

THE OBSERVER

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THOROUGHBREDS.

There is in this world a class of men who only proper description can be told by the one word, "thoroughbreds."

It matters not what lodge or church they belong to; it matters not what trade or profession they follow—whether it be that of lawyer, boiler-maker, store keeper or trainman—there is still those qualifications which entitle them to membership in the order that has no ritual, the order that has no passwords, the order that has no grips, signs or countersigns.

The order of thoroughbreds exists everywhere without special notice. No one need eulogize its greatness, its charity, its altar obligations for all of these are embodied in the breeding.

When a man is "right" his position among men is settled. You do not have to guess where he stands; you do not have to ask him if he is agreeable to any proposition that is right, for you know from instinct that he is with you clear across the board and down the line.

The crook cannot be a thoroughbred, neither can the liar and the hypocrite. The old school politician who shakes hands with the devil and turns abruptly to recite a benediction is not eligible to membership in the thoroughbred order, for it takes a straight edge, a clear conscience and a manly disposition to partake of this unseen membership.

We were reminded forcefully of the "thoroughbreds" today when Lou Stinson of Salem and Marion Davis of Union passed through La Grande on their way to Elgin. Each probably is a lodge man in other orders, but each is also a member of that great order of thoroughbreds.

WOULD TAFT ACT AT ALL?

If the Mexicans should cross over the line, burn El Paso, push further north and invade Texas; in fact, invade the sunny southland to the Mason and Dixon line, burning and destroying property, to say nothing of killing half the population then, oh, then would President Taft and his array of mighty diplomats, who are holding night sessions to keep from doing anything, act, or would President Taft ever act at all?

The governor and Frank Perkins of the Telegram, got tangled up on the state house floor and then the news service became hushed and silent. Let us hear from Perkins and see if he has been maligning the governor, or better yet, give him a chance to prove his statements. No Idaho supreme court methods will go in Oregon.

WOMEN IN THE SCHOOLS.

There surely is cause for women to rejoice over the advance the members of the so-called weaker sex have made from the educational ranks to the highest administrative positions in the public school system of the United States.

There are now 495 women county superintendents in the country, according to the figures compiled by the bureau of education. This is nearly double the number of ten years ago. And four states—Colorado, Idaho, Washington, and Wyoming, — have women at the head of their school systems. In some of the states women appear to have almost a monopoly of the higher positions.

The case of Wyoming is one to bring the greatest joy to the feminine heart. That state has a woman state superintendent, a woman deputy state superintendent, and 13 of the 14 counties are directed educationally by women.

In Montana where there are 20 counties, only one man is reported as holding the position of county superintendent.

The increase in the number of women county superintendents is most conspicuous in the west, but it is not confined to that section. New York reports 42 women district superintendents, as against 12 school commissioners in 1900. Other states showing marked increases are: Iowa, from 13 in 1900 to 44 in 1912; Kansas, from 26 in 1900 to 44 in 1912; Nebraska, from 10 to 42 in the same period; North Dakota from 10 to 24; Oklahoma, 7 to 14.

In only two states is a decrease reported—Tennessee had 9 in 1900 and only 5 in 1912; and Utah has one fewer than a decade ago.

Together with the advancement of women in the administrative branch of education has come a demand for women on local school boards, and this demand has been recognized in many communities. The following cities of 100,000 population or over report one or more women on the school board: New York, Chicago, Cleveland, San Francisco, Milwaukee, Washington, Indianapolis, St. Paul, Rochester, Denver, Columbus, Worcester, Grand Rapids, Cambridge, and Fall River. Numerous smaller municipalities have adopted the idea.

The important place assigned to women in American education has become so usual as to excite little comment in this country; yet American conditions in this respect are the reverse of those of most nations. It is probably safe to say that in no other country in the world are there as many women teachers proportionally as in the United States; in fact men teachers greatly outnumber the women in most European countries.

A Chicago woman says American men's manners have deteriorated in the last fifty years. Few women have the strength of mind to acknowledge that they can remember that far back.

John V. Farwell says the hosiery makers of Europe can't compete with the Americans. No, and what the Europeans put in their hosiery can't compare.

The government needs an expert in xylotomy, which, as we understand it, is a person skilled in the manufacture of sauerkraut.

Germany declares that "Turkey in Asia is sacred." Isn't that last word spelled wrong? Shouldn't it be sacred?

He Spoke to Her.

He was a nervous and flustered young man as he entered the court to give evidence in an important case.

It was his first experience of publicity in any shape or form, and the amount of interest shown in his utterances—he who had never even addressed a meeting of the local debating society—went straight to his head. His replies, to say the least, were unintelligible.

"Speak up! Speak up!" called counsel irritably at last. "The lady shorthand writer cannot hear a single word of what you're saying. Kindly turn toward her and speak to her."

There was a moment's pause, while the young man blushed vividly. Then, to the amazement of the court, he rose from his chair, made a profound obeisance in the direction of the aforesaid mentioned young woman and murmured bashfully:

"How d'you do?"—London Answers.

Sponges and "Sponges."

From Cuba comes the doleful news: "We shall be short of sponges. The industry is dwindling fast. Despite our deep sea plumage." But Cuba need not be alarmed. We've "sponges" here to spare. They're found on the Rialto, Park row and everywhere.

We encounter human "sponges" in restaurant and park. They borrow from us money. And say, "Please keep it dark." We meet them at the playhouse, the club, the store, the church. Where we are touched and retouched by "sponges" in "the lurch."

'Tis sad to learn that Cuba Of sponges will be short, So we are more than willing To gather at this port. A cargo big of "sponges" And ship away the pack To any point in Cuba. If they never will "sponge" back. —New York Press.

Perfect Bliss.

How big an income should a young man have before he is justified in getting married? This question is asked in various departments of the Sunday papers at various seasons of the year, and it is variously answered. Conditions change and domestic happiness changes with the conditions.

The best answer we remember to have heard was given by a cynical bachelor and skeptic last week. This person was in the newspaper office when the woman editor opened her mail and read forth this question: "Could a young couple be happy on \$900 a year?" "Sure they could," answered the skeptic eagerly. "They couldn't live together on it."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

This Age.

In January she devours The February magazines. She spends her meant to sleep in hours In figuring the next day scenes.

While ice is covering the street And winter's snow is sifting down With gaily slippers on her feet She tips out in her next spring's gown.

Though 'tis today, and now is now, We hardly know just where we are When she gives back our greeting bow While seated in her next year's car.

Her this year's husband may be mope Somewhere within their last year's house. For she is planning to elope With her gay 1914 spouse. —Life.

What Poverty Does For Us.

Mayor Rockwell of Akron was condemning the claim, often put forward by the rich, that poverty is good for the character.

"Poverty is good for nobody," he said. "It embitters the mind, hardens the heart, causes unhappiness and fear and suffering."

"There's nothing like adversity," a millionaire once said to me—"there's nothing like adversity to bring a man out."

"Yes," I replied, "out at the elbows."—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Johnny's Luck.

Little Johnny Satterthwaite Went upon the lake to skate, Though his parents warned him not to go. Here and there the ice was thin; Other boys had fallen in. Johnny thought that he would chance it, though.

Reader, do not mourn the fate Of the youthful Satterthwaite. He may live to win worldwide renown. Johnny fell and bumped his bean. And forsook the hateful scene. Weeping, ere he had a chance to drown. —Chicago Record-Herald.

Observant.

The city girl boarding in the country spoke to the farmer about the savage way in which the cow regarded her.

"Well," said the farmer, "it must be on account of that red waist you're wearing."

"Dear me," said the girl, "of course. I know it's awfully out of fashion, but I had no idea a country cow would notice it."—Ladies' Home Journal.



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Softening Gold.

Pure gold may be softened by keeping it at the boiling point of water for four days. Alloys of gold require greater temperature.

Temperature.

The mean annual temperature of the world is 50 degrees Fahrenheit.

Handling a Tack.

To hold a tack where it is difficult to hold it with the fingers, thrust it through a strip of paper and hammer away on it without annoyance of danger to your fingers.

The Ship's Bell.

The nautical day begins and ends at noon, when eight bells is struck. The bell is struck half hourly day and night, one stroke being added for each half hour until eight is reached, when the count begins at one bell.

Flies and Germs.

In the congested area of a town a common fly can harbor from 800,000 to 500,000,000 bacteria, while in the suburbs it carries only upward of 25,000.

Eyelashes.

If eyelashes are cut the eyes are weakened.

The Human Eye.

The human eye is said to be a rather ill contrived piece of mechanism. A celebrated German physicist is reported to have remarked that if an artisan were to make for him a piece of apparatus so poorly adapted to its purpose he would not accept it.

WOOD GOES TO FLORA.

Officials of Golden Rule Company Hold Annual Meetings This Week. Mac Wood, manager of the Golden Rule, and O. B. Prael, of Portland, interested in the company, left this morning for Flora in interior Walla Walla county to hold a meeting of the stockholders of the Golden Rule company of Flora in which both are interested. The company held its La Grande meeting yesterday and the officials who went to Flora today will inspect their holdings there this week.

\$600 in One Hour for Baseball.

Six hundred dollars in one hour is not a bad commencement for the finance campaign for the local baseball club. That was just the amount raised this morning in sixty minutes work and there were only six names on the list too. In other words six persons and business institutions subscribed 100 each this morning.

The committee consisting of Leon Cohen, J. V. Tallman, J. F. Robinson, Wesley Matlock, Mark Patton, Roy W. Riner and Fred W. Lampkin started upon their work shortly after ten o'clock and shortly after eleven quit until 2:30 this afternoon when they commenced their efforts again. The success which attended their initial campaign was just as anticipated. They secured six \$100 subscriptions and when it is remembered that there was not a single one

of that amount during the campaign last year, the difference in the attitude of the business men will be appreciated.

Meanwhile, the officers of the local club are using up a good deal of stationary in writing to prospective managers and players. While no one has been signed definitely yet, it will only be a matter of a few days when a manager will be hired and the team begin to shape up.

City's Neglect Source of Woe.

(Pendleton East Oregonian.) Since the snow melted residents of Jackson street and others who are obliged to use that thoroughfare have found foot traveling very difficult. The trouble comes from the fact that the city did not provide a connection between the sidewalks and the street when the paving work was done. The street was not paved the entire width of the street and therefore at each corner there is a distance of about 10 feet over which there is no walk. Following each thaw this winter these places have become soft and muddy and full of woe for people who have sought to travel along Jackson street via the sidewalks. Owing to the nice day yesterday a large number of north side residents sought the open air but the travel was all on the street, not on the sidewalks, which were practically out of commission because of the aforementioned trouble.

The Test of Time

Time determines whether the policies under which a bank is operated are sound.

This bank has been in business twenty-six years.

It has grown steadily until it has become one of the strongest and most prosperous financial institutions in the West.

The soundness of its policies is attested by the long list of conservative business men who transact their business here; also by an earned surplus of \$130,000.00, the work of time and the result of conservative management.

This bank has facilities for taking care of more high grade business and offers its services to those who appreciate the best in banking.

La Grande National Bank

La Grande, Oregon

Capital, \$100,000.00 Surplus, \$130,000.00 Resources, 1,100,000.00

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