans and that our plans were not accepted. That is false. We refused to prepare plans. My son never drew a line in connection with the La Grande school house. Mr. Block spent only a little while making the crudest kind of a lead pencil sketch and that was not entered in the competition. Arthur Williams will tell you that.

Just here I stopped and reread my article in last Sunday's Oregonian twice and I cannot find a single line that in any way reflects upon the La Grande school board unless some should conclude that they had not exercised good judgment in employing Mr. Gauntt and I think that they would acknowledge that themselves. In regard to your challenge to come

to La Grande and tell the people what I know about your high school building I wish to say that such has been my purpose for some time. Just as soon as it is convenient I shall come to La Grande and deliver a free lecture upon this subject: "The High School Building. What it is and What it should have been and Who is Responsible. By the Forest of Sore Heads." At the close of the lecture I shall give an opportunity to yourself or any member of the schoolboard to refute any statement that I may make, unless it be Henry Henson. If he wishes to talk I must have his promise to quit in ten minutes. If one winds him up he would talk forever. If you doubt that go to a schoolboard meeting.

Mr. Editor:—I am not coming to La Grande because of your challenge. Neither am I coming to be revenged on the school board. I trust that I am not that small. My motive is to make the competition method of choosing the school architects so odious that it will be a relic of the dark past in school house building in Eastern Oregon. The only way to do that will be by showing its results in the hands of men so estimable as the La Grande school board. I think that men will be surprised when they know all.

Would it not be a good plan to publish an itemized account of the cost of your high school building; giving contract price, extras, furnishing heating, architect's fees, etc.?
Yours very truly,
H. J. HOCKENBERRY.

WHAT MAY HAPPEN TO JOSEPH.

There is gold around Joseph—some very excellent ledges. There is money being spent to uncover those ledges, and the result seems certain to be satisfactory. This being done Joseph will be in position of having the goods. That is all that is needed for the whole country stands waiting for a gold excitement. There has been none since Goldfield and Tonopah claimed the spotlight, and the people want one. But a gold excitement nowadays must be based on gold. Goldfield developed the wonderful Mahawk and a city of 20,000 surrounded it in less than a year. Joseph is showing some ledges that truly possess picture ore. What then may be reasonably expected for the little city at the end of the branch road?

Yes, it takes gold as a foundation, but with that foundation the rest of the boom is done by mortal man. To be a successful boomer of a mining camp is an art. Men have studied for years learning the game, and many of them today are adepts. At present they are out of work because of no sensational gold strikes. It has been so for a few years and the time is about ripe for a big excitement. With the right kind of publicity and the proper method of handling their mining properties, Joseph may jump into national prominence this summer and this country will be swarmed with men who follow the business. Let it come. Help Joseph in her every undertaking. If we assist in building a mining camp of 20,000 people at Joseph think of the benefit to be derived by the remainder of the country adjacent. And best of all Joseph apparently has the goods to make her mining permanent and profitable.

USE BROAD MANTLE OF CHARITY.

Elsewhere will appear a letter written by Professor Hockenberry to the editor of this paper in answer to the editorial that appeared regarding his criticism of the school board of La Grande.

When one first reads that letter his impression is formed that its writer must have many peculiar thoughts rambling through his mind at once and the same time. The second reading convinces one of the feeling entertained by Mr. Hockenberry toward the board of education, and a third reading tells of the cause, which reduced to a firm conclusion shows the fact that one man named Gauntt was named as architect of the new building and the Hockenberry firm was not named.

You will observe that the professor makes dire threats in his communication; that he mentions red blood, and probably had in mind bowie knives and pistols. Such talk coming from one who has spent the better part of his life teaching young minds seems rather queer, and might lead to the belief that the professor has been misunderstood in the past, and that he is a bold, dangerous man. However, we hardly think he would soil the good name he enjoyed in La Grande

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N. K. WEST, THE QUALITY STORE

for so long by doing anything worse than attacking the school board for letting Mr. Gauntt have a contract. It is therefore but right and proper that La Grande people view the entire action of Professor Hockenberry with as kindly feeling as possible. Think of the good things he did while in this city and throw the broad mantle of charity over his present acts.

HE TALKED; THAT'S ALL.

There was a time when T. Roosevelt talked the whole world sat up and took notice no matter what he talked about. A few days ago he delivered an address mentioning the direct election of United States senators. Many things he said were true, but the well prepared speech struck on the cupola of popular sentiment and bounced off. No one paid much attention to his remarks, yet he was talking on a subject that is very popular.

All of which goes to show that the Roosevelt spasm has ended and the people are ready for the next man who can claim attention for a short period. Even the strongest shall pass away, just as the flowers wither and decay.

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Strain and weaken the system and if not checked may develop into pneumonia. No danger of this when Foley's Honey and Tar is taken promptly. It is a reliable family medicine for all coughs and colds, and acts quickly and effectively in cases of croup. Remember the name Foley's Honey and Tar for all coughs and colds, for croup, bronchitis, hoarseness and for racking lagrippe coughs. No opiates. Refuse substitutes. Hill's Drug store.

Notice of Street Improvement.

To Whom it May Concern:

Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of a resolution adopted by the Common Council of the City of La Grande, Oregon on the 15th day of December 1909, creating Improvement District No. 12, and designating Pennsylvania avenue, as such district, and in pursuance of a resolution adopted by said Common Council on the 18th day of January, 1911, whereby said Council determined and declared its intention to improve all that portion of Pennsylvania avenue, in said improvement district, as hereinafter described, by laying thereon Bitulithic pavement, the Council will, ten days after the service of this notice upon the owners of the property affected and benefited by such improvement, order that said above described improvement be made; that the boundaries of said district to be so improved are as follows:

All that portion of Pennsylvania avenue, from the east side of 4th street to the west side of Washington avenue.

(A) And the property affected or benefited by said improvement is as follows:

The north half of blocks 63, 64, 65 and 66 and the south half of blocks 97, 98, 99 and 100 in Chapin's Add. to La Grande, Oregon.

Notice is hereby further given that the Council will levy a special assessment on all the property affected and benefited by such improvement for the purpose of paying for such improvement. That the estimated cost of such improvement is the sum of \$13,000.00. That the Council will on the 15th day of Feb. 1911, meet at the Council chamber at the hour of 8 o'clock p. m. to consider said estimated cost, and the levy of said assessment, when a hearing will be granted to any person feeling aggrieved by such assessment.

La Grande, Oregon, Feb. 3, 1911.
CITY COUNCIL OF LA GRANDE, OREGON.

By C. M. HUMPHREYS,
Recorder of the City of La Grande, Oregon.
Feb. 3-10t

TO OUR CUSTOMERS
There Are Many of You
That we appreciate your patronage, your loyalty and steadfastness, fully as much as you appreciate the help we have at times been able to furnish you, goes without saying.
HOWEVER, we want to take this public method of thanking you for past patronage and, with full confidence that this patronage will continue, we pledge you our best endeavors for the future as you have had them in the past.
Wishing you an increased measure of Happiness and Prosperity for the year 1911, we are
Sincerely yours,
The United States National Bank,
LA GRANDE, OREGON

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