

THE OBSERVER

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THE PRICE OF HARMONY.

After Republicans of Oregon have looked over things carefully and taken an invoice of affairs for the past

three years, for business reasons if for none other, there is a desire to get together. The protection plank of both the republican and Bull Moose platforms in 1912 is what members of those political parties honestly believe essential to good times, and the Democratic party is diametrically opposed in its belief.

This being true Progressives, whether of the progressive party or still within the Republican ranks, are turning to Republicanism with an offer of assistance to re-establish protection in the United States.

But the Progressives will not sacrifice their self-respect and become crawling, knee-bending creatures in order to assist in this program. The Progressives believe there should be a new deal, and being perfectly willing to step aside themselves they naturally ask that past offenders in the republican ranks also step aside and

that a new deal with new dealers appear.

In some of the states this is working well. In New York state Barnes says he will not ask to go as a delegate to the national Republican convention. Elihu Root also declares he will not aspire to that honor. The same idea is followed in republican possibilities for the presidency—Hughes is the middle ground, being neither an extreme Progressive nor a rank conservative.

Now, let's see how nearly Oregon will come to having harmony. Can the people depend upon the conservative element to bury the ambitions of some of its members and will the Progressives wait until a reasonable time has expired to give the conservatives time to act?

It is not well to pay attention to extremists on either side of this important question, but rather seek sane middle ground and choose men who have not been too active either for or against.

The price of harmony in Oregon Republican ranks is not heavy, but without harmony President Wilson is very liable to walk off with the state attached firmly to his belt in November.

New York state campaign announces 'preparedness' as the keynote, and President Wilson has for several weeks been pounding it into the Democratic party that 'preparedness' is the keynote of the Democratic side of the campaign. Thus we have the peculiar situation of each side trying to out-prepare the other.

Talk about quick money. One man had a barrel of dye worth \$400 in ordinary times and he has just sold it for \$11,000. That is much sure than playing 'barrelled pork.'

Please, Mr. Hicks, cut out your approaching storm which you allege and aver will be worse than the storm of two weeks ago. We know when we have had enough.

From the way things are starting off in February this is sure to be a political year.

The Russians keep constantly at it.

Eastern buyers are advancing bids on Pacific coast wheat, says the dispatches. Keep up the good work, for Grande Ronde valley has a few bushels left unsold.

That Laymen's campaign in Portland is causing an awakening of the people almost as intense as a Billy Sunday revival.

We still have a little snow left as a souvenir.

Keep in mind—this year is to be a banner year in La Grande's business history.

Time is sure some adjuster. For instance we know of a few of those ragged, dirty boys that mama would not let us play with are now so rich they sit an hour every morning in a manicurist's chair.

A California man has had his stomach removed, according to an item which remarks upon the fact that he survives. The really remarkable thing to do, at present prices, is to survive with one.

President Wilson avers that the "final test of American ideal" has come. Somewhat of a cryptic expression since the American ideal seems to be quite generally the American dollar.

The more we compare our coal bin with the advantages of a tropical climate, the more we feel like conserving our wherewith and letting the South African heathen swelter along without the benefits of a foreign missionary fund.

Patient is Improving. Mrs. Wm. Hawkins, of Fruitdale, who has been on the sick list the past week, is improving.

TEACHERS MEET. (Continued From Page 1)

a period of three years. This was carried unanimously.

Prof. Strange spoke on Limitations of Athletics in which he advocated abolishing the Friday game because of the expense it entails to school work. He protested against trips for athletic teams because of the school lost by team members. He regretted deeply the over-emphasis now put on winning in school athletics and instated finally that a coach should be a member of the school.

In his every contention he seemed to have hearty support, although adjournment occurred for lunch before the discussion opened and immediately upon reconvening this afternoon Prof. Strange's stand on athletics was considered by the assembly as a whole.

Friday Games Taboo. Early in the afternoon session the association passed the resolution kill-

ing Friday high school games. A resolution opposing long trips was also taken but in reference to the coaching phase, Rule 10 of the state association was deemed to have jurisdiction, it saying no person other than one directly under the supervision of the superintendent shall coach. That rule is now being followed by the principal schools.

Military Training Topic. One of the vital questions before the public today is military training in schools. This subject was ably handled by Prof. A. C. Voelker, principal of the Baker high school. He said in part:

"War is the settlement of difficulties between nations by might rather than by right. War is undesirable; it is a destroyer of wealth, of manhood, of homes, of ideals. It takes people back to the time of their uncivilized ancestors, and brings out the worst in them. War is, as Sherman said, a sulphurous monosyllable.

"We are human; trouble is bound to come between individuals and between nations. How best to prevent trouble from becoming war is the question. Shall we accept peace at any price, submitting to the insults of smaller or larger nations? Shall we let Old Glory trail in the dust, let our citizens abroad suffer indignities because of our indifferent attitude?

"We want peace and not war. Prosperity and not devastation. War is the last resort, but if it must come, let us meet it as our ancestors did. This talk of 'I didn't raise my boy to be a soldier' is sentimental slush. We raise our boys to be men, and a man will live for his country in times of peace and be ready to fight for it in times of necessity.

"Peace and dignity is what we want. A nation will not insult us knowing that we are ready to fight for that which is worth fighting for.

"President Wilson is preaching preparedness, not for war, but preparedness for peace. We must insure peace and we must pay the insurance. We can not in the face of other military nations neglect this, and become the laughing stock of the military world. We must be able to back up our 'strictly accountability' notes with notes of resounding cannon.

"How shall we become a prepared nation without becoming a military nation? Shall we imitate Germany and require two years service in times of peace or war of every able-bodied young man? Shall we tax the people to this end? A small well trained army is more efficient than a large untrained army. If war should come on short notice we could have millions of volunteers, but who would train these men from all the walks of life with no knowledge of military affairs and weld them into an efficient fighting machine?

"What then is the answer? We want preparedness at the lowest taxes, least expense and without fostering a military spirit. Why not have military training in the high schools? A boy must have exercise and recreation and military training gives the needed exercise, and these boys would be a reservoir from which the nation could draw if necessary. Why not teach a boy to become an expert with a rifle, to become familiar with military affairs, camping, cooking etc., as well as to train him to kick an oval between two posts a number of feet apart, or to throw a ball which deflects from its course to deceive his opponent?

"Military training teaches the young man to stand, walk, and hold himself correctly; it gives vigorous out door exercise, expands the chest and hardens the muscles. It inures him to physical hardships; disciplines him in orderliness, punctuality, accuracy and alertness. It endows the senses and the intellect with quickness, precision and the habit of concentrated attention. It develops self-control, obedience to authority. It encourages teamwork and co-operation; fosters comradeship; thus facilitating community life and lubricating social intercourse. It prepares the youth for better citizenship by emphasizing the conception of duty and service.

"Military training need not engender the military spirit. Even if there were no danger of war it would be beneficial, not only for the physical advantages, but also for the mental, moral, social and civic effects and reactions.

Another equally important topic discussed today was by P. E. Christensen of Alice, dealing with Sunday School credits in public schools. He went on to say:

"Public educators as well as religious leaders in thought have in the past lamented the fact that the Bible has been excluded from our system of public school education. But how to teach it by our system and not tread on the toes of the American constitution was the question.

"I shall not attempt in this address to discuss the pros and cons of the question, nor give to any great extent my opinion on the subject, but simply outline as clearly and briefly as possible what has been done and is being done at this time.

"About four years ago Prof. Vernon P. Squires, of the department of English in the University of North Dakota, gave an examination to the freshman class of that institution. The marvelous and ludicrous ignorance of the answers served as a basis of a paper which Prof. Squires gave before the state educational association at Fargo in November, 1911. At this convention it was voted to appoint a committee to devise some plan whereby credits could be given in Bible study outside of the high school.

"The committee met and laid down certain fundamental principles: "First—Religious instruction must not enter into the syllabus or the examination. Important as it is we must not violate our fundamental American idea of the separation of church and state. The justification, therefore, of Bible study as far as the schools are concerned is found in the great value of a knowledge of scriptural history and literature as broad-

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ly cultural subjects. "Second—Every suspicion of sectarianism is to be avoided; hence no other text is to be used but the Bible. The Catholics may use the Donay version; Protestants, the King James, or revised, version. "Third—All suspicion of partisanship must be carefully avoided. No insistence, therefore, on any theory of authorship and chronology will be asked. "Fourth—Objective and concrete study of the old and new testament geography. "Fifth—Attention called to the beauty of Biblical style by an insistence on the learning of a number of memory passages from both testaments. "Sixth—The work as a whole must amount to the same as is given to any other subject for which a half credit is given in our state. "With these principles a syllabus was proposed. The high school council of that state recommended it and the high school board after careful consideration voted to approve it and give a half credit if a student passed a successful state examination upon this syllabus. "Gary, Indiana, has a plan which gives students the opportunity to study the Bible during school hours in their respective churches or synagogues, while non-sectarian lectures are given in assembly. "Colorado's plan differs from the North Dakota one, in that credit is given not only to high school students as well besides it rewards and encourages "religious education." "Oregon has a plan modeled upon the North Dakota one, or is similar to it in many respects. It remains for the local high school board to adopt the plan and permit the high school to give the credit. "To enter into any theory on the subject or raise any hypothetical questions may be helpful in some ways but I do not think it is wise to draw any final conclusions until the plan has been given on a fair chance, and all statistics and figures are in. Finally, I am convinced that the results of a few years' trial will speak more eloquently, than anything say r. w."