

THE OBSERVER

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THE GROWING SENTIMENT.

Every day brings more supporters for the commission form of government to the front. The people are anxious for a change, and judging from results in the Portland city election, La Grande people are not the only ones who desire a complete change in municipal affairs.

It is understood the charter committee will soon be ready to report and that the work done on the new charter has been along the right lines. When this report is made it will then be up to the present council to order an election, which without doubt will be ordered, for many of the councilmen are apparently enthusiastic over the commission form. The mayor is favorable to the new idea in municipal affairs, and it would seem there is little in the way of the passing of the new charter the moment the time is ripe for the measure to be submitted.

THE MANIA FOR SPEEDING

Why are modern men and modern women so extravagant? Simply because a spirit of rivalry which forces families into expenditures far beyond their means has arisen. Very little real satisfaction is secured by the lavish spending so prevalent today. The object seems to be merely to "put it over" some one else. In the end nothing is achieved, for there is always a richer aspirant for social honors who can spend just a little more and so carry away whatever distinction there may be in a foolish expenditure of money.

These are the points driven home in "The Rich Mrs. Burgoyne," a new book by Kathleen Norris, author of "Mother." The latter, it will be recalled, first was printed as a short story, but attracted so much attention by its wholesome appeal to the better instincts that several publishers asked Mrs. Norris to expand it into a book.

The gospel that Mrs. Norris preaches is in this day of mad social rivalry and silly display of the purely material resources. It brings one back to the fundamentals, showing that the best and surest happiness is obtained by doing good to others, being superior to the mere appearances, and living within one's means. If the money that is spent in gaudy parade and pretense of being wealthier than one really is brought into solid contentment there might be some justification for it, but as a matter of fact such a manner of life leads only to unrest and strain. Half of the nervous breakdowns so common among women today are directly due to the artificial tension which they maintain.

If "The Rich Mrs. Burgoyne" does nothing more than open the eyes of a

few to the essential folly of a life of sham and extravagance it will accomplish a mission well worth while.

ORCHARDS BEING PLANTED.

It may be interesting to the general public to know that orchards are being planted in the Grande Ronde valley this year. J. J. Nunn, a man who knows what he is doing, is planting over a hundred acres in the Mt. Glenn country, and this is what he says:

"There should be especial gloomy feeling over the fruit situation because of the experience this last year. It was a natural consequence and will prove good for every grower who is in the business from a business standpoint. The low prices will squeeze the promoter out of the orchard business just as he should be squeezed out. It will take off the fictitious values from fruitland which have prevailed in the northwest and bring the orchard land down to a price that will justify an interest paying investment. I believe the man who goes out to boom a piece of orchard land and sell it for several times what it is really worth, will have hard luck in the future, and I for one am willing that he should experience hard luck. Nothing survives unless it has merit. The fruit industry in this valley has merit, but prices of orchard land must not be shot sky high by injection of speculative features. Land is worth what money it will make. There may be times when the safety of investment will add several per cent, but it will all get back to the basis of what the land produces and how much interest that production each year will pay when values are figured. I am convinced the fruit business is all right, but people must understand the business and grow fruit on business principles."

Mr. Nunn has much argument in favor of his stand on the fruit question. Because low prices have prevailed one year means no harm to the industry in the future, but as he says, it does not mean that many speculators in the northwest who were selling fruit land at tremendous prices will be put out of business. And so far as the real industry is concerned it makes but little difference if those speculators are forced out. In the Grande Ronde valley fruitlands have not been high. They have been decidedly reasonable, and as compared with other districts they have been and are today very, very cheap.

A Chicago waiter has been arrested for flirting after being warned once by the police. He is believed to be the first waiter in history who refused to take any kind of a tip.

It is said hot water will cure delirium tremens. It may be cured that if a man never drinks anything but hot water he will never have them.

And still the Y. M. C. A. clock turns up its hands each day to the tune of four or five thousand dollars, with many yet to be seen.

BASEBALL MAKING

Materials and Methods Used in Building Up the Spheres.

ONLY ONE PROCESS BY HAND.

That is Sewing on the Covers, a Task to Which Machines Are Not Equal. The Yarns Are Wound by Machinery, Because Hand Work Was a Failure.

There are few fans who realize just how much work is required in the making of a regulation sized baseball. The centers of baseballs are made of pure Para rubber in most cases, but the cork center ball, which has been patented, is an exception. The idea of the center piece of rubber, of course, is to give the ball resiliency. If a baseball was made without this center piece it would be "dead"—that is, it would not have the desired bounding qualities, the "life." The centerpieces are generally made to order for the baseball factories. The next process in the making of a ball is the winding on of pure woolen yarn. There was a time when the yarn was wound around the ball by hand, but soon it became necessary to get a machine which would do the work of man. It was found in the times when the yarn was wound by hand that the man coming to work at 9 o'clock, in the morning was putting out better balls than he was in the afternoon around 3 o'clock. Winding by hand was a tiresome job, and toward the late afternoon the men began to get tired, and consequently the yarn was not wound around the ball tight enough. Many balls were returned to the factory because they did not possess the resilient powers.

Realizing that this personal defect was something which had to be overcome, a machine for the winding purpose was worked upon and perfected. Now all baseballs are wound by mechanical power, and much better work than man did or can do is accomplished. The yarn is wound around the Para under heavy tension, almost to the breaking point. Consequently when enough has been put on the ball is very strong and almost solid, due to the tight tension used. In the days of hand making many balls were soggy and soft because a uniform tension could not be kept by the person winding. There are three layers of woolen yarn over the Para. For about an inch in thickness three ply yarn of blue color is used, and over this is wound a thin layer of white two ply yarn. The blue yarn is again brought into use, but is only of one ply.

Naturally it develops that something to cover the wool yarn must be used in order to keep it from unwinding. The ball must be solid, so that when it comes in contact with a bat the threads will not break or move out of place. It has been found that camel's hair stretched yarn is the best for covering the ball after the wool has been put on and the ball is the size desired. This hair is put on wet, and when it dries a contraction takes place, making the ball more firm and at the same time solidifying it. Only a thin layer of the camel's hair is used, just enough to warrant the wool yarn keeping in position. After the drying process is over a very fine layer of specially made cement is applied by means of dipping the ball into the fluid. Then the ball is ready to cover.

Most balls are covered with atom tap horsehide, the best material, it is claimed, which has been found to be of good use for the hammering which a baseball gets. This is cut into its proper shape by means of pin dies, which also punch small holes around the edge of the hide to be used in the sewing. The ball is sent to the men doing the sewing, which is now and always has been done by hand. Machines have been tried, but not one of them has proved equal to the task. The men who sew on the covers must be experienced and very capable in their work. This sewing process must be done with great accuracy. The work appears to be dressmaking and rather tedious, and so it is. A man working at his fastest can do only two to three dozen a day.

With the covers sewed on the finished ball is ready for use. It is just after the sewing has been completed the seams are rather rough. A good baseball, if one will notice, is rough over the entire surface, including the seams. A pitcher, if he had to use a ball with rough seams, would not be able to do his best work, as a bulge in the ball would be trying to him. The roughness would make the fingers sore from the continual rubbing. Therefore to do away with this the ball is put in a rolling machine, which presses out the rough seams and makes the ball smooth all over. This done, the trademark is stamped on, together with the guarantee, size and weight of the ball. The balls are then taken to the packing room, where they are wrapped in tissue paper and still further wrapped in tin foil. They are then sealed in post-paid boxes and are ready for shipment.

There are surprising numbers of

baseballs used in this country and in other countries to some extent, but out of every 150 dozen it is claimed that but one ball comes back for being in bad condition—Springfield Republican.

A Technical Move.

"What did that young lawyer chap say, Matilda, when you told him it was time to go?"
"He immediately began argument for a stay."—Baltimore American.

Fortune leaves always some door open to come at a remedy.—Cervantes.

Feeling Heat and Cold.

The principal reasons that we feel objects that are cold when brought in contact with the skin quicker than those that are warm is that the skin, being a very poor conductor of heat, absorbs heat slowly from an object of a higher temperature than itself, while other objects which are cooler and which in nearly every instance are better conductors of heat than the skin absorb heat readily from the skin, and hence a sensation of cold is felt at once.

Sizing Up the Situation.

The young girl had been engaged as an amanuensis by a society woman. She discovered that nearly every day the husband and wife had a quarrel, so she gave notice that she was going to leave.

"Why?" inquired the lady, in surprise.

"Oh, you don't need an amanuensis, madam," replied the girl. "What you want is a war correspondent!"—Yonkers Statesman.

No Cause For Worry.

"What do you suppose your father will say when I ask permission to marry you?"

"I don't know. But I wouldn't worry. He didn't refuse any of the men who asked for my four older sisters."—Detroit Free Press.

Identified.

"Is that your prodigal son?" inquired the visitor to Uncle Zuke's farm, pointing to the youth who spent most of his time swinging on a hammock.

"No, honored Uncle Zuke pleasantly replied, my friend said, 'Harper's Weekly'.

A King in Disguise.

A ruler who journeyed to the scene of his inauguration in disguise was the king of Roumania. Prince Charles of Hohenzollern traveled to Bukharest in 1903 in defiance of the powers when war between Prussia and Austria was imminent. In Switzerland he had a passport made out in the name of "Karl Hettlingen," going to Odessa on business with a special note recording that Herr Hettlingen wore spectacles. At the Austrian frontier a customs official demanded his name, and the prince had forgotten it. Happily Countess von Werner, who accompanied him, had the presence of mind to create a diversion by insisting upon paying duty for some cigars and meanwhile the prince consulted his passport. So he proceeded safely on his second class journey.—London Chronicle.

Strenuous Chivalry.

It is complained that modern conditions are killing "the chivalry of the middle ages." But medieval tales and romances show what that chivalry really was. Wife beating was a common incident on the part of those knights and gentlemen whose gallantry was a mere convention. The Chevalier de la Tour-Landry in his book of counsels to his daughters tells them the story of a woman who used to contradict her husband in public. One day, after expostulating in vain, he knocked her down, then kicked her face and broke her nose. "And so," comments the good chevalier, "she was disgraced for life, and thus, through her ill behavior and bad temper, she had her nose spoiled, which was a great misfortune to her." But not a word is said about the husband's brutality.

Nice Discrimination.

That her two grandmothers did not hold quite the same place in her esteem was indicated by Mildred, a little girl of eight years, after she had heard the story of Little Red Riding Hood.
"Oh, dear me!" said Mildred, "I just couldn't stand it to have my Grandmamma Ryce eaten up by a wolf, and I could hardly stand it to have my Grandmamma Turner eaten up by one!"—Woman's Home Companion.

She's One.

"I'd like to get a little runabout if I could afford one."

"I know how you could get one for the asking."

"How?"
"Ask our next door neighbor's daughter to marry you."—London Mail.

A Cruel Thrust.

"This true you see me in reduced circumstances now, but I once rode in my own carriage."

"Ha!" exclaimed he of the stony heart. "That must have been before you learned to walk."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

He who has three enemies must agree with two.—German Proverb.



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Of Interest

To Fruit Growers

Messrs. C. O. Ramsey & Co., having discontinued the handling of spray material for this season, we wish to announce that we have completed arrangements with Mr. Frank L. Lilly to handle our well known brand of Arsenate of Lead to the fruit growers of La Grande and vicinity, and he is now prepared to fill orders. Take no chances on untried brands.

Grassel Chemical Co.

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WANTED—Traction engine to haul logs, by contract, or will rent engine. Plenty of work, good roads, non-alkali water along road. Klees & Son, Summerville, Ore. 5-9-13

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