

THE OBSERVER

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Editor and Owner.

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WELL, WHAT OF IT.

Theodore Roosevelt, ex-president of the United States, is paying a visit to Portland. But, what of it? Other ex-presidents have visited Portland and there was not a great deal thought about the matter. Then why throw it after it when Roosevelt enters the state? He is a big man? Yes, the country profited to a certain extent by his administration, but he failed to wear. A man above the ordinary grew chesty over his popularity and put too much weight on the ladder. The ladder broke, and the ex-president is now trying to regain his former prominence.

Will he succeed? Very doubtful. Another war might give him military prominence. But it is a question whether the San Juan hill stunt could be pulled off again and be made stick. Roosevelt is a good man, but too

much praise was a drawback to him. He is entitled to every respect this state can show him, but the former semi-god worship of him is out of place, uncalled for and unnecessary. He is a good man in private life, so let it rest at that.

The suicide at Cove yesterday only goes to show what a delicate organ the human brain really is. It takes only a constant pounding and thinking on one subject to unbalance it. This poor unfortunate man evidently had no good cause for his rash act, yet he thought he had. A great deal of trouble is in thought only, for the ritual of a certain secret order has said: "the imagination pains more horrors than the world ever knew."

Judge Lindsey's comment on the La Grande high school building should have some weight with the few who are trying to impress the public with its inferiority. Lindsey has seen many public buildings and knows something of their merit. His praise for the La Grande building was unstinted and profuse.

Contracts for fruitland in the Imbler district are being made almost daily. Home people are beginning to realize what chances for making money are close to them, and how remote the money-making chances are in biting at the other fellow's game in distant cities.

In another column of the Evening Observer will be found a harsh criticism of President Taft on his Mexico policy over the signature of officers of the local socialist party. In this country free speech is accorded to everyone.

But Champ Clark has not yet ridden the Missouri mule down Pennsylvania avenue in Washington. Another democratic promise unfulfilled.

IMMIGRANTS AND EDUCATION

(St. Louis Post-Dispatch.) There is much truth in the contention that since the movement of population has become world-wide, backwardness in one nation is a menace to other nations. The United States has gradually become interested, to the point even of serious concern, in the educational qualifications of the people of more than half the states in Europe. Immigrants come to this country every year by tens of thousands with the intention of becoming wage earners or tillers of the soil, and most of them aspire to be citizens. It is safe to say that the best of them are as eager to be American in spirit as in residence. Their progress, however, depends very much on the amount of primary education which they received in Europe. It is scarcely too much to say that this republic is based on the average man's ability to read the newspapers. He cannot do that and remain without opinions. To be without opinions is to be dead to the world. It is better to run the risk of holding wrong views than to have no views at all, and be clay in the hands of the political potter.

But European illiteracy must be removed by the European governments. We cannot meddle with it until the immigrant has landed here. We can exclude him or educate him, at our own good will and pleasure.

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But we cannot educate the Europeans in Europe. An attempt to do so would probably lead to unpleasant complications if not actual hostile acts. We are under the necessity of doing our educational work here or of applying an educational test as a qualification for entry. The business of educating Europeans on their own soil is not one in which Americans can properly engage. They may attempt it from religious motives, but they cannot defend it on political grounds.

SHIRT WAISTS AND PIES.

(Ohio State Journal.)

There is an organization in Chicago called the "Literary store." It is composed of women of literary taste and achievement. That is the reason they offer a prize for the best pumpkin pie. There is more literature in a pumpkin pie than there is in Longfellow's poems or Hawthorne's Twice Told Tales. There is poetry, philosophy, science, ethics, everything good within the snowy confines of a pumpkin pie. Sit down with Emerson or Whittier and a large piece of pumpkin pie and feel the effulgence of the universe breaking in on your grateful heart.

Associated with this pie prize is one for the best laundered shirtwaist. Now we are reaching the altitudes of life. There is nothing in all the tones and tints of human experience that blends so sweetly as a piece of luscious pumpkin pie and a girl in a neatly laundered shirtwaist. That "score" understands its business when it arranges its harmonies so as to couple the shirtwaist with a pumpkin pie. They go together like a humming bird and a morning glory.

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Whether in advance or in arrears payments on the La Grande Evening Observer for more than one year give a premium of 3,000 extra votes for each year so paid; on the Weekly Observer a premium of 1,000 extra votes for each year so paid. The premium is the same whether the subscriber is new or old. The 3,000 votes for each extra year paid on the Evening Observer and the 1,000 votes for each extra year paid on the Weekly Observer are in addition to the ones earned by the regular schedule as printed below.
A yearly subscription of any other newspaper or magazine that clubs with the La Grande Evening or Weekly Observer, when paid with a yearly subscription to the Observer, gives 1,000 votes, in addition to the votes earned by the money applied to the Observer. Any payment made to a contestant by a person now taking the Observer extends the subscription from the date to which the subscriber was paid before the transaction with the contestant.

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