

THE OBSERVER

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EDITOR AND OWNER.

Entered at the postoffice at La Grande, Oregon, as second class matter

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.
Daily, single copy 5c
Daily, per week 15c
Daily, per month 65c

JAPAN TOO BUSY TO FIGHT.

Count Itagaki's sensational article demanding for his countrymen unrestricted immigration into this country is not as some would have us believe, a call to arms. Furthermore, Japan's domestic situation for the moment, and even more her domestic situation as it is likely to develop in the near future, will probably prevent her from aggressive action abroad in any jingo sense. Generous Americans will echo Count Itagaki's wish that we divest ourselves of the narrow race prejudice against the Japanese. At the same time those who most cordially recognize the greatness of Japan, and her ability to teach us many things, must feel, as Count Itagaki cannot, the vast difference in the prevailing ideals, political and social of the two peoples. It matters not which ideals are better for human happiness and progress; the fact remains that the differences being such as they are, it would be difficult for large bodies of Japanese to live comfortably in this country side by side with the rank and file of Americans. Even those Americans who fully acknowledge the intellectual equality of the Japanese with ourselves must realize that the educated colored people of this country are nearer to the whites in social and political ideals and practice than the great mass of the Japanese.

Perhaps there is nothing in which the Japanese differ from us more radically, not even the question of the marital relation, than in the attitude of the nation as a whole toward its titular rulers. The Mikado is still revered at home by the mass of his subjects as a god. We of the west know him to be a mere man, and however extravagant our hopes and expectations of a popular president, nobody looks up to him with anything remotely approaching the sentiment of the Japanese masses toward the Mikado, while there is always a large minority to criticize mercilessly the most popular occupant of the White House. Sooner or later so intelligent and progressive a people as the Japanese will cast aside forever the gross superstition that elevates a ruler to a god, and it is precisely the movement in that direction, taken with economic needs at home and the question of administering newly acquired Asiatic territory, that will make Japan a peaceful nation in its outside relations. The radicals of Japan are now few, but nothing can prevent their number from increasing, and the statesman of the empire must face the question of real democratic government under the titular headship of a constitutional monarch not afraid to show himself freely to his people and strong and courageous enough to abandon the pretense of divinity. Here is work cut out for many years to come, and when the economic and political condition of Japan shall have approximated that of Europe, there will remain the further question of republican as well as democratic evolution. After that the Japanese will find the question of immigration to the United States in a very different condition from its condition today, for Japanese ideals will doubtless then be less radically different from ours, and the brutal and unreasoning race prejudice that characterizes a part of the American people will have been vastly modified.

LET'S HAVE MORE OF GATENS.

Following the lines of splendid reasoning offered by Judge Gatens when he said the great social question was founded in the home, why not La Grande take the lead in strictly enforcing the curfew ordinance? Why not make it so in this city that a child must be accompanied by a parent; a girl by an escort after a certain hour in the evening? We hear so much about the alleged crusade of Governor West in driving the prostitute in an endeavor to reform her, when every man of mature years knows that reformation of prostitutes is among the almost possible. The way to do good is to prevent more girls falling. Look after the

crop that is coming on. Throw the lines of rigid restriction around the home, the city and the social meeting place so tightly that the girl and boy will have the proper care until they are old enough to think carefully on such subjects. The great trouble with so many well meaning people in starting moral crusades is that they begin at the wrong end of the job. It would be a pleasing thing for the Observer to note if the city officials would enforce the curfew law to the absolute letter, regardless of who it affected, and we believe the police department is inclined to do that very thing. Girls with pink teeth are said to be affectionate and will make good wives. But girls with gold teeth are the best ones to bank on. Speaking of the pleasures of the idle rich, John D. Rockefeller rides on his bicycle from hole to hole when he plays golf.

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WITH THE NEWER CROP OF BASEBALL PLAYERS.

Goodly Proportion of Recent Recruits Holding Their Own In Fast Company.

The new crop of ball players in the major leagues, including those who broke in this year or the latter part of last year, have made a pretty respectable showing in fast company, and there is a goodly crop of those who are likely to be fixtures if not already that. Scouts and managers deplore the great

lack of timber in the bushes, and with some of these newcomers it may be a case of taking them or nothing. Yet the proportion of those who are sticking and making their presence felt is fairly large. Among this number a prominent one is Dubuc, the Detroit pitcher, although he had been in the big leagues before and is no tender bud in baseball society. Another comeback who drifted to the minors between sojourns in fast company is George McConnell; likewise Hess. Among the newer crop of pitchers, dug up this year or late last year, are Baskette, Steen, Benz, Hamilton, Allison, two or three Browns, O'Brien, Bedient, Houck, Peters and Baumgartner, in the American league, and Lavender, Tesreau, Cheuey, Rixey, Seaton Benton, Allen, Robinson, Willis and Yingling, in the National. Leading finds in other positions are Foster and Gandill of the Washingtons, both of whom were in big league company once before and returned to that company greatly improved. Other recent additions to the big league family are Cady of the Red Sox, Maggett of the Athletics, Zinn of the Highlanders, Sterrett of the Highlanders, Shanks of Washington, Peckinpugh of Cleveland, Weaver of the White Sox, Rath of the White Sox, Kuhn of the White Sox, Egan of the Athletics, Mensor of the Pirates, Groh of the Giants, Cutshaw of the Brooklyn, Smith of the Brooklyn, Phelan of the Reds, Northen of the Brooklyn, Moran of the Brooklyn and Magee of the Cardinals. Most of them have made good.

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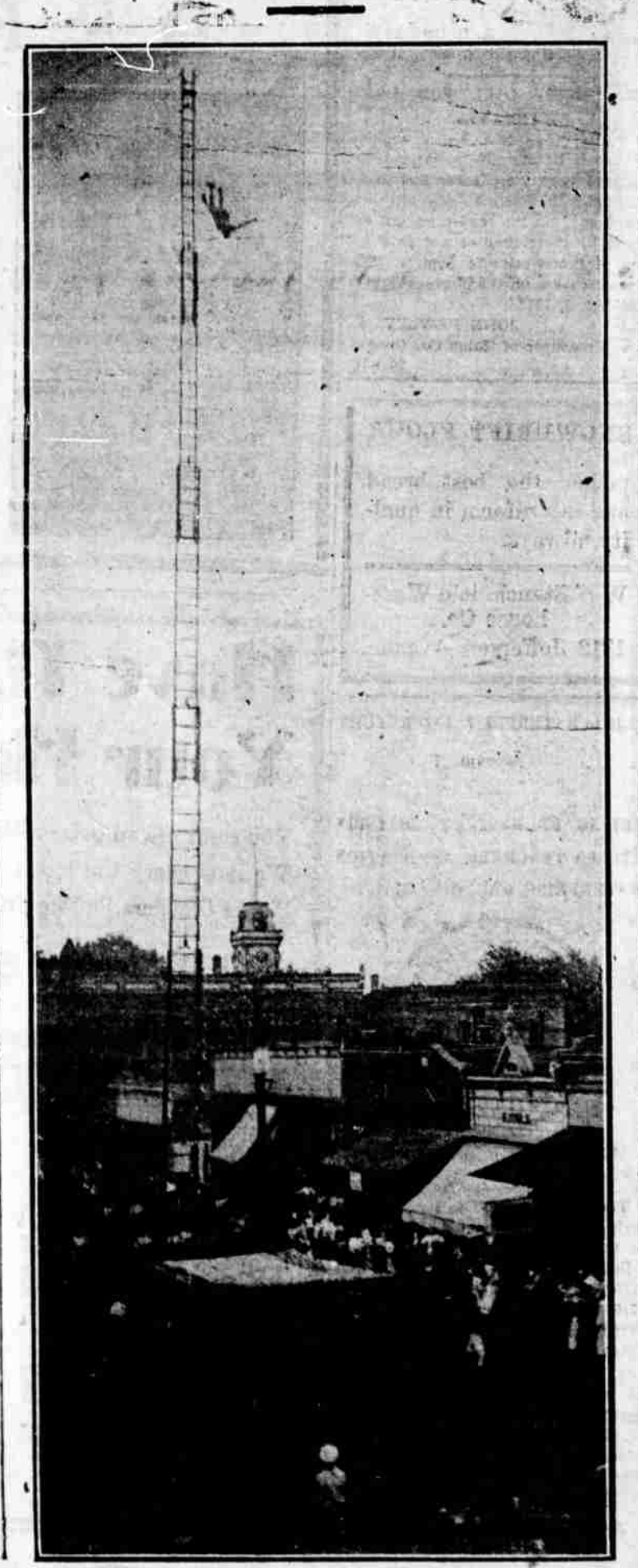
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JOHNSON HAS MOST SPEED.

You Can't See Ball When Washington Pitcher Is Right, Says Cobb. Hal Chase and Ty Cobb have settled the talk about who has the most speed between Joe Wood of Boston and Walter Johnson of Washington. Cobb says there is no comparison. "When Johnson is right you can't

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see them," says Ty. "And when you fall to see them, why, you can't hit them. That is all there is to it." Chase shook his head and said the same thing. Ball players in the American league are of the opinion that the Washington pitcher has more speed than any other pitcher in either league.

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Rawlins this morning finding Mrs. Alston. Warden Alston returned to Alston in charge of the prison. She had superintended the placing of extra guards and handled the situation with great skill.

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PASTORS VISIT CITY. Automobile Caravan Takes Visitors Over Valley This Evening.

A large number of Presbyterian pastors about 50 in number, are in the city this evening on their way home from Wallowa where the state synod was held last week. Local Commercial club members took the guests over the valley in automobiles.

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The Strength Of A Bank
Is based on the character of its assets, and of the men behind it. This bank, for twenty-five years a pillar of strength in this community, keeps its resources absolutely clean and dependable. Its officers will always see that its assets are of such a character that its strength can never be questioned. Upon this basis we invite your confidence and your account.
La Grande National Bank
LA GRANDE, OREGON.
CAPITAL \$ 100,000.00
SURPLUS 120,000.00
RESOURCES 1,000,000.00
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F. L. MEYERS, Cashier.
W. J. CHURCH, Vice Pres.
EARL ZUNDEL, Ass't Cashier.
Designated Depository of the United States Government—United States Postal Savings Depository.

CONVICTS ARE STILL AT LARGE

WARDEN'S WIFE DIRECTS MANAGEMENT.

Rawlins Is Quiet Today but Escapes Are Still at Liberty.

Rawlins, Wyo., Oct. 12.—Posses are concentrating in the hills south of here to capture 11 escapes from the state penitentiary still at large. J. Gilmore, a burglar, was found asleep in a manger at daylight.

Governor Carey is criticized on all sides today for his failure to call out the state troops. Rawlins is quiet this morning, citizens and the prison guards having the situation well in hand. Wild reports of a battle raging all day Sunday are without founda-