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THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS, Editor and Owner

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EASILY PLEASSED.

To further show that the Observer's contention regarding our water-soaked brethren of Western Oregon is correct, listen to what complimentary terms were showered on the same. Walt Holcomb who proved to be tire-some at the Grande Ronde chautauqua. He delivered the same lecture at Gladstone chautauqua and this is what the papers in Portland had to say: Sam Jones' son-in-law, Walt Holcomb, of Nashville, Tenn., pulled off a horserace at Gladstone chautauqua

this afternoon before 3000 people. It was his own original "horserace," not exactly a contest in the flesh, but it was every bit as thrilling and the applause given the speaker as his "white" horse came thundering down the field and crossed the tape a few feet ahead of the "bay" was just as boisterous and vociferous as that accorded the winning driver at the county fair. Holcomb's style is almost as original as that of his inimitable father-in-law. In his peculiar Southern drawl lies the secret of his humor. His lecture, too, is original in theme, and, in the vernacular of the horseman, he pictures a thrilling contest between the "gray" horse of socialism, the "bay" horse of capitalism, the "black" horse of anarchy and the "white" horse of altruism. Being a horseman himself and the proprietor of a large stock ranch in Tennessee, Holcomb naturally makes his description effective and occasionally he "hands over" a few pet slang phrases that would make the usual jingo of the jockey seem exceedingly tame. But he gives his message and does it most effectively.

FIVE BIG CONVENTIONS

(Continued from Page 1)

gation of several hundred will doubtlessly be present. The Joseph people were very hospitable and those who did go report warm receptions at the hands of the city by the lake. Election of officers and transaction of

much important business was done. Retiring President J. H. Rudd and the other delegates from here have returned, the institute having adjourned until next year.

The officers for the ensuing year are: Fred J. Taylor, La Grande, president; Reba Williamson, Island City first vice pres.; Fannie McKennon, Union, second vice pres.; Ed. Jasper, Alice, third vice pres.; Ray W. Faulds, Baker, fourth vice pres.; Mrs. W. A. Winters, La Grande, junior superintendent; Vera Leffel, La Grande, corresponding secy.; Sylvia Graves, Joseph, recording secy.; L. D. Crouter, Island City, treasurer.

The first big gathering of these five conventions will be the Idaho conference of the Methodist church, bringing bishops, district superintendents, ministers and lay delegates to a number estimated at 350.

Plans for entertainment of these people are already under way and if possible the Methodist church will be completed by that time to hold the sessions. Men of repute and pulpit fame will lecture during that gathering and in many ways it will be the most important session of its kind yet held.

Then comes the Eastern Oregon Teachers' institute bringing a galaxy of teachers and instructors, including some of the foremost educators of the country who will participate in program. Fully 500 teachers of eastern Oregon will attend this session.

The Farmers' union meeting will bring men of state wide prominence and large numbers of delegates, coming from all sections of the state. The probable number is not estimated but will amount to several hundred with immediate vicinity and neighboring counties sending the bulk of them.

The State Merchants' association is sending a special train of guests and that a big time is in store when they reach here is an assured fact.

The Knights of Pythias of Union and Wallowa counties will bring several hundred men from the county towns to this city.

The State Sunday School convention is a very important one.

Married Teachers a Problem.

New York, July 21.—Does marriage and motherhood interfere with woman's efficiency as a public school teacher? That is the question now agitating the New York board of education, and many civic bodies throughout the Greater City have taken the problem up. The question has become such a burning issue that the other day 150 men and women, teachers, lawyers, writers and actresses, formed themselves into a league for the civic service of women, which will in the fall begin an active campaign in the interests of married women teachers. The argument started when Mrs. Katherine C. Edgell, a member of the Erasmus high school faculty, formally applied to the board of education for a year's leave of absence without pay

for the purpose of bearing and rearing a child. The board, after considerable debate and deliberation, refused Mrs. Edgell's request.

The newspapers and periodicals got hold of the story and gave it much space, arousing discussion throughout the city. Fuel was added to the flames when Mrs. Bridget C. Peixotto, a Bronx teacher, was suspended indefinitely for staying away from school to give birth to a baby.

Twenty married teachers attended the meeting at the Hotel Astor, where the league for the Civic Service of Women was launched and the movement was indorsed by the New York Mothers' club and the Women Lawyers' club. For many years there have been married women employed in the public schools of New York, and from time to time they have dropped out on sick leave and have become mothers. The question never became a public one until Mrs. Edgell made formal application to the board for a year's leave of absence, giving as her reason her wish to be a mother. Members of the board who opposed Mrs. Edgell's request for a motherhood vacation, defend their action by saying that they do not approve of married women as teachers. They have no objection to babies they say, but they think that matrimony lowers the efficiency of women as teachers. When they have home and husband and children, it was argued, the teachers cannot give their undivided attention to their pupils and their school duties.

As an additional argument, they point out that the home is the place for the married woman and she has no business out in the world working when she has a husband to care for her. Also they say, it is selfish for a married woman to hold on to a teacher's job when there are so many single and dependent women who are forced to support themselves and who would make capable school teachers.

Those who have taken up the cudgel for Mrs. Edgell and the other married teachers, say that the attitude of the board of education is inimical to society and encouraging to race suicide. They also declare that married women naturally make the best teachers, since by their fuller experience in life they are better fitted to teach young girls or boys and train them for normal, happy lives.

Old Painting for 36 Cents.

Melbourne, July 22.—A painting which is believed to be a Rubens, worth at least \$100,000 has been purchased at an auction for 36 cents. A Brunswick (west Australia) auctioneer, bought it at this price and sold it a few weeks later to Dr. Charles Summers of Perth, (west Australia), for \$250. The doctor is convinced that it is a genuine Rubens. He left today for England with his prize to submit it to the president of the London Royal academy and other experts.

Mulhall Again On Stand.

Washington, July 22.—Martin Mul-

hall on the stand today in the insidious lobby probe, demanded the right of counsel. The request was granted but not until after Committeeman Reed had objected.

The Strawberry in Sacred Art.

When the old masters introduced the strawberry into their religious pictures it was because that stoneless, thornless fruit, with its chaste white blossom and trofoil leaves, was the symbol of perfect righteousness. The violet is usually seen with it, indicating that the truly fruitful soul is always humble. So says Elizabeth Holz in her "Floral Symbolism of the Great Masters."

No Compliment.

"Dining in a real home must seem pleasant after life in these restaurants," remarked the hostess, fishing openly for a compliment. "It is a relief not to have to watch your hat and coat all the time," responded the dense old bachelor.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Worse to Come.

"The opposition candidate is perfectly wild. He says you have been telling lies about him." "You just think he is perfectly wild. Wait until after my speech tomorrow. I'm going to tell the truth about him."—Houston Post.

Cautious.

"Darling, do you love me for myself alone?" "Why, certainly, Charles. But you really have that \$50,000, haven't you?"—Louisville Courier-Journal.

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Thirty Negroes Burn.

Jackson, Miss., July 22.—Thirty Negro convicts sleeping on the second floor of a wooden cage on a convict farm 20 miles southwest of here were cremated at midnight last night, and their bodies burned beyond recognition. The fire started from the first floor and as the structure was an old flimsy building it burned rapidly. The screams of the imprisoned were heard for miles. The lower floor of the cage was filled with hay. As there was no means of fighting the fire the guards stood by and watched the convicts die in agony.

B. B. NUTTER



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La Grande, Oregon

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