

**THE OBSERVER**

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**WHAT A MOTOR CAR WILL DO.**

La Grande people are holding their breath awaiting the work of Manager England of the Oregon Central railroad who is at present making plans to put a motor car at work between Cove, Union and La Grande. This feature of transportation has long been the dream of this valley and now that it seems almost a certainty there is general rejoicing in each of the communities named. With a level valley like the Grande Ronde it has always seemed unbusinesslike to have transportation facilities so arranged that people from all valley towns could not come to the county seat in the morning and return home in the evening. But it takes time to work out all these problems and it would seem that we are about to face that remarkable period when people from La Grande and Union and Cove will be brought closer together by means of a motor car. It will be the greatest builder that has ever entered this valley. It will be the advance runner of irrigation and where there are large fields now there will be small holdings in less than three years after the service is inaugurated. Union and Cove and along Catherine creek will be noted for the small farms, for in that region water is plentiful now which means that a man could do business in La Grande and yet live out on a small ranch in the Catherine creek country.

Manager England will be called blessed when this is put through and it would be the proper thing to put a bronze tablet in the court house to honor his name.

**FOR A NEW GOVERNMENT.**

The committee appointed by Mayor Richardson to investigate different forms of city government with an idea of recommending a new form for La Grande has had its first meeting. People must not expect too quick results from this body of men for they are upon a mission which takes deliberation and careful study.

One of the problems of this age is how to improve municipal government, where everybody's business is no-

body's business. It is as complex as can be and has more curves than an English walnut. Several cities have shaken off the old mayor and council form by electing what are termed commissioners. It is found in the larger cities that this works very well, especially when the right kind of men are chosen for commissioners. In smaller cities the results have not been so good largely because weaker men in some instances have been elected. One thing remains prominent and certain—the old time form of city government is a miserable excuse and the people are going to get away from it if they even have to try several methods before centering upon one that will prove satisfactory.

We are told that down in Georgia there is a city that has taken the bold step of selecting one man, placing him under bonds and his duty is to run the city government. Every month the whole proceedings of his office are published and he is held entirely responsible for the public work. It is said the plan works very well and that better results have been obtained under this form than any other.

The greatest trouble in city affairs has been to place responsibility. No one is responsible under the old form and when there is a bad mistake it is too easy to shift the burden if there is a disposition to do so. With the one man administration in Georgia it is said this is eliminated and if there is any blame whatever all know where to place it.

Doubtless the committee in La Grande will investigate thoroughly all of the forms in use and we can expect something of intense interest when this committee announces its readiness to report.

Baker is still in the throes of the Love divorce case and "society" is all agog over the sensational charges and counter charges according to a report from that city. The Loves belonged to the swagger set in New York and therefore the divorce proceedings sparkle with sensation. There is a lesson to be drawn from these proceedings for every boy and girl of Eastern Oregon, and also every parent. The lesson is: Stay away from the primrose path, for there is nothing to it but brief and heartaches.

President Taft is right when he says that the future will justify his action on the reciprocity measure. People of the United States are just beginning to realize there is a real big man in the president's chair and that he does not cater to applause but rather to hard work with a desire to show results. All of the unrest in the country will finally ferment and get acute and then the safe element will pin their faith to Taft, and they will not be disappointed.

Texas, which has been largely local option and in the hands of blind pig men has had an election and the returns are so close that it will likely require an official count to settle the question. Meanwhile both sides claim victory, as usual.

**HOW FLIES CARRY DISEASE.**

If only one female house fly should survive the winter and on April 15 lay only one batch of 120 eggs the number of flies born from the succeeding generations would be in five

months over five and a half trillion.

The number of bacteria on a single fly may range all the way from 550 to 6,660,000. Early in the fly season the numbers of bacteria on flies are comparatively small, while later the numbers are comparatively large. The places where flies live also determine largely the numbers that they carry. The average for 414 flies was about 1,250,000 bacteria on each. It hardly seems possible for so small a bit of life to carry a large number of organisms.

The most thorough sanitary precautions are necessary in order to get rid of the fly. Manure piles must not be allowed near human residences. Screens, until we have learned to destroy the breeding places of the insects, must be freely used. Fly traps and fly poisons are effective helps in the process of extermination. Most of those upon the market are good and sticky fly paper is especially recommended. Dr. Howard describes in detail several of the modern fly traps and gives directions for their home manufacture. Formalin or formaldehyde, diluted six to one with water and placed in a shallow dish, is a good exterminator. Perethrum, carbolic acid, laurel oil, and other deterrents, used frequently and with care, will kill or keep out flies.—The Christian Herald.

The sense of smell of the typhoid fly must be very keen, although its selection of attractive odors undoubtedly differs from our own. It is very catholic in its choice of food—the milk jug and the freshly baked custard pie are apparently equally in favor with the slop bucket, the garbage pan, and all sorts of unmentionable filth. It knows the odor of cooking, and it flies unerringly towards the nearest kitchen, although the temperature of the kitchen stove may attract it almost as much as the possibility of something good to eat. Its food must be liquid, and when its lights upon a solid, a plentiful flow of a salivary fluid enables it to make some slight impression, and to gain sustenance. Everyone who reads this knows how in the old days, and even now in some places, the typhoid fly swarmed, or swarms in a certain class of public restaurants, and in poorly-cared-for eating places. The story of the man who entered a dimly lighted railway restaurant and asked for a piece of that huckleberry pie, and was informed that it was not huckleberry, but custard, is literally true.

Three years ago I made an attempt to estimate the amount of money that was spent annually in screening houses in the United States. As close an estimate as could conscientiously be made seemed to indicate that more than \$10,000,000 are spent every year for this kind of protection against the flies and mosquitoes. In fly ridden localities the expense is undoubtedly justified, since the majority of the flies are kept out by careful screening. No system of screening however seems to be so perfect as to keep them all out.

The whole expense of screening, however, should be an unnecessary one, just as efforts to destroy flies in houses should be unnecessary. Their breeding should be stopped to such an extent that all these things would be useless.—Dr. O. L. Howard in The Christian Herald.

**THIS DATE IN HISTORY.**

- July 25.
- 1722—The New England colonies joined in a war against the Indians.
- 1759—Americans surrendered Fort Niagara to the British.
- 1785—The ship Maria, of Boston, seized by Algerians and her crew enslaved.
- 1799—A French force under Bonaparte defeated the Turkish army at Aboukir, Egypt.

**"THIS IS MY 63RD BIRTHDAY."**

Arthur J. Balfour, former prime minister of Great Britain and now the leader of the Opposition, was born in Scotland, July 25, 1848, and was educated at Eton and at Trinity college, Cambridge. He entered the house of commons in 1874, and for a time was a follower of the late Lord Randolph more or less in portance between the years 1878 and 1887. In 1888 and 1886 he was president of the Local Government board, and before then he had been private secretary to his uncle, the Marquis of Salisbury, when the latter was secretary of state for foreign affairs. In 1886 Mr. Balfour was appointed to the much coveted position of lord warden of St. Andrew's university. It was in fighting the Irish party

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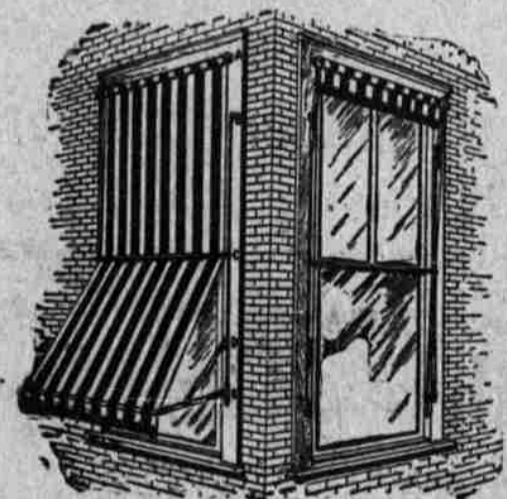
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