

THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS EDITOR AND OWNER

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IS THERE A DEAD LINE?

The other day a successful editor remarked that the average man over 40 years was useless to the advancement of the world, too old to do things, too conservative to dare.

There is much to be said on both sides of the question. One may remark that Alexander conquered the world before he was 30, but Napoleon was beaten by a man past 40 and Jackson was 45 at the battle of New Orleans.

Joan of Arc dies at 20, having done her work, but Mrs. Eddy was a failure at 50 and afterwards founded a world's religion. If Chatterton dies at 20 and Bryant wrote "Thanatopsis" at 19 and Poe's genius was complete under 40, still Longfellow published "Hiawatha" at 48, Tennyson published "Idylls" at 49, Dante's "Divine Comedy" appeared at about his 50th year and Milton's "Paradise Lost" close to his 60th.

Lincoln was near 50 at the time of the debates of Douglass, which can almost be said to have begun his career and John Brown was 59 when he led the raid which was to ransom a race. Peary was 53 shores of America. Darwin at 50 barely got into the 'Who's Who' of his day, but then came "The Origin of Species," and later "The Descent of Man," and Darwin's became the great name of the 19th century.

Jefferson was only 33 when he wrote the declaration, but certainly he cannot be said to have weakened much after 40, while Adams was 41, Morris was 42 and Franklin was 60 at the signing of the declaration of independence. Washington was 44 at the time. It was the youthful Hamilton who was the conservative at the making of the constitution, not the elders of the revolution.

But it is claimed that it is the new things which the man of 40 fails to attempt, that while Shakespeare and Wagner did their big things both before and after this imaginary "dead line," they were not equal to "starting something." This is only a way of saying that a man is apt to build

upon the foundation he has laid, but yet DeMaurier, a life-long cartoonist, turned author at 50 and wrote "Tribby." Michelangelo turned his attention to engineering at 55 in order to fortify Florence, and at 70 took up a new branch of art successfully.

Tom Johnson, though a phenomenally successful man at 40, did his great work and fought his great fight after that age, forsaking his early ambition and ideas. And now comes Woodrow Wilson, 56, whose entry into the husky fighting demanded by reform politics is within the memory of our primary school children.

Of course, in a certain way, the statement of the successful editor quoted above is true. The "average man" of 40 is incapable of doing big and new things, but so is the "average man" of 20. The moral is, don't be an average man. But to the man who is capable and willing, gifted with ordinary common sense and man grit, he need not settle back because he is 40. As a matter of fact, he is just getting able to do things.

A woman's idea of comfort in her best clothes is to be able to breathe without actually getting red in the face.

In Columbus, Ohio, the other day during a thunderstorm, lightning played a freak by turning on in the home of a family absent for the summer all the electric lights. Can you imagine the feelings of the head of that house when he returns in the fall and faces that light bill?

The statement has gone forth that the mint is about to be adopted as the favorite flower of the Roosevelt party, which is making a sure enough strong bid for the Kentucky vote

A New York pastor has placed the ban on lead coins found in the contribution. He does not want holy money.

It is claimed that there has been discovered in Chicago a politician who never told a lie. The dime museums are just yawning for that man.

NEVER CROSSED THE OCEAN.

But That Didn't Keep Him From Giving His Novel a Salt Sea Flavor.

The story is told by the bookman of how a certain novel which was popular three or four years ago got its setting.

"When the story was being planned the author, who has since achieved a literary position of considerable importance, though not as a novelist, could not hit upon just the right background. He needed a setting that would hold his three principal characters, a woman and two men, together for a period of ten or twelve days, despite the fact that the complications of the tale itself would inevitably have moved one or the other of the men to immediate departure.

"He told a friend of his dilemma. 'Why,' said the mentor, 'put them on board a slow going transatlantic liner, one of the new-boats.' But," retorted the novelist, 'I have never crossed the ocean and know nothing about transatlantic liners.' 'That,' said the other, 'is a matter of easy remedy. The sails at 10 tomorrow morning. Let us go down at 9 and put an end to your troubles.' 'The next day the two visited the ship in question, the author asking

FAIR WARNING-- THE END IS NEAR!

"The biggest saving event of the season closes Saturday night."

Buy While You Have The Opportunity To Save So Much ON SEASONABLE MERCHANDISE

Table with 4 columns: HALF PRICE SALE of LADIES' SUITS, LADIES' COATS, WOOL DRESSES, DRESS SKIRTS; MID-SEASON SALE of Entire line Men's and Boys' Clothing; ANNUAL SALE OF FINE OXFORDS AND PUMPS; HALF PRICE SALE of FINE MILLINERY.

Come Today--Next week will be too late

"You know what a sale at West's means."

N. K. WEST THE QUALITY STORE

questions of his friend and making observations and notes. The smoking room was studied carefully as being just the place for the fight and certain remote corners of the decks as suitable scenes for discreet and fervent courtship. Before the clanging of the gong, with its 'All ashore who are going ashore' message, the novelist closed his notebook with the manner of a man whose task is finished.

BRUSHED THE LAW ASIDE.

The Way Witches Were Tried in Massachusetts in 1692.

When the witchcraft delusion of 1692 seized the province of Massachusetts the people would not wait for the workings of the established tribunal of justice. It was too slow to suit them. So they cried out for a special court to hustle along the trial of witches, and Governor Phipps meekly yielded to the clamor and named seven judges to conduct the trials.

It was distinctly a popular court and was controlled absolutely by the popular will. Not a single one of the seven judges was a lawyer. Two of the judges were clergymen, two were physicians, and three were merchants. The common law was thrown aside, rules of evidence were ignored, and the judges and juries were left untrammelled by any "quibbles of the law" to follow their own feelings and the popular will.

Says Washburn in his "Judicial History of Massachusetts": "The trials were but a form of executing popular vengeance. Juries were intimidated by the frowns and persuasions of the court and by the outbreaks of the multitude that crowded the place of trial to render verdicts against their own consciences and judgment." He cites one case, that of Rebecca Nurse, in which the jury actually had the courage to bring in a verdict of not guilty, whereupon "the accusers raised a great outcry and the judges were overcome by the clamor." The jury was sent back, returned with a verdict of guilty, and the woman was accordingly executed.—Boston Herald.

The Common Fraction. Her Husband—The census officials state that the average family consists of four and a fraction persons. How do you account for the fraction? His Wife—Oh, that is the husband.—Judge.

ADDITIONAL LOCAL AND PERSONAL

Dr. McMillan has returned from Portland.

Complete line summer parasols 1-3 off. Mid summer Clean up sale. The Golden Rule Co.

A very pretty scenic picture made at Point Loma, Cal., at the Arcade tonight and Saturday.

Tonight is the last chance to see the Lannes Sisters, a clear, refined and pretty act. Arcade theatre.

Coffee demonstration at Geddes grocery. Drop in and try a cup. 7-23-12

Mid-summer cleanup sale. The Golden Rule Co. WANTED—Girl for general housework. 2002 Oak St., cor Adams. 7-26-12

FOR SALE—On easy payments a small cottage. Six blocks from the postoffice, or will rent. Halsten's Furniture store. 7-26-12

See Funny John Bunny at the Elite tonight.

See Funny John Bunny at the Elite tonight.

WANTED—Piano pupils by experienced teacher. Red 512. 1705 N. Spruce. 7-25-5tp

FOR RENT—Four room house. Close in. Good garden. Phone Red 3872 or call at 1106 N. avenue. 7-26-12

practic, of Chicago, Ill., adjusts Scientifically and Physiologically, the cause of your disease, giving permanent relief whether Acute or Chronic. Not Drugs, Not Surgery or Osteopathy. Call on him at his parlors, Nos. 18, 19, 20 and 21 in La Grande National Bank building. Free diagnosis.

The W. C. T. U. will have a cooked food sale at Russell's meat market Saturday, July 27th. 7-25-12

"Memories of a Pioneer," a feature film at Sherry's Sunday only.

FOR SALE—Range, kitchen table, floor matting, window shades. Phone Black 3462 or call 1702 First street. 7-26-12

AT SHERRY'S.

Friday and Saturday this popular picture house offers to its patrons a very strong and interesting program, the feature picture by the Rex company, entitled, "The Voice of the Millions," the leading role being played by Marion Leonard.

It is a labor picture setting forth the difference between capital and labor. Happiness was not the issue of the strike, it was bread; not contentment, but life. It was the ancient struggle of the weak many, against the might few, the inefficient millions against the incalculable one.

Their mouths were hungry, their hearts were red with rage and wrong—and their hands might have become that too—but for a girl.

A girl who knew sorrow's misery and pain's distress, a girl who knew the meaning of love of life and fear of death, and the torture of the destitution that exaggerates the one and aggravates the other. Like a Daniel of another sex, she championed their cause. She cautioned, encouraged, guided and guarded them. She taught them patience, forbearance and fortitude. She fought with a fierce, fiery devotion. She organized meeting after meeting, and from the platform she cried their truth to the world, and emphasized the neglected fact that they had as much right to live as he who took the work of their hands and gave them hunger for reward.

Her efforts were not in vain, as the conclusion of the story shows, which will be seen in picturedom at Sherry's Friday and Saturday.

Notice to Contractors.

The La Grande Grocery company at corner of Greenwood and Jefferson will accept sealed bids until July 31st at 5 o'clock p. m. for construction of one story brick and concrete warehouse building. Plans and specifications may be seen on or after July 25 at noon. Owners reserve right to reject any or all bids.

Notice for Sale of Improvement Bonds.

Notice is hereby given that the city of La Grande, Union county, Oregon, will receive sealed proposals for the purchase of improvement bonds in the sum of \$11,378.97, bonds in denomination of \$500.00 each, bearing 6 per cent interest per annum, up to 8 o'clock p. m. Wednesday, July 31, 1912; said proposals to be filed with

the recorder of the city and to be accompanied by a certified check for 5 per cent of the amount bid. The successful bidder will be required to pay for said bonds within ten days after notice that said bonds are ready for delivery.

C. M. HUMPHREYS, Recorder of the City of La Grande. 7-23-12

The Gossard at \$3.50 Is a Real Corset Bargain



The Gossard front lace corset has always sold at \$5, up to this year.

It is worth more than \$5 to the woman who appreciates the style and solid comfort she enjoys in the Gossard—the one right corset.

The great demand for the Gossard has enabled the makers, by doubling their output, to lower the price to \$3.50, while keeping up the high quality that has made the Gossard America's supreme corset.

A complete line always on hand. Price \$3.50 to \$8.50. If you need a new corset telephone Red 3221. MRS. ROBT. PATTISON

We Invite Every housekeeper in Union county to call at the branch Union Tea and Coffee Store, 209 Fir street, and inspect the best cooking combination ever made. 5 Articles in One. Combination Casserole FREE! GRAND UNION TEA CO. Le Fevre & Breaden, Props. Phone 3231