

THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS
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SPEAKING IN THE STREETS.

San Diego has just ended a test case in which the city proved its right to set apart a certain district to be kept inviolate from curbstome oratory. The case was against the Industrial Workers of the World and the organization's sympathizers—the extreme Socialists who conducted the Lawrence textile strike so disastrously and who attempted to get control of the Socialist party. San Diego has had a stormy controversy, as the Workers recruited to their standard radicals of all sorts, both professional and laboring men, in addition to the unemployed discontented groups accustomed to gather for years in the plaza.

The right of free speech is accepted as a fundamental part of our principles of liberty. When, however, this right is abused, so that the speech causes riotous demonstrations it is a different matter. The Workers had long been the source of friction in San Diego. Inflammatory speeches and anarchistic gatherings congested the streets and disturbed the region round about. There were counter demonstrations against the Workers, acts which were ill-advised and only operated to increase the ill feeling. At one time a number of workers were marched out of the city, compelled to kneel and kiss the flag, and were then taken across the border into Mexico. Then an ordinance was enacted prohibiting curbstome speeches in a six-block area, comprising the business district. For six months the controversy continued before the validity of the ordinance was finally tested.

At first there seemed to be a tendency to unreasonableness on both sides. There were those who would prohibit street speaking entirely. Some radicals insisted that it was a constitutional right to speak on anything, anywhere, no matter what the results might be. The Workers were under cunning management. The reports were that unthinking sympathizers were urged to violate the law causing wholesale arrests, thus clogging the jails and delaying trials. Finally it was decided that the ordinance did not attempt to suppress the freedom of speech or seek to interfere with the individual rights in the expression of political, religious or social views; it simply specified a certain district in the city where one might do the things prohibited.

Compared with European countries, particularly Germany, the United States knows little of the troubles due to the gatherings such as were opposed in San Diego. True enough, there were the Haymarket and sandlot disturbances, but the stormy period passed and both San Francisco and Chicago are now inclined to be

lenient toward Socialist speakers. It is just that there should be freedom of speech, but it is also just that a city should have the right to guard against the possibility of disorder or congestion which would jeopardize the rights of others.

SKATING ADDED TO ENTERTAINMENT.

That exhilarating, beneficial exercise obtained from ice skating is in store for the people of La Grande. At much expense and hard work the Park commission has rebuilt the dam over the Grande Ronde river at the park and done much in the improvement and reclamation of the river itself. It means that next winter, and every winter hereafter, the people of La Grande will have ample opportunity to skate to their hearts' content. It is a great sport, one that every boy, girl, man and woman should follow with diligent fervor whenever the opportunity presents itself and the park commission has conferred a lasting favor upon the city at large by providing amusement grounds for the winter months as well as providing the finest natural site park for summer recreation.

And now it is said that baldness is caused by bad teeth. It has long been noticed by people who live at restaurants that much of the lost hair gets into the teeth, but this was the first intimation that it was bitten out.

"Women will some day fill men's shoes," declares the Rev. Anna Shaw. And don't forget when that glad day comes, Anna, that women's feet will feel more comfortable than most of them feel today.

The treasury department at Washington is giving away old Confederate bills. They are still good to spend in New York or Chicago, but not in more enlightened sections.

One of the members of the Allen outlaw gang is in New York. It is reported. He evidently knew where he would be safe from arrest.

FELINE WHISKERS.

Delicate Sensitive Hairs That Record the Slightest Touch.

We are apt to think that the cat's ability to see in the dark is due entirely to its eyes, but competent authority assures us that the feline's power in this respect is due almost as much to its "whiskers."

These delicate hairs that project from the muzzle of the cat family are wonderful mechanisms. Each one grows from a follicle, or gland, nerved to the utmost sensibility. Its slightest contact with any obstacle is instantly felt by the animal, though the hair itself may be tough and insensible. The exaggerated whiskers on the muzzle often project to such a distance that from point to point they indicate the exact width of the body of the beast.

Consider the lion stealing through the jungle at night in search of prey, when the least stir of a twig gives alarm. The lion's whiskers indicate, through the nicest nerves, any object that may be in his path. A touch stops him short before pushing through some close thicket where the rustling leaves and

branches would betray his presence. Wherever his head may be thrust without a warning from the vibrissae there his body may pass noiselessly. It is the aid given him by his whiskers, in conjunction with the soft cushions of his feet, that enables him to proceed as silently as a snake.—Harper's Weekly.

A MAGIC MIRROR.

Experiments With the Moon and Stars and a Hand Glass.

A pretty experiment can be made with a hand mirror any night when there is a full moon. Hold the mirror so that the moon's image will be seen in it and you will be surprised to see four moons instead of one. One moon will be very bright, but the other three will be in a straight line and quite dull, one dull image on the side of the bright moon and the other two on the other side. Turn the mirror round slowly, still holding its face to the moon, and the reflections will seem to revolve round a common center.

You can make the same experiment with one of the very bright stars, such as Sirius, Venus or Jupiter, but with these there will be three images instead of four, as the number seen depends on the breadth of the object. The explanation is quite simple. There are two surfaces in the mirror, one in front and the other where the quicksilver is. The brightest reflection comes from the object itself, the others are what are known as secondary images reflected from the front to the back of the mirror and thence to the eye. The magic mirror never fails to excite a good deal of wonder, and is an interesting experiment as well.—London Chronicle.

Lovely Landscape.

George IV. on one occasion casually entered a private apartment at Windsor castle and encountered, somewhat to his surprise, his valet, who was seated at a table loaded with viands and eating with great avidity.

"Ah!" exclaimed the king. "I was always fond of scenery, and here is a lovely piece of landscape spread out before me."

The valet smiled feebly, but politely intimated that he did not understand the king's allusion to landscape and scenery.

"Why," replied the first gentleman of Europe, "do I not see before me a smiling valet with a magnificent gorge?"

The valet thereupon rose and retired, excusing himself to the king on the ground that he had turned suddenly "blind."—London Tit-Bits.

Dublin Book Pirates.

Dublin is rich in literary associations and during the eighteenth century was a busy publishing center. Some of its enterprises, however, were not of a very reputable kind. Ireland was then outside the copyright laws and English books were "pirated" in Dublin as freely as afterward in America. Some Dublin publishers are said to have kept spies in the London printing houses and by this means were able to issue "pirated" editions of important books coincidentally with and sometimes even before the appearance of the authentic issue.—London Chronicle

Defining a Fathom.

"A fathom," explained a schoolteacher to her class in mathematics, "is a nautical word used in defining distance. It means six feet. Now, I want some little girl to give me a sentence using the word 'fathom.'" Instantly a hand shot up. "Well, Mary, you may give your sentence," Mary stood up proudly. "The reason flies can walk on the ceiling," said the observant child, "is because they have a fathom!"

Tact.

Hostess (after presenting fan to prize winner at whist drive)—Really, I'm afraid it's hardly worth accepting. Winner (appraising its worth)—Oh, thank you so much; it's just the kind of fan I wanted—one that I shouldn't mind losing.—London Punch

Taming Him.

"Sometimes I feel sure," said Blitins, "that I once sat on a throne and waved a scepter."

"And now," remarked his cheery wife, "you are going to stand on the back porch and wave a rug beater."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Dangerous.

"Would you like to see my aquaria?" asked the naturalist.

"Well, if he's securely chained I might, but I'm so afraid of wild beasts," replied the visitor.

Great Expectations.

Aunt Sallie came to the town's Lady Bountiful one day and asked for the loan of a dollar.

"What do you want a dollar for, Aunt Sallie?" the Lady Bountiful inquired.

"Please, ma'am," said Aunt Sallie. "I'm going to get married."

"But if your man hasn't even a dollar to pay for the marriage license how will the pair of you get along?"

"Well, ma'am," said Aunt Sallie, "tomorrow's your birthday, and we're both comin' to your picnic in the birch woods. You always give us somethin' to take home from your birthday pic-



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Want Ads

ROOM FOR RENT — Modern. Call Black 151. 3-14 tf

WANTED—A woman for general work. Call up by phone, Hot Lake Co. 9-4-tf

FOR SALE—Piano and auto. \$500.00 piano for \$300.00. Overland auto for cash or city property. Call or tel-

phone Observer office. dly 9-3-tf

WANTED—Woman for general housework. Apply 902 Penn. avenue. Phone Main 715. 9-6-tf

WANTED—By family two adults, three or four room house or two or three housekeeping rooms. Phone Main 31. 1601 Wash. 9-6-tf

WANTED—Salesman. Experience not necessary. Phone Main 754. 9-9-tf

WANTED—Competent stenographer and bookkeeper. Address P. O. box 657. 9-13-tf

WANTED—Woman for general housework; Mrs. J. K. Wright, 1202 Pennsylvania avenue. 9-14-tf

WANTED—Girl for general housework. Good wages. Apply at 2602 Oak street. 9-14-tf

WANTED—By respectable married man, steady position, prefer business firm. Can furnish references. Apply to P. O. 622, La Grande, 9-16-tf

FOUND—Pair of glasses near high school. Owner may have same by paying for this notice at 908 Third street. Phone Black 382. 9-16-tf

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