

THE OBSERVER

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CEMENTING EXISTING FRIENDSHIPS.

The minstrel show given at Elgin Thursday night was not only a good show, but it was also a vehicle through which Elgin and La Grande people were permitted to show the ever existing friendship and to further cement that community feeling in Union county.

Over a hundred people went from La Grande—not wholly to see the show, but also to see the people of Elgin and have a brief visit with them. These La Grangers returned home happy over their trip, singing the praise of Elgin as a host and anxious to go again.

When Jack Peare, for the minstrels, made his curtain talk telling the people of the good feeling that existed in Union county, it met a response. Jokingly some claimed Jack had licked the blarney stone on the old sod, but seriously every one present admitted the truthfulness of his remarks. When he affirmed the fact so well known that the prosperity of Elgin and her people, Union and her people and every other section of Union and Wallowa counties helped La Grande, and therefore this city is directly interested in each community, it drove home truths that all know to be true.

And when the manager of the Elgin band, for whose benefit the show was given, spoke in earnest words of the glad feeling experienced by Elgin people at the La Grande turnout, there was no mistaking his meaning.

More such trips as the Elks minstrels took will do good and when Elgin talent pulls off a good show let them journey this way for the latch string is hanging on the outside of the door.

CLUTTERED UP WITH LAWS.

It is very apparent these days that there is a reaction against the surplus of laws which are on the statute books and which are constantly being ground out by congresses and legislatures. The governor of a Western state recently was quoted as wishing that his legislature might adjourn for ten years. Another man,

Charles Z. Tyron, of the Hardware Merchants' and Manufacturers' association, more recently said that he thought it would be a benefit to the country if congress and all the legislatures would suspend activity for five years.

These of course, are the exaggerated expressions of a rather common conviction that we are suffering from too many laws. Our statute books are cluttered up with them. Their multiplicity brings the profession of lawyer into existence. Even the lawyers cannot keep up-to-date. Laws are ground out so rapidly that those who try to become authorities on all the latest patterns made by the legislative machine have little time left for practice.

Fewer laws but better ones should be the watchword from now on. If we enforced all of those we have or only a half of them, we would keep the courts busy. Necessarily a good many become dead letters. All such should be repealed. When there is a public demand for a certain law it would be wise to wait until the people had time to decide exactly what they want before attempting to write their wishes into legislation.

By studying in advance the experience of other states and countries along suggested lines we would avoid many pitfalls. By subjecting laws to the strictest scrutiny as to their constitutionality we would avoid the vexatious delay and uncertainty incident to the "test" cases filed so frequently. By trying to figure out beforehand the exact social, industrial and political effects of laws we would dodge those mistakes now so common.

While few would go so far as to advise the lawmaking bodies entirely to suspend activity for a term of years a great many would advise them to go slowly and attempt in their work to secure quality rather than quantity.

Movie theaters in New York have reduced the price of admission to three cents. Still some people say that the cost of necessities is not coming down.

It often seems difficult nowadays to tell whether people are dancing to the music of the orchestra or the kick of the punch bowl.

Japan has a battleship named Tango. Evidently for use at close quarters.

However, Providence does not temper the wind to the slit skirt.

Weighing All Mail.

For a period of five days all mail that is placed aboard mail cars is being weighed. The period began on the 18th of this month and will continue until the expiration of the time limit. This is done once in four years for the purpose of arriving at a basis on which to formulate a contract between the railroads and the government. Increase in parcels matter has been big since its increase to 50 lbs. for the local and first zone, but no contract was made with the railroads to offset the increase, and for this reason the profits in the railroad department have been larger than usual. It is likely that some kind of step rate increase will be adopted because in the future, with the power of in-

creasing the weight in the hands of the postmaster general, the railroads might find themselves confronted with a problem greater than the one that is to be eliminated by this weighing.

FOR SALE—Excellent milk cow, \$55; phone Farm 154. 2-28,10t.p.

RIGOROUS SCHOOLING.

He Carried to His Death the Lesson He Learned at Eton.

Dr. Keate, the terrible head master of Eton, encountered one winter morning a small boy crying miserably and asked him what was the matter. The child replied that he was cold. "Cold?" roared Keate. "You must put up with cold, sir! You are not at a girls' school!"

It is a horrid anecdote, and I am kind hearted enough to wish that Dr. Keate, who was not without his genial moods, had taken the lad to some generous fire (presuming such a thing was to be found) and had warmed his frozen hands and feet. But it so chanced that in that little snivelling boy there lurked a spark of pride and a spark of fun, and both ignited at the rough touch of the master.

He probably stopped crying, and he certainly remembered the sharp appeal to manhood, for fifteen years later, with the Third dragoons, he charged at the strongly entrenched Sikhs (30,000 of the best fighting men of the Khalsu on the curving banks of the Sutlej). And as the word was given he turned to his superior officer, a fellow Etonian, who was scanning the stout walls and the belching guns. "As old Keate would say, this is no girls' school," he chuckled, and rode to his death on the battlefield of Sobraon, which gave Lahore to England.—Agnes Repplier in Atlantic.

CORRECTED BY A SENTRY.

The Incident Which Led to Coleridge Retiring From the Army.

In his young days the poet Coleridge had a little love affair which ended in disaster, for the lady refused him. In despair he enlisted in a cavalry regiment, which he hoped would be ordered on foreign service, that he might end his blighted career on the tented field. For family reasons he dropped his correct name, but from a feeling of sentiment retained the initials, so Samuel Taylor Coleridge became Private Silas Tompkins Camberbatch.

The regiment did not leave the country, and it was not long before his soul wearied of barrack life and its utter absence of romance. His military life ended in a curious fashion. One day while Coleridge was doing a weary sentry go two officers strolled past. One of them made use of a Greek quotation, which the other corrected. The first insisted on his correctness, while the other was just as positive he was wrong.

While they disputed, the sentry suddenly presented arms and respectfully informed them that they were both in error. He gave the exact quotation, name of the author and other circumstances. If his musket had spoken the hearers could not have been more astonished. The incident led to an inquiry, and the poet was restored to the bosom of his family.—Argonaut.

Bavarian Distances.

In the Bavarian highlands signposts along the roads, instead of stating the number of miles or kilometers to the various villages, give the amount of time which the average pedestrian will supposedly take to traverse the distance. This is merely an official expression of the very general custom of the peasants in the region, who invariably tell inquirers on the roads not how far it is to a place, but how long it takes to get there.

For instance, one asks, "How far is it to Oberammergau?" "A small half hour," will be the answer, or perhaps "A good half hour" or "A big half hour."

Which is puzzling until the stranger learns that a "small half hour" means twenty-five minutes, "a good half hour" thirty minutes and "a big half hour" thirty-five minutes.

Qualified to Paint Him.

Ambrose Patterson, the Australian painter, secured a commission once to paint a very lengthy and wealthy suburbanite. Patterson himself is a lank brush, shooting up beyond six foot one inch. He was rather priding himself on having been given this commission, bearing in mind the great pressure of artists round every possible job in Australia. Eventually, however, the sitter explained, "I was a long time lookin' for a suitable artist," he said. "I'm six foot two an' a 'arf, and till I struck you I 'adn't seen a painter what 'ad enough 'ight to do a full length of me."—Argonaut.

Schiller and Goethe.

Schiller was, from all accounts, a much finer man than Goethe, but in mental grasp and artistic power the Sage of Weimar was head and shoulders above his dear friend Schiller. The Germans know this, and while they love Schiller far more than they do Goethe, they are not blind to the fact that the latter was much the greater intellect.—New York American



The new footwear is here in all the popular lasts

Each of our exclusive shoe departments offer not only the largest assortment of styles to be found in the city, but we are exclusive agents for several of the best known makes of high grade shoes for men, women and children.

In Our Men & Boys Shoe Dept

J. E. Tilt Dress Shoes
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the shoe that fits better and wears longer. \$4.00 to \$6.00. \$2.50 to \$3.50.

Connolly \$3.50 Dress Shoes

The result of several years' search to find the best possible dress shoe for men that could be sold at \$3.50. Ask to see them.

In Our Ladies and Children's Shoe Department

Yesterday we received another shipment of spring styles for women, which added to our already large line gives a very complete assortment of the season's popular new lasts and leathers. We are sole La Grande agents for the following high grade makes:

Pingree Made shoes for women and Misses. \$3.00 to \$5.00.
Utz & Dunn Shoes for Women and Misses. \$2.50 to \$5.00.
Dr. Edison cushion sole shoes for tender feet. \$4.00 and \$4.50.
The Romper nature last shoes for growing children. \$1.75 to \$2.50.

See Our Window Displays Featuring

the Baby Doll Shoes, English Walkers, Kidney Heels and Louise Cuban Heels. Expert shoe fitters in both shoe departments.

West THE QUALITY STORE

Smokers Smoke La Homer Clear Havana

Save your bands from the La Homer Cigar and win a prize. We will give \$30.00 in prizes:

Table with 2 columns: Prize amount and description. May 30-1914-1st prize - \$15.00, 2st prize - 10.00, 3st prize - 5.00

Send bands to all dealers or to Factory 1527 Madison St

LA HOMER CIGAR FACTORY

La Grande National Bank
Organized in 1887.
DESIGNATED DEPOSITORY OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. UNITED STATES POSTAL SAVINGS DEPOSITORY.
Capital \$100,000.00
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
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