

THE OBSERVER

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ATTENDANCE AT CHAUTAUQUA.

It is decidedly refreshing to note the increased attendance at Chautauqua. Last evening the beautiful park was alive with people who, appreciative not only of the talent in entertainment but of the effort to give La Grande a permanent institution of his kind, turned out to spend an evening away from business.

The Chautauqua will grow. The first few years are always recognized as the "nursing" period for such a movement after which it becomes strong and able to carry its own weight without assistance. La Grande in taking the lead, in this movement for the Eastern Oregon country has made no mistake. In years to come this city will be known to many who live a distance away wholly for the Chautauqua it carries each year. And it will be gratifying in the extreme to every resident to know that each year will cause the circle of Chautauqua friends to enlarge until finally it will reach the circles formed by the same gathering in Western Oregon. For permanency, for benefit, for advancement in every way the assembly will be a factor in La Grande's development.

LINCOLN'S PEACE MEMORIAL IS PLANNED.

A great Lincoln memorial and "Temple of Peace," beautiful in conception, with a ruggedness and strength of outline in keeping with its idealistic personification of peace and the unification of the nation, will tower above the rugged stone hills somewhere between Bedford and Bloomington, Ind., if the present plans are carried out. The idea, more vast than anything of the kind hitherto seriously contemplated in America, is described by Frank Maynard in the July number of Popular Mechanics Magazine, and a page illustration forecasts something of its magnificence.

The conception is unique as well as beautiful, and no precedent whatsoever, in either the architectural or sculptural features, has been followed. It is to be built entirely of Indiana oolitic limestone, more com-

monly known as Bedford stone. It is, in fact, to symbolize stone as a great industry, but this is simply a minor phase, and although of much importance in its erection, is dimmed by the great idealistic purpose of its being.

The "Temple of Peace, above which will rise the statue of Lincoln, is to be semi circular in form, about 35 feet in height, and 200 feet across from end to end. It will face the westward sun from a vast ledge of stone, probably near the edge of an old quarry, one of the dominant hills which abound in the midst of the rugged and wild scenery of this quarry district. How much of this ledge will be rough hewn in the face of the stone hill or will have to be built up in the form of huge stone blocks will be determined when the actual site is selected, but whether hewn out or built up, this base, and the broad winding road leading to its top, will be a great undertaking in itself.

ELLIOTT ON CITY GOVERNMENT.

Now that La Grande has a committee appointed to investigate different forms of city government it might be well to consider the opinions of different men on what has been accomplished by the commission form. The Observer is not ready to admit that the commission form, as now commonly used, would be a good form for La Grande, but it is well to consider it along with other forms in use.

A few years ago Dr. Charles W. Elliott, former president of Harvard, made a trip through the south and west. "In discussing at home the question of municipal government," said he, "I found it necessary to acquaint myself with the new city charters which have been issued by legislatures in Texas, Iowa and Massachusetts, and then I wanted to get more than a reading knowledge of those charters. So I have been to Texas and have seen the men administering the new governments there.

"There is a longer experience of commission government in Texas than anywhere else. In Galveston the new charter has been in operation eight years, and I must say that the results there are extraordinarily favorable. The pecuniary results are remarkable.

"What the city of Galveston has accomplished in eight years under a commission of five men is little short of marvelous.

"Now, as to continuity in the membership of the commission, the citizens have kept every man steadily serving on that commission, except that the first mayor died and was replaced by another respected citizen. That is the only change in the commission for eight years. The people have been so supremely content that there has never been any question of change.

"Cross to Houston for a moment. There they have not had quite such an experience of continuity, because one member elected at first has been replaced at a second election, and one other member, though his continued service was much desired by his colleagues, was replaced by the popular vote.

"As to pecuniary results in Houston, they actually reduced the tax rate without altering the valuation. They then built four large brick school-houses out of the city's annual receipts; they paved streets at a great rate in the outskirts of the city in order that the extension of the city might be favorably made, and this paving is being continued in every direction.

"The city sets the curbstones, paves the streets and puts in the sewers and

asks nothing whatever of the abutters except that each shall build a granite sidewalk in front of his premises. I asked members of the commission how it was possible to meet such heavy expenses, and the reply was, 'We save so much on the former expenditures of the city.' I asked what they meant by saving and they said that they thought they got as much now for 50 cents of expenditure as the city had formerly got for \$1.

"The pecuniary results at Houston are the most striking among the Texas cities outside of Galveston. But there has been a similar experience at Dallas. The city is growing rapidly, and all the municipal work seems to be done with economy. The people are so well satisfied that when it came time to have another election of the commission no available citizen would run against the commission, and all five members are therefore to be re-elected."

BAYING AT THE MOON.

"Once upon a time" there was a dog, not a bad dog, but a canine which did not believe in doing anything but scratch fleas and bay. When there was nothing else to bay at he bayed at the moon. His habits grew until his time was consumed in addressing his guttural utterances toward the nightly orb. It was found the dog belonged to the family that claimed the knocker, the "do-it-next-week" individual, "let-well-enough alone" loiterer.

And, strange to say, some of that family—not many—chose La Grande as an abiding place. Even this beautiful, rich valley and metropolitan little city of La Grande could not change their habits. Every once in a while the baying is heard. If the moon fails to shine the baying is directed elsewhere.

When La Grande was tugging away trying to be a city instead of a village, there was baying. When the city decided to have an entertainment of any kind, again the baying was heard. New departures, improvements were scoffed at. Content to sit in a crouched position the whining has continued at intervals, and probably will continue for years to come.

But La Grande, like the steam roller, is proceeding forward. Nothing is going to stop the onward march. It is decreed that the villager must change his ways and become naturalized or be lost in the whirl of advancement.

And, while baying at the moon may seem popular occasionally it is not, nor will it ever be in La Grande again.

"THIS IS MY 64TH BIRTHDAY."

Katherine A. Tingley.

Mrs. Katherine A. Tingley, leader of the Theosophists and founder of the colony at Point Loma, California, was born in Newburyport, Mass., July 6, 1847. After attending the public schools in her native place she completed her education in a convent in Quebec. On leaving the convent she took up her residence with her father in New York. Here she investigated spiritualism, with the result that she openly opposed physical manifestations and seances. Her investigations, however, led to her becoming a strong Theosophist. In New York she spent much of her time in missionary work among the poor. Some 15 years ago, in company with other prominent members of the Theosophical society, Mrs. Tingley conducted a world wide tour in the interest of the Theosophical movement. Since the death of the late W. Q. Judge she has been the acknowledged leader of the society not only in American but in the world at large.

THIS DATE IN HISTORY.

July 6.

- 1535—Sir Thomas More, chancellor of England, beheaded in London.
1777—Americans evacuated Ticonderoga and Mount Independence.
1802—Gen. Daniel Morgan, one of the conspicuous leaders in the American revolution, died in Winchester, Va. Born in New Jersey in 1736.
1835—The Boston and Worcester railroad was opened.
1861—Union forces driven back at the battle of Carthage, Mo.
1868—Samuel Lover, noted Irish novelist, died. Born in 1779.
1872—Democratic national convention met at Baltimore and nominated Horace Greeley for president.
1893—Marriage of the Prince of Wales (King George V.) and Princess Victoria May of Teck (Queen Mary.)

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New Soil Value Found.

Chicago, Ill., July 6.—W. L. Park, vice president of the Illinois Central Railway company and a member of the board of control of the 19th National Irrigation congress, which meets here this year, is directing the attention of men interested in the congress to what he declares is the best concrete example he has yet found of the agricultural value of the soil deposits in the areas of swamp and overflowed lands, of which there are practically 80,000,000 acres capable of reclamation.

The railway official's case in point has to do with the South Carolina boy, Jerry Moore, 13 years old, who last fall harvested 228 bushels of corn from one acre of ground, establishing a record for the year that made him the champion corn grower of the world.

"This is a record," Mr. Park said, "that will do more for agriculture than any other one accomplishment of similar nature during the last decade. But how did this boy obtain his enormous yield? Simply by going into the swamps near his farm and taking 200 wagonloads of the rich swamp dirt, which he scattered over his field the first winter. This he did that winter merely as a means of fertilizing his land. The second winter he made up his mind to go after the corn raising record for which a good prize had been offered, so he took 300 wagonloads of swamp dirt the second winter and put it on his field. Following that, in the spring, he put 45 wagonloads of manure on the field, then double plowed the field to a depth of 14 inches. All that remained after that was for the corn to grow up, ripen and mark a new record for acre production.

"The simple method followed by young Moore makes easily apparent the crop growing possibilities of our swamp soils and, what is far more important, the reclamation possibilities of our swamp and overflowed localities. There is room in these swamp areas for thousands of farm homes, as reclaimed swamp land, somewhat like irrigated land, is capable of such production that a small acreage is sufficient for one farm home. We estimate that the population of this nation will be 150,000,000 people by 1950 and I believe myself that it will be more than that. For this reason we can see the necessity of furthering swamp land reclamation, as well as all other methods of peopling the localities where fertile lands are non-producing, for these homes will all be needed in years to come. The National Irrigation congress, long of great influence in the west, now has launched a far-reaching movement by its resolutions passed at recent sessions looking towards definite help for the states containing large areas of swamp lands and by so doing it further establishes itself as a body of national importance, it already having won that place through its efforts and results for the west.

Young Moore, who was sent to Washington where he met President Taft and other government dignitaries after he had been awarded the corn growing prize, has prepared what government experts who visited his farm declared was the best seed bed they had ever seen, for his next years crop. On this field he is to attempt a greater harvest next year than the prize winner of 1910.

Mrs. Littlepage Coming.

Chicago, Ill., July 6.—Mrs. Louella Littlepage, assistant to Clarence J. Blanchard, statistician of the United States reclamation service, has just passed through Chicago on her way from Washington to the northwest, where she will visit the various reclamation projects of the government. Her tour will take her to the Pacific coast.

Mrs. Littlepage is a writer of wide acquaintance and she discusses the economic importance of irrigation development with authority. The chief purpose of her trip is to gather data from settlers on the government farms for magazine and other articles. She also lectures frequently, especially to women's organizations, and the experiences she will gather from the settlers no doubt will provide new and interesting subjects for this work.

Mrs. Littlepage is familiar with the work of the National Irrigation congress which meets here in December, and while in Chicago she called on Edmund T. Perkins, managing director of the board of control of the congress to discuss with him the probable effect of the forthcoming gathering of irri-

Directory of the Fraternal Orders of La Grande, Oregon

L. F. & A. M.—La Grande Lodge No. 41, A. F. & A. M. holds regular meetings first and third Saturdays at 7:30 p. m. Cordial welcome to all Masons. L. M. HOYT, W. M. A. C. WILLIAMS, Secretary.

B. P. O. E.—La Grande Lodge No. 433 meets each Thursday evening at 8 o'clock in Elk's club, corner of Depot street and Washington avenue. Visiting brothers are cordially invited to attend. H. J. RITTER, Ex. Rai. H. E. COOLIDGE, Rec. Sec.

WOODMEN OF THE WORLD—La Grande Lodge No. 169 W. O. W. meets every second and fourth Saturdays at K. P. hall. All visiting members welcome. D. FITZGERALD, C. C. J. H. KEENEY, Clerk.

M. W. A.—La Grande Camp No. 7703 meets every Monday in the month at the I. O. O. F. hall. All visiting neighbors are cordially invited to attend. E. E. DANIELS, ED. HEATH, Clerk.

REBEKAHS—Crystal Lodge No. 16 meets every Tuesday evening in the I. O. O. F. hall. All visiting members are invited to attend. MRS. KATIE ARBUCKLE, N. G. MISS ANNA ALEXANDER, Sec.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS—Red Cross Lodge No. 27 meets every Monday night in Castle hall, (old Elk's hall). A Pythian welcome to all visiting Knights. JESS PAUL, C. C. R. L. LINCOLN, M. of R. & S.

O. E. S.—Hope Chapter No. 13, O. E. S. holds regular communications the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. Visiting members cordially invited. CARRIE B. HUNTER, W. M. MARY A. WARNICK, Sec.

WOMEN OF WOODCRAFT—La Grande Circle No. 47 meets first and third Thursday evenings in the month at the I. O. O. F. hall. All visiting members are

gationists here. She declared the meeting, taking place in Chicago, which has become such a center of supply for irrigation development, should be the greatest congress in the history of the organization.

Fighting Bogus Townsites.

Winnipeg, July 6.—The grand Trunk Pacific has issued formal warning against real estate men who are offering in the name of the railway company to sell lots in bogus townsites along its lines in the western provinces, and has given notice that all such people will be prosecuted in the courts. D'Arcy Tate, solicitor for the company, states that action now pending in the courts against six or seven concerns that are using the company's name and that all wildcaters will be brought to justice in an endeavor to prevent the repetitions of such misrepresentations as have already occurred in a number of cases.

This announcement is official, and states that the company itself has established all divisional points and stations, and that the sales will be made through its bona-fide agents. The authorities cite as an example of fraudulent advertising the exploitation of the townsite of Alix, on the Calgary-Edmonton line of the Grand Trunk Pacific. This has been widely advertised as a divisional point and lots have sold at correspondingly high figures. As a matter of fact, the actual divisional point is at Mirror, some six miles away from the townsite of Alix, and the railway company has no interest whatsoever in the townsite last named. Other instances are cited where the Grand Trunk Pacific name has been used to sell lots in townsites miles away from any station, and without any authority whatsoever from the company.

Action has been brought against the Grand Trunk Pacific Transfer company of Vancouver, to restrain that

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