

THE OBSERVER

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THE BOYS FROM O. A. C.

La Grande and vicinity last evening filled the Steward theatre to hear the O. A. C. Mandolin and Glee clubs. The bunch of boys who came as representatives of one of the great schools of the coast laid no claims to being musicians, no, no, they are far too useful in this world to fool their time away on a mandolin or guitar, but they do just a little of that flossy work to make college days go smoothly. To rave over their music would do those husky lads an injustice, to applaud them as showmen would be an insult. But we all applauded them, not for their musical ability, not for the entertainment they put up, but because they were our boys—great big, good natured, honest boys who are down at Corvallis working to learn in order that they may be men of Oregon. And they represent a school that no one must underrate. It is a fine place for a boy or a girl. They teach the common things in life down at Cor-

vallis, and throw in a little mandolin tickling and a little singing and trombone work to season up the regular study diet. They teach patriotism down there also, which is not to be overlooked. And when the great finale of the show was pulled last evening and the young huskies sang "The Star Spangled Banner" and the American flag swung down from the ceiling, why, that scene alone was worth the price of admission. It could not be measured in money for it had an effect on everyone present. Old men who had not saluted the flag for many months, women who had not looked at a flag since the Fourth of July, small children who had never heard the patriotic story of blood and tears and heartaches caused to make "Old Glory" stood and saluted the old emblem last night at the O. A. C. concert and went home feeling better—feeling more hopeful, because they realized once more they have a country and a flag.

We like the O. A. C. and the way it does things, and when the boys come back on their annual tour La Grande will again fill the opera house, not to hear the mandolin music, which, after all, was only intended for lovesick lovers, but to see the boys, to meet them and partake of their buoyancy and patriotism.

THE RECALL OF JUDGES.

Senator Elihu Root's denial of the wisdom of incorporating a recall of judges in state constitutions will meet the ideas of many who have viewed with feelings akin to horror the growing agitation for a closer relationship between the courts and the people and the impatience which has been manifested because of some court decisions. His expression also will coincide with the views of the conservatives who believe that the curbs under the present system represent the bulwark of liberty and who are of the opinion that the recall of judges will result in mobocracy and the appeal of passion overriding the sane judgment of the people.

Senator Root points out the dangers, as he sees them, in providing a recall of judges. He says:

"Upon the preservation of the law as it is at every moment in its course of continuous change and development the preservation of order, the prevention of anarchy, the perpetuity of free institutions, the continuance of liberty and justice, matters of infinitely greater concern than all the new proposals which excite the activity and controversy of parties and political leaders, of critics, and reformers. If this view is to be changed and the decisions of our courts are to be considered in the same way and upon the same presumptions and with no greater respect for authority than in the case of political opinions, the authority of the court will inevitably decline, the independence of the judicial branch will cease, judicial decision will interpret the law always to suit the majority of the moment, and the recall will be the natural and logical expression of the relation to be assumed between the people and the courts.

There is no doubt that courts in years gone by have given decisions which did not meet the wishes the ma-

majority and it is undeniable that if a recall had existed at the time some of the state's leading jurists might have been removed. Since that time public opinion has changed until it has fallen in line with the wisdom of these decisions. If those judges had been recalled, an irreparable injury would have been done the commonwealth. It is this side of the question which represents one of the strongest arguments against the recall of judges and Senator Root emphasizes his fear in this regard by pointing out the possible errors that may be made in attempting to inter-majORITY instead of upon the fundamental law to suit the opinion of the mental principles of jurisprudence.

FARMING IN THE SCHOOLS.

Relative to a subject that has been frequently discussed in Oregon—that of teaching agriculture in the public schools—Elbert Hubbard, in his usual classical and unique manner, prints the following which is too good to let go by unnoticed. Hubbard says: "Doctor Bowsher, the celebrated psychologist, says that 'all of the common sense we ever possess we acquire before we are 14 years of age; after that, the case is hopeless.' We fight every innovation, every new idea and clutch with a death-grasp the prejudices and the notions that we have acquired in youth. Death is the great deliverer, and Thomas Carlyle well said 'Death is the most joyfulest thing in life.' Without death there could not possibly be any progress. There is only one cure for mental ankylosis, and that is the grave. Contumely, persecution, disgrace and death are the things required to set men free. And so in these Corn Clubs, which mean practically a doubling of production per acre the appeal has been made to the farm boys, and so subtly and wisely and discreetly has the plan been carried out that the best farmers now are those who were in-



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