

THE OBSERVER

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EDITOR AND OWNER.

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PROPOSED EXCURSION.

The Commercial club is planning a repetition of the excursion so much enjoyed last year by about thirty of La Grande and Union county business men. The objective point this year is Albany where a state meeting of merchants will be held.

These excursions are fine things. They give everyone who participates new ideas, shows them how other communities are doing things and every man returns home with renewed energy. If this is made an annual event the credit will be due John Collier, for he was the one who planned and made possible the first junket which resulted so pleasantly that the desire became at once apparent for a repetition of the event.

CLEAN THE SIDEWALKS.

Beautiful snow is a delightful thing in winter, but snow upon the sidewalks is a common nuisance. There is no concerted effort now made to keep the sidewalks clean, and the man who shows the right spirit and gets out with the shovel butts up against his neighbor's walk that is not touched and to become discouraged and wonder "What's the use?" La Grande needs a decided action on the sidewalk question. There is a city law in this instance, just as there is in most instances pertaining to the public good, but we need a new law covering non-residents and thorough enforcement of that law.

ENTERPRISE IS ACTIVE.

The good people of Enterprise are working hard to obtain a Carnegie library and they will succeed. Something about every concerted effort made in Wallowa county causes success to be achieved, which reflects splendid credit to the people who live in that little empire. There are few communities which have enjoyed the substantial advancement at Wallowa county in the last three years.

When it comes to immigration the percentage is in favor of that county over any other county in the eastern part of the state, according to the records. The reasons for this are simple when once analyzed. Wallowa county has a great deal of good land, high in price, and besides there has been much government land subject to entry. People from the east who were looking for a home that would not cost a great deal of money have entered Wallowa county and become satisfied to stay. And why should anyone not be thoroughly content to live in that county? With its great resources, its good land, its water and beautiful scenery?

PERSONALS.

Misses J. Espe and W. May were Elgin bound passengers this morning. John Reeves of Imbler is in the city on business. He will remain a number of days.

Gilbert Campbell of La Grande went to Baker this morning where he expects to go to work.

Attorney E. E. Dixon of La Grande went to Baker this morning to attend to legal business.

G. W. Fisher of Cove was in the city shopping and meeting old friends. He returned this morning.

Mrs. Korus who has been visiting at the Chandler home, returned to her home in Elgin this morning.

J. Denamore, who spent the holidays at Missoula, Mont., returned to his home in Elgin this morning.

I. R. Snook of the Blue Mountain creamery company went to Baker this morning in the interests of the creamery.

Mrs. G. M. Collins of Union spent a number of days at the Frawley home. She was an outbound passenger this morning.

G. Perron and wife returned this morning from Walla Walla where they spent the Christmas holidays. They live in Joseph.

Miss Etta Woodell of Cove was a homeward bound passenger this morning after a few days of visiting with friends in La Grande.

W. F. Hendricks and wife were in the county seat visiting and renewing acquaintances. They returned to their home in Elgin this morning.

Alva Duryea, an employe of the O. W. R. & N. returned from Seattle yesterday. He spent Christmas with his sister, Mrs. Stillwell, in Pendleton.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Wright who have been visiting with relatives and friends at Troy, Idaho, during the holidays, returned to their home in Alice this morning.

George Howitt of Portland, who drove some fast horses on the new track last summer is in the city the guest of Wm. Grandy. He will remain indefinitely.

Rev. H. B. Foskett passed through the city this morning from McMinnville. He will go to Elgin and conduct revival meetings at the Baptist church during the coming week.

R. A. West of La Grande went to Imbler this morning to complete work on an artesian well he is drilling there. He says he is down over 400 feet and expects to get water today. He was accompanied by Ed. Riesland who is helping him on the job.

Receiver C. R. Eberhard and wife and children will return Sunday from a holiday trip to Joseph.

Mrs. Rymer of Union was a visitor at the home of U. G. Kennon of La Grande. She returned this morning.

Mrs. Kennon and Mrs. Noah spent the holidays at the home of J. A. Richardson of Alice. They returned last night.

William Russell of Elgin who spent the Christmas holidays with his folks in Walla Walla returned to his home this morning.

Hyde W. Loughm of North Powder formerly a resident of La Grande, is transacting business at the United States land office in this city.

Sim Collins, veteran engineer on the O. S. L., was in the city yesterday calling on friends. He was a guest at the Commercial club while in the city.

A. M. Sanders, one of the local brakemen for the O. W. R. & N., returned this morning after spending the Christmas holidays with his best friend on earth.

Mrs. M. L. Willette of Baker spent a number of delightful days at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Murchison of this city. She was a homeward bound passenger this morning.

Harry Frawley, mechanic on the training ship for sailors, is in the city spending the holidays with his parents. He is quartered on the old bat-

tle ship Oregon, now lying in the Willamette river at Portland.

Judge Lionel B. Webster, well known good roads booster and H. A. Zuseldorf, both of Portland, were in La Grande yesterday on their way to Baker. They registered at the Commercial club.

Will F. Snodgrass and family of Colfax, Wn., were guests in the city with Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Snodgrass and other relatives yesterday while on their way home from Baker.

Mrs. Grace Barrie, a former La Grande resident, is here from Welsch visiting her sister, Mrs. Stella Engle and other relatives and friends. She is accompanied by her son Rennie.

EZRA'S HARD LUCK.

It Began With His Name and Ended on His Tombstone.

Tom McNeal of Topeka was talking to Abe Peters about luck, so Tom reports. Tom thought there was no such thing as luck, but Abe protested.

"Take the case of Ezra Boll," said Abe. "To begin with, think of his name. A name like that is hard enough luck to prove my contention, but Ezra lived up to it. When he was a baby he fell into the horse trough and was almost drowned. Then he got hold of a can of concentrated lye and it took them four weeks to bring him round. He fell out of an apple tree when he was six and broke both arms and a leg, and just as he was hobbling round again he went on a watermelon stealing expedition with six other boys. The others got away, but the dog caught Ezra and chewed him up until the farmer came along and he put on finishing touches with a harness trace. He fell in love when he was seventeen, spent all he had for buggy rides and candy for the red checked object of his adoration—and she shook him and married another. A mule kicked him and broke six ribs. He had a lot of hogs and they died of cholera on the identical day when hogs reached 9 cents a pound, live weight. He had a big crop of wheat and a hailstorm came along and ruined it one hour after his hail insurance policy had lapsed. He got \$500 to make a payment on his land, put in the bank and the bank busted.

"A cyclone wrecked his house and barn and crippled all his family except his mother-in-law, who escaped unhurt. He bought four gold bricks and took some counterfeit money in pay for two good horses.

"Then he died. When they were taking him to the cemetery the team pulling the hearse ran away going down hill and scattered the remains of Ezra along the side of the road.

"In the course of time his family marked his grave by an appropriate stone on which the stonecutter got the date of his birth wrong and misspelled his name in two places.

"And still you say there is no such thing as luck!"—Saturday Evening Post.

A LIVING TOWER.

Captain Meeker's Unique Idea in the Building Line.

What is known as the "living tower," says a writer in the Wide World Magazine, stands on the very summit of a hill more than 200 feet high at Camp Meeker, a summer resort in Sonoma county, Cal. It was Captain Meeker, an old pioneer, who first conceived the idea of building a tower on the very summit of a high hill near his hotel, and while looking around one day for a suitable site he found four young redwood trees standing about twelve feet apart, representing a perfect square. The trees were each about 150 feet high. Fifty feet of each top was lopped off, and the work of building six stories was then commenced. From top to bottom the living tower was a hundred feet high.

Each floor is about 12 by 12 feet and rests on strong timbers, the ends of which are securely attached to the four trees by means of steel cables and bolts. So strongly was every part braced that the whole structure does not move as much as one would naturally suppose, even when rocked by heavy winds. In the building great care was taken by the workmen to cut only the branches growing on the inside of the square, and the trees were not chopped, mutilated or weakened any more than could be avoided.

Leading up from each story are broad stairways, so that one may ascend and descend with ease and perfect safety, while around the edge of each floor are strong railings to prevent accidents. Since this tower was completed the trees have grown and flourished just as well as before. This living tower is claimed to be the only one of its kind in the world.

Contradictory.

Randall—I've written an article on "Why Men Do Not Marry" and illustrated it with photographs of dreadful looking, strong minded women. Rogers—Where did you get the pictures? Randall—They're wives of the men I know.—Life.

EDUCATION THAT PAYS ITS OWN WAY.

Dr. P. P. Clayton, United States commissioner of education, says the industrial work in the schools of Gary, Ind., made money instead of costing money during the past year. When the school authorities in Gary

THOUSANDS ARE WAITING, WATCHING AND PLANNING FOR

West's 15th Annual Clearance Sale

WHICH STARTS PROMPTLY.

Thursday, Jan. 2 WATCH FOR THE BIG AD

The crowning bargain event in the history of West's Store will be this greatest of all Annual Sales. Stocks larger, prices smaller than ever before.

YOU KNOW WHAT A SALE AT WEST'S MEANS

came to sum up the results of the work in the trade courses, they found that the three departments of printing, cabinet work and painting had to their credit a profit of \$875.48. This is real value, too; the pupils made articles that were needed in the school; if they had not made them in the school shops the authorities would have had to purchase them in the open market at a total price of seven or eight thousand dollars.

The commissioner then gives the figures for each of the trade classes in the Gary schools, as reported by G. E. Wulffing, in charge of the industrial instruction. In the printing department the value of the work produced was \$1972.92. The salary

expense was \$1483.49, and supplies cost \$314, leaving a net balance in favor of the shop of \$175.43. There were 35 in the printing class, so instead of figuring the per capita cost of the industrial training of these pupils, it was possible to figure a definite contribution by each pupil to the wealth of the community.

In the cabinet department the product was valued at \$3608.85 and the expense was \$3155.37, leaving a balance of \$453.48 in favor of the carpenters. Similarly, the painting department of the school showed a "business" of \$1591.25, and an expense of \$1344.73, or a clear profit of \$246.52.

Gary's conspicuous success with in-

dustrial training is an interesting indication of the spread of the modern movement for vocational education, which insists that in addition to teaching the recognized branches the school must give instruction in those subjects that are of most immediate value to the community which supports it. In Gary the dominant interest is trade education; in rural districts it is largely agriculture; in the cities it may be stenography, typewriting and other commercial branches. In any case it is coming to be felt more and more than an educational system is incomplete that fails to provide vocational training for its citizens.

Second Hand Automobiles For Sale

WE HAVE LISTED SEVERAL SECOND HAND AUTOMOBILES FOR SALE which are exceptionally good buys at the price for which we are offering them.

Their present owners have found these cars are too large for their needs and to get a car with an upkeep expense the are willing to pay are willing to make big sacrifices in trading them to us for a Ford.

One Chalmers thirty, five passenger touring car equipped with mohair top and top cover, wind shield, electric lights, Claxon horn, bumper, oil lamps and tools. This car has been run less than seven thousand miles and is in good condition. We can make you a price of \$685.00 on this car.

One thirty horse power Kissel Kar five passenger touring car which has been run almost wholly on the best roads in the Grande Ronde valley and a distance not to exceed seven thousand miles. A bargain at our price, \$685.00.

Come in and see the car and let us give you a demonstration.

One Maxwell Touring car 1912 model. Was purchased new in the middle of the summer and has been run less than three thousand miles. Is fully equipped and in good condition. We can also quote you a price on this car the same as the price of a new Ford, \$685.00.

We also have listed Franklin, Mitchell, Buick and E. M. F.

On some of these cars can take bankable notes in full or part payment.

OUR NEW FORDS ARE HERE. LET US DEMONSTRATE ONE OF THEM TO YOU. WE ARE ALWAYS AT YOUR SERVICE.

Smith's Garage La Grande - - - Oregon

We Now Have On Deposit \$800,000.00

of money accumulated by residents of La Grande and the Grande Ronde valley.

We Now Have Loaned \$700,000.00

to business men, farmers and others in this community. The money deposited here is not "laid away" as some of it might be if its owners had not deposited it, but it is industriously at work all about us, doing good.

By depositing your income here on open account and paying it out by check, you will safeguard your interests, build your credit and cultivate an acquaintance at a strong financial institution, which can and will help you when you need help. Don't delay, you can begin with a small deposit at the

La Grande National Bank La Grande, Oregon

Capital \$100,000.00. Surplus, \$120,000.00. Resources, \$1,110,000.00. FRED J. HOLMES President. F. L. MEYERS, Cashier. W. J. CHURCH, Vice President. EARL ZUNDEL, Asst. Cashier.