

THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS, Editor and Owner

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FINDING LIFE A BORE.

It is hard for the average healthy minded man or woman to see much sense in the suicide of a wealthy couple "because they had no interest in life." Suicides never can be defended or even excused but sometimes they can be understood.

Perhaps it was the possession of so much money which caused the ennui. Great wealth by putting all the pleasures of the world at one's finger ends frequently destroys the capacity to enjoy.

Those who confess to a lack of interest in life confess to mental poverty. There is no reason why the least fortunate or the most fortunate in a monetary sense ever should see life as a dull gray.

THEY DEMAND THE POINT.

Editor George Harvey, in the whimsical vaudeville in which he bid good-bye to the readers of Harper's Weekly, confessed that the polished but heavy style of writing for which the periodical is famous has gone out of style.

"Looking over the files the other day," he wrote in announcing the change of ownership, "we found not less than twenty long editorials on civil service in thirty successive issues, and very little else. They were sound, cogent articles and, of course, admirably written, but how would they take on the newstands in this hurrying age?"

Not very well, it can be imagined. The reading public of today is not clamoring for ponderous writing, no matter how sound and cogent it may be.

Tastes in reading have changed quite as much as the tastes in clothes. The minutely detailed style went out of vogue with the hoop skirt and the powdered wig.

The twentieth century public has no objection to thinking big thoughts, but it simply will not tolerate ponderousness in the handling of them. The passing generation asked instruction; that of today demands stimulation.

Writing today must be crisp and terse. Thoughts must be boiled down into tabloid form. Force and vim never must be sacrificed for grace.

The old style was pleasant and gently satisfying; the new is more sincere and purposeful. Because it leans so definitely towards simplicity it is more democratic.

FLAWS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

President Wilson has pointed out to the senate a number of flaws in the civil service laws some of which he roundly condemns, and with just cause. He declares that the effort to distribute the appointments proportionately among the different states has greatly reduced the efficiency of federal employes and cost the government a great amount in the quality of his professional labor.

There is no good reason why an applicant for a position who meets the requirements sufficiently to secure a rating of 85 to 90 per cent should be left out of the consideration to permit the appointment of an applicant from another state with a much lower rating. This is what the president claims

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is happening and he bases his conclusions on an exhaustive report of an inquiry into the ratings of employes in all department of the government. These report shows that applicants who obtained marks but little over 70 in their examinations have been appointed to the federal service when eligible persons were on the rolls of other states with 90.

This is an age of efficiency and the movement in this direction has reached the point where it is essential to the success of all private business. Why should it not apply to the government? Why should the efficiency of the national departments be sacrificed in order that "Pap" may be distributed proportionately among the states? If there is any institutional reason for having the states and territories proportionally represented in the service it would be interesting to learn just what the reason is.

The commission making the inquiry has recommended that the attempt of the law to give each state its share of federal patronage be greatly modified, that a mark of 85 be set as the standard by which the first choice of applicants shall be made, and that all of the eligible persons standing over 85 be first selected, notwithstanding the fact that certain states may still lack their share of federalists.

P. E. Lucky of Detroit, Mich., has been deserted by his wife. There's an answer to the query, "What's in a name?"

Wallowa Personals.

Wallowa, June 25.—(Special)—The second annual hop given under the auspices of the Wallowa County O. A. C. club last Friday night, was largely attended. This was one of the largest social affairs to occur in the county this season.

J. P. O'Brien, vice president of the O.-W. R. & N. company, passed through Wallowa Friday in his private car, enroute to Enterprise.

Sheriff Edgar Marvin and family of Enterprise, were visiting relatives in this city from Friday until Saturday.

A. J. Buckley, assistant superintendent of the O.-W. R. & N. company, passed through Wallowa Monday on a tour of inspection.

Mrs. W. G. Trill, who has been visiting with relatives at Colfax, Wash., for the past two weeks, arrived home Sunday.

C. T. McDaniel, cashier of the Sockgrowers' and Farmers' National bank of Wallowa, and Prof. Roy Conklin, were business visitors in Flora from Tuesday until Friday of last week.

J. H. Minnaugh left Monday for Boise, Idaho, Mrs. Minnaugh and two children accompanied him as far as La Grande where they will spend a few

GETTYSBURG READY.

(Continued from Page One.)

in regulation army fashion with avenues of large electric lights indicating the streets and state sections. Water mains, sewerage pipes and electric lighting systems today are in operation throughout the tented village and transportation facilities from the nearby towns thoroughly mapped out and ready. A great tent, seating between 10,000 and 15,000 persons has been erected adjoining the main camp in which all exercises and reunions of the veterans will be held. The Pennsylvania Gettysburg commission, in charge of the arrangements for the reunion has urged that all veterans, North and South, wear army

Redding Recluse Murdered.

Redding, Cal., June 25.—Mysterious murder is revealed by the finding of the body of Charles William Hale, a miner. Frank Marsh, out hunting rabbits, discovered the body. The head was crushed and the jaw smashed and lay beside a rock crusher near his cabin. The only relatives so far as known live at Aylmer, Canada. He was a recluse. His disappearance was unnoticed. Hobbey is believed to be the motive for the crime.

weeks visiting with Mrs. Minnaugh's mother, Mrs. Mason.

Mr. and Mrs. Averill Combs and little daughter of La Grande, arrived Saturday, for a visit with Mrs. Combs' parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Cramer.

Byron Brady returned Friday from a trip to Boise, Idaho and Huntington.

Rev. Ham of Elgin, held services in the local Christian church Sunday.

Butcher Abuses Daughter.

Augusta, Ga., June 25.—J. J. Johnson, a butcher, is charged with having beaten his daughter with a whip after he had suspended her to a meat hook in his shop, with a chain around her neck. The beating, he said was because he could not control the girl.

Many citizens whoop for civic righteousness and then forget to list all their taxable property for their city's benefit.

Philadelphia zoo monkeys are dying by scores. It's probably due to the things the monks see outside the cage.

Our idea of a bold man is one who doesn't hesitate to turn the pages of his newspaper while the man sitting next to him is reading it.

Anonymous letters are like the old-fashioned "devil's fiddle"—annoying but harmless.

A Michigan doctor says the X-Ray will cure warts. Human, or on the hand, doc?

corps or division badges as a means of identification. The Commission has made no recommendation in the matter of wearing of uniforms, but each old soldier, whether "rebel" or "yank" will be welcomed heartily in their old war-time costumes.

In order to avoid as far as possible congestion of the railroads at the stations here in bringing and taking away crowds, the camp will be opened, in complete readiness, on Sunday, the 29th and will continue open until the following Sunday, July 6th. This applies to the veterans only.

The entire state constabulary today is establishing headquarters here to police the crowds, which are expected to run up into the hundreds of thousands. The encampment grounds, inside and out, will be guarded constantly by regular army troops. The camp is located near the famous

battleground at the southwest edge of the town and adjoining historic Seminary Ridge and the scene of Pickett's charge.

According to the latest plans of the reunion commission, the first day, July 1, will be "Veterans' Day," with exercises under the direction of the Pennsylvania Commission, the G. A. R. and the United Confederate Veterans. July 3 will be "Military Day," when there will be exercises conducted by the United States army. On July 3, "Civic Day," Governor Tener will be in charge and the governor of other states will participate. On July 4, "National Day" there will be an oration by President Wilson and ceremonies attending the laying of the Peace Memorial cornerstone. The celebration will be terminated with a gorgeous display of fireworks in the evening.

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Economy jars

Table with 3 columns: Jar Size, Second Hand Price, New Jar Price. Rows for Pints, Quarts, Half Gallons.

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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 \$1,200,000, 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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