

THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS, Editor and Owner

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LOWERING THE COST.

Those who claim that agitation in the paving matter has done no good should turn attention to the bids that were opened last night for the Spring street contract.

It will be instantly seen that excavation has dropped from 50 cents to 39 cents—this means 11 cents a yard saved to property owners on excavation alone. This and other citations referring to the lowest bid made.

On fill, the price has dropped from 36 cents to 10 cents, a saving of 26 cents a yard to the taxpayer.

Paving has dropped to \$1.00 a yard. This is for concrete paving. But think of the saving—La Grande's first paving cost \$2.15 a yard, then finally dropped to \$2.00 then about \$1.95, followed by a switch in grade of paving and the price paid was \$1.47. Now a standard concrete paving is offered at \$1.00 a yard.

Curbing, straight, has dropped from 50 cents to 35 cents a lineal foot, while circular curb drops from 68 cents to 40 cents a foot.

And with all of these drops there is another that is also important. Cement drops from the tremendously high price of \$2.85 in La Grande to \$2.45, with a possibility of it going much lower. This is of great importance when it is considered that the city is about to begin work on the new reservoir.

In the above we have quoted the bids, but the council has not as yet let the contracts. In these prices named property owners can buy just what is mentioned at the prices attached, if they pay more, then it is up to them and the council. For certain it is that the way is pointed out clearly so none need err. The excavation, fill paving and curb can all be had at the lowered prices if La Grande wants to save the money.

SECOND STREET SUBWAY.

The O. W. R. & N. company is to be commended for at once recognizing the need of the Second street subway and instead of fighting such a move expresses satisfaction and willingness to do its part in order that the large and fast growing section of La Grande across the tracks toward the Palmer Lumber company mills may travel in safety back and forth to the business district.

A new school building in that part of the city will be doubly useful if the subway is built because of the

number of children on the south side who can then take advantage of the new building.

The railroad company will not only undergo the expense of actually building the subway proper but it will also pay its proportion of the tax that is required to erect and construct approaches, paving to the right-of-way and the numerous other expenses which always go with such an improvement.

EDUCATED TO PLAY.

Teaching children to play seems to the average man or woman as superfluous as teaching a duck to swim or a dog to bark. Yet it is a fact that today many children have to be taught to play if they are not to stand around bored and helpless with every facility for play at hand. Some day a twentieth century playchologist is going to tell us in detail just why the children of this generation need instruction to play while the children of preceding generations just picked it up naturally.

In New York there is a movement, supported by thirty-three social organizations for definite play education for children. The advocates hold that as play forms character as much as work or perhaps to an even greater degree the same care should be exercised in seeing that they learn to play as now is given to making sure that they learn to work. No doubt there is much to this position.

At the same time we must remember that if children were allowed to be children as they once were, they would not need all this costly and intricate systematizing. The trouble with many parents is that they are not content to let their youngsters improve their play as they would if let alone, but insist on robbing them of all power of initiative by showering on them every imaginable gibberish that they think makes play easy. Toys and intricate paraphernalia of play are all right in moderation. But when bestowed on small children to excess only result in the child losing all ability to make fun for himself. In such cases the toys are but crutches on which he learns to lean.

Taking young children to commercial amusements—vaudeville houses, vaudettes, etc.—leads them to believe that somehow or other somebody is going to make it their business to amuse them. Early in life they become surfeited with excitement caused by a constant round of new sights and sensations. As a consequence in some circles we see blase infants of six or seven who are as unable to amuse themselves as Robinson Crusoe was to make a ship that would take him back to his native land.

Not a few homes nowadays are so spick and span that there is no place in them where children can have a little comfortable disorder and general riot. Even the back yards have grown so nice that children mustn't spoil the pretty green grass.

When parents learn to inject common sense into their love for little ones, when they treat them more like simple children and less like pocket editions of men and women, we won't need to hire salaried instructors to teach children to have a good time.

China has made up a new alphabet. And there was nothing that China needed more.

A composer of ragtime says that he cannot write a note of music. Well, it isn't necessary, is it?

One of the Rothschilds spent a fortune to get a rare butterfly, not a society butterfly, either.

With T. R. pleading for a larger navy and Bryan pleading for no navy at all, the foreigners must think that

The Biggest Bargains

We have offered are now on display in our show windows

\$5.00 For Your Choice of a Large Line SUITS COATS DRESSES \$5.00

Less than the cost of the material used in the making, is the price we offer on these attractive, seasonable ready-to-wear garments. Come and see for yourself. Not one tailored suit, coat or dress but which is worth three to four times the price asked.

ENTIRE LINE. PUMPS AND OXFORDS REDUCED 20 Per Cent.

Embroidered Batiste This season's newest novelty in dainty wash fabrics. Sells regularly for 70c per length of 48 inches. Special 45c Length

50c Silk Tissue, Special, Per Yd. 27c All the wanted shades and in just the right weight for dainty party and afternoon dresses.

Our Special "Fifteen Dollar" Suit Sale Lasts for a Short Time Only. Don't Delay.

Think of it. Here you can choose from the largest and most varied line of high grade men's clothing in Eastern Oregon and save from \$5.00 to \$15.00 on any suit you select.

\$15.00 Take your unrestricted choice of any man's suit in our entire stock. All the newest, this season's styles, and values up to \$30.00 \$15.00

West's Remodeling Sale

The Americans don't know what they want.

New Marriage Laws Scorned.

By Dr. Paul S. Hunter.

(Written for the United Press.)

Denver, Colo., Aug. 18.—If such a law as that recently passed in Wisconsin forbidding the marriage of diseased persons and compelling the sterilization of defectives had always been enforced, three-fourths of the world's greatest geniuses would never have been born! This was the opinion expressed today by Dr. Paul S. Hunter, secretary of the Colorado state board of health, as an answer to the statement of surgeon General Blue in which the surgeon declared that this country must stem the propagation of defectives and that the Wisconsin law is the correct answer. Dr. Hunter declares that love will laugh at laws just as he has laughed at locksmiths. Following is Dr. Hunter's statement.

Theoretically I am heartily in favor of prohibiting the marriage of all men and women who cannot show a clean bill of health, but it does not work out in practice. The strongest parents bring forth puny children; the most moral produce immoral offspring. The old joke about the "minister's son" is founded on history.

On the other hand, many of the weakest fathers and mothers, while transferring their weaknesses such as drunkenness, insanity, perversion and all the traits Surgeon General Blue says would be eliminated by law, also pass on the "divine spark" that has lighted the path of progress since time began.

In fact, genius, nine times out of ten is very closely allied with ill health, criminality, insanity or drunkenness. There are very few of our greatest poets, musicians, painters, authors and other artists who were not afflicted with some weakness which was inherited from the parents.

Wagner, Dean Swift and Charles Lamb were insane; Keats and Robert Louis Stevenson died of inherited tuberculosis; Coleridge and De Quincey were opium fiends; Pope was a dwarf and Herbert Spencer was an invalid;

Edgar Allen Poe was mentally unbalanced and an inveterate user of drugs and drink; Goldsmith was called "the inspired idiot"; Rousseau and Oscar Wilde were moral and mental perverts of the lowest order. Shakespeare was highly immoral in that he had an illegitimate daughter. It is hardly necessary to refer to Byron and Robert Burns, for their drunkenness and the open immorality of Byron are too well known.

It is true that all these ills come down through heredity but along with them come that thing which has compelled every advancement in the world of literature, art, science and invention. The question of why great talent seldom accompanies physical health has never been answered.

The present agitation over eugenics is not new. It began in Sparta before the time of Christ, when, in order to attain physical perfection as a race, all cripples or weak or deformed babies were exposed on the mountain tops to die or receive strength from the gods. None but the strongest were allowed to marry. This system produced the greatest physical giants of history, the most perfect animals of all times, but mentally the race became dwarfed; their brains went to seed. They produced no really great men, and distinguished themselves only in war and feats of strength.

If the plans of the eugenics enthusiasts were carried out in the one matter of prohibiting marriage of persons who drink, sixty per cent of the American people would be old maids and bachelors. It is evident from this how long it will be before such a law becomes general.

Only by training young men into a full and complete knowledge of the sin committed against the next generation by marrying diseased persons, can the race be strengthened. Laws contrary to the fundamental instincts always have been violated and always will be. The instinct to have strong, healthy children must be cultivated. Marriage will then occur only between men and women capable of becoming parents of the right kind of children.

More Alfalfa Needed.

Spokane, Wash., Aug. 20.—With the slogan, "More alfalfa means more dollars," Professor Perry G. Holden, the man who put Iowa on the map as a corn state, will conduct a characteristically strenuous alfalfa campaign in the Inland Empire commencing Wednesday, September 24.

Forty Inland Empire communities, speaking through their Commercial clubs, have invited the famous agriculturist to include their districts in the campaign, which Professor Holden has promised shall include every locality of the Inland Empire that will take an active interest in the movement.

The campaign will be arranged by the Spokane Chamber of Commerce, co-operating with commercial organizations of the Inland Empire. For four weeks Professor Holden and his associates will carry the message of more alfalfa, hogs and dairying to the fields and schools and business houses of the Inland Empire. The party, which will be augmented by a number of Spokane business men, will travel by special train, and at each stop will make swift automobile excursions to the surrounding farms and to community gatherings, to tell of the wonders of alfalfa.

The opening gun of the campaign will be an alfalfa day at the Spokane interstate fair, probably Thursday, September 18. The next event will be a rally of northwest governors, grange and farmers' union officials, educational leaders, bankers, railroad officials and business men of Spokane. This will be followed on the succeeding day by the departure of the special train.

Speaking of the campaign President Charles Heberd of the Chamber of Commerce said: "This is of vital importance to the prosperity of every man, woman and child in the Inland Empire. The alfalfa demonstration work will be the first step in a three-year campaign for more alfalfa, hogs,

corn and dairy herds in the Inland Empire.

"Here is the idea in a nutshell: The states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana import annually \$29,000,000 worth of packing house products and enough other things, such as dairy products, poultry and eggs, to swell the total to \$40,000,000. We ought to be raising these things right here in the Inland Empire, where we have every requisite for their successful production.

"If, at the end of three years, we can cause that \$40,000,000 to shrink to \$20,000,000 or to \$10,000,000, it will mean more money for the farmers, the business man and for everyone in this Spokane country. In a few years we ought to be exporting these products, so great are our opportunities.

"It costs \$1.04 to produce the average bushel of wheat, including wear and tear of the soil, according to so well known an authority as Dr. J. H. Worst, president of the North Dakota Agricultural college. He says the farmers are mining the soil and robbing future generations every time they grow a wheat crop, and that they are in reality producing the crop at a real cash loss every year, considering the present and future interest of all concerned.

"Instead of these vast wheat farms in various parts of the Inland Empire, we should have more farmers producing things at a real profit, things that will conserve the soil and will mean prosperity for all."

Popular Railroader Here.

P. A. Quackenbush, a former engineer, out of La Grande, but now employed on the Milwaukee & St. Louis out of Oskaloosa, Ia., is here visiting former friends. Mr. Quackenbush says that A. C. Murphy, who was until a year ago a popular conductor out of La Grande, is trainmaster on the Milwaukee & St. Louis.

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 \$1,000,000, 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

DESIGNATED DEPOSITORY OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. UNITED STATES POSTAL SAVINGS DEPOSITORY.

Drink SAM-O Natural Mineral Water and

You'll Know the Joy of Living