

FARMERS DISCUSS "Y" TOPICS

Following is a paper and a poem read by Edward Jasper and M. L. Carter during the course of the Farmers' day program at the Y. M. C. A. last Saturday. (Other papers read later will be published later.)

The Crucible.

(By Edward Jasper)

Crucible may be defined as a vessel or pot capable of withstanding great heat, used for melting metals or minerals. If you take crude sulphur as it is sometimes found in nature mixed with earth and impurities and in the crucible subject the mixture to sufficient heat the sulphur will melt, settle to the bottom so that it can be drawn off as pure sulphur. Again put in the crucible iron oxide subject it to the required heat and pass through it a jet of hydrogen gas the oxygen will be absorbed by the gas and there will remain pure iron. Let the crucible be lined with bone ash and place in it an alloy of silver and lead. When the proper heat has been applied the bone ash will absorb the lead and there will be left in the crucible a button of bright pure silver.

This building with all its equipment may well be considered as a crucible. It is a trying and purifying agency. The secretary is the chief chemist with a board of directors as advisors. The fire is that heart impulse that has been moving men since Christ spoke those words "Love one another." The material that goes into the crucible is young men, more or less crude, more or less refined. The product is men of more refinement, men of better manners, better ideas, better action, better hearts. What then is the product of this crucible? Not the men. It refines the men; it creates manners, ideas, capacity for action and the better hearts. "Wisdom" Dr. Jordan has said, "is knowing what to do next, virtue is doing it. Religion is the heart of impulse that looks toward the best and highest course of action." This is the work of our crucible to create these three, Wisdom, Virtue, Religion.

Some time ago the American magazine gave prizes for the best three articles on the subject, "America's Greatest Asset." The winner of the first prize said our greatest asset is the immigrant. He comes and does our hard work for us, giving our native people at small expense the product of his labor, and leaving our people with leisure for science, letters, or other culture. The immigrant himself shortly becomes imbued with bigger ideas, desire for independence. He buys a plot of ground and maintains a home, his children go to our public schools and in this way our country continually receives new and sturdy stock to strengthen the race.

The second said America's greatest asset is daring "The Spirit of self reliance, this is to dare to think, act, feel, live, to make tremendous demand on nature and society, and to force nature and society to deliver to these demands. This physical impulsiveness and fearlessness is at the bottom of America's individuality and is therefore its greatest asset."

The third said unquestionably our greatest asset is our belief in the capacity of the common man. "This ideal was the mainspring of the creative powers of the American nation, the marvelous inventive genius which

has revolutionized modern society from top to bottom."

We are not contending as to which one of these has the best case but let us rather profit by the fact that they agree upon this one point that life itself is the chief asset of our country.

The wealth of our nation is life. Consider the gold and silver of the mines; of what value without life to use it, without ideas of their value in art and science. Think of the manufactured articles such as combs and razors, automobiles or x-ray machines. Where are their value without the human mind to comprehend them. Or consider if you will, the farm itself, its value to you depends almost entirely upon an idea held in common by men. Its value to you rests upon a deed. The value of the deed depends upon public opinion. As nearly as we can comprehend the wealth of the nation is life, the wealth of life having given up the physical man, is civilization; the wealth of civilization are these three namely, ideas, the quality of virtue, emotions. Our secretary of the Y. M. C. A. has a tremendous responsibility when he sets for the "mark of his high calling" the creation of these refinements of men upon which our civilization stands, by which its course is directed and its magnitude determined.

We sometimes get the idea that these qualities that make our civilization are innate in our being and that culture or no culture our people cannot lose them. Experience will hardly warrant such foolish optimism. If we go back to the time of Christ the thought of the crucifixion comes to us. A most terrible torture. We could not do that now. No, we are brought up differently, but those men did do it and they were made of about the same fiber as you and I. Sometime about the beginning of the 14th century Sir William Wallace in defending Scotland against invasion by the English was captured and summarily hanged, until almost dead. He was then cut down and put to death by torture, his body dismembered and distributed throughout the kingdom. In the 15th century Joan of Arc was captured by her enemies. She was not held as a prisoner of war, she was put to death, not in a painless way but by burning at the stake. In Georgia a few days ago a whole family was swung up to telegraph poles and riddled with bullets before the father's eyes. He was then given the same unkind death. Let us not dwell on these shameful thoughts but let us search out and dwell upon the cause of the atrocious acts in normal, sound, well born men. The cause is often, too often, wrong ideas, false ideals. It is true, we know it is true, that many of the most widely known crimes of history were committed in the name of duty. The cause of that murderous war now being waged in Europe no doubt, if we but had the wisdom, could be traced back to a false idea. There is a wrong ideal somewhere.

Sometime about the middle of the last century Argentina with Brazil and Uruguay as Allies became involved in war with Paraguay. The tyrant ruler of Paraguay conscripted his subjects and fought to utter exhaustion. Paraguay was prostrate, at the mercy of her conqueror. Then an idea entered into the situation and ruled, an idea governing the action

of Argentina and her Allies. Though victory was complete the whole question of the disputed boundary was submitted to an impartial judge, the president of the United States. This is the idea, it is a big idea, rich in truth and big in possibilities. "Victory brings no rights." The battle did not determine justice and justice should prevail. Had Paraguay been ruled by the same ideas of right as Argentina there could not have been the long and deadly war. Through the efficient institution of culture the institution of war can be relegated to the back ground and made to take its place in the barbarous past. Oh, for ideas and emotions that square with the word of God! By them our nation from destruction; by them our young men may be spared and their families saved from ruin.

The creation of big ideas, virtue, big hearts and broad sympathy is a great and noble work. Let us then get under this Y. M. C. A. movement and help determine its destiny; in turn the association will direct our several destinies and the destiny of our country to heights that are yet beyond our horizon.

THE Y. M. C. A. (Lines written upon the opening of the Y. M. C. A. building at La Grande) There's always tempting baits on hand In every land on every way, With all the details neatly planned To lure the guileless youth astray; The trashy tale, the bawdy slum; The gay saloon, the vulgar play But now the rescue army's come, Long may you live, Y. M. C. A. 'Twas our boys filled the drunkard's shoes As one by one the sots passed on, They worshipped at the shrine of booze Till all their self-respect was gone; Now Oregonians, thousand strong, Have written on the wall to stay— "This wholesale poisoning is wrong" The antidote, is Y. M. C. A. "If let alone how good you'll be," Ah Boozel! we've heard that tale before, But paupers graves and poverty E'er marks your path from shore to shore; At festal boards we need you not, Your fountain heads have had their day, Now mark your death sign as you plot That symbol grand, Y. M. C. A. —M. L. Carter.

Children's Coughs—Children's Colds Both Are Serious.

When one of your little ones shows symptoms of an approaching Cold, give it Dr. Bell's Pine-Tar-Honey at once. It acts quickly, and prevents the Cold growing worse. Very healing—soothes the Lungs, loosens the mucous, strengthens the system. It's guaranteed. Only 25c at your druggist. Buy a bottle today. Bucklen's Arnica Salve for Sores.—Adv. All Dealers.

Press Delegates Appointed. Salem, Feb. 3.—Governor Withcombe has appointed five Oregon delegates to the International Press Congress to be held in San Francisco July 5-10. They are Bruce Dennis, editor of Observer; Edgar B. Piper, editor Portland Oregonian; E. E. Brodie, publisher the Oregon City Enterprise and president of the State Editorial association; John F. Carroll, editor the Evening Telegram, Portland; and R. C. Ruhl, editor the Medford Sun.

FORD'S SELFISHNESS.
I want to make it possible for everybody to ride in an automobile. It will mean that much more pleasure for me. It's just a matter of selfishness on my part. Selfishness rules the world in every respect. Even acts which we deem great sacrifices actually are matters of selfishness. The man who performs them finds his pleasure in the sacrifice or in the public opinion which his sacrifice will arouse. One man will give up his fortune to satisfy his creditors. He doesn't want any man on earth to think he would defraud a fellow being. His pleasure is in the esteem of others. Another man might do just the reverse. His pleasure lies in his personal worldly profit. One man will give his life for another; his pleasure lies in heroic deeds. Another would evade the danger, his pleasure being in personal safety regardless of duty or public opinion. Whatever a man does of his own volition is for his own pleasure in some way or other.—Henry Ford.



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The mechanical work must be equally as careful as the examination itself. The prescription must be filled with Scientific Precision. This is done in our own Laboratory on the Premises, where we grind all of our own lenses. We guarantee our lenses to be absolutely correct, scientifically and mechanically.

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We prescribe toric glasses when their use adds comfort. When the eyes require different lenses for near and distant vision, we supply bifocals with an invisible dividing line, so that only a single pair of glasses is needed. We have all kinds of specialties in frames and nose pieces, shell frames, special designs and shapes to suit and fit all requirements. J. H. PEARE & SON, La Grande's Leading Jewelers and Optometrists

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Given a very mild sugar cure and are of delicious flavor.

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ELECTRIC LIGHTS WERE INVENTED TO SUPPLY A NECESSITY. ALL OTHER METHODS OF CREATING ARTIFICIAL light were unsatisfactory. Candles were dim and unreliable; gas, dirty and dangerous; kerosene, dull, smoky, odorous and also dangerous to health and property. When electric lights were introduced there was but one drawback. They cost considerably more than other lights. This objection has been overcome and electric lights are now the most economical as well as the most satisfactory light.

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- 1.—The privileges of a senior member in Lobby, Swimming Pool, Gymnasium, and Social Room, until Sept. 1, 1915.
- 2.—The satisfaction that you are helping to open one of La Grande's biggest and best buildings.
- 3.—The satisfaction that you make up one of many who by supporting the Association make it possible for Grade school boys to be admitted until Sept. 1st for only \$2.00 and High school boys for \$3.00.
- 4.—The satisfaction that the other cities of the Northwest which are waiting to see what we do will say, "La Grande is still on top."

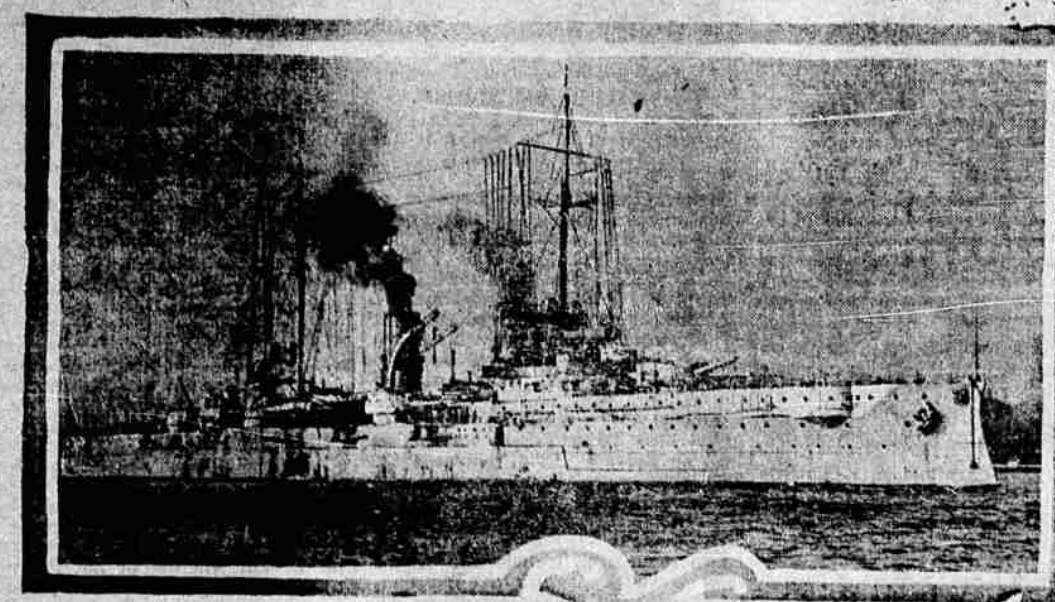
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GERMAN BATTLESHIP BLUECHER, AND BRITISH ADMIRAL WHO SANK HER.



Vice-Admiral Beatty is again a hero in England. His sinking of the German cruiser Bluecher off the German coast recently, and the disabling of several other German war vessels, have aroused England.

The Bluecher was one of several German war vessels believed to have started on another raid of the British coast. But Vice-Admiral Beatty spied them and with more powerful vessels chased them toward Heligoland. His pursuit was given up only when he came within the German mine fields, where he feared his ships might be sunk.

New Postoffice Enjoyed.

Vincent, Ore., Jan. 27.—The George Palmer Lumber Co., is glad to announce that they have a postoffice called Vincent, Wallawa county, Ore. This is appreciated by all now living at the camp.

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Bartines are visiting in La Grande this week with relatives.

Mrs. Wm. Aubin, Mr. Johnny Allen and Wm. Spencer have gone to

town with the mumps. We hope there won't be any more cases in the camp. Talk about your cold weather at Medicine Hat. We sure have got them cheated; 20 below zero is the coldest reported here the last few days.

Norman Freeze is looking over business matters at camp this week. Mrs. Joe Maxwell and son Gordon were visitors in La Grande the fore part of the week.

Carl Hallgarth and wife returned to Elgin after a few days visit with Mr. and Mrs. P. Weaver.

Al Byers is back to work after being in the hospital six weeks with a broken arm.

Miss Elsie Vanderpool is visiting in La Grande this week with relatives. Roy Frasier returned home last Saturday after a long siege of typhoid fever at the hospital in La Grande.

High Grade Job Printing costs no more than the other kind.—Observer.