

See West's Windows: ∴ Sale Starts Tomorrow:

All Ladies Ready-to-Wear Apparel Sacrificed!

Not one Garment in our Entire Stock Reserved. Includes the Season's Newest and Best Styles in Ladies' Tailored Suits--Silk Dresses--Wool Dresses--Party Gowns--Ladies', Misses and Children's Coats--Children's Dresses--Bath Robes--Petticoats-- Shirt Waists, Etc.

A Sale Without a Parallel at this Time of the Year!

Just when you need the Wearing Apparel. By buying now at these great reductions you will not only save as much now as you ordinarily do after the season is over, but you will get a full Season's Wear and Satisfaction.

Come Prepared to Buy for the Sale Prices will Surprise You.

Annual Thanksgiving
Linen Sale
Starts Wednesday

West
THE QUALITY STORE

Half Price Sale of
Trimmed Millinery
Starts Wednesday

THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS, Editor and Owner

Entered in the post-office at La Grande, Oregon, as second class matter.

ASSESSORS ARE NOT MISTAKEN

To be a county assessor right now is no snap.

He goes out after the property, he is met with argument against high valuation, for the people claim, it matters not what valuation is placed on property the rate of taxation will be just the same as before.

The assessor explains that high valuation means a low rate of taxation. But the assessor failed to reckon with the state tax board, or he never would have uttered that remark.

This year, Mr. Couch has raised valuation in Union County right and left. He has endeavored to get as near a cash valuation (which the state law demands) as was possible.

Now comes the state tax board and good naturedly informs Mr. Couch and

every other assessor in Oregon that their work is not satisfactory, and according to the board's idea Union County property has only been assessed for 53 per cent of its valuation. It is another case of where men at Salem cannot view affairs in Union county in a thorough manner of understanding.

Quite likely the state board has been looking up the real transfers in this county and base their judgment on the amount of consideration recorded in each transaction. This would be far from a fair conclusion, for Union county people have been playing more or less at the game of exploitation. We mean by this, that in many instances where a piece of land was sold a high purpose of boosting valuations in a consideration was registered for the particular location. This is an old game, and while it is generally known, it is still being worked in every active community.

We know of one tract of land that is valued for taxation purposes at \$50 an acre. It has been on the market for some time at \$60 with no buyers. And this is one of many instances. Town property is also valued near its cash worth in most instances, and the state

board is entirely wrong when it sees fit to tax public service corporations on a basis of 53 per cent, because in their judgment property here has been assessed on that basis.

THE BANKERS ARE COMING

The bankers are coming, oh, ho! Yes, group six of the State Bankers association will be in La Grande next Saturday to hold their convention; to mingle with each other—but not to raise the rates of interest.

The later statement is given out emphatically by Secretary F. L. Meyers, and its utterance gives solace to we who have our names signed to those promises to pay besides having red ink spilled all over our ledger accounts at the two local banks.

These bankers will come from all of the eastern Oregon counties and La Grande will have the distinction of entertaining the money-changers of this part of the Inland Empire.

Just what the bankers will discuss is not known to newspaper men and it should not be known, for what does a newspaperman know about banking—except to stand on the other side of the cashier's counter and argue for more time on his note?

However, there will be plenty for the moneyed men to talk about. There's the growth of the country, the marketing of the crops and incidentally the new currency legislation at Washington, which may cause these men to "whereas" and "resolve." And in all probability some of them may repeat to their comrades what the governor of North Carolina said to the governor of South Carolina, which was not an admonition to drink Sam-O, as we understand the pages of history.

TO PREVENT WHITE SLAVERY

"Is white slavery nothing more than a myth?" asks Current Opinion in an article in the November issue, and answers it by quoting several who have worked long among the denizens of the underworld. Among these is A. W. Elliott, president of the Southern Rescue mission. He confesses his failure, after six years' work among fallen women, to discover the over-advertised "white slave."

"There is scarcely a simmering of truth in the various stories of so-called white slavery," he is quoted as saying. "I surely do not believe that

there are a dozen girls in America today that are in houses of ill-fame who could not walk out if they wanted to. They love that kind of life and will scoff at the reformer and even will kick him out if he does not get out when asked to. I think to help the good girls to hold themselves up and to teach them the worth of a pure life would be a hundred times better than reformation after they are down.

Like a good many other things which appeal to the public imagination, the talk of "white slavery" appears to have been overdone. Occasionally innocent girls are tempted into resorts and held there unwilling victims, but there are few in this class. Most of them fall long before they ever see a disorderly house. A number choose this way of living because it is easy and such have no desire to be taken out of it.

The fact that this is true in some cases, however, does not mean that reformative efforts should cease. If only one in one thousand can be saved it is worth while to make the effort for her sake. More good to society, though, will be accomplished by putting emphasis upon preventive efforts among girls who are exposed to temptation.

KNOW TOO MUCH

In one of those whimsical essays associated with his name, Samuel McChord Crothers, pastor of the First Unitarian church at Cambridge, Mass., and preacher to Harvard university, discourses on "The Honorable Points of Ignorance." In a day when there is so much wearisome and heavy information tossed at one in every mail it is worth while reading it.

Dr. Crothers does not mention Macaulay, but it is a fact that Macaulay knew so much that he is almost indispensable in any consideration of the virtues of ignorance. Macaulay knew so much indeed that he was a bore. The gay chatter of drawing rooms was hushed when the great historian and essayist hove in sight, for if one just chanced to mention Egyptian hieroglyphics the sage was sure to launch into a detailed description of them. Anything from the way the Assyrians cooked hash to Chinese music was a mere bagatelle to Macaulay. He was a decidedly uncomfortable person to have around.

It is all right to know a lot—for,

after all, information is a handy commodity—but it is just as well to cultivate the gentle art of concealing it. Nobody wants to hobnob with an encyclopedia. It is noticeable that men choose for their companions those who know just about as much as they do, or perhaps a little—just a little—more. If one has, and shows, a crushingly superior knowledge, life is likely to be spent on a chilly and lonely peak.

Speaking quite seriously, though, any one will admit that what we know has an influence on the whole mind and personality. Then it follows that

what we do not know has a part in determining what we are. Lots of people would be far better off without some of the certain kinds of knowledge they possess. If a man is to make a definite whole of himself he must select his knowledge as he does his clothes or his food. He cannot wear the entire output of a clothing factory nor eat everything that is cooked. Why should he feel ashamed when he doesn't happen to know all the variegated knowledge which the sages have been piling up for centuries?



Save yourself a midnight journey. When you think of some household remedy you haven't got, RIGHT THEN is the time to get it. If baby takes the cramps, have you got a remedy in the house? If you get headache, toothache, earache or any other kind of ache, pain or trouble, BE READY for it by having on hand a complete line of household remedies to tide through on until the doctor comes.

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La Grande, Oregon