

THE OBSERVER  
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Editor and Owner.

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CHANCE TO IMPROVE LA GRANDE.

We rejoice at our paying this time of year; we cheerfully talk about our cement sidewalks and other civic improvements, but there is one thing that La Grande needs and needs woefully bad. That simple need is inexpensive and the wonder is that it has not been done in the past. It is plain, common sense drainage. No city ever needed drainage so badly as does La Grande. A small shower of rain leaves water in the streets for days, and in the principal portions of the residence district at that.

So far as the eye can see there has never been a systematic plan of work the city streets adopted. It is not due to lack of road machinery, for modern grading machines are to be seen in the city's possession. Take Adams avenue, for instance, two blocks above the Foley hotel and a horse will almost mire down to his belly in the muck and mud. And this is only one of the many streets that need fixing.

In answer to a question asking why La Grande streets have never been graded and gutters provided the answer invariably is: The land is too flat where the city is built and nothing but a sewer system will ever drain it. Such an answer is not sufficient. Without using a surveyor's instrument the naked eye teaches that there is enough fall to obtain drainage if the right kind of road work is done. But the streets show no work of that kind.

Mr. Bussey, who owns the carriage line here, can point out mudhole after mudhole that has existed every winter for the last ten years. There is no excuse for this. If we are to have a first class little city we must use some judgment in street work, and must do the work. Paving is a fine thing, but there is no chance for the whole of La Grande to be paved for years to come, and during this time what are the people to do? Drive off of a paved street into eight inches of mud. That is the custom this winter, but we hope it will not be so next season.

THE FRUIT INDUSTRY HERE.

In this issue of the Observer Sher-

wood Williams, a young man in whom everyone has confidence, has a communication on the fruit industry of the Grand Ronde valley that should not be overlooked. He puts the matter in plain language and asks the grower what he proposes to do. Mr. Williams offers a remedy and plan for the ills of this valley, and seemingly he is correct in his conclusions.

Like every other profession or trade the outlaw grower is the man who brings down the standard of quality in a fruit section and makes it hard for the district to have a good reputation. The Grande Ronde valley has had too many outlaw fruit growers—men who would not pay attention to the rules of organization and look after spraying, pruning and packing.

Apparently agitation has begun now, however, that will result in good and the only thing to do is to keep it up constantly. When a grower shows inclination to depart from the rules published his name and the history of the transaction. Make the rest of the district understand just what an enemy he is to the legitimate fruit business and, sooner or later such cases will cease to exist.

YES, THERE MAY BE WAR.

Many scoff at the idea of a war with Mexico. You will remember, according to history, the same scoffing occurred prior to the big war—the war of the rebellion. And when Spain had to be flogged the same jeering about the possibility was heard.

If President Diaz dies it is very likely there will be a war with Mexico. Anyone who is familiar with the natives of the sister republic known such a conflict cannot be anything like the war between the north and south, but nevertheless it will result in considerable guerilla fighting. There may be quite a period of time that battles will occasionally be fought and murders and atrocities be committed. Eventually Mexico will be subdued and the American protectorate will be thrown around it. This is the natural feeling when it is considered the large amount of money invested in Mexico both by America and England will not stand by and see devastation mark that rich garden spot. And if the United States is forced to protect Mexico it will be a good thing for the natives. No country on the face of the earth is farther behind than is the country of Diaz, when the natural advantages and resources are considered. The people there need education and training. True, the lower classes are an inbred, inferior class of people, but like the Filipino, when once they know the stars and stripes protect them, they will gradually fall into America's ways and customs.

It looks very much like there might be a war, but it is nothing to become alarmed over. This country can muster a vast army of volunteers who would delight in having a skirmish with some country. The American blood is about ready for a small scrap and quite likely Mexico will furnish it.

"THIS IS MY 51ST BIRTHDAY."

James A. Hemenway.

James A. Hemenway, who was for many years a prominent figure in congress, first as representative and later as senator from Indiana, was born in Boonville, Ind., March 8, 1860 and received his education in the common schools. At the age of 16 follow-



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ing the death of his father, young Hemenway went west and spent about three years in Iowa and Kansas. He then returned to his native town and secured employment in a tobacco factory. While thus engaged he took up the study of law and in 1885 he was admitted to the bar. A year later he was elected prosecuting attorney, although the district was normally democratic and Mr. Hemenway was a republican. In 1894 he made his first fight for congress and was elected. He continued to serve in the lower house until 1905, when he was elected to the United States senate to succeed Charles W. Fairbanks. Mr. Hemenway's term in the senate expired in 1909.

STATISTICS OF GERMAN UNIVERSITIES.

(London Globe.)  
Germany is not only well provided

with universities, but the seats of learning, 21 in all cannot complain of indifference on the part of the people; for there are enrolled for the winter session 54,822 students compared with 52,407 last year. Ten years ago the number was 34,000, and if we go back for three decades we find only 21,000 matriculated. The distribution given in a Paris contemporary, which is not complete, by the way, shows 15,625 are studying history, philosophy and philology, 11,240 medicine 10,980 law and 7,194 mathematics and natural science. There is a marked increase in the number of women students, 2,448 at present, against 1,850 a year ago. Of these 2,100 are Germans; the remainder are for the most part Russians and Americans. Of the women 1,370 are taking philology, philosophy or history, 527 medicine, 356 mathematics and natural science, 60 constitutional law and agriculture, 49 den-

tristry, 38 law, 7 theology and 5 pharmacy.

ANCESTRY.

Topeka Capital.

Vivien Gould's ancestry, the New York society reporters now claim, goes back further than that of Lord Decies, on her mother's side. It has been traced, in fact, no doubt at considerable expense, for it costs money to find ancestors, to the 12th century, and the society reporters are gleefully asserting that "the College of Heralds in England is investigating a claim by an eminent genealogist that the origin of Mrs. Gould's family is even more remote."

It probably is. There are no historic records of any lower order of anthropoids becoming human subsequent to the 12th century A. D. Unless there is something unusual in the an-

cestry of Jay Gould's granddaughter it runs clear back to Adam.

A Notre Dame Lady's Appeal.

To all knowing sufferers of rheumatism, whether muscular or of the joints, sciatica, lumbago, backache, pains in the kidneys or neuralgia pains, to write to her for a home treatment which has repeatedly cured all of these tortures. She feels it her duty to send it to all sufferers free. You cure yourself at home as thousands will testify—No change of climate being necessary. This simple discovery banishes uric acid from the blood, loosens the stiffened joints, purifies the blood, and brightens the eyes, giving elasticity and tone to the whole system. If the above interests you, for proof address Mrs. M. Summers, Box. R., Notre Dame, Ind.