

THE OBSERVER

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EDITOR AND OWNER.

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THE FAIR FOR EVERYONE.

Next week La Grande and Union county will open the gates of the new fair grounds which have cost a great deal of money. It will be noticed that the buildings and fences are permanent, also that the track has been made into what is believed to be the fastest half mile track in the Northwest. Nothing has been spared to prepare for the great exposition. Farmers and other business men have donated of their time and money to arrange everything according to the very latest in exposition ground building.

The stables instead of being crude temporary structures frequently found on fair grounds, are well built, perfectly safe and guarantee ample protection for the live stock which will be one of the greatest features of the fair. The pavilion has been planned with an idea of giving the very best display possible to all exhibitors, and the grand stand is built to withstand all kinds of tests. There is no danger of this grand stand giving way with its load of people as has been the case in many places.

Now, as the day draws near for opening, the great question is, "What are you going to exhibit?" There will be many exhibits but the Observer would like to impress upon the pleasure and satisfaction of being able to exhibit something that is among the counties. A fair is nothing more nor less than a show window. If you have good stock see that they are placed on exhibition; if you are able to make anything that looks good be sure and place it in the pavilion. Everything is welcome from the finest imported horse to the potato chips made just a little better by the Grande Ronde housewife.

And remember, throughout this whole event nobody makes any money. It is a great big, glorious community proposition in which all should join to make thoroughly successful. Let not the spirit of jealousy and hatred enter into such an event, for it is the Imbler man's fair, the Summerville man's fair, the Cove man's fair, the Union man's fair as well as every rancher's fair in the valley. Just because it is held in La Grande where it is easier and more convenient to reach, where labor may be had and where transportation facilities are better do not think for a moment it is a La Grande fair, for such is not the case. La Grande can do nothing but attend to the arrangements. She is helpless when the exhibit end is considered, when the live stock feature is mentioned, plainly making this city the place for the fair while the

outside country makes the fair.

THE TEXAS STEER.

A news item a few days ago told of the method of replenishing cattle for the range in Union and Wallowa counties. There is no doubt as to the extreme need of live stock in these two counties for there will be a world of feed this season without sufficient live stock to begin to consume it. But the Texas steer, such as we get in this country, is a peculiar animal and entirely different from the native steer.

Cattle raised on the dry range of Texas have little use for stomachs, hence nature does not go to the trouble of equipping them with a normal sized organ. When shipped to this country it is claimed these cattle have to stay on the Oregon feed for a year before they will begin to take on fat. Then it takes another year to prepare them for market, which does not figure out well to the man who has money invested in them.

It may be better to ship in the Southern cattle than to have no cattle here at all, but it is doubtful if feeders make the money off of that grade of stock that many of them contemplate.

THE ETERNAL ISSUE.

In politics, in economics, in industry—in every branch of human activity, in fact—there is always but one issue:

Shall we go ahead or shall we stand still.

Standing still means stagnation, and stagnation is corruption and decay.

Political issues are simple when you reduce them to this simplest form.

It is nothing new. Emerson described it 70 years ago, and what he said then is as true today:

"The two parties which divide the state—the party of Conservatism and that of Innovation, are very old, and have disputed the possession of the world ever since it was made. This quarrel is the subject of civil history. The conservative party established the reverend hierarchies and monarchies of the most ancient world. The battle of patrician and plebeian, of parent state and colony, of old usage and accommodation to new facts, of the rich and the poor, appears in all countries and times.

"The war rages not only in battle fields, in national courts and ecclesiastical synods, but agitates every man's bosom with opposing advantages every hour.

"On rolls the world meantime, and now one, now the other, gets the day; and still the fight renews itself as if for the first time, under new names and hot personalities.

"There is always a certain meanness in the argument of conservatism, joined with a certain superiority in its fact. It affirms because it holds. Its fingers clutch the fact, and it will not open its eyes to see a better fact.

"Reform is affirmative; conservatism, negative; conservatism goes for comfort; reform for truth.

"Conservatism never puts its foot forward; in the hour when it does that it is not establishment, but reform."

There is epitomized the history of the world. There is brilliantly pic-

tured the struggle of today.

The meanness in conservatism of which Emerson speaks is its selfishness. It has, and it struggles to keep. That it has more than it needs, and that therefore thousands are deprived, does not change its attitude.

Either this, or its sycophancy—the fawning of the little who hope to benefit from the gratitude of those who have and to that end are willing to help turn the screw tighter upon the brow of those who have not.

And between selfishness and sycophancy there is little to choose except that sycophancy is more contemptible because it is more petty.

One Portland paper says the West-Cameron bout has been pulled off, the principals have shaken hands and yet there has been no blood shed. Fine, for Oregon. If the governor will now get down to business and go earnestly at his task as outlined without so much red fire, fuss and feathers he will find he has the hearty support of most people in the state. But Oregon is getting just a little tired of officialdom riding down the pike at the head of a procession simply because the head of the procession wants to be seen and heard.

Big men will smile and little men won't at the assertion of Chicago's chief police matron that 25 years' observation of thousands of desertion cases shows that big men make the best husbands and that 50 per cent of the deserted wives had little men for husbands.

Candidates for office this year must keep within the law in their newspaper support. The newspapers now have nothing to do with it. They simply publish the news.

A Philadelphia man has gone to jail rather than kiss his wife. Most men are in jail because they kissed some other man's wife.

Should say it was a bad season for peaches. High collars and long wide skirts are coming back.

When a man speaks of automobilism as motoring it is a clench that his eldest daughter has been abroad.

MAGIC WATER TOYS.

Wonderful Play Toys That Amuse the Children of the Orient.

Europe and America turn out for the edification of their children many ingenious toys, but the occidental youngsters have nothing to compare with the strange expanding water toys with which the children of the far east have for centuries amused themselves.

These are placed in small wooden boxes similar to the little paint boxes so often seen in our own country. They have the appearance of soiled shavings, broken matches and dilapidated tooth picks, but when thrown into the water the ingenious toys at once exhibit properties that show them to be considerably more than mere bits of stick.

The wood of these toys has been kiln dried, and immediately it touches the water it begins to absorb the water and to expand almost indefinitely. As it increases in size it separates and suddenly opens, becoming a very pretty toy. One stick will change into a dowerpot containing, it may be, a rose bush in full bloom. Another becomes an obese mandarin carrying an umbrella. Still another will take the form of a sea serpent, very ferocious in its tiny dimensions.

Then, too, there are toys which show as whales, tigers, crocodiles, etc. The figures are colored and present a bewildering variety in design and treatment. Their manufacture is a trade secret, kept inviolate by the guild that turns them out by the thousands.

For older children there are provided larger and even more artistic figures, consisting of historical characters—rulers, poets and soldiers—and dwarfed trees and tiny houses, whose doors and windows are full of inmates, are also among this class. The more ordinary kind cost a mere song, but the finer toys are quite expensive.—New York Press.

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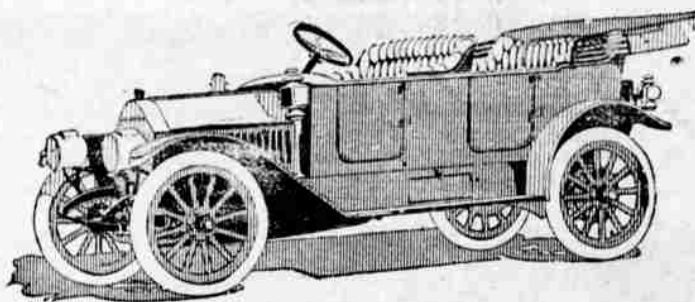
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