

**THE OBSERVER**

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EDITOR AND OWNER.

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**THE WHITE FLOWER AND MOTHER.**

It is hard to think of a more appropriate gift for the mother than a pure white flower. It symbolizes purity, clean thoughts, high ideals and a mother's love.

Sunday has been designated throughout the country as "Mother's Day" and on that occasion it is fitting and proper that a white flower be presented to Mother. What could make a mother feel better than to have the husband or son or daughter lovingly pin a white flower on her; What could be more touching, more profoundly appropriate than for the children and father to place a bouquet of white flowers on the grave of the departed mother?

La Grande churches have taken up "Mother's Day" and proper services will be rendered, all of which is gratifying for what is this life without sentiment especially when that sentiment is born in the pure thought of a saintly mother? Let the community unite in sacred service on "Mother's Day."

**PORTLAND'S "ONE HUNDRED"**

Rather strange that Portland business people, or some of Portland's business people, should stub their toes on the same rock repeatedly. At the recent city election a commission form of government was adopted greatly to the consternation of a minority. That minority immediately appoints a committee of one hundred men to examine into the fitness of candidates for office under the commission form.

If it were merely for examination as to fitness there could be no objection, but the personell of the committee indicates it is the old crowd who have tried during the past ten years to do something politically and in each instance have caught their necks on the same rope. No doubt their intentions are good, but their desire to boost some certain individual into office and the further desire to dictate a policy, although that policy may be first class, seem to bring the bunch up with a jerk on election day only to find that people have lost confidence in their sections and regardless of the sincerity expressed, put the stamp of disapproval on every effort made by the "committee".

It is strange that a number of Portlanders do not catch step with the times and give up their old fogy ideas of the "good old days" which have passed and gone forever.

**A MATTER OF PARTY AFTER ALL**

The postmaster general, along with President Wilson, declares that Taft's idea of civil service for fourth class

postmasters has a flaw in it. And that to have the civil service pure and without defect it is necessary to re-appoint something like 50,000 postmasters in the United States. After the appointments have been made, which naturally will be Democratic appointments then the civil service idea will again prevail.

But how long? Only until a president of a different political faith assumes more in the dent Wilson has killed the civil service White House. By this action President Wilson in the postoffice department, for he has established a precedent of upsetting all civil service procedure in order to appoint men of his own party which precedent will henceforth continue.

There will always be a flaw found in the idea of the late president by the one who is elected. And thus, the boasted reform for the past few years on federal office holding goes on the bumpes and we are again in the throes of that old slogan, "Turn the rascals out."

**DECORATE THE GRAVES.**

All should keep in mind that day of all days for the patriotic heart—May 30th. That day which has been set apart for the nation for strewing flowers on the graves of the departed; that day which brings back the memory of warfare, of privation, of heroism. As the Observer has said before there are still a number of old veterans living in Union county, and there are a number of the Woman's Relief Corps members, all of whom will combine their efforts to have fitting and appropriate exercises on May 30th. But the assistance of the general community is needed. Enjoying freedom and a united nation as we do, shared in the blessing which were purchased by human blood as we are it is but right that La Grande should suspend business pursuits long enough to pay tribute to the soldiers both living and dead who sacrificed so much for the flag.

The Christian church building is being moved to a location three blocks from the business section. This means that the business district of the city is spreading out to such extent that the former location of the church is needed for business purposes. Ground frequently becomes too valuable commercially for churches unless the church feels it can afford such location. But the average member of the church is right in his conclusion that location of the building in which the people worship counts for little.

Portland is now experiencing a rush of office-seekers—men who say they are equipped for the jobs. There are those who ridicule the new idea, but it was found that a majority of Portland registered voters said by their votes, "anything O Lord, but give us a change from the present system."

The proposal to erect a new bridge at the Palmer mills by the county is along right lines. The bridge that is there has suffered damages from floods and it would be well to put in a bridge in that location which will insure safety to all travel at all times.

Are you getting ready for the great parade on Tuesday when the baseball season opens in La Grande? The cowbell you carry will indicate your rank in the patriotic order of baseball fans.

**ILLINOIS SUFFRAGE PARTY ATTACKS MARRIAGE LAWS.**

"Sanctity" and the Church Ceremony Are Denounced Bitterly.

The prevailing marriage laws, the so called sanctity of marriage and the church marriage ceremony have fallen under the condemnation of the women's suffrage party of Cook county, Ill., in which Chicago is situated. At a recent meeting of a revolutionary nature the women declared the "sanctity of marriage" as a term to be meaningless and drew up a positive declaration of their principles wherein is the following sentence:

"The time has come when the laws governing marriage no longer should rest on sanctity alone."

An open letter was sent to the legislature. In directing comment upon the sanctity of marriage it states:

"Under the regime of sanctity 90 per cent of the race has become weaklings. Under sanctity white slavery has grown to gigantic proportions."

"Easy divorce" was the slogan of the women. Here is an argument for "collusion and fraud":

"Men and women try to secure divorces for causes which they cannot talk about and for which the law does not grant divorce. Without collusion and fraud these women cannot secure the release they crave and deserve."

**W. C. T. U. MEETS IN OCTOBER**

World Convention of Organization to Take Place in Brooklyn.

Plans have been announced for the ninth triennial convention of the World's Woman's Christian Temperance union, which will be held in Brooklyn Oct. 23 to 28. More than 2,000 white ribboners will gather from all parts of the world. The convention will have 400 delegates, of whom about half will represent the United States, and the others will represent practically every other civilized country. England will send 150 women, led by Lady Aurea Howard, daughter of the Countess of Carlisle, the world's president of the organization.

The convention session and a great Sunday mass meeting will be held at the Academy of Music, Brooklyn. Historic Plymouth church and other meeting places will also be used. This will be the fourth world's convention of the W. C. T. U. in this country. The first was held in Boston in 1891 and the second in Chicago in 1893. London had it next in 1895, then Toronto in 1897, Edinburgh in 1900 and Geneva in 1903. It came back to Boston again in 1906, went to Glasgow in 1910, and Brooklyn was selected for 1913.

**GERM CAUSES RHEUMATISM.**

Chicago Physician Says He Has Found the Bacteria.

That rheumatism is caused by a germ is the theory of Dr. Edward C. Rosenow of Rush Medical college, Chicago, who also says he has discovered the identity of the hitherto unknown bacteria.

Dr. Rosenow made known his discovery for the first time in describing his work to the staff of the Chicago Tuberculosis Institute. He said he based his theories on experiments made upon rabbits, into which he had injected rheumatic germs taken from human beings.

He said he found the tonsils of several patients inflamed. When bacteria from the tonsils were injected into the rabbits the identical symptoms developed, he said.

"There is nothing to indicate that rheumatism may be transmitted through the air," said Dr. Rosenow, "and I believe the germs lurk in food and first lodge in the tonsils."

Dr. Rosenow's discoveries will be the basis of experimental work in search of a cure for rheumatism.

Small—I have discovered a great labor saving device.

Tall—I always said you were a genius. What is it?

Small—I am going to marry Miss Bullion, the heiress.—Topeka Capital.

The dear old songs of long ago—I heard them warbled in a show. My taste, alas, is not severe! I have, no doubt, a vandal's ear. For as I heard the old refrain in comic or in serious vein I vowed with diffidence complete The modern songs have got them beat! —Washington Star.

"I believe in heredity."

"I don't blame you. You are a dead one, and your ancestors are dead too." —New York Press.

The society miss may be first in the swiftness of her receptions and balls. But she'll have to admit it's the telephone girl! Who receives the most calls. —Boston Transcript.

**HUMOR OF A SCULPTOR.**

Carpeaux in His Merry Moods With Napoleon III.

Although he was a man of great earnestness and seriousness of purpose, Carpeaux, one of the most famous French sculptors of the last century, had a droll tongue and a capricious humor that he vented on lackey and imperor alike. Lecture Four Tous relates some amusing anecdotes of him.

At a reception at the Tuilleries Napoleon III, engaged in a few minutes' private conversation with Carpeaux. At its conclusion the young sculptor was besieged by a crowd of courtiers and envious rivals, who wanted to know what the emperor had talked about.

"Promise to tell no one!" whispered Carpeaux as he drew the eager listeners to one side of the ballroom. "Well then, the emperor was trying to borrow 5 francs from me."

Some years later, when Carpeaux had received the commission to do the decorations for the Pavillon de Flore of the Tuilleries, Napoleon often came to watch him at work on the scaffolds that had been built against the face of the building. Occasionally the emperor mounted aloft to this improvised studio, hung between earth and sky.

One day Carpeaux, in a particularly merry mood, told him that when he wished to rest from his labors he would make tiny pellets of clay and drop them on the heads of passersby.

"It's very amusing," he explained. "People stop and look about them. They can't imagine where the missiles come from."

"Here," he continued, holding out some of the little clay bullets; "try it yourself."

"I wouldn't dare," laughingly said Napoleon, amused at the idea of the emperor of the French, mounted on a scaffold, throwing pellets of clay at his subjects.

"Bah!" muttered Carpeaux. "What's the use of being an emperor?"

Napoleon did not forget this remark. A few months later, when the sculptor sought a title, the emperor, unable or unwilling to grant the request, exclaimed:

"Bah! What's the use of being Carpeaux? Isn't that better than baron?"

**MENACE OF THE CURTAIN.**

Window Draperies and the Campaign Against the White Plague.

If the worldwide campaign against tuberculosis is going to be a success it cannot be too strongly impressed that, like clarity, preventive measures must begin at home. Fresh air must be obtained by each occupant of every room in the house. This can never be accomplished until housewives realize that the body is of more value than talent and an abundant supply of pure air of more importance to life than the maintenance of the traditional snow whiteness of a pair of window curtains.

The fear of soiling white curtains and also of admitting dust and dirt into the rooms where it can settle on furniture and ornaments is quite as much responsible for the closed window habit as is the dislike of drafts. It is hard to overcome prejudice and harder still to root out an old established custom, but nevertheless these elementary facts of hygiene should be taught plainly and simply to elder girls in school so that wiser habits of house management may be inculcated.

To abolish curtains altogether from the windows of private dwellings would be, perhaps, too much to expect of the present generation, but if this ideal cannot yet be attained they might be made of some less expensive or more readily renewable material. For the sake of appearances human lives must not be allowed to suffer.—London Medical Press and Circular.

**MAKES NIAGARA A DWARF.**

A Waterfall in British Guiana That is 822 Feet High.

The Kaieteur waterfall, in British Guiana, is the highest waterfall in the world. It is of unsurpassed grandeur and beauty, as the Potaro river, unobstructed at its brink by islands or huge masses of rock, huris itself in full flood into a great abyss.

Peering over the precipitous and sheer rocky face, within 100 feet of this avalanche of water, is an awe inspiring experience. The total height of the fall is 822 feet, or five times that of Niagara, which boasts only 164 feet. The fall is generally seen at the dry season, and consequently the name Kaieteur means "Old Man's fall" and was so called after an old man who lived in an Indian village years ago.

One day the natives, exasperated at the old man's bad temper, put him into a boat and let the boat carry him over the falls. The boat was, tradition says, turned to stone and is now a large rock at the foot of the falls, while the old man's ghost haunts the spot at night, and no Indian will approach. The fall, if harnessed, could generate a horsepower of 1,264,864.—New York Sun.

**Notice to My Friends.**

The report that I am going to quit in the automobile contest is incorrect

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