THE OBSERVER

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Editor and Owner.

Entered at the postoffice at La Grande as second-class matter.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Daily, single copy 5c
Daily, per week 15c
Daily, per month 65c

1911	JULY					1911
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

ATTEND THE PIONEER MEETING

Everyone who possibly can should attend the Pioneer meeting at Elgin Saturday. That city is arranging for a big time and is going to entertain the old settlers in a way that will cause them to long remember their treatment.

So far as known most of the early settlers of La Grande will be present and review the days that tried men's souls on the raw frontier. They will tell once more the stories which if woven into a story would be the equal of anything that has ever been printed. From out Wallowa will come those stern old mountaineers who entered this eastern Oregon country when safety was a question; when the Indians roamed these hills and canyons and called this section home. In those days it meant death to do as men would like to do, but the settlers clung hoping and praying for the day when government troops would march through these hills and proclaim law and order both to red and white. That time finally came, but it took years of isolation and privation on the part of many before it reached them.

Experiences during those times will be repeated. Chief Joseph and his bands of Indians will frequently be the subject of discussion, and withal it will be a most interesting gathering. Elgin hopes to make it a red letter day and to that end every citizen is throwing open his home to the visitors. If you decide to go you may be assured that you will be entertained dierently from any time in your life because it is a different occasion.

TAFT SURE TO BE RENOMINATED

The state of Nebraska blazed the trail in the matter of Taft's renomination when the insurgents were given an icy reception and the convention went strong for the president. And that is what will follow all over the country. What opposition that exists will never get any place because it is not right that it should. Taft is making the president of this generation. He is doing things and talking little. His career is one of hard thinking and hard working while the American people have been taken off their feet in the past by "heaps of talk and little work." If Canadian reciprocity proves to be what Taft thinks it will all other public men will be forgotten for the time and he will occupy the exact center of public thought. It does not stand to reason that a man of his reasoning would fight hard for a measure upon which hinged his future success or failure unless he honestly thought that measure would benefit the majority of the people. If you will pin your faith to Taft you will not regret it. He is being appreciated more and more each day of his administration and by the time his term of office shall have expired we believe the whole country will be asking for his renomination.

A HEROINE OF THE PLAGUE.

It was during the cholera epidemic of 1909 that Miss Annie Budden, a girl missionary among the Himalayan foothills, found to her dismay that the dread disease had invaded her mountain station. The instant it was discovered, the Eureopean residents and all the native officials fled in terror. They begged her to go to, but her sense of duty would not let her go.

"The only way to save my people," she said, "is to move them up to that higher mountain."

It was 12 miles away. There were several scores to be moved, most of them women and children, but she managed to move them all, to provide canvas coverings for them, to establish proper sanitary conditions and to minister to the sick; for the village doctor had run away and "left his job" with her.

Suddenly she was sent for to treat a very sick woman twenty miles away. The coolies had all fled, but she found an Indian pony and rode six hours alone through the torrid heat till she reached the woman's home. It was too late. She was dead. There were no men to be found, but a few Christian women lived in the neighborhood, and they helped Miss Budden to carry the body to the outskirts of the village and dig a grave. At noon, the brave young missionary read the burial service, there; then she started for her own camp.

She had gone but eight miles when a snake frightened her horse and she was thrown off. He ran away and she walked the remaining twelve miles. At nightfall she was with her own people again, but only to find that one of her women had died during her absence. Immediately another burying squad had to be organized and with her own hands she helped to lay her poor friend in the grave. But this was the only death that occurred among her people, and she was able to conduct them all back to their homes when the danger had passed.—The Christian Herald.

OBTAINING MONEY UNDER FALSE PRETENSES.

The case of John J. Arberry, the California quack, who, conducting a "medical institute" under the name of "Dr. Taylor & Co.," was convicted of obtaining money by false pretenses, was related at some length in The Journal, January 29, 1910. This case was of interest because of several unusual features connected with the prosecution. Arberry tried to obtain money from a young man, who had come in from the country, by falsely telling him that he was suffering from a valvular disease of the heart. Arberry's defense was that he had made a mistake in diagnosis and that all physicians may disagree in such matters. Mr. Walter Kaufman, the attorney who was prosecuting the case, however, held that this was a matter of fact and not of opinion; a contention that the court upheld. So vital to the quack fraternity were the points raised in this case that their an Francisco members were said to have raised a purse of $25,000 to fight the case. Nevertheless, Arberry was convicted. Of course, he appealed; the decision of the court of appeals is given at some length in the medical department of this issue of the Journal. The appellate court affirmed the judgment of the lower court, convicting Arberry of obtaining money by false pretenses. Moreover, the supreme court of California denies a rehearing. It will be appreciated, of course, that Arberry was not tried for practicing without a license—the usual way of attempting to check these impudent frauds—but for obtaining money under false pretenses. The Journal has heretofore suggested that this method is much more advisable, and will more readily appeal to the public, than prosecuting a man for the practice of medicine without a license. As a matter of fact, these advertising quacks do have licenses and hence are proof against prosecution so far as this is concerned. As we remarked once before, the important point is that under such charges the quack becomes a common felon. While the layman may experience difficulty in recognizing the danker of quackery per se, he finds no such obstacle in a case of plain robbery. The average man is perfectly willing to play fast and loose with his health but he objects to any such of debris, and at comparatively little expense. The plan commission is also harsh treatment of his purse. Let the public once realize the quackery and robbery are usually synonymous, and the outcome of legal action instituted against quacks may be safely predicted.—Journal of the American Medical Association, July 22, 1911.

Gautier's Superstition.

Theophile Gautier, the critic, novelist and poet, like many another great man, was superstitious and believed in the evil eye. Offenbach was his aversion, and in this respect a Paris contemporary tells us that one day the son and father were walking together. The son, for wickedness' sake, started a conversation about Offenbach, and his father gave him to understand that the subject was disagreeable. Nothing daunted, the lad led Gautier to a shop window where was exposed a photograph of the composer.

As they resumed their walk the son observed, "Well, you see, father, after all, nothing has happened through looking at the photograph." At that moment they were turning the corner and the son preceded his father. In full view of the passersby Gautier administered to his tormentor a paternal kick, observing, half in anger and half in humor, "Well, something has happened."

Tight Collars.

Writing in the Hospital, London, Dr. Walford warns everybody against tight collars. He considers it remarkable that no one seems to have noticed or, at any rate, to have laid great stress on the fact that such slight obstacles to the free circulation of the blood through the vessels of the brain may adversely influence the health of those who are in the habit of wearing tightly fitting neckcloths. "The fact appears to be well known to veterinary surgeons, who tell us that neck constriction through badly fitting harness is a causative factor in 'staggers' in horses," says the writer. It seems to be equally well known that dogs suffer a great deal through having to wear tightly fitting collars. Is it too much, then, Dr. Walford asks, to argue that those of us who wear our own collars too tightly buttoned may find in this practice some explanation of symptoms ascribed to other causes?

Tiny Republics.

Klein-Alp is a diminutive republic tucked away between Switzerland and France. Only in summer is the republic inhabited and then by miners and cowgirls. There is one hotel, closed during the winter. Another little republic is in Tyrol, between Austria and Italy, and in long gone years was under the jurisdiction of first a king and then an emperor. But in the adjustment of frontier lines the state of Val di Ventino was in some way overlooked, and it promptly organized itself into a lilliputian republic. It has now about 2,000 inhabitants living in six villages. Neither Val di Ventino nor Klein-Alp has any taxes. There are no officials or compulsory military services. The only industry of Val di Ventino, aside from the farming of small fields, is charcoal burning.

His Tribute of Respect.

The freckle faced boy who was about to be emancipated from high school thraldom was writing his graduating essay.

"I suppose I ought to wind it up," he reflected, "with something touching and sentimental about the leather headed, snub nosed, squeaky voiced conceited old snoozer that runs the shebang."

Thereupon he wrote, "And now, our dear and honored principal, we turn to you," etc.—Chicago Tribune.