

THE OBSERVER

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THE GRANDE RONDE CHAUTAUQUA.

Although the Chautauqua is an old institution in the east and has been a feature of the west for a number of years, there is still a misunderstanding by some as to its real meaning and intent.

When first inaugurated the Chautauqua ran to study almost exclusively. It was not exactly a coaching school, but rather a week of information on scientific subjects as well as historical, embellished at intervals by lectures from people who had spent their lives digging into special matters pertaining to the line of study scheduled. But as the Chautauquas grew and became more numerous the entertainment feature became prominent, for we Americans do love entertainment. Then came the political orator who told of graft and lax officials. He was welcomed for the time being. The original idea of thought and research is coming back and the Chautauqua of this year in La Grande will not only contain excellent entertainment but there will be classes of study.

In commenting upon Chautauquas in a general way the Boise Statesman of recent issue, printed an editorial from which we quote the following:

"Such universities as the Wisconsin state university has set the entire country a commendable example in bringing home to the very hearthstones of the people not only much practical instruction in farming, dairying, etc., but also making it possible for the plain people who are filled with a desire to continue their education along scientific, historic and linguistic lines to do so. It provides courses of home study under university auspices that in a few years will put Wisconsin people far ahead of those of any other state in the Union in high grade culture.

"The absolute and imperative demand of the present time is that our educational institutions be brought nearer home to the people, that they may be made more practical. The time is not far distant when the people can select what studies they desire and complete them at home under university auspices. That the colleges and

high schools are turning out from year to year many graduates who proceed immediately to forget everything they have learned in the schools, never giving to their hardly learned German or Latin or French even the cold respect of a passing thought, is in part the fault of the schools, but more the fault of those graduates themselves, who have either drunk too scantily at the Pyrean spring or are so dense that the light of learning scarcely penetrated their thick skulls. "The Chautauqua is an effort to keep up the interest of the people who have once tasted the sweets of learning and literature, but whom often the love of money or the manifold cares of life have tempted from their books and from their nobler selves. 'Morituri Salutamus,' delivered nearly a century ago, sounded the first high note of warning:

The scholar and the world, in endless strife,
The discord in the harmonies of life,
The love of learning, the sequestered nooks
And all the sweet serenity of books,
The market price, the eager love of gain,
Whose aim is vanity and whose end is pain.

"It fell like a Promethean prophetic word, but it was not strong enough to stem the tide of inordinate greed that has since deluged the land.

"The Chautauqua is the sweet voice of the muses calling to sylvan haunts, to the sweet serenity of books, to the sparkling deeps of literature, to the rapture of ennobling music, to the vital contact with great minds, which in itself is a liberal education."

Chautauqua week in La Grande this year furnishes "Ng Poon Chew," Dr. Holcomb of race horse fame, Sierra Quartette—a western troupe that went east and scored a great success last year, the Tyrolean-Singers fresh from Norway, Dr. Baumgart who lectures on the stars, besides many other notables along with the splendid study courses including domestic science, farming, laws of Oregon studied by women, kindergarten and Creche—which when translated means a place to check the babies.

LA GRANDE'S COMMISSION FORM READY.

It is gratifying to know that the committee named by Mayor Hall to revise the proposed commission charter has been a working committee and at the next meeting of the city council the present city fathers will be presented with a copy of the document for them to read and consider. Should the present council decide to ordain the new charter an election will at once follow asking for its adoption by the people. This is very likely what will happen. But should the council deem the new charter not the proper thing it lays for thirty days after which time the law automatically commands the city recorder to call the special election after sixty days.

There is little apprehension felt over any possible impediment to the charter when once it is released from the committee, which will be at the next council meeting, for the present personnel of the council seem to favor

a commission plan. There may be objections raised to some features of the document, for men do not see things alike, and it is well to have exhaustive argument on the different sections as the adoption of the charter means the adoption of a new law under which every citizen will live.

WHERE THE PHYSICIAN GETS WORSTED.

Oregon now has a law that provides for physical examination before marriage license may be obtained and that a physician's certificate of good health must be presented to the county clerk prior to issuance of license.

And everyone agrees that this is a fine thing, which it is. But the law goes a little deeper into the subject and says a physician may charge the princely sum of \$2.50 for this examination. And still that is not all, for the statute then thunders its orders to the doctor saying in cold language that should an applicant for a marriage license be found to have certain diseases after possessing a certificate of good health the state shall at once proceed against the physician and take from him his diploma and forever bar him from the practice of medicine within the borders of Oregon.

Again many clap their hands and say, "fine." But where does the physician get off. It is admitted by all professional men that to be sure no disease lurks within the male a blood analysis must be made, and it costs ten dollars in any city to have such an analysis. No physician following regular practice is equipped to make proper blood analysis and if he were so equipped he would have to charge at least ten dollars for the service to pay for time and money expended.

So the position of the doctor resolves itself into a delicate one. He does not dare to sign a certificate without proper examination even if he were disposed to do so, for the penalty of being expelled from the practice of medicine confronts him. And to the credit of the medical profession be it said, the greater per cent would not attach their names to such certificates even if there was no penalty.

Then here is the situation: A young couple want to wed. No matter how high the standing of the applicants in the community they must have the said certificate to satisfy the state of Oregon. The man appeals to his physician who in turn says the examination cannot be made for the price prescribed. Naturally the would-be benedict offers to pay more, but the physician's hands are once more tied for the law forbids him accepting more than two dollars and fifty cents.

Unless some kind and generous supreme court untangles the situation it would look as though the county clerk will have few licenses to issue and that another impediment to marriage has been raised which will be difficult to overcome. Surely the physicians will refuse to put themselves in jeopardy for the paltry fee offered, and the outcome will probably be a general campaign of "fleeing the state" by the lovers who decide to no longer travel in single harness.

IT PAYS TO WATCH THE CROWD GO BY.

That the business of the country is slowing up somewhat no one will attempt to deny. But really, is it not time to slow up a little and watch the crowd go by?

The tension has been great during the past few years; headaches have been many. Men have overreached themselves to a terrible extent. Credit has been stretched to the breaking point, and through later months it has been certain that the time for readjustment was soon to come.

That time is appearing. Just how long or how severe the slowing up process will be remains to be seen. We cannot believe the Democratic administration wholly to blame. True, tampering with the tariff has always caused business convulsions—sometimes needlessly so. But the period of revision is upon the United States. By their votes the people demanded a change in tariff schedules and President Wilson is undoubtedly doing his best to see that the tariff shall be revised.

While it may be hard for many to see, we believe it is the best thing for the country to have an earnest demonstration of tariff revision now. If you are in business do not take on too many obligations, and on the

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other hand do not look for the country to go to the dogs, for it is not going. This country is all right. No political party, no tariff revision, no condition can appear that will make what men term are "hard times." Things may get a little close, but there will be no real hard times.

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP IDEA HITS BAKER.

To all appearances Baker will install a municipal light plant, and her experiment will be watched with a great deal of interest by other Eastern Oregon cities. There is a disposition on the part of the Baker commissioners (for Baker is governed by a commission) to erect a plant at the reservoir of the city water system. Like most cities located in a mountain country Baker's water supply has considerable fall before it reaches the reservoir and without doubt will generate some power. But it is always well before any municipality plunges headlong into installing a public utility to not only figure the cost but also to figure just how much of a product may be obtained. To do this requires more than ordinary skill for the average engineer is purely theoretical and his figures seldom make good when the plant is completed and water turned into the flume.

It takes a great deal of water and at a good pressure to turn wheels sufficiently fast to generate enough current for a small city. We have had several instances of power development here in the Grande Ronde valley which when figured by the engineers indicated a generous supply of electricity with plenty to spare for the undertaking desired, but when the belts were put on and the wheels began to turn the investor found that the power was short and therefore the plant was rendered inadequate and proved a losing proposition.

Baker will find it to her advantage, if she really wants to have a municipal lighting plant, to go back in the mountains where power is plentiful and erect a substantial institution even if it does cost a half million dollars.

But before any city goes into the lighting business it is well to see what the current can be contracted for and better yet, investigate the company that is furnishing the city with current and see if it is really making enormous profits on its investment. If such be the case, probably the only relief will be the municipal system, but if on the other hand, only a fair return on the capital is being made, allowance being made for depreciation, water rights and the numerous other things that figure in, it is far better for a city to insist on a reasonable price from a company that is in the business than for the municipality to enter the lighting game. Try as hard as you may you will find that there is an expense attached to any institution that is run by the city, the state or the nation which does not obtain in the private owned concern, and this expense very frequently amounts to more than the difference paid under a contract for one article, and the amount the municipality can furnish it for one year with another.

And, What Then--?

"And, then what—" remarked Secretary Se Cor of the Union Fair association last Sunday when his automobile died in the country and he was forced to study the heavens until another buzz wagon hove in sight.

It is in order for Baker and Elgin to each see which can secure the fattest calf to barbecue for La Grande people on the Fourth.

Jack Peare, M. B. Donohue and F. L. Meyers journeyed to Portland to take the "lace curtain" degree in the Knights of Columbus work which would indicate each of these gentlemen is a constant reader of the Ladies Home Journal.

"E. M. F." which, according to competitors in the automobile world means "Every Mornin' Fixem," has a new meaning compiled by George Small, of the Baker Democrat who owns one. He says the proper words for these initials are "Every Mechanics Friend." But, speaking of automobiles every man thinks his wife is the best, his horse is the best and his automobile is a little better than any other made. We saw a good demonstration of this on an occasion when a number from La Grande were being entertained in a Willamette valley and they were treated to an auto ride around the the Willamette valley and they were and the writer got into the same car, and the former said, "I wish I had caught an E. M. F." and with that settled down in the cushions to enjoy the ride. After we had traveled a

A NOTED CHINESE EDITOR-LECTURER



Poon Chew is a Chinaman but a brilliant one. He delivers here the identical lecture that will be heard at the World's conference in Portland which by the way is the greatest thing by far—number in attendance counted—that has ever come to Portland. This particular Chinaman is rated as one of the best to be heard in Portland.

mile or so we said to the driver, "Your machine is working fine today, what make do you drive?" "This is an E. M. F." was the reply. We looked at Mr. Myers who did not bat an eye but continued to admire the well kept lawns and growing shrubbery.

You know there are some things a man prizes very highly in this world. Ever since we crossed the Rocky Mountains we have heard about a distillery hat once thrived at Cove. When we came to La Grande we heard more of it. In fact, according to tradition that has not been questioned while Frank Phy was sheriff that distillery failed. Think of a distillery failing. But it did and Frank in his official capacity attached the property placed a lock and key on the stock, following the tariff letter of the law. In the cleanup there was some very fine prune brandy left over and naturally it was the duty of the sheriff to care of all remnants in a sale. There are those who have tasted of that prune brandy and pronounce it exquisitely superb, but we do depose and say that up to the present moment our lips are as free from the product of the Cove distillery as Secretary Bryan's dinners are free from wine.

After General Bragg has accosted himself to the duties of postmaster which have been ably discharged by Postmaster Ritchie it is presumed there will be no objection from the General if President Wilson decides to place all postmasters under civil service.

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WE SELL Pure Artificial Ice at 50c a hundred. Pure river Ice at 30 cents a hundred. Our Artificial Ice is made from pure Beaver creek water and is guaranteed as pure as the city water. Please get your orders in before noon each day. GRANDY THE ICE MAN.

The Test of Time. Time determines whether the policies under which a bank is operated are safe. 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 DESIGNATED DEPOSITORY OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. UNITED STATES POSTAL SAVINGS DEPOSITORY.