

**THE OBSERVER**

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**SOMETHING OF GREAT IMPORTANCE.**

(By Bruce Dennis.)

Seaside, Ore., Aug. 18.—Following the telegraphic news story appearing in the Observer regarding the place of next meeting of the Oregon Development league, let us impress upon La Grande and all of Eastern Oregon the importance of the next meeting of this league which today is not only the most important organization in Oregon, but it is recognized as one of the greatest of its kind in the world.

When any meeting will attract the men heading the leading business enterprises of a state; when it will cause James J. Hill and other national characters to send well prepared addresses, there is some proof existing of its importance to the entire northwest country and to the state of Oregon.

It is therefore of importance to know that the 1912 meeting of the Oregon Development league was secured only by insistent work and strenuous effort which involved the pledging of high class entertainment and co-operative work on the part of La Grande and Eastern Oregon people. This we know will follow and it was with a great deal of pride that we extended the league the cordial have the loyal assistance of the O. W. R. & N. railroad to make the meeting a success, and we are assured by the Hill representatives that they will do all possible to bring a large crowd to the meeting.

With the opportunity for our city to plant herself in the timelight; with the opportunity of our resources to be exploited as they never have been before there is abundant reason why we all shall join hands, including the Hot Lake sanatorium management and make the 1912 meeting of the league the best ever held.

**WESTON ANGERED AGAIN**

Weston, Oregon, the erstwhile home the Weston normal school is again up in arms. The little town doesn't seem to know what it wants to do

with the offer of the state's gift. A Weston dispatch remarks: "No action was taken at the mass meeting Monday night to decide whether Weston should accept the state board's offer of \$75,000 worth of normal school here. The debate grew warm and spirited between those who argued that Weston would be foolish to reject the offer, and those who affected to see in it an ulterior design to dispose of Weston as a normal school town for the benefit of some other locality. Finally a motion to postpone decision for a month was carried by a small margin. The city council has decided to take the proposition into its own hands and will hold a special meeting soon to consider it. A majority of the council is said to favor the acceptance of the gift."

**ELECTRIC PUMPS RAISE THE MAINE.**

One of the greatest engineering feats of the year was the building of a steel coffer dam around the ruined battleship Maine in Havana harbor and the pumping out of the water which has hidden the ruined hull since the beginning of the Spanish-American war.

The building of this great coffer dam was a gigantic task but it was as nothing compared with the pumping of millions of gallons of sea water out of the enclosure so that the ruined battleship could be officially inspected. When the coffer dam was completed huge centrifugal pumps were mounted on a barge and towed to the work. Each of these pumps was driven by a powerful G. E. electric motor, working from day to day until the work was done, with little attention beyond starting and stopping. The electric current was secured from the Havana Light company, cabled out under water.

**CIVILIZATION AND THE TROPICS.**

It has long been believed that tropical regions are unsuited to higher civilization, and that more rigorous conditions are needed for progress. The present day distribution of civilization would seem to support this view. With few exceptions our most progressive communities are located in temperate regions, and until recently any invasion of the tropical regions by northern civilization have either suffered rapid decline, or have been kept alive only by constant reinforcements. Yet this superiority of the colder regions has not always existed. Civilization originated in tropical countries, as history will show. What is the reason of the change of the seat of civilization to the temperate zone? According to the Journal of the American Medical Association, which discusses this question in a recent editorial, the probable explanation lies in the development of tropical diseases, and the subsequent enervation and deterioration of tropical races. We know that malaria was introduced into Greece and Rome by African slaves. In our own country we have even a better established illustration, in the presence of hookworm disease brought to this continent originally by African slaves, and from which probably over one-half of the population of the Southern states is suffering. We

know that the tropics were not always infested with disease. Torquemada, writing from Yucatan centuries ago, said, "Men die here of pure old age, for there are none of those infirmities that exist in other lands." But with the coming of the white man and the negro, and the importation of diseases from other countries, Mexico and Central America became the hotbeds of tropical fevers. The progress of modern sanitary science, however, justifies the belief that the tropics in time may regain their lost position. Already in Cuba and in Panama the possibility of eliminating tropical diseases have been shown. It is only a matter of time until the same methods used in those countries will be given a world-wide application. When this has occurred, will all the tropics resume their old position as the cradles of civilization? Col. Gorgas prophesies that, as soon as preventable diseases have been wiped out, it will be possible for the tropics again to become the seat of great civilizations. This suggestion opens up unlimited opportunity for speculation as to the effect on civilization of the control and extinction of contagious diseases.

**OREGON BLUE BOOK OUT.**

The Oregon Blue Book for 1911 has been distributed by Secretary of State Ben W. Olcott. The volume contains much valuable data and also is something of a booster pamphlet, pertaining to the state of Oregon. There are views and descriptive matter pertaining several thousand volumes for distribution purposes at the secretary's office and may be had for the asking. The supply is said to be limited however.

Mrs. Robert H. Tate of Portland, is now appointing vice presidents throughout the state to the Oregon Congress of mothers and parent-teachers' associations. One has not yet been named for La Grande.

**"THIS IS MY 72ND BIRTHDAY."**

Charles Lemuel Thompson. Dr. Charles Lemuel Thompson, formerly moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church, and now secretary of its board of home missions, was born in Allentown, Pa., August 13, 1839. After graduating from Carroll college in 1858 he took theological courses at Princeton and McCormick theological seminaries. He was ordained a Presbyterian minister in 1861 and subsequently filled pastorates in Janesville, Wis., Cincinnati, Chicago, Pittsburg, Kansas City and New York. For several years Dr. Thompson was editor of "The Interior," published in the interests of Presbyterian missions. He served as moderator of the General assembly in 1888-9, and has been secretary of the Presbyterian board of home missions since 1898.

**THIS DATE IN HISTORY.**

- August 13.
- 1609—Hudson in the "Half Moon" arrived off the mouth of Chesapeake bay.
- 1713—Louisburg founded by French settlers from Newfoundland.
- 1803—James Battle, Scotch poet, died. Born in 1735.
- 1830—Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria born.
- 1850—Honore de Balzac, French novelist, died. Born May 16, 1799.
- 1855—Queen Victoria and the prince consort visited Paris.
- 1856—The Vigilance committee in San Francisco, having accomplished its ends, disbanded after a parade.
- 1862—A cavalry expedition was sent against the confederates at Springfield, Mo.
- 1870—Prussians defeated the French in battle of Gravelotte.
- 1880—Ole Bull, famous violinist, died. Born Feb. 5, 1810.
- 1894—Democrats of Texas nominated Charles A. Culberson for governor.
- 1910—A bronze statue of Washington presented by Virginia to France was unveiled in Paris.

**NOTICE.**

Notice is hereby given that no person or persons shall connect with the sewer system now being constructed in this city. Any one doing so will be liable for damages. By order of the common council, August 16th, 1911.

L. M. HOYT, Water Superintendent.

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**Tom Kapellas - - - proprietor.**

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