

THE OBSERVER

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OPTIMISM.

Last evening at the Commercial club dinner optimism was preached with a big O. The chief dispenser of this splendid panacea for all business ills was Walter M. Pierce whose change of heart was a delight to his many friends and admirers.

Senator Pierce talked from the farmer viewpoint and with the hills full of cattle and the barns of wheat, with several thousand hogs to greet him on his homeward journey he is right. The farmer is abundantly prosperous and the Senator's frame of mind is wholly justified so long as he is on the ranch producing things to eat. But there is a large class of people in Union county who are not producers but consumers.

Without attempting to argue the question we say without fear of contradiction that the entire membership of the Commercial club was delighted with Senator Pierce's speech. His "Crime of the Age" has been obliterated and in its place he has established a speech that brings smiles instead of tears; laughter instead of weeping.

NO MORE RESTRICTED DISTRICTS.

Those of the underworld who expect to start in illegitimate practices now that the governorship has had a change of personnel are doomed to a certain disappointment.

The idea is perfectly silly to contemplate. Governor Withycombe will never for a moment countenance such a movement, and while he will not find it necessary to call out any of

the militia he will see that county and city officials do their duty and thus eradicate the evil.

In Union county the governor will not be compelled to even urge the officials to duty for it is a positive certainty today that there will be no red light district in any Union county city or town. The officials of the county have no hesitancy in stating their position on the matter and the city of La Grande has treated the matter in no unmistakable manner.

Prosecuting Attorney Hodgins says without faltering there are no dead laws on the statute books and that he will use every particle of the state and county machinery to prosecute those who see fit to attempt restoration of the restricted district.

In the city the police force and the manager have but one idea and that is to prevent re-establishing the district.

With officers in this frame of mind there will be little progress made by those who expect to reinstate an institution that fell of its own weight.

But should the officers in any city or town in Oregon become lax and decide to "wink the other eye" at an endeavor to bring back the "days of forty-nine" one can rest assured that Governor Withycombe will speak in plain words that have a meaning.

SWAT THE GRAFTER.

The remarks made last evening at the Commercial club dinner concerning the grafter who comes to the Grande Ronde to sell town lots in some distant city; stock in wireless telegraph; kitchen cabinets or Mexican rubber were very appropriate. When the speaker said if all the money sent from this valley to grafting concerns had been placed in the local banks there would be money for every enterprise and some to spare he told the absolute truth.

The Commercial club could do no better thing than to stamp all salesmen of stocks, bonds and real estate from afar with that banker's stamp, "counterfeit" and let that odium remain until the salesman proved differently.

RALLY ONCE AGAIN.

The Commercial club is ready to rally once again.

Not that the Club has not done good work the past year, but all clubs are alike and about so often they need be a rally.

The dinner last night was a thorough success and intense interest was shown in the work. The new board of directors are live ones and with the help of the citizens La Grande will once more have the best club east of Portland.

Let all rally to its support.

Another president has resigned in Mexico. If he will also go to Spain that country may decide it has enough Mexican generals to enter the bog war.

A physical director proclaims that "spooning is fatal." He is probably 65 years old.

Here's to the President, and may that grandson live long and look more like his grandaunle each and every day.

The daddy of the Wilson baby does not seem to count, but the grandfather is getting some good headlines.

That earthquake shock at Summerville was real. Representative Woodell is in Salem and the disturbance

could not well be charged to him.

George W. Nelson, who stole a horse in Union at 2:30 in the afternoon and was lodged in the La Grande jail at 6:45 that evening will have time to ponder over what it means. Now if a few cattle thieves can be grabbed as companions for this chap, stock in Union county will be much safer.

Take notice of that terrific storm in the central states. Even the state of Texas is forced to blanket its cattle to keep them from freezing. Then look around you and give further thanks for that Japan current in the Pacific.

Even the dogs of war shudder when an earthquake comes. There's one greater power than the Krupp guns or a large navy.

The Kaiser still has his eye on Paris. Probably he is hungry for a mess of frogs.

OPEN "Y" FOR MANY LINES.

(Continued from Page 1.)

city, a class for the young man, another for the employed boys and separate classes for the high school boys and grade school boys. Another class will also be maintained for the ladies who care to participate.

A membership fee has been arranged at providing for the expiration of membership in the fall at which time it is hoped to open the work of the association to its fullest and another schedule of membership fee arranged for. At the present time and for the short term a charge of \$5.00 will be made for the men who care to join the association, \$4.00 for employed boys, \$3.00 for high school boys and \$2.00 for grade school boys. It is hoped that it will be possible at these rates to secure a sufficiently large membership to defray all of the expenses connected with the work.

"The plans as now outlined provided for nearly every feature of the work that will appeal to the average member," said Secretary Rudd. "About the only features omitted under the present arrangement is the dormitories and the heavier work in the gymnasium, which could not be maintained without more assistance than the board feels that we will be able to afford just at the present time and which features will be delayed until some time in the fall, perhaps the first of September, when we expect to open the work to its fullest capacity, institute a full-fledged campaign for membership and enter into the winter's work under a full head of steam. In this connection it might be interesting to note that the local association and our building are strictly home institutions. The architect who drew up the plan for the building was a local man, as was also the contractor and most of the men employed in the work of erecting the building. The corner stone is a local product, the furniture for the building was purchased through local dealers and a local man cut and polished the stone. And now my assistant is a local man." Mr. Rudd is also a La Grande man.

The program for the opening week provides for special days for various organizations in the city, including one day for the ladies of the Neighborhood club, another for the high school and grade schools, and another day, Saturday for the farmers of the valley. The program will be completed in full by the latter part of this week.

New Yorkers Discuss State Tax. Albany, N. Y., Jan. 19.—Immediate, drastic and radical revision of the state's tax laws was the keynote of the fifth New York State Conference on taxation which opened today. Men representing all branches of state and city government are here to aid the conference in framing suggestions which will undoubtedly be presented to the legislature before adjournment. Those attending the meeting feel encouraged in their work by the reference to the state's tax laws made by Governor Whitman in his initial message to the legislature. All agree with the governor that the tax law as they now stand are nothing but a patchwork, sadly in need of simplification.

LOOK AT SILVERY SIDE.

(Continued from Page 1.)

thought and reasoning, it stands out as one of the best off-hand speeches that has been given in La Grande in years.

He went back to 1888 when the pioneer stage was coming to a close and he pointed out the successive heyday stages of promotion and development the country has passed through. "The day of unlimited and easy credit is passed" he said, "from now on we must pay the bills of prodigal living during the promotion period. Unlimited and easy credit will never come again" said Mr. Pierce. "We've got to pay the bills now, money lenders want their interest and something on the principal, and it is from the farm we must produce the money to pay it with."

Mr. Pierce has a reputation of a pessimist, but last night he tore

Our Greatest Satisfaction is the Often Repeated Remark: "When The West Store Advertises a Sale You can Depend on It"

17th Great Annual January Clearance Sale

Everything At Big Savings in the Dry Goods Dep't.

January is the month in which shrewd housewives supply their households and sewing needs at this annual Clearance at this store with the greatest possible savings. Here you will find the greatest varieties, biggest stocks and everything is new and seasonable. Case after case of new Spring Embroideries, White Goods, Etc., are just received and placed on sale at Clearance prices.

Big Clearance Immense Stock Wash Goods

- One lot Wash Goods, 25c and 35c values 17c; 25c Mercerized Poplins Clearance 20c; 25c Crepes, now at Clearance 20c; 20c Serpentine Crepes Clearance 12 1-2c; 15c Rippelette now at Clearance 12 1-2c; 25c Gingham, Clearance 20c; 15c Gingham, Clearance 12 1-2c; 12 1-2c Gingham, Clearance 11c; 8 1-3c Apron Gingham, Clearance 6c; Thousands of yards of Outing Flannels in White, Cream, Checks, Stripes, at price per yard 4c to 12c

Beautify the Home now Most Economically

- All Lace Curtains, now 20 per cent off; Choice Tapestries reduced 20 per cent; \$1.00 quality Iridescent Draperies 85c; 75c quality Iridescent Draperies 65c; 50c quality Iridescent Draperies 43c; 35c quality Cretons Reduced now to 30c; 25c quality Cretons, reduced now to 20c; 15c quality Cretons reduced now to 11c; 10c quality Cretons reduced now to 8c; 50c quality Scrims reduced to 42c; 45c quality Scrims reduced now to 38c; 35c quality Scrims, reduced now to 28c; 25c quality Scrims reduced now to 21c; 300 yds Scrim, extra value, special 16c; 500 yds Scrim, extra value, special 13c

Woolen Goods, Beautiful Silks, Big Reductions

- One lot Dress Goods—Ratines, Crepes, etc., values to 50c, now 19c; One lot Dress Goods, Fancy Mixtures, values to 75c; Clearance 29c; One lot Dress Goods, Voiles, Silk, Porcupines, Ratines, etc., values to \$1.25, special 49c; 36-inch Poplin, Clearance 73c; 40-inch Silk and Wool Poplin \$1.09; 24-inch Cheney Foulard Silks 65c; 36-inch Fancy Silks, \$2.00 quality, \$1.25; First quality Tub Silks 83c; 75c quality Tub Silks 59c

Linens, Towels, Sheetings, Pillow Cases Spreads, White Goods, At Clearance Prices

Piles and piles of them everywhere and at genuine reductions to you. Hundreds of La Grande women always depend on this store to buy Linens, Sheetings, Etc., because first they can always depend on the quality and, second, because they can always find what is wanted from our large stocks.

Any Woman's Suit in the Store, now - - \$7.98
Any Woman's Coat in the Store, now - - \$6.98
Think of it, values to \$35.00, New This Season

One lot Men's Overcoats "Kenreign" Make \$4.98
values to \$17.50 Good Styles, now - - \$4.98

All Men's Balmacaans Overcoats now at Clearance 1/3 off



LA GRANDE NATIONAL BANK
Capital \$200,000.00 Resources \$1,000,000.00
Surplus \$50,000.00
OFFICERS:—
Fred J. Holmes, President C. C. Penington, V.-Pres.
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What This Bank Aims to Do
To promote our customers' interests as we would our own;
To do all we can to make their relations here profitable and agreeable to them;
To contribute to their enterprises, the co-operation, foresight and timely assistance which a good Bank can properly bestow.

asunder the fetters that have bound him, and leaping into the limelight as an optimist, demanded "Why should not I be an optimist with wheat at a \$1.25, hogs better than seven cents on foot, steers bringing the same, milk cows \$85, and everything that the soil produces—which the world must have—bringing tremendous prices? Why shouldn't I be an optimist?"
Wildcatting Deplored.
"The day is past when every rattie-trapped, brainless promoter can come into Union county and sell kitchen-cities, or lots in Seattle, at tidewater and elsewhere.
"Thousands after thousands of dollars have been sent out of this valley that should have stayed here to pay honest obligations. If all the money that has been wasted foolish-

ly on every imaginable promotion scheme was here today, there would be money in the banks for all to borrow."
George L. Cleaver pointed out in discussing new industries for this valley that the syrup which he has been experimenting with can be made on a basis where it will bring the grower of apples one cent a pound for his fruit and if this was done, \$1,200,000 would be realized by the growers of this county each year, and the industry embracing 5000 acres of apples that now stare destruction in the face, would be saved. The syrup is made at Imbler in a crude way but the theory has been worked out and samples of the syrup were on hand last night. It was the universal opinion that no maple syrup could be more delicious than ap-

ple syrup such as this was. Mr. Cleaver pleaded for support to the vinegar factory now launched in La Grande, and affirmed that it is the by-products of apples that must be utilized to save the northwest apple industry.
Jay Dobbin, wealthy sheepman of Enterprise and ex-representative from Union and Wallawa counties, added beams of golden optimism to the occasion by reciting the fact that the sheep industry has not gone to the dogs, though he thanks peculiar conditions for that fact rather than the present administration.
W. R. Holmes, prominent banker of Enterprise, also spoke, reciting how a small band of men working together at Enterprise got a sawmill and a railroad all in one year, and propped up the La Grande boosters with his faith in united action.