

**THE OBSERVER**

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

Advertising rates on application. All copy for display advertising must reach the office the day before the ad appears.

Address all communications to THE OBSERVER, 1710 Sixth Street.

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Daily, single copy .....5c  
Daily, per week .....15c  
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Daily, per six months in advance .....\$3.50  
Daily, per year in advance .....\$7.00  
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**TEACHING SEX HYGIENE.**

Chicago school directors have decided to quit teaching sex hygiene in the public schools. They are going to wait for the voice of public opinion to tell them to go ahead or stop altogether. Some had predicted this move and others in their enthusiasm are sorry that this decision has been reached. In its anxiety to guard the morals of its charges the city came to the conclusion that something must be done to counteract the baneful influence of perverse moral tendencies. In this it shares the same opinion with millions of people who are genuinely alarmed about the future welfare of the next generation.

The history of every nation is full of accounts of this very character. Assyria held her own against Egypt as long as that nation was poor and had to struggle for an existence. No sooner, however had riches begun to accumulate where the necessity for hard work began to cease. With ease came luxury, with luxury came debasement, with debasement came effeminacy, with this the conqueror. Rome was mistress of the then known world as long as the necessity of fighting started her in the face. When the gold from subjugated nations began to flow into her coffers, she set an example of licentiousness to the world which was equalled only by France. America is the richest nation in the world. No amount of preaching is going to arrest this influence of ease that comes from wealth. Everybody bows to it. There is a vastly growing class of men and women in this country who are setting examples to succeeding generations for gaudy display, for frivolity, for reckless expenditure, for fast living and

all the sins which a well fed body can hatch, and a perverted mind can put into execution. The assimilative mind of the youth is not slow to copy the habits of its elders and imitate them with every increasing variety and fresh excitement.

When the settlers first came to this country, each individual was confronted with the necessity of doing something towards the support. The young boy had to assist the father, girls learned from their mothers at an early age the duties that would fall on their shoulders at maturity. They were busy—had to be—and this fact more than any one single factor in their life kept them from allowing their youthful minds running to perverted things. Its a monumental mistake to allow young people to shun everything that savors of work.

The wisdom of ages is put in this proverb: "Idleness is the devil's workbench." Nowadays some pigmy mind has conceived the idea that home work by a school boy is wrong, that it will learn more things in a wrong fashion than all the teaching can undo. Another pedagogical heresy. And there is such a vast amount of perfect teaching. Others claim that the work in school is so arduous that the child needs abundant rest to replace wasted tissue. No one is foolish enough to exact more from a child than it can do. Usually those same overworked children will draw a sled up and down a steep hill for hours without experiencing any fatigue.

Instead of having the gasoline buzzer come around to your alley to saw your wood, nothing would do the youngster more good than an hour with a sharp buck saw. That's the training that most of the older generation have had and that's one big reason why they are not half dead with cigarette smoking, and other abuses. Work was a splendid thing in those days, but somehow or other it's out of fashion to bucksaw wood, and what is more, many of them cannot spare the time, they are so busy with their society obligations. And the pity of it all is that they cannot escape the penalty of idleness. Man is an active machine. If he or she is not active, doing something good they will be active doing something that is detrimental morally and physically, and you cannot get away from it. A little horse sense and healthful work has the edge on all conventions for sexual hygiene and libraries of good advice. There's no better cure for sexual perversity than a grub hoe, a pair of overalls and a job, taken about eight or ten hours a day.

**Broken Line Bargains For Saturday at West's 16th Annual CLEARANCE SALE.....**

<p><b>Saturday Bargains</b> In Men's Department</p> <p><b>38 Men's and Boys' Overcoats</b> All sizes and all good weight and Styles. Values up to \$15.00 Choice \$5.00</p> <p><b>Broken Line Dress Shirts</b> Includes many "Manhattan" and "Savoy" Shirts. Values from \$100. to \$3.00 Choice 49c</p> <p><b>Broken Line Men's and Boys' Hats</b> Many styles in both Crusher and Stiff Hats to select from. Values to \$3.00. Choice 49c</p>	<p><b>Saturday Bargains</b> In Dry Goods Department</p> <p><b>Short Lengths in Outing Flannels.</b> Regular 12 1/2 Cent Grande Special 5c Yard</p> <p><b>Regular 12 1/2 c Heavy Flanneltes</b> Both bordered and plain patterns to select from Special 8c Yard</p> <p><b>Heavy 3 Yard Table Cloth</b> Regular \$2.75 quality Special \$1.50</p>	<p><b>Saturday Bargains</b> In Ladies Ready-to-Wear</p> <p><b>LOT 1.—Ladies Coats and Mackinaws</b> Values up to \$10.00 Choice \$1.90</p> <p><b>LOT 2.—Ladies Coats and Dresses</b> Values up to \$25.00 Choice \$3.90</p> <p><b>LOT 3.—Childs and Misses Coats</b> Values up to \$10.00 Choice 98c</p> <p><b>Broken Line Ladies Waists</b> Both Tailored and Lingerie Waists in white and black. Values up to \$1.50 Choice 49c</p>
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We respectfully solicit your business.

**La Grande National Bank**

La Grande, Oregon

**THE DECLINING BIRTH RATE.**

Even Germany, long considered the land where large families flourish, is revealed as having a declining birth rate. According to Professor Wolff, a noted German economist, the rate has fallen by more than ten to the thousand since 1875.

Economic pressure is responsible for small families, in Germany and elsewhere. In other words, the cost of living is one of the big causes of a declining birth rate. It takes a couple of almost heroic mold to bring large families into the world nowadays. The expenses of maintenance makes the average parent content with a few.

Of course, it is all wrong, but while admitting it is wrong, it is well to look on the human side of this big question. Men with families have it borne home to them constantly that they have given "hostage to fortune." The duties of home are also economic ties, limiting their freedom of movement from place to place and putting on them all the time a heavy burden of expense and worry which the bachelor or the man who has no children does not have to bear.

Children who have been brought up well, given a good education and sent into the world able to care for themselves and cope with conditions and solve the great problems of life are commonly supposed to owe a heavy debt of gratitude to their parents. From one point of view

they do owe this debt, just as well as all of us owe a debt for all the good things of life. From another point of view, though, parents owe a debt of gratitude to their children for the pleasure they get from having them home. It often seems as though parents owe children far more than the children owe them. Many a couple would be lazy, selfish and cold if they had not been burdened by having children to love and cherish.

The cost of living is but one of the causes of the lowered birth rate, for hand in hand it goes with the so-called higher standard of living. Men and women of today demand more than those of yesterday. They want more comfort, more conveniences, more leisure, more amusement. Because they value the superficial more than they do the deep, the tinsel more than they do the gold, the counterfeit pleasures more than they do the real blessings they deliberately cut themselves off from one of the purest joys in the world.

A New Zealander has discovered a frost proof potato. Now if somebody will discover a frost proof water pipe we will all have the laugh on the plumber.

American boarding house dwellers apparently have missed nothing, notwithstanding the fact that we exported 118,000,000 pounds of prunes last year.

Maxim has invented a silencer for

the motorcycle engine. Carnegie medal for Maxim, please.

The tenth is the last day to pay water rent with out penalty.

A dollar saved is next of kin to a dollar earned.

Says **BIG BEN** at **THE PEOPLE'S STORE**

**UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, Eugene**

The University includes the following Schools and Colleges: College of Literature, Science and the Arts, including the groups of Languages and Literature; Natural Sciences; History, Journalism, Political and Social Sciences; Philosophy, Mathematics and Education, leading to the Bachelor's degree; and Special Courses preparatory to Law, Medicine and Commerce. College of Engineering—Civil, Electrical, Chemical, Railway and Architectural—leading to the degree Bachelor of the Science of Engineering. School of Education, preparatory to High School Teaching, Principalships and Superintendencies, leading to the Bachelor's degree. School of Music—Piano, Voice, Violin, Theory and Harmony—leading to the Teacher's Certificate or the degree Bachelor of Music. SUMMER SCHOOL—JUNE 22 TO JULY 31, 1914. SCHOOL OF CORRESPONDENCE STUDY. Send for general or special Catalogs, Address, The Registrar, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon.

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