

**THE OBSERVER**

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**WOULD BE A MISTAKE.**

Portland is earning a title—"The City of Mistakes."

Should she locate that auditorium on the East Side the title would be firmly fixed, and it should be.

Of all inconsistencies we have ever heard, the folly of putting a convention hall out of walking distance from the leading hotels, is the worst.

One time the writer wanted to attend a public meeting in Portland that was called for the East Side Library. We did not know where the Library was located, and after asking several who vaguely described the location we gave up a big iron dollar to an automobile driver to take us to the East Side Library.

People who live in a city are so very familiar with streets and carlines they forget that those who only visit their city occasionally are practically strangers, who like ourselves, are forced to pay the long tariff when searching for locations that are unfamiliar.

Portland has done, is doing and will do some very queer things, but for the sake of those who visit that city to attend big gatherings, there should be a few level heads get busy and see that new convention hall is not put on the East Side.

**A GOOD START—KEEP AT IT.**

The Parent-Teacher assembly last evening was a good start in the work. That meeting proves the possibilities of such an organization in La Grande. Now, let us not drop the work—let us keep at it until every mother and every father in the community comes to a full realization of his or her part in the great work of shaping child life. Do not leave it all to the teachers in the schools. Do your part.

**CURING RACE PREJUDICE.**

Men of six races met in New York recently and discussed the question: "How can race prejudice be dispelled and the spirit of brotherhood be made to prevail in America."

The best answer was given by a Jew, Dr. Samuel Schulman, rabbi of Temple Beth El in the metropolis. He said: "Give every man a square deal." The rabbi defined race prejudice as laziness in thinking resulting in an unreasoning antipathy. The mere fact that a discussion of race prejudice was held he declared to be an indication that race prejudice exists. Race prejudice, said the representative of the Japanese nation, Dr. Toyokichi Iyenaga, professor of history at the University of Chicago, is more pronounced among Americans than among Europeans.

Of all countries in the world which should not have race prejudice the United States stands foremost. This has been called "the melting pot of the nations" because annually to our

shores come many thousands of aliens to be, in a few years, transformed into Americans. We call the process "assimilation." The earlier immigration was from northern Europe, England, Ireland, Scotland, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Holland, Denmark. The later is from southern and south-eastern Europe, Russia, Australia, Hungary, Italy, Greece and Turkey. It is because the men and women of these races seem different from those to which we have become accustomed that a new interest has arisen in the problem of immigration. Yet it seems reasonable that the nation which assimilated the northern also should be able, if it is patient enough, to assimilate the southern Europeans and perhaps Asiatics.

Race prejudice is based on ignorance. About the best illustration of this was furnished in a magazine story of a few months ago. The "typically American" employer of a modest and unassuming Bohemian bookkeeper made a remark which reflected on the latter's nationality and the underlying then rose and overwhelmed him with a recital of what Bohemia has done for art, for literature, for music and for civilization in general. The representative of almost any of the European nations could mention names and exploits which produce a thrill in the mind of the man who knows history. The trouble is that so many of us know so little of what other nations have contributed to the sum total of human progress. As knowledge of foreign traditions and achievements spread we learn that the German, the Pole, the Bohemian, the Greek, the Hollander, the Irishman, the Spaniard, the Frenchman, the Russian, the Swede and the Dane each has given some exploit or some inspiring ideal to the world. In other words, as we become acquainted, we learn to value and appreciate each other.

Horseshoeing is to be taught at Cornell university. That is hardly necessary. Most college men dance the tango as if they were horseshoers now.

Being a scientist is very discouraging work. Every day one of them discovers a new incurable disease and the next day somebody else discovers a cure for it.

San Francisco burglar has proven that men of his profession are not fools. He passed by \$50 in the cash till of a meat market and stole a boiled ham.

The shortage of eggs is now attributed to the super-abundance of roosters. Maybe the incubators are to blame. Here's a new field for eugenics.

Great Britain consumed 100,000,000 gallons of gasoline last year, and a lot of it was burned in American-made automobiles.

A Chicago man was arrested for whistling too much. What can a man do nowadays to keep up his courage?

King Alfonso's aunt has opened a beauty shop in Paris. Well, she might begin by practicing on her nephew.

They say that portliness is hereditary, but it will not be so in this country very long if the cost of living keeps on going up.

It may be art for art's sake when a bronze duck sells for \$400 but we'd like to see an omelette made of bronze duck eggs.

Paris doctor has discovered that violet rays aid digestion, but the fact

will always remain that proper eating aids it more.

As Col. Roosevelt plunges deeper into South American nature study he will find that there are few aigrets but many storks left in that country.

The Michigan hearse driver who has officiated at 9,000 funerals says there is nothing depressing about it. However, it's a grave proposition.

Poor old U. Consumer should cheer up. He has a package of nice garden seeds coming from his congressman soon.

The really charming after-dinner speaker is the one who says "Bring the check to me."

**PARENT-TEACHER MEETING.**

(Continued from Page 1)

its creation. This led him to the conclusion that aggressive co-operation will be the salvation of the system and do away with the just objections that are made against it.

Dr. E. B. Fyke of the Methodist church, preferred an indictment against what he considered criminal neglect of children.

He cited the case of his own son, saying there were things that the teacher knew about his son which he could not know, and vice versa, that he knew some things about his boy which the teacher did not know, and reasoned that a meeting between parent and teacher for the purpose of discussing the child's welfare could not but result in his favor, through a deeper understanding on the part of both.

Geo. Stoddard recited an incident in his life. He had visited a farmer who took great pains to show him his finest live stock and fowls, and as a climax introduced him to a cigarette smoking prospective son-in-law. The conclusion was apparent before he came to it. His remarks were well taken.

Jno. A. Hadaller, the only bachelor on the program of speakers, cited an incident of the juvenile court of Portland in which 638 children brought before the juvenile court were there through the neglect of the parents, that the judge thought the parents ought to be on trial instead of the children and that the children ought to be in court to give testimony against their parents for neglect.

Attorney Geo. T. Cochran and Rev. W. C. Drahn likewise made very effective addresses in favor of active co-operation in this movement and pointed out in a forcible manner the overwhelming reason why. Mr. Cochran drew a parallel between co-operation in the commercial world, showing by a concrete incident what the world is awakening to in co-operative movement, and Rev. Drahn, for many years a teacher and the father of four children, showed the necessity of some constructive work during the formative period of a child's life.

The high school glee club deserves much credit for several vocal numbers rendered in very acceptable fashion. Mrs. James Corbett contributed two numbers into which she poured all of her richness of tone and depth of feeling. Ellsworth Ellis delighted the audience with a classic well rendered and full of melody. Iolanda Klees a pupil of the Sisters' academy contributed a beautiful and difficult piano number, which concluded the program.

Much of the credit for this successful meeting is due to the earnest efforts of the Neighborhood club and Mrs. Fred Schilke. They have labored and will continue to labor in behalf of this ennobling purpose.

Committees of the different schools were announced and are as follows: For the Greenwood school, Principal Connor, Mrs. J. T. Williamson Mrs. Kimmel, Miss Bunnell and Mrs. H. C. Vinacke; For the Rivera school, Mrs. Nellie Neill, Mrs. Fred Schilke, Mrs. Simmons, Miss Janet Jones, and Miss Buchanan; for the Central school, Prof. Prince, Mrs. Stella Ingle, Mrs. Vincent Palmer, Mrs. Lyman, Mrs. Fred Geibel. These committees will meet today for the purpose of organizing the forces in the different schools. There is no meeting scheduled for any mass meeting in the near future, and the various organi-

zations will now go to work in their respective schools.

The meeting assumes additional importance by reason of the fact that yesterday was Child Welfare day, and that in all of the cities in which parent-teacher associations have been formed, this day has been fittingly observed by all schools and parents.

**She Remembered.**

Aunt Jane is quite absent minded and when she started on a short journey, a few weeks ago, each member of the family labored to impress on her that she must not forget any of her parcels or belongings. When she reached her destination she wrote at once of her safe arrival and closed with the following postscript:

I remembered what you said about forgetting and tried to be as thoughtful as possible. I neglected, though, to have my trunk rechecked at the junction, and think I must have left my lunch at the window when I bought my ticket.

I must have forgotten my umbrella, too, when I changed cars, but I cannot imagine what could have become of my shawl. I suppose I neglected to put my comb and brush back in the bag after using them, but I feel confident that some one stole my jet brooch, as I do not see how I could possibly have mislaid it.

I got on quite nicely, though, and had a real pleasant journey.—Youth's Companion.

**Double Duty.**

An English sportsman—they call a man sportsman in England when he has money and nothing to do—has hit upon a very clever idea. He owns an automobile and a yacht. When he wants to use his yacht he runs the automobile aboard and harnesses it to the propeller. Then he tips off the self starter, the auto gets busy, the propeller churns the water, and the plain yacht becomes a fast motorboat. When the sportsman gets where he wants to go he ties up the yacht, runs the auto ashore and gayly whizzes along the good roads. Of course, to be perfectly fair about it, the sportsman should take the yacht aboard the auto when he is on land, but up to the present time he has shown no willingness to display any such form of altruism. He's got a good idea, however. Pampered autos have too long been permitted to go aboard as stowaways. It's high time they were compelled to work their passage.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

An "Absent Minded Beggar." In "Bohemian Days in Fleet Street" is this anecdote of Phil May, the artist:

Phil was at one time ordered horse exercise. It was thought that this mode of progression would insure his safe and early return to the domestic hearth. But it did not always work.

One afternoon Phil was riding home from Fleet street to his house in Kensington, and, in passing through Leicester square, thought that he would drop in at the Cosy club. He gave his horse in charge of an urchin to hold for him. It was then 4 in the afternoon. At 2 o'clock in the morning a police constable entered the club to inquire whether one of the members had left a horse in charge of a boy outside. The secretary remembered that May was the proud possessor of a steed. But May had left the club at midnight. He had forgotten all about his horse, and had driven home in a hansom.

**The Dancing Disease.**

The "dancing disease" was an epidemic nervous disorder, apparently allied to hysteria and chorea, occasionally prevalent in Germany and Italy during the middle ages. As it has been in every instance chiefly propagated by physical contagion, like chorea, there is every reason to conclude that it had a like origin. In 1734, during the celebration of the festival of St. John at Aix-la-Chapelle, the streets became crowded with men and women of all ranks and ages who commenced dancing in a wild and frantic manner, many losing entire control over themselves and continuing to dance until dropping down from fatigue. The mania spread to Cologne, Metz and Strasbourg, and gave rise to much imposture, profligacy and disorder.

**Not Animals.**

The negro teamster had been arrested for using his whip too freely on the public street.

"You are charged with cruelty to animals," said the judge. "How do you plead?"

"Why, Judge," answered the prisoner, "I wa'n't cruel to no animals. Them beasts dat I wuz lickin' war mewls."—Buffalo Express.

**Alaska's Coast Line.**

The coast line of the mainland of Alaska is more than eight thousand miles in extent, greater than the entire Atlantic coast line of the United States. The coast line of the mainland and contiguous islands is over four times as great as the entire coast line of the United States.

See Our Window Display of

## New Spring Waists and Dress Skirts

Many separate Skirts and Dainty Waists will be worn this season. You will find a complete showing of the popular styles in our exclusive ready-to-wear Dept.



**West**  
THE QUALITY STORE

**OPERATORS TALK STRIKE**  
(Continued from Page 1.)

O'Brien, general manager and vice president.

"Mr. O'Brien declined to concede anything and the matter was turned over to the Order of Railway Telegraphers," said Mr. Manion. "I filed my request for a mediator to be sent representing the federal government February 13."

The schedule asked for by the telegraphers is similar to that of the Southern Pacific, and if granted will involve a reduction in hours of labor and changes in the salary scale and the establishment of a seniority system in promotion.

There are 250 station agents and operators in Washington, Oregon and Idaho involved.

The strike plans were at first reported to be an echo of the general shopmen's strike of 1911 on the Harriman system, but officials of the O. W. R. & N., now separated from the Harriman system, say this was false.

## La Grande National Bank

Organized in 1887.

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 UNITED STATES POSTAL SAVINGS DEPOSITORY.

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 Surplus .....\$140,000.00  
 Total Resources .....\$1,000,000.00

For twenty-six years, in all kinds of financial weather, we have successfully catered to the monetary wants of the people of La Grande and the Grande Ronde Valley.

We respectfully solicit your business.

## La Grande National Bank

La Grande, Oregon