

THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS
Editor and Owner.

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DOWN TO EVERYDAY HARD WORK.

Now that the Commercial club has employed a publicity man, Mr. S. M. Slough a great many people may wonder what will be done. It is a question that everyone has a right to ask, and a question in which every citizen should be interested.

The Observer does not know exactly what will be done, but from the personnel of the board of directors who will direct things, we believe that conservatism and constant energy will mark every proceeding. La Grande is not seeking a flimsy, hip hurrah recognition. What the people want here is a straight forward campaign of every day labor—work that is not spasmodic, work that does not pass off in a night, but a systematic effort that will last the entire year. To all appearances Mr. Slough is

the proper man for such an undertaking. He was born in southern Kansas on a farm, brought up to labor. Later he went into Oklahoma where he caught the new state spirit and witnessed towns grow up in a day. By nature he is an enthusiast, but also a worker—a combination that does not always exist. Leaving Oklahoma he came to the great Eastern Oregon in order to build up a physical body that was badly in need of repairs. Happening into Elgin he found the climate agreed with him and for three years he has been trading and trafficking with the people up there in order to make a few dollars. The Commercial club is pleased with him and believe he will make good.

Too much must not be expected in a week or month, but we have every reason to believe that the people of La Grande and the Grande Ronde valley can be assured of constant and untiring effort to put this city and valley to the front in every way that is possible.

Already the Observer's educational contest is meeting with the most favorable feeling from the best people in Union and Wallowa counties. This contest is high grade and must not be confused with some contests held by metropolitan papers throughout this section. The educational feature of it is of importance to everyone and any young lady that wins can congratulate herself for she will occupy a dignified position during the entire trip.

The extraordinary session of congress is starting off with Uncle Joe Cannon still in the lead. True, he is not in the chair but he is still prominent in floor work. When big things are to be done old "Uncle Joseph" is always on hand.

According to ranchers in the Grande Ronde the season thus far is as good as was expected and the crop prospects are ideal. Now what better story does the colonist seeking a home wish to hear?

By the way, Union is at work on that annual horse show which will be pulled off in June and according to royal blood of that locality this year's event will be better than ever.

That clean-up spirit is to be noticed all over La Grande. There are yet a few back yards that can stand renovation, and it would improve the entire city if this was done at once.

La Follette re-opened the Lorimer scandal. We have noticed that the little pompadour statesman from Wisconsin is quite an opener in the senate.

"AN UNENVIABLE MINISTER."

The Portland Oregonian, in its issue of yesterday, printed the following editorial which may seem a little harsh to all who know Elder Ford Ellis, but the fact that the elder took a course that was out of the ordinary has caused much comment and attention. The Oregonian said:

"Sensible people will not feel much sympathy with the La Grande minister who could not live an honest life in his profession. He had to leave the pulpit, he told his congregation, and go out on a farm before he could keep the Ten Commandments. His

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resolution to till the soil is commendable. We need more men who will do it with intelligence and energy, but we are afraid he will find his footsteps snared by the wiles of Satan as frequently in the fields as in the pulpit. There we suppose he was tempted to say he believed things he did not believe or to suppress unpleasant truths, and, as we understand his testimony, he yielded.

On the farm he will be tempted to put the biggest apples at the top of the box and fill in below them with runts and worm-eaten windfalls. If he sells pork he will be tempted to say that it was fed corn when in reality it got nothing but straw to eat. When he sells a horse he will be tempted to declare that it is sound of wind and limb and only 6 years old, when in reality it is a spavined hack of 20.

"If the Reverend Ford Ellis could not withstand the wiles of Satan in the pulpit, how can we expect him to do it on the farm? The allurements to lying, cheating and uncharitableness are much the same in one position as in the other. Virtue depends not so much on the circumstances in which a man finds himself as on his character. If his character is flabby in the pulpit it is not likely to be made robust by moving out on a farm. The man who wobbles in a church will wobble quite as badly in any public office he may obtain. The wobbly proclivity is bound to show itself in one place as well as another.

"There are many honest ministers. It is possible for a man to speak the truth to a congregation and retain their respect; perhaps that is the easiest way to retain it. That Mr. Ellis cannot do the trick is melancholy to believe, but happily his inability does not impose a rule upon other men or even set an example which they are obliged to follow."

"THIS IS MY 43RD BIRTHDAY."

Lloyd Osbourne.
Lloyd Osbourne, the well known

author and step-son of the late Robert Louis Stevenson, was born in San Francisco, April 7, 1868. His education was received in private schools of his native city and at Edinburgh university. After leaving the university, he studied civil engineering, but failing eyesight compelled him to abandon the following of that profession. For several years he traveled in America and Europe with his step-father and finally went to live in Samoa, where Mr. Stevenson passed the latter years of his life. In Samoa Mr. Osbourne served for a time as United States vice consul. His first literary effort, published in 1889, was "The Wrong Box," written in collaboration with Mr. Stevenson. Among his other works of fiction are "The Enegade," "The Wrecker" and the "Ebb Tide." In addition to his stories Mr. Osbourne is the author of a drama called "The Exile," which was produced some years ago by Martin Harvey.

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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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