

THE OBSERVER

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HOME GARDENING DIRECTED BY THE SCHOOL.

Home gardening directed by the school is offered by Dr. P. P. Claxton, United States commissioner of education, as a solution for some of the most pressing educational and economic problems in city and suburban life.

Of the 13,000,000 children between the ages of six and 20 in the cities, towns, manufacturing villages and suburban communities of the United States, according to Doctor Claxton, not more than 15 per cent are away from home during the summer vacation or engaged in regular employment.

It is Dr. Claxton's idea that in every school and community there should be at least one teacher who knows gardening, both theoretically and practically. This teacher should teach the elementary sciences in the schools during the school hours and should out of school hours, direct the home gardening of the children between the ages of seven and eight and 14 or 15.

This is a commendable idea. For the children it would mean health, strength, joy in work, habits of industry, an understanding of the value of money, as measured in terms of labor and such knowledge of the phenomena and forces of nature as must be had for an understanding of most of their school lessons.

In the estimates submitted to congress by the commissioner of education for the support of the bureau in

the next fiscal year an item of \$5,700 is included to enable the bureau to begin the introduction of this kind of work in the schools of the United States. The commissioner believes that it will only be necessary to work out details of plans to present them to school officers, together with full information in regard to results of somewhat similar work already done at various places.

ANOTHER GREAT REFORM.

A blow has been struck which will rob many a statesman and lecturer of his most essential attribute and his unflinching strong hold. The Custom Cutters' association in convention assembled has decreed that the frock coat is a relic of antiquity and must go. They say there is no place for the long-tailed Prince Albert in modern civilization.

This is indeed a calamity not only to the lecturers and statesmen, but to others. What will the book agents and corn doctors do? Did anyone ever see a book agent who did not wear one of the long tailed creations in connection with his celluloid collar and white lawn tie? Quack doctors the world over have worn Prince Albert coats so long that the memory of the oldest inhabitant runneth not to the contrary.

When a statesman rises to address an audience of his constituents, he is a thing of beauty and a joy forever. From his shiny collar and bow tie down to his patent leather shoes, he is dressed according to form. The piece de resistance of the costume, however, is always the long frock coat. It lends dignity and repose and, like charity, it covers a multitude of sins.

It is a blow from which the nation will be a long time recovering. It seems as though the cutters have aimed a thunderbolt at the very foundation of the republic when they refuse to make any more frock coats. However, it all may work out for the best. The public can get a better line on a man when he doesn't hide behind the dignity of a Prince Albert coat, and the public, in the end, may profit. At any rate, it all goes to show that the spirit of the times in this country is changing and that simplicity is making men stand on their worth.

Sheriff Edgar Marvin of Wallowa county, is to have a competitor this time for the office. Giles Plass, one of the best and squarest men of that section, has consented to enter the race and it is doubtful if Mr. Marvin will have the unanimity of support he has frequently enjoyed in the past.

Pendleton has twenty of her citizens under indictment for different crimes. When Mayor Matlock "came back" it was presumed that he was of the Hi Gill frame of mind—bound to give a first class administration, noted for its purity. But it seems that Matlock let the days of '49 get the best of this present day of reform and regulation.

Up in Baker county Sheriff Ed. Rand has backed into the race again which puts George Herbert in the



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SOCIETY BRAND SUITS \$20.00 to \$27.50.

HIRSCH WICKWIRE SUITS \$25.00 Up.

FIDELITY \$15.00 SUITS. Manhattan Dress Shirts, \$1.50 to \$2.00.

Keiser Neckwear, 50c to \$1.50.

Gordon \$3.00 Hats.

Stetson \$4.00 and \$5.00 Hats.

Eagle Brand Caps, 50c to \$1.50



In Our Exclusive Ladies' Ready to Wear Dept

Here we are showing the most complete line of popular priced garments ever offered at this store. Each year the popularity of this department has increased until we have enlarged the room and added all modern conveniences as well as increasing the amount of garments. Here you will find every advantage of the largest city stores, and prices much lower.

Our Alteration Dept.

is in charge of an expert fitter and guarantees perfect satisfaction.



SPRING FOOTWEAR ARRIVED

Many new lasts and leathers are offered for spring and summer wear. We are sole agents for the famous

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without an equal for service, \$4.00 to \$6.00.

peculiar position of being his deputy from Oregon, made a speech and at the same time running for his attacking the president. Too bad.

The dancing craze has made a lively market for ball-gowns, flowers, dress suits, musicians and livery stable services, while the demand for overalls and aprons remain quiescent.

Alfred Noyes, the English poet, is to lecture at Princeton university. It is hoped that he does not encourage the college boys in the idle and disorderly habit of writing poetry. The head waiter of a London hotel has recently retired with a fortune of \$75,000. Those acquainted with the breed are wondering what he did with the rest of it.

Foreigners are said to be driven insane by the rapidity of American life. The black hand bomb also has its share in the general nervousness and rapidity. The Paris cafes now require waiters to wear kid gloves. But that isn't going to improve the flavor of the soup if they use gasoline in cleaning them.

Canada has deported one criminal and the United States refused to receive him. It looks as though the only place that man can go is up in a balloon. When a man gets so lazy that he won't keep the lenses of his glasses clean, you can't expect him to see work.

Dr. Giltner declares we shall soon be compelled to subsist mostly on fish. And a sly jokist remarks that "Every day'll be Friday by and by." Two Americans were held in Albania by bandits for ransom. They

might as well have stayed at home and paid their income tax.

Lincoln Beachy fell 1600 feet in his aeroplane and was not injured. The same day a Pittsburg man fell off a street car and broke his neck.

The stores have tango skirts, tango shoes, etc., but they never seem to name any clothes after ordinary wholesome gymnastic exercises.

Mrs. Lucy Mustard of Idaho, asks a divorce from William, her husband. Another case of "Too much Mustard."

Baseball Begins. The first baseball game of the season was played on the high school grounds

Saturday. The "Old Town Nationals" defeated a school nine with a score of 16 to 11. The batteries for "Old Town Nationals" were Matott and Stewart; for school Mart and Larson. This is the second time the "Old Town Nationals" defeated the school "Bear Cats." The next game will be played in two weeks. The game was not very speedy on account of a drizzling rain.

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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