

THE OBSERVER

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THE GRAND OLD MAN OF METHODISM.

It is always refreshing to hear an old gentleman who has been on the firing line talk. Somehow one has confidence in him because of his experience. He seems to know so much that others must learn that whatever he says has a ring to it that sounds just a little different.

East night Rev. Robert Forbes who can rightly be called "the grand old man of Methodism," preached or lectured, whichever one chooses to term it, to the public and to the conference members. Rev. Forbes is the head of the Board of Missions and Church Extension and is making a tour of the country advocating a stronger support for the home mission and extension work.

He has a nice way. When he says he wants you to contribute fifty cents you feel at once like giving a dollar. And that is a rare treat among ministers. His talk from the beginning dealt with things we all know about. He was positive in his statement that he wanted some of the bonuses for this life; that the dreamer is not practical; and incidentally he was also positive that the Methodist church is the greatest church on earth—but this he finally left to the judgment of the individual.

His wit is of a good brand, and a funny story is not out of his line by any means. It was indeed quite a treat to hear this patriotic old veteran preach the gospel blended with a mighty pure brand of American patriotism and love of country.

THE METHODIST MINISTER.

The ministers are with us. They are the Methodist ministers—most of them real preachers who in their respective communities preach the gospel, preach against vice and sin; attend the sick and dying; say the last word of comfort to the living relatives of the deceased; preside at the marriages; hear the town gossip; occasionally have a little war in their own church—but through it all

they come out bravely for they are soldiers.

No man who cannot practice self denial, who cannot willingly give the best of his life to others can successfully be a Methodist preacher, and you notice there are very few Methodist preachers who are a success. It follows without contradiction that there are many men in La Grande today as guests who are giving the best that is in them in an endeavor to do good.

What more can be asked of a human?

To say this band of men are welcome to La Grande is putting it entirely too mildly. Twice welcome—the city is yours, do with it as you wish during your stay.

CHECKING THE SPEEDERS.

In Chicago an automobile driver has been convicted of murder and sentenced to 14 years in the penitentiary for running down and killing a man while speeding his car. Four men on the jury that convicted him are owners of automobiles. The evidence tended to show that the chauffeur was driving at the rate of 35 miles an hour at the time of the accident. His victim died with a broken skull three days later. The trial judge, in his instructions said that if the jurors were satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt, that the chauffeur was driving his machine in such a manner as to endanger human life, they should find him guilty of murder, regardless of whether the killing was accidental or intentional, and they did.

There have been many other instances of serious charges made against drivers of automobiles following accidents similar to this one but there have been few convictions. The fact that four auto owners were on the Chicago jury is significant. It indicates that the average owner and driver deplores the recklessness that is practiced by the few and that he has come to agree with the prosecutors that drastic measures alone will put an end to the evil.

Though there is a human tendency to speed, the average driver has learned the caution is expected. He has learned that the auto is not a plaything and there is too much danger to himself and to those who might come in his path and he will not travel beyond the wide limit that has been passed by the law.

When the automobile first came into common use there was a very deep prejudice against it on the part of the farmers and others who used the common highways. The speeders and careless and thoughtless drivers were early on the scene and they made life a burden to the man who drove horses. They refused to practice even the common courtesies of the road. A general uprising followed in rural communities and then it was that the auto owners themselves took cognizance of the fact and fought the evil within their own ranks. The result has been a very marked change in sentiment. Today the driver of the horse and the driver of the auto are mutual in their courtesies as they meet in the rural highway. There is a proper consideration given on both sides. But the speeder is still with us and

today he practices what he looks upon as his skill but what is really a lack of skill and a lack of common sense on the city streets. It is the automobile owner who can fight him most effectively. Laws may be enacted and spasmodic attempts may be made by the authorities to enforce them but a police court fine will not materially help to curb the evil. The automobile owner must do it. He must teach his fellow owner and fellow driver to hold a proper regard for human life and human limb.

The man at the wheel must remember the innocent little tot who turns abruptly into the street in front of him, regardless and thoughtless of the danger before him. That little life is worth more than the pleasure of a short burst of speed. If the law is properly observed the danger of accident is reduced to a minimum. If the law is properly observed the danger of accident is reduced to a minimum. If the law is properly observed the driver will have complete control of his machine at all times and he will be driving on the proper side of the street at a sensible speed. He will be on the watch for the careless pedestrian and be prepared to meet safely the emergency he presents.

Officers of the law cannot be everywhere at all times so it depends largely, in fact almost entirely, on the auto owner to see that the law is not violated. He can overcome the prejudice that almost overcame him in the country.

RECOGNITION OF MEXICO.

In certain quarters there is being expressed some concern over the fact that the United States does not officially recognize the present government in Mexico. An American who pleads that he has money invested in Mexico, presents these facts for consideration:

Mexico is the custodian of \$1,000,000,000 of American money, of 50,000 American lives.

The failure of the United States to recognize the government of Mexico has aroused the suspicion and antagonism of responsible Mexicans, and gives full play to the forces of lawlessness which destroy American property and endanger the lives of American citizens.

American goods are boycotted. American newspapers misinterpret the feeling of this country and urge reprisals.

Great Britain and France, Germany, Spain, Italy and other European powers have recognized Mexico and are capitalizing the good will of the Mexican people.

Mexicans appeal to the racial feelings of other Latin-Americans to spread the suspicion of Uncle Sam's motives.

Nothing of good, ethical or material, is accomplished much of misunderstanding, hard feeling and distrust is wrought, and the situation is daily complicated.

There may be good logic in these representations, but the fact remains that affairs are still greatly unsettled in Mexico, and no government knows so much about these unsettled conditions as our own. Uncle Sam is in a measure the sponsor for all the republics to the south of us, and when he recognizes any government, his recognition must count for something.

The present regime in Mexico began with the spilling of too much good blood. It will take some time before those now in authority can wipe that good blood off their hands and ask for a clean bill of recognition.

Kansas has 1,200 churches abandoned on account of a lack of interest in church work. The Kansas people are probably too busy raising whiskers and political disturbances to keep their mind on houses of worship.

At least the suffrage parades give the lady of the house an opportunity to experience the dignity of marching behind a band.

Missouri is the first state in the production of plug tobacco. But then mules and plug tobacco naturally go together.

The king of Greece must be a great traveler. According to the dispatches he departs for the front five times a week.

Hereafter the world over, a carat

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CONFERENCE SIDELIGHTS

District Superintendent Parker of Twin Falls, the guardian of Methodist churches in southern Idaho Rev. Woodhall of Twin Falls, and Reverend Chaney, now assistant secretary of the present conference but at home, Methodist minister at Gooding, went through an experience recently which not only caused them worry for 18 long hours, but has since then made of them marks for pun makers.

The district superintendent and the other pastors concocted a fishing trip—not for Sunday, understand, but one of the last six days of the week. In a row boat they pushed out from the shore of the foaming Snake, and found a spot where fame has it the finny tribe is perfectly willing to bite in a fashion that would have added years to the life of Dan Matthews' doctor friend. This particular spot was an isolated rock in the middle of the Snake river and to this huge rock they snubbed their boat and set about fishing. About sundown, they were ready to go home—their baskets were extremely well filled and their minds were at ease. The latter condition was soon upset for they found to their horror their boat had broken its moorings and glided down stream. Their predicament can best be imagined when one knows the circumstances. Swimming ashore was impossible, fire and food impossible, and life itself was scarcely worth while. To make a long night, a disagreeable night, as passable as possible was their task, and until daylight the next morning the three men sat upon the cold, chilly rocks of the mid-Snake haven. Cold, famished, sleepless, they awaited the dawn and the dawn finally brought help for a down-stream resident discovered the empty boat and started an investigation tour. He put three hungry, tired preachers ashore and they haven't been back since, it is said.

Rev. Jacob Finger a conference attendant, is a trainer of souls but also a trainer of muscles. The former Oregonian went to Idaho Falls soon after leaving Baker and is located there now. At Baker however, he established a rare record for a great portion of Baker's crack track men, are Finger prodigies. He trained them in the start, the sprint, the finish, the middle and long distance, the discuss, the shot and the hammer, and pounded into his runners a system of touching and getting away in relay races that made Baker the feared and respected in all high schools of the state. His career as a minister has been brilliant—as a trainer of muscles, equally brilliant.

Bishop Lucock understands how to run a conference. When parliamentary business is under way, he is up at the front edge of the rostrum. In sharp staccato orders he pushed the business through. Motions came like exploding firecrackers during the time that motions are in order. Well regulated committee work and prompt disposal of matters in hand make it possible to get through a vast amount of work in a day's session.

Dr. E. R. Fulkerson in the city this week will be 200 milligrams. A turnip will continue to be a turnip.

week, lives in New York, when he is at home, but he is seldom home. For 20 years he was in the orient and formed a liking for many of the characteristics of the yellow race. While in La Grande he will meet several local Japanese just for the sake of getting acquainted. His lecture tonight at the high school auditorium will be of deep interest for Dr. Fulkerson is a man who is versed in the orient, old and new.

Chas. Phipps dropped in on the conference this morning. Mr. Phipps is secretary of the Oregon Interdenominational Sunday School association and is well acquainted in this city. He has just returned from Zurich, Switzerland, where he attended the World's Sunday School convention. The journey resulted in a great deal of good to Mr. Phipps as it put him in touch with the Sunday school situation as viewed from a world viewpoint. He was a delegate to Zurich from Oregon Sunday schools.

Rev. A. L. Howarth doubts if he can return to his home town, Payette. Yesterday he was quoted as boosting Emmett. The facts are that Mr. Howarth is from Payette, and in view of the publicity given his "alleged location" yesterday he hopes that no one from Payette has read the article in yesterday's Observer. To recapitulate, Mr. Howarth is from Payette, not Emmett, his cantaloupes were grown at Payette, not Emmett, and the best country under the sun is at Payette.

Ex-Governor Gooding, of Gooding, Idaho, is here today. Mr. Gooding was chief executive of Idaho during the stirring times following the Gov. Steunberger murder, but he has jumped into additional fame through philanthropic enterprises in connection with the founding of the Gooding college, an institution that is promised a bright future. An earnest politician, and devout, earnest follower of Methodist principles of right living is an epitome of his praises sung by his friends.

Rev. Forbes, who delivered a very stirring lecture on home missions at the conference last evening, leaves to-

night or tomorrow for other conferences. Mr. Forbes gave a splendid address, but he has been doing similarly splendid things for years and years. Way back, years and years ago Dr. Forbes was a plain Methodist minister, who spoke to plain Indians of northern Minnesota, white men and white children with equal vigor. He has dedicated more churches, probably, than any two men in attendance here, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific, is known as a grand old man. As a young man he was "a grand young man," though known less widely, and so his life has been pretty much grand all the way through.

rented the Litch place for the next three years and the Litch family will now make Enterprise their home.

Amanda Chenoweth has rented the Wortman property just east of Dr. Ault's and will move there as soon as possible so as to be able to start her daughters, Grace and Ruth, to high school at the beginning of the term.

Mr. and Mrs. Bornough contemplate spending the winter in California.

Mrs. C. H. Wittum, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. McColley, is here staying with the family while Mrs. McColley is in the east visiting.

Dr. Gregory of Wallowa, came up today to administer medical aid to Mrs. M. J. Homan, who has been sick all summer.

Harvest and haying are in full swing now. The crops are quite heavy but some of the farmers think that the grain will be shorter on account of the frost. It seems part of the valley was frosted while part was left untouched.

Jim Hammock's little boy, who recently had his hand mashed so badly that for a while it was believed amputation would be necessary, is getting better.

The county fair, which begins the 29th of September, promises to be an excellent feature. By that time it is hoped there will be a new play house, a new Carnegie library in town and a new grand stand on the grounds.

Alley Murray is preparing to move his family to town and sending his children to school. There will be two in high school and two in the public school.

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STRANGE FATE CLAIMS GIRL

Enterprise, Aug. 28.—(Special)—Wane Bay's little girl, Maxine, one and one-half years old, of the Buttes, died Sunday evening from some unknown trouble, it is thought the baby ate something that poisoned her; she seemed all right in the morning but all at once took very sick in the afternoon and died that same night. The funeral services were held in the Presbyterian church, conducted by Rev. Astwood, and taken to the Alder cemetery for burial. It leaves to mourn its loss, Mr. and Mrs. Wane Bay, father and mother, and Mr. and Mrs. Ben Owsbey, its grand parents, besides a number of other relatives.

Sam Litch has rented his Alder Slope farm to H. P. Rowe, who has been running the old Revis place for the last three years. He has also

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