

THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS, Editor and Owner.

Entered in the Post Office at La Grande, Oregon, as second class matter.

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

Address all communications to THE OBSERVER, 1710 Sixth Street. SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
 Daily, single copy 5c
 Daily, per week 15c
 Daily, per month 65c
 Daily, six months in advance... \$3.50
 Daily, per year in advance... \$7.00
 Daily, by mail per year, in advance... \$4.00
 Weekly Observer-Star, per year in advance \$1.50

OUR GREATEST PLANT.

We have talked of our manufacturing institutions; of our lumber plants—our railroad plants, our pay rolls, and every other form of industrial activity. We, as a people, point with justifiable pride to these different institutions—but there is one institution that is of far greater importance than any of these which we cherish so much in a material way.

It is the public school plant of which we speak.

Very recently the writer visited the Central school and spent some time visiting the first primary.

There is where the first indentations are made on the little minds; there is where the first impression marks the phonographic cylinder of memory.

Patiently the teachers in these grades tell the story to impress the little ones; patiently they render entertainment for the youngster that he may not tire of school work before he starts; day by day and week by week the developing process continues watched by the earnest teacher much as the green house man watches the development and unfolding of the flower.

And we thought as we listened to the little chaps recite, saw them build words under the new and modern system, witnessed their blackboard exercises, and heard the kindly admonition of the teacher—how close is the teacher to the home. Yes, closer than a father to his child—none so close as the teacher save the mother.

And when one ponders over the several years of schooling—how step by step each child is sent along through this glorious public school system—the thought of how slight the interest of the parents in comparison with what it should be is appalling.

It is the safety and security of the school system that causes this lethargy so universal on the part of the parent, for the father feels an unmistakable security in the schools and he knows his offspring is in the best hands possible when in the hands of the local teacher.

However, there is another side to the drama. The teacher who works incessantly to better conditions, who uses her entire energy to improve and develop the children of others is not repaid by the mere money she receives each month. Besides teaching for the pay, she is teaching because she loves the work. Her's is a life of sacrifice in order that young minds may be filled with the better things of life and young people be fitted to fight the battles of life.

The way to pay a teacher properly is, besides the pay check, to show her you are taking an earnest interest in what she is doing. Convince her that your heart is grateful for the polish she is putting on the boy,

or the dainty manners she is inculcating in the girl. Visit the school occasionally and discuss school problems with those who each day at the tap of the bell appear for duty in the school room.

The public school is our greatest plant, for it is the plant that is turning out character, citizenship, morality; it is the plant that is fitting the men and women to run the industrial plants we so often mention. It is the plant that is developing the statesmen, the ministers, the merchants.

Do not say you are too busy to visit the schools occasionally. No, you are not. The busier you are the greater is the reason for mingling with the teachers and pupils, for in doing so you will get larger ideas, better impulses, have a greater respect for your community and in a way realize what school work means.

At least that is the way it all seemed to the writer after we had spent an afternoon with the little tots.

BAD TEETH CAUSE OF CRIME.

May defective teeth be one of the causes of criminality? Youthful delinquents are frequently observed to have defective teeth. It is frequently observed to have suspected a causal connection. American Medicine opines rather that the decayed teeth and the immorality of these offenders proceed from a common source, namely, insufficient nutrition. Says this paper:

"Defective physical development has been almost certainly proved to be the primary cause of much antisocial conduct, particularly of boys, and perhaps girls also. Back of that apparently, is deficient and poor food. Misdemeanors and crimes are being traced back to a material basis. The delinquents are not able to act normally. Psychologists have found that arrested or delayed mental development is almost the rule among youthful criminals. Of course some may have been taught to be bad, but the large number of splendid citizens who were raised in the slums shows that we have vastly overestimated the environment's moral effect upon the healthy. It seems that the baneful teachings of bad companions are effective in proportion to the badness of the pupil's physique. Such a boy or girl could be taught to be good but might easily fall under temptation in adult life. The prevention and cure of moral delinquency have therefore been drifting from the hands of moralists to those of physicians. The earlier the treatment begins the better the results. One of the main effects of bad development, bad nutrition, and infection in childhood is the defective nature of the materials in the teeth. They are practically never good in such unfortunates, and of course they increase the damage by interfering with mastication and by constant poisoning from the numerous pus foci they harbor. One of the most satisfactory parts of school hygiene is the attention given to the teeth, and now we learn that such good results have obtained in young delinquents as to have created the opinion that defective dentition is in reality the main cause of their immorality. This is going a bit too far, but no harm can result if any reformer does think so, for it will direct attention to the ultimate cause and perhaps lead to prevention of some of it, though we do not know where we are to get the money or food to nourish the great mass of babies of the submerged tenth. Sad as it seems, some must go hungry, become physical defectives, and drift to the reformatories to be patched up as far as our means permit."

HOW DUBLIN IRISHMEN DEFY THE KING OF IRELAND.



This photograph shows a company of the Ulstermen who had previously organized. The sign on the building above them shows their sentiments: WE SERVE NEITHER KING NOR KAISER. But Ireland!

So far the British authorities have taken no official cognizance of the threat implied in the sentiment so

boldly expressed. They are so busy trying to get recruits in England for the war that they have not undertaken to stir up more trouble in Ireland. Larkin is now in the United States. He has led several meetings of Irish and Germans to show sympathy for the Germans in the war in Europe.

Prefers Smoke to Movies.

St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 30.—Minnesota has a man who does not like the "movies." He's a read red blooded man, but when given a chance to see "reel life" he balked. He is a prisoner at the Minnesota penitentiary, where all prisoners are once a week given a chance to see a movie show inside the prison walls. This man, whose name the board of control withheld, said that he would rather smoke. It was a formal complaint to the board of control, members of which said today that he would not have the pictures forced on him.

MRS. JULIA WOOD DEAD

MOTHER OF JOE WOOD PASSES AT ELGIN.

Funeral Will be Held at Elgin; Death Was Unexpected.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Allison, of Portland, came in last night on their way to Elgin to which place they had been called by the death of Mrs. Allison's mother, Mrs. Julia Wood,

whose funeral was held this morning at 10:00 o'clock. Mrs. Wood, who was in her 88th year had been bedfast for several months but her death was hardly expected as her condition had not been considered serious. A letter to Mrs. Allison telling of her mother's serious condition was immediately followed by a telegram announcing the death so that there was no opportunity for Mrs. Allison to see her mother alive. Mrs. Wood had been a resident of the Grande Ronde valley for 32 years. Joe Wood, of this city, a son of the deceased also went to Elgin this morning to attend the funeral.

WOMAN CRAWLS UNDER FREIGHT

DEATH RESULTS FROM INJURIES RECEIVED.

Echo Woman Fatally Injured When She Crawls Under Train.

Pendleton, Dec. 29.—While attempting to crawl under a freight train in order to get to the depot, Mrs. L. B. Ashbaugh, of Echo, was caught beneath the wheels and injured so badly that she expired within two hours. The accident occurred near the Echo depot at 10:05 this morning and she was rushed to this city on a special train but died soon after reaching the hospital.

According to reports received from Echo, a freight train had drawn across the street near the depot as the motor car pulled into the station from the principal part of the town, thus shutting off access to the town. Evidently fearing to miss the crawl under one of the box cars, but motor car, the woman started to while beneath the car, the freight train started to pull out. It is presumed the woman became so frightened that she was unable to escape from the wheels. Trainmen noticed her soon after she was struck and she was hastily prepared for conveyance to this city.

Both legs had been severed at the hips and Drs. Parker and Ringo had scarcely finished dressing the injury before she expired. She was 43 years old. Her husband who is a sheep shearer, accompanied her to Pendleton. They had lived in Echo at various times for the past year.

All kinds of accordion pleating done at 906 Adams.—Adv. 12 29 7p.

HORSES WANTED

BY

W. D. Grandy, S. B. Sweeney and J. D. McKennon

FOR

W. L. Russell Contractor

We will receive horses at La Grande Fair Grounds.

Horses to be from Five to Twelve years old, heavy built.

Weighing from 950 to 1300 and 15 to 16 hands high.

FREE HAY AND STRAW

For all horses shown by us. Bring all horses one day before inspection to insure them being shown.

Date of Inspection **FRIDAY JAN. 1st.**

An Honorable History

FOR 27 YEARS THE]

La Grande National Bank

has ministered to the wants of clients through good times and through hard times, doing its best always to render substantial and efficient service. Its reputation for solidity and progressiveness has attracted a powerful clientele.

You are invited to identify yourself with us as a depositor, and grow with us.

La Grande National Bank

La Grande, Oregon, Designated Depository of U. S. Government Postal Savings Depository. Capital \$200,000.00; Surplus, \$50,000.00; Resources, \$1,000,000.00.
 FRED J. HOLMES, President; C. C. PENNINGTON Vice-president; F. L. MEYERS, Cashier; EARL ZUNDEL and H. E. COOLIDGE, Assistant Cashiers.