

SCHUBERTS RANK HIGH

COMING MUSICAL PRODUCTION A
RARE TREAT.

Ranking as Very Best Company Is
Able to Entertain Any Crowd.

Musical circles of La Grande are much agog over the coming Schubert symphony concert to be given at the high school auditorium next Wednesday night. The galaxy of stars making up the company are of such high caliber that individually or collectively they make one of the very top notch productions touring the northwest this winter or any other winter. La Grande has had many stellar musical attractions but there is a question if one of more capabilities than the Schubert Symphony company has been in La Grande.

EXPERIMENT STATION GROWING.

Branch Farm at Burns Making Rapid
Improvements.

Corvallis, Ore., Jan. 15.—Today Superintendent Leroy Breithaupt of the branch experiment station of the Oregon Agricultural College, five miles out of Burns, reported to Director James Withycombe and Prof. H. D. Scudder of the agronomy department the rapid progress made in the improvements there and the plans for the spring work.

Mr. Breithaupt's work began Sept. 1st, and he has accomplished much in the past four months. Practically the whole of the 200 acre farm has been cleared of the sage brush, and about 120 acres of it has been plowed. Following the building plans laid out by the agronomy department, the machine shed, barn, teamster's cottage and a combination cellar, wood house and pump house have been completed, and the residence of the superintendent has been completed with the exception of the interior work. A well has been dug and an excellent flow of water has been obtained.

In the designing of the buildings pains were taken to make the superintendent's residence a model for the more prosperous farmer who has made his lands successful, and the teamster's cottage likewise a model for the farmer who is just beginning and cannot afford an expensive structure. The other farm buildings are also planned for models of their kind for the district. Prof. Scudder has expressed himself as being well pleased with the manner in which the farmstead has been laid out, both as to convenience and attractiveness.

During the winter and the early spring the improvements will be completed by the building of fences, roads, gates and walks, and making a lawn about the houses. The buildings will all be given modern equipment to demonstrate that farm life in a dry-farming section may be made not only profitable but attractive, and the farm house as comfortable as those homes in the city, to prove that the day has passed that the farmer must object to his lot on account of the discomforts.

The model farm house, while not expensively equipped, will still have both hot and cold water piped through the house, with interior bath room and toilet, and lawn hydrants for watering the grass and plants, as well as a water pipe into the barn. A gasoline engine will do all of the pumping and will at the same time run a small dynamo for the purpose of lighting all of the buildings at small cost, with electricity. The barn is planned for utility, strong and convenient and with an eye to the needs of the farmer and the farmer's wife, and attractive.

Because the soil was virgin and absolutely dry when taken over, the first year will be given to the conservation of moisture by a thoroughly cultivated fallow, and the first crop will be harvested in 1913. This spring enough of a crop will be sown to demonstrate that crops cannot be grown successfully the first year, or until enough moisture has been stored in the earth.

Coquille Man Shot.

Coquille, Jan. 14.—W. Root of Beaver Hill Junction shot and instantly killed Charles Wilcox, roadmaster of the local railroad, on the street here, sending three bullets from a 30-30 rifle

through his body. He then surrendered to a deputy sheriff and was locked up in the county jail. Two of Foots' sons, also armed, were near the scene of the tragedy when the shooting took place. It is said that Wilcox who had lived with the Foot family for a time had wronged the daughter of the house and that the slayer will plead the unwritten law in his defense.

Trouble has been feared for some days and rumor has it that the deputy prosecutor of this county has been investigating the matter for the past week. The killing was evidently premeditated as Foot and his two sons fully armed had been seen on the street apparently awaiting the appearance of Wilcox, for some little time before the shooting took place.

Mr. White Speaks at O. A. C.

Corvallis, Ore., Jan. 15.—Dr. Calvin S. White, secretary of the State Board of Health, delivered a convocation address before the students of the Oregon Agricultural College, Friday. The military drill usually given at that time as well as other classes, were set forward one day in order to accommodate Dr. White.

German Skaters Drowned.

Emden, Germany, Jan. 15.—Twenty-seven drowned and several are missing as the result of ice breaking in the river Ems while hundreds were skating today.

Pasadena Hotel Burned.

Pasadena, Jan. 15.—The Pasadena hotel, one of the prominent winter resorts for the wealthy, was totally destroyed by fire last night. The loss is \$125,000. The guests lost an additional \$50,000 in money and jewelry. Detective wiring caused the conflagration.

SAVED THE NORTHWEST.

Dr. Whitman Kept It From Being
Traded to England.

But for the foresight, it is said, of a missionary this country would have "traded off" to Great Britain that immense territory that now forms two of the greatest states of the northwest—Oregon and Washington. Marcus Whitman had crossed the plains and the mountains to Oregon and knew from a year's residence the value of the country. He also knew that the Hudson Bay company was anxious to obtain possession of the whole northwest and had circulated the report that it was impossible for emigrants to cross the mountains in wagons.

At a dinner given in 1842, at which Dr. Whitman and several of the company's chief officers were present, news was received that a band of British emigrants had crossed the mountains. Toasts were drunk in honor of the event. "Now the Americans may whistle—the country is ours!" one of the Englishmen is reported to have exclaimed jubilantly.

But Whitman thought otherwise. The next day he started for Washington on horseback. He made the journey in winter and with frozen limbs called on Daniel Webster, then secretary of state. Upon his presentation of the situation Whitman was gruffly told by Webster that the country was worthless and that he, as secretary of state, was about to trade that "worthless region" for valuable concessions with reference to the Newfoundland fisheries.

Flushing that a treaty had already been approved by the senate and was awaiting formal ratification and proclamation by President Tyler, Dr. Whitman sought the president. When the missionary had finished his story the president said: "Sir, your frozen limbs attest your sincerity. Can you take emigrants across the mountains in wagons?" "Give me six months and I will take 1,000 across," answered the doctor. "If you can take them across," added Tyler, "the treaty shall not be ratified."

In 1843 a band of emigrants under the guidance of the doctor started from Missouri for Oregon. A deputation from the Hudson Bay company met them on the plains, advising them that it was impossible for them to cross the mountains in their wagons. The emigrants decided to leave their wagons and finish the journey on horseback.

As this course would have ruined Whitman's plan of saving the country to the United States, he labored with the leaders of the band until they consented to follow the doctor's advice and guidance. The band did cross the mountains in their wagons, the treaty was not ratified, and the fertile northwest was saved to the United States.—New York Herald.

His Protest.

Mrs. Benham before you married me you said that I was a queen. Benham—Well, I no longer believe in a monarchial form of government.—Chicago News

BRETON PEASANTS.

They Always Treat a Stranger With
Generous Hospitality.

In Brittany all peasants carry their own knives, and, as for forks, they have no use for them. George Wharton Edwards tells in "Brittany and the Bretons" of a visit to an inn where he met with the proverbial Breton hospitality.

An old withered Breton woman sat at the fireside busily knitting at a jersey of blue wool, and three men sat at a table playing some sort of game with dominoes. The men gave no apparent heed to our entrance, but I knew we were being discussed in their patois.

We asked for bread, butter and a pitcher of cider, which was forthcoming, but no knives were brought. Noting our predicament, the three men at once produced their knives, immense horn handled affairs, and after wiping them very carefully and considerably on their coat sleeves they opened and proffered them to us.

"And now, madame," said I, "what shall I pay you?" "Five sous for the cider, m'sieur. There is no charge for the bread, for is not that the gift of bon Dieu?"

Thus it is throughout this strange land of Brittany. One may travel from end to end away from the large cities and everywhere meet with the same hospitality. The peasant will willingly share with you what he has in the cupboard and will not ask for pay.

I left an offering of silver upon the window sill among the balls of woolen yarn. I noticed that the act was not lost upon the old Bretonne, who when she caught my eye gave me a charming courtesy and a smiling "Merci, m'sieur."

THE ROCK PTARMIGAN.

A Bird of Storms and Ice, Raw Mists
and Bleak Winds.

In order to make the acquaintance of the ptarmigan it is necessary either to journey into the snows and ice of the far north or to climb up to the very highest glacier valleys among the frozen peaks of the Rockies or Cascades, where circumpolar conditions are reproduced. While this curious bird is essentially a subarctic type, it is occasionally found among the isolated fields of eternal snow as far south as Colorado and northern New Mexico.

The rock ptarmigan is a bird of storms and ice and raw mists and bleak winds. In the summer gray as the rocks among which he lives, in winter white as the swirling snows in the midst of which he survives after every other feathered living thing, save only the fearless eagle, has fled to the lower valleys.

His brother, the willow ptarmigan, lives lower down by 500 or 1,000 feet, among the dwarfed shrubs which mark the upper edges of tree life, and, while similar in size and structure, is of a less somber plumage and more friendly disposition than the ghostly gray specter of the upper world, the rock ptarmigan. The males of the willow ptarmigan especially are beautiful birds, brownish gray upon the backs and wings, with rich reddish brown throats almost chestnut in color and dazzling white breasts.—Country Life in America.

Violins Old and New.

There is a general impression that very old violins and violoncellos are much superior in tone to similar instruments of modern construction. The point was debated by a number of Paris musicians, who decided in favor of the modern instrument. Six ancient violoncellos were chosen, including a Stradivarius, a Theckler, a Cappa, a Pressenda and a Guarnerius, together with six modern instruments. These were played alternately by Senor Casals, who was hidden from sight, the instruments being indicated to the jury by a number and marks awarded according to beauty of tone. The modern instruments aggregated 1,484 marks and the ancient instruments only 883, although the six ancient cellos represented a value of \$6,000 and the modern ones \$160.—London Express.

A Chinese Columbus.

According to a Chinese chronicler, Hui Sen, who lived in the sixth century of the Christian era, North America was known to the Chinese under the name of Fusang or Fusu. It was said to be a continent lying 6,500 miles to the east of Asia. The chronicler states that in the year 453 five Buddhist priests sailed from China for Fusu, landing in Mexico, where they taught their religion to the natives, built temples and set up enormous statues of their gods all over the country. Traces of a Mongolian civilization have been found in Mexico. There exists in particular a statue of a god resembling not the Aztec god, but one of the grotesque deities of the Chinese.—Harper's.

Deceit.

'Tis a cowardly and servile humor to hide and disguise a man's self under a false and not to dare to show himself what he is. By that our followers are trained up to treachery. Being brought up to speak what is not true, they make no conscience of a lie.—Montaigne.

A Pen Pen.

Assistant Editor—Here is an article submitted by a convict in the penitentiary who signs merely with his prison number. Editor—Doubtless that's his "pen" name.—Kansas City Star.

Nothing more completely baffles one who is full of trick and duplicity than straightforward and simple integrity in another.—Cotton.

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"I have here a poem."
"Is it a poem of any serious purpose?" inquired the editor of the High-brow Magazine.
"It is, sir. It was written to pay my board bill with."—Kansas City Journal

Humility

If thou wouldst find much favor and peace with God and man be very low in thine own eyes. Forgive thyself little and others much.—Archbishop Leighton

BLACK PARTY COGITATES

(Continued from Page One.)

Mayor Church was in lower nine.

Lower 10.—"In lower ten there was nothing doing. That fellow was a queer guy. He nearly forgot to go to bed, but when he did go he was motionless all the rest of the night. I guess that fellow was a newspaper man from the way he acted."

"In number 11, lower, a man was talking about some river side addition and he said he would prove to the skeptical that he named that addition correctly and the recent high water will prove it."

William Miller was in lower 11.
"In upper 10 that man was worrying about the price of hogs."

Fred Gaskill was in upper ten.
"Upper six had a man who took things easily. He relaxed and said he didn't give a pound of rancid lard what happened."

This was Jim Russell's berth.
"In number seven a man by the name of Kiddle was bucking the wheat market all night and often repeated that the price of that cereal was on the decline."

"In upper five that man Cleaver was quoting apple statistics all night and remarked that he was going to send Grande apples around the world."

"But say, Boss, the man in upper four has some idea of things. He made as good a speech as Bryan ever made in which he assailed the trusts, upheld the Oregon system until he got to single tax and then he indulged in ridicule. My notion is that this man would make a great race for something or other."

Senator Pierce was the occupant of upper four.

"In upper eight that man Wood was a happy sleeper. Do you know I like such passengers as he is. He said the worst of the storm was over, no danger of the basements filling and he proposed to spend a week kicking up his heels." This was Mac Woods' berth.

"In upper three there was a man who has a load on his mind. He talked of commercial clubs and what was

best for the community." P. S. Robinson, president of the La Grande Commercial club, occupied upper three.

We called the ebony brother's attention to the drawing room which he had overlooked. "O, yes, Boss, that couple in the drawing room. They talked about a honeymoon trip long delayed." Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Foley were occupants of the drawing room.

The party arrived in Portland on time without mishap. We all lined up at Uncle Phil Metchan's bar, no grill, for it was Sunday in Portland.

Personnel of the Party.

W. J. Church, mayor of La Grande; Geo. L. Cleaver, president Thronson Fruit company; Chas. E. Cochran, city attorney; Geo. T. Cochran, state water commissioner; Geo. H. Curry, real estate; John Collier, president People's store; Bruce Dennis, editor

and owner La Grande Evening Observer; J. E. Foley, proprietor Foley hotel; Fred D. Gaskill, stock raiser and farmer; Fred J. Holmes, president La Grande National bank; Ed. Kiddle, president La Grande Milling company; F. L. Meyers, cashier La Grande National bank; Wm. Miller, vice president United States National Bank; Dr. N. Molitor, physician and surgeon; Walter M. Pierce, proprietor Hot Lake sanatorium; E. Polack, proprietor City Grocery and Bakery; Julius Roesch, proprietor La Grande brewery; P. S. Robinson, Wenaha Lumber company, president La Grande Commercial club. James A. Russell, president Grande Ronde Meat company; B. M. Sherwood, proprietor Isis theatre; Mac Wood, president, the Golden Rule company; Fred Duff, bakery; Sam Brooks, rancher.

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