

THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS
EDITOR AND OWNER.

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THE FAIR AND THE PEOPLE.

There are few things that bind people closer together than a good county fair. It is an inspiration to raise good products, to better the livestock and to exhibit to those who come the best that the county affords. The man who works year in and year out at ranching has a pardonable pride in something special he produces, for he believes it is among the best that can be produced. It is this feeling that has brightened every strain of blood, that has increased the quality of the grain and increased its production. In fact everyone who has anything to do with the soil is a Luther Burbank in a way and everyone who raises livestock is a fancy breeder. This come through human instinct which prompts us to do a little better each year.

The county fair is the meeting place the exhibit hall, the show window for all these products. It is the one place where the Sandridge man and the Cove man can meet and place the products side by side and talk over the good points. It is the place the Wallowa county man and the Catherine creek man can show their colts, their hogs and their calves. That is the agricultural feature. Then what about the entertaining feature. In these late years since fairs have been more or less supplanted by other meetings few people get to see a good horse. And what is better, more exciting and better for the red corpuscles in the blood than to see a lot of horses making the race down the stretch? What will make the ladies lose their dignity and yell loud and long, just as nature intended they should, more than a closely contested final? What will cause old men to climb on the backs of seats and forget they are old, more than to see the ponies go?

There is no amusement anywhere equal to a horse race. Now don't you think horse racing means gambling, for it does not. It means energetic contest of muscle where blood counts for everything.

All of these things go to make a good fair—such as La Grande is going to have in September. And the people will attend from all sections. People want a good old county fair. Already the appreciation of efforts along that line convinces one that the appreciation is sufficiently strong to insure a splendid success of the first annual meeting.

COUNTY ROADS.

Just now when the subject of good roads is at a warm point of discussion, it is a good idea to think of what Union county has in the way of roads, and count out blessings as far as they go.

There are no other counties in Eastern Oregon that boast of macadam

highways. Think of that. Union county has the only stretch of macadam, yet many of us will complain bitterly about roads and there are time in the year when valley roads are so bad that complaint is justified. But this is comparatively a new country and good roads are expensive. Be thankful for the start that we have. The road from La Grande to Perry is first class and it is constructed in a place where it was no easy task to make a good road.

With what the court has had to do with, there is no question about the good results obtained. And unless the county bonds itself or in some other way acquires large sums of money to spend upon roads we cannot better than follow the movement that has been started—of making a few miles of road and make it right.

HOW THE SCOUT VIEWS IT.

After reprinting the Evening Observer's article on issuing of more licenses in the city of La Grande the Union Scout comments as follows:

The Observer is right when it asks for a restricted number of saloons. There is such a thing as too much of anything. Under the Home Rule provision, every city had the right to limit the number of saloons in proportion to the population. The number of saloons were suggested by competent members of the organization. This was done in order to prevent a condition of dives that existed before so many counties in the state went dry. That was the extreme condition of affairs that drove the state dry. Then after the counties went dry the blind pig and the bootlegger began operations. Ultra-prohibitionists became more excited than ever before. There was reason why they should. Before, it had been a contest between the full-grown man and the rum seller. After prohibitions the youth was pitted against the boot-legger; a very unequal contest. The boot-legger was gone if he was caught. All he had to do was to sell whiskey and dodge the issue. It required too many officers to hold him in check. The system of Home Rule, to control the liquor traffic, was then adopted. Everywhere it was recommended to suppress the dive and restrict the number of saloons. For a time towns and cities kept the faith. Of late, there have been many infractions. It has not been the intention of the different cities to make mistakes but they have grown care-

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less. The grave danger in the admission of too many saloons lies in the fact that some of them will necessarily have to resort to the tactics of the dive to keep from starving. One dive and they are all dives. At least they might as well be.

The solution of the liquor problem is a hard one to master. Through all of the different ages wise men have sought for some method to suppress the use of intoxicating drinks only to fail. Later they have sought to restrict and regulate the use, manufacture and sale of all intoxicants, and, with greater success. Under the Home Rule system it was declared best to limit the number of saloons in each community to a reasonable number consistent with the population. The license was placed at a price to keep out the dive and low down joint. For some time this rule was strictly enjoined, but of late the cities have inclined to increase their revenues by enlarging on the saloons. That might be all right except for the evil that is sure to follow. If too many licenses are permitted the saloon will merge into the dive. The result will be to throw the entire state into the ranks of so-called prohibition. It will be prohibition in name only. The dive-keeper and the boot-legger will thrive and the reliable saloon man be forced out of business. Then we have the

law breaker instead of the man who puts up a substantial bond which is a guarantee that he will obey the law or pay well for each infraction. These

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are gentle hints that every city council should heed before granting too many saloon licenses. The liquor license of each city pays for suitable guard to watch the liquor business and leaves a nice little surplus in the treasury. The motto should be to let well enough alone and not spoil the whole thing by being too greedy.

Administrator's Notice. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN That the undersigned has been appointed administration of the estate of William Earls, deceased, and all persons

having claims against said estate must present the same, duly verified, to the undersigned at the store of Henry & Carr in La Grande, Oregon, within six months from the date of this notice.

Dated this 19th day of July, 1912. J. J. CARR, Administrator of the estate of William Earls, Deceased. GEO. T. COCHRAN, Attorney for Administrator. July 19-26 Aug 2-9

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