

**THE OBSERVER**

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EDITOR AND OWNER

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**THE LAST WEEK OF SCHOOL.**

This is the closing week of school. Every adult reader will remember the thrill that used to pass over all urchins when the closing days of the term arrived. He will remember how the fishing hole and the swimming pool stood before him every hour during the last week and when the last bell for the year had rung and teachers bid goodbye to pupils how joyful everything seemed.

But schools are different nowadays and pupils are a little different. Where children once hailed with delight the last day they were to pass in the poorly ventilated, poorly constructed school house, now many of them rather regret when that day arrives. For today the buildings are modern, the heating and ventilation is as near perfect as man can make. School opens with classical music from the most scientific graphophone made. The buzz of the saw and the click of the hammer in the manual training department tells a story of recreation and interest rather than burdensome books. The cooking de-

partment for the girls, where electric plates are used along with every other modern device takes away the gloom that used to enshroud the reader, the speller and the arithmetic. And added this year to the La Grande schools is the most modern stereopticon that money can buy. Beautiful pictures and busts of great artists ornament walls which used to be bleak and bare. It is little wonder that the child of today rather regrets when school is out.

**SOUTH LA GRANDE AS A HOME DISTRICT**

To enjoy La Grande in its fullest and best sense one should take a ride or walk through South La Grande. Notice the beautiful green grass, the shrubs, fill your nostrils with the rich odor from blossoms everywhere. Look at the homelike homes, the South La Grande as a residence section has not exactly been overlooked. Restful lawns and the shady nooks, but all that is needed is paved streets, good sidewalks and perhaps some means of transportation to make it come into its own.

**MORE SEA PRECAUTION.**

Another test of searchlights as sea guards of transoceanic travel will be made, according to reports to the Chicago headquarters of the League for Public Safety, practically the only ocean-going vessels carrying searchlights today being those in the Anglo-Australasian service. The Royal Edward of the Atlantic fleet owned by the Canadian Northern Railway will be equipped with a searchlight for the purpose of making a thorough test of its advantages. Some years ago the Cunard line equipped the Caronia with a searchlight but it was quickly abandoned and no further experiments were made. The Royal line voluntarily has decided to maintain a wireless service throughout twenty-four hours and also will continue to equip its steamers with life boats and life rafts in excess of the British requirements. "In addition to the 16 standard life boats demanded by law," the report declares, "the Royal line will have a smaller boat and four collapsible ones together with several rafts." A test also will be made on the Royal Edward of a device called a micro-thermometer, an invention of Professor H. T. Barnes of the McGill University, which was designed to automatically report on a dial in the chart room when icebergs are in the vicinity.

**A MAN OF THE WILDERNESS.**

An 'Agent for the wilderness' has been produced in Chicago by the annual problem of vacations, a lifelong love for the sylvan solitudes having urged H. C. McCartney, of the Chicago Athletic Club to become a "soliteer for primeval forests and rivers." He not only makes it a point to get into the midst of the solitudes himself but systematically turns missionary to induce as many other men as possible to

go as he goes and where he goes. Possibly no other man in the country has located so many retreats of the trout and muskellunge as he. This year at his camp at the head waters of the Mississippi he expects to discover some new ones. "The end of the trail" for him will lead to the divide whence one can go to tide water either north or south as he elects. He has assembled there a "wilderness library" that embraces about everything written about the great outdoors and its denizens. However, Mr. McCartney has learned that one can dispense with some things primeval and still enjoy the primeval, consequently his lodge has bathrooms, its porch has screens against the misquitos and a cow and vegetable garden are adornments of the landscape. Years of experience have taught him how to make a canoe comfortable with caned seat and backs, and how to outfit for an outing without missing the things that are most needed in camp. "My camp is located where the first land on the continent emerged from the prehistoric floods," he said, "so it really was the beginning as it is now the need of the trail. There is where the fish bite best, but better yet to me there lies the wilderness, out of whose silent, restful soul we once came, unto which, as of instinct, we turn when in need of comfort and restoration."

**NOTES FROM THE LABOR WORLD**

Women take the place of newboys in many of the streets of Spanish towns.

The number of wage earners in the United States has increased 40.4 per cent since 1899.

The California Drug Clerk's association enjoys the distinction of being the only pharmaceutical organization in the United States maintaining a sick and death benefit fund.

The recent strike of grave diggers at the Glasgow (Scotland) cemeteries was settled and the men returned to work, after the companies had conceded to them an increase of 1 shilling a week.

A bill providing for an eight-hour day has been passed by the French chamber of deputies. This action, it is believed will have the effect of forestalling a general strike in that country.

At the end of 1910 there were 669 registered trade unions in the United Kingdom, with a membership of about with a membership of 211,091 in 156 unions in 1880.

More than eighty thousand railroad employes are killed or injured in the United States in a year. Every six minutes, day or night, a railroad employe is killed or injured, every two hours one is killed.

Organization among the cooks of Chicago is showing exceptional return. The various cooks' associations, which heretofore have been purely local and benevolent organizations, are now looking toward the international union for relief.

Among recent bills signed by Governor Dix were eight measures recommended by the New York state factory investigating commission, designed to provide better protection for factory employes, including compulsory fire drills and the registration of all factories and owners.

Public school teachers throughout the country receive less on an average than \$500 a year for their services, or about \$3 a day for the actual number of days taught, or at the rate of \$1.60 a day for the actual working days of the year, according to the annual report of the Commissioner of Education.

**Sons of American Revolution.**

Boston, Mass., May 20.—Boston is entertaining for two days a large gathering of men whose proud boast it is that they are descended from revolutionary stock. The occasion of the gathering is the 23rd annual congress of the National Society of Sons of the American Revolution, which began today with headquarters at the Hotel Somerset. The business sessions of the congress are being held in Faneuil hall and the Old South Meeting House.

**G. A. R. of West Virginia.**

Mannington, W. V., May 20.—This city is in holiday attire for the annual reunion of the Department of West Virginia, Grand Army of the Republic. The reunion will be opened tomorrow and continued until Friday. Indications point to a large attendance of veterans and their friends from all parts of the state.

**A WASHINGTON STORY.**

**General Gassaway Saw the Great Man in a Comic Situation**

A correspondent favors us with this unpublished anecdote about George Washington, obtained from a manuscript autobiography:

"In the spring of 1844 I met in company with General Louis Gassaway at Annapolis, Md., then clerk of the district court, by whom I was informed that in the Revolutionary war he was an aide-de-camp to Washington. I will let General Gassaway relate the anecdote himself:

"In the winter of 1779 and 1780, called the 'hard winter,' the American army went into winter quarters at Morristown, N. J. General Washington and his staff had their headquarters at the farmhouse of one Gabriel Ford, a large and convenient establishment. One severely cold night, about 2 o'clock, there was an unusual bustle at headquarters. I lodged below on the first floor and soon learned the cause of the stir. General Washington ran to the head of the stairs in his night dress with a pistol in each hand and called to me to know the cause of the uproar.

"A soldier on guard, sir, has been frozen at his post and brought into quarters."

"See that the poor fellow is well cared for and change the guard every hour," was the humane reply.

"To see a man six feet high in his night clothes with a pistol in each hand for a slight alarm of the night guard bordered so near on the ludicrous that I could not easily keep my equanimity to answer the great general of the American army with becoming respect."—Army and Navy Journal.

**TOE UP THE BODY.**

It Will Help to Fortify Your System Against Serious Illness.

There is a saying, much wiser and cheaper than it seems at first glance, to the effect that "you won't get sick if you keep well." It is a half jesting way of setting forth a profound truth.


The risks and exposures of life are so many and so insidious that they cannot be escaped. The only hope of passing through them unharmed is to keep the body so strong and sound that it can defend itself against the diseases which are constantly lying in wait for the unguarded and the weak.

It is a mere commonplace to say that one man will take exactly the same course and face precisely the same risks that another man finds fatal and go entirely unscathed. Sometimes it is a difference born in the two organisms, but often it is the result of different living and different conditions in respect to strength and health.

If the body is maintained at a high state of efficiency and if care is taken to overcome and correct the little disorders and signs of trouble as soon as they appear there is not much danger of a serious illness. The small precautions and the constant toning up of the body by exercise, fresh air, sensible eating and drinking and abstention from all excesses and follies ward off prolonged and often desperate struggles against disease.

It is the principle of the old adage, "A stitch in time saves nine." The same rule applies to the care of health.—Cleveland Leader.

The New York City team is the sensation of the International league, and the I. O. O. F. will have to start pretty soon if they expect to hold the skeeters back with the bunch.



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**For Murder During Lowell Strike.**

Salem, Mass., May 20.—A special venire of 100 jurymen reported to the Essex county court here today in readiness for the trial of the several men indicted on a murder charge as a result of the killing of a woman in the street riots during the recent textile strike in Lowell. Joseph Caruso, who is accused of having fired the fatal shot, is to be tried as principal and Joseph J. Ettor, a socialist editor and agitator, and his assistant, Giovanniotti, are to be tried as accessories.

**Coffe Men Going to Brazil.**

New York, May 20.—A delegation of ten member of the American Coffee Roasters' Traffic and Pure Food association sailed on the steamer Vasaria today for Brazil to investigate the plantations in that country with a view of bringing about a system of co-operation among the coffee dealers of America and Brazil, where 3-4 of the coffee imported into the United States is grown. The visit of the Americans is in response to an invitation from the Brazil government.

**Contempt Cases Draw Near.**

San Diego, Cal., May 20.—Judge Guy has set Wednesday as the time for J. M. Porter, one of the 16 citizens named in the affidavits of Moore and Robbins, the I. W. W. attorneys, as having threatened them, to appear and show why he is not in contempt of court, if he made the threats as alleged.

**Advertising Men Meet in Dallas.**

Dallas, Tex., May 20.—A record breaking attendance marked the opening here today of the annual convention of the Associated Advertising Clubs of America. President George W. Coleman called the gathering to order and addresses of welcome were delivered by Governor Colquitt and Mayor Holland.

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