

THE OBSERVER

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PRESIDENT-EMPEROR NO MORE.

The death of Yuan Shi Kai, China's governmental head, sends the country of Confucius into the uncertain class. No guess can be had as to what will happen when the Manchus and the New Republic advocates clash for control of the government.

Many joked about the old ruler, now dead, when he would declare himself first president then emperor, but it is reasonably safe to assume that he knew exactly what he was doing, just as Diaz knew what he was doing when he ruled the Mexicans successfully for a long period.

AN EPOCHAL CHANGE.

Think back two years. The world at peace; leaders of nations meeting together in conference; scientists of every country assembling together in convention; peoples of every tongue freely passing over all the seas and through all lands; industry humming everywhere; world-civilization apparently on the boom—just think back two years and try to realize for a moment what the common state of mind was then.

Think back two years, and try to imagine what you would have thought if Mr. Wilson, or Mr. Taft or Mr. Roosevelt, or Mr. Bryan, or others had risen one morning and proposed—actually and seriously proposed—that we change all that and institute a system of European militarism in this country, making every man a soldier under "universal service," which is a rather euphonistic synonym for general conscription. Can you imagine what you would have thought? Can

you imagine what the country would have said? Could you have conceived that anyone could actually have suggested that a Prussian or Swiss system of conscription be adopted here? It is hard to imagine—very hard. And yet, in 22 months, the idea has come to be so common, the suggestion has come to be so frequent, that the people of the United States are discussing it with all calmness, and handling it as if it were the familiar problem of the last decade or longer.

This perhaps is the most striking example we can have of the change which the European war and the American campaign for preparedness has produced in the thoughts of the people. Americans talking conscription—who could possibly have foreseen it? It was as unlikely, as unthinkable as Americans talking about turning the republic into a monarchy and establishing a king and a royal family at Washington.

Yet it has come about. Let that fact stand alone without comment. It is an astounding example of the changes—the spiritual changes—which war has wrought.

THE AUTHOR'S UNION.

Such prominent writers as Winston Churchill, Theodore Roosevelt, Rex Beach, Ellis Parker Butler and George Creel are officials of the Authors' League of America which is now negotiating with the American Federation of Labor with a view to affiliating with that organization.

The movie producers have impelled authors to consider this step. Of the tremendous profits of successful films the writers obtain nothing, beyond the original price paid for their manuscripts. Although Col. Roosevelt has not yet created any scenarios, no author is immune to seductions of the celluloid drama and "Fear God and Take Your Own Part" may yet be thrown upon the screen successfully.

A union of authors might bring about a great deal of good in the literary world. It could be arranged that the output of summer novels be limited, that detective stories be produced only by a special branch of the union, that the amateur authors, who pay for the printing of their own works and wear their hair a bit too long, lecturing to women's clubs the while, be denied cards.

John T. Williamson, who recently returned from Atlantic City where the Presbyterians met in national convention, admits the attractiveness of the board walk; admits the dizzy whirl of the effete east is somewhat entrancing for a brief time; admits the spotted good times in the east in a business way, but denies that the east is any place for a thorough westerner to reside permanently. Mr. Williamson was in Atlantic City during the big hail storm and testifies to the United Press stories of the large size of the hail.

No better undertaking can be followed more closely than that of the hotelmen when they urged that Union and Wallowa counties get behind a movement to make Wallowa Lake and tributary country a national park. It is a fine idea and let everyone affix his

name to the Wallowa Lake Tourist Travel association roster, thereby giving strength to the movement.

A Pittsburg chemist has invented an apparatus which he believed will enable the blind to see. All that is needed for each victim is \$20,000 worth of radium.

AN OBITUARY

Benjamin Warren Grandy was born in New York, March 28, 1837, and died in La Grande June 2, 1916. With his parents William and Celinda Grandy and his older brother and sisters moved to Morrow County, Ohio, in 1846.

At the age of nineteen he went to Iowa, where he spent two years, and again yielding to the lure of the Golden West he set his face towards the setting sun and headed for Pikes Peak.

As they encountered the perils of the westward journey, others of the party turned back. It was at this time that he was overtaken by Jos. Palmer, and together they continued their journey on past Pikes Peak to the California gold fields. After 56 years of close association death alone severs this cord of friendship. Returning east these two young men visited their relatives, but in 1864 they again turned westward. In the party returning was Samuel Martin Grandy a brother of the deceased, and also the father, mother, brothers and sisters of Joseph Palmer. The following spring Benj. W. Grandy and Lydia Palmer were married.

Together they have reared a family of children. Two of their children, Katie and Robert, they laid away and now in this hour of separation there remains three sons and three daughters to comfort the bereaved widow. These are William D. and Chas. F. of La Grande, Ben. M. of Boise, Mrs. Mabel Osterling of La Grande, Mrs. Josie Mills, of A. Berta, Canada, and Mrs. Nellie Williams of Imbler.

His brother, Martin, still lives in Marion, Ind. In both public and private life Mr. Grandy has always been liberal and upright, his generous and cheerful nature endearing him to all.

Forest Notes.

A machine which plants from 10 to 15 thousand forest tree seedlings a day is now being used at the Letchworth Park forest and Arboretum, Wyoming County, N. Y. It is about the size of an ordinary mowing machine, and is operated by three men and two horses. Not only are the trees firmly planted by the machine, but two attachments make it possible also to place water and fertilizer at the root of each seedling. A third attachment marks the line on which the next row of trees is to be planted. This machine is practical only where the ground is smooth enough to be plowed.

The state of Washington leads the United States in the shingle cut for 1915, the reported cut just announced by the Forest Service being 6,318,325,000 shingles for that State. Louisiana leads in the cut of lath, with Washington second.

The National Forests contain 1200 watersheds which supply cities and towns with drinking water. Forty per cent of the population of Oregon and Washington derive their water from this same source.

Fourteen million head of cattle and sheep of all ages are pastured on the National Forests annually.

Sheep Barge on Lake Chelan.

The installation of a sheep barge on Lake Chelan is an innovation which is attracting considerable attention among the stockmen of Washington and Forest Service officials. This barge is designed to convey the sheep from the railroad point at the foot of the Lake to Stehekin at the upper end, a distance of sixty miles. This will bring the sheep to the higher and little used range on the northern part of both the Chelan and Okanogan forests.

The launching of this barge upon Lake Chelan will meet a very pronounced need in this region. For some years stockmen from outside had been using the low range upon the National Forest west of Methow valley, but as this valley became more and more settled, this range was needed by the settlers and according to Forest Service regulations, they must be given first choice. As a result, it became necessary to reduce the range to outside stockmen, or else compel them to drive their bands to the higher altitudes in the northern part of the National forest. This was a long, hard drive, often causing heavy shrinkage in merchantable stock.

At a meeting held in North Yakima during the winter, at which users of National Forest range, Forest officers, and representatives of the Lake Chelan Navigation company were present, the situation was discussed, and the Navigation company agreed to build a barge for sheep transportation; but as the barge was considered an experiment, the company felt that the interested sheep men should contribute \$2500 toward its construction. A certain rate per head was agreed upon as transportation charge, but those who contributed toward construction would be allowed to ship their sheep free up to the amount contributed.

The barge is a three-decker and will carry about 2500 ewes and lambs. It is expected that this season it will transport fully 10,000 old sheep, or approximately 18,000 ewes and lambs. The sheep may be unloaded at different points along the west side of the Lake, and also at Stehekin, so that they can easily reach the higher range in the northern part of the Chelan and Okanogan forests. The Navigation company has expressed its opinion that if the business continues at this rate, they will build an additional barge for use in 1917.

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Do's and Don'ts in Will Making

Charles S. Cutting who is one of America's foremost authorities on probate law and for many years was judge of the probate court in Chicago, gives the following direction for making a safe will that can't be broken:

- Do's: 1. Before you consult anybody, decide how you propose to leave your property. 2. If the disposition to be made is simple, any ordinarily skilled person can draw your will. 3. If your will is complicated, including trusts, life estates and so forth employ the most skilled draftsman within your acquaintance. 4. Do as your legal advisor tells you as to matters concerning which there may be doubt. 5. Be sure to comply with all formalities required by the statute, especially the following: 6. Subscribe your name to the will in the presence of witnesses. 7. Declare it to be your will in their presence. 8. Have at least two witnesses to sign in your presence. 9. If you sign by mark or for any reason are unable to write your name have at least three witnesses to the fact of your signing by mark or that you requested some other person to write your name. 10. Ask people who have long known you and who have no doubt as to your sanity to be witnesses to your will. 11. Place your will in the custody of some perfectly responsible person or corporation, or in some receptacle as a safety deposit vault, which cannot be opened after your death without the presence of public officials. 12. Remember that any provision you make for your wife is an offer to her to purchase from her her statutory rights, and that if she chooses she may reject your offer and take under the statute.

- Don't's: 1. Don't put off making your will until you are ill and your disinherited relatives will say that your mind is affected. 2. Don't believe that making your will will hasten your death. 3. In the states where statutes give a widow dower only in her husband's real estate, don't get the idea that she will be the owner in fee of one-third of his realty. 4. Don't attempt to tie up your estate for a long period, providing for ultimate distribution in the distant future. Courts are apt to find ways to construe such a will contrary to your intention. 5. Don't let your will be a vehicle of conveying to posterity your hatred or dislike of other individuals. 6. If you are wealthy and have provided well for your family don't forget the obligation you owe to the

community in which you made your fortune.

- 7. Don't attempt to charge your will after it is written and witnessed by drawing lines across certain portions of it and writing in other directions. Such attempts will fail. 8. Don't make a non-resident of your state executor of your will. Many states will not allow him to act. 9. Don't name the man you have selected as executor sign as a witness. It may disqualify him. 10. Don't allow any legatee or devisee in your will sign as a witness. If he does he may lose his legacy or devise. 11. If you wish to add a codicil to

You will don't fail to have the codicil refer unmistakably to the will and to attach the codicil thereto physically.

12. Don't fail to change your will by codicil or otherwise whenever you see fit.

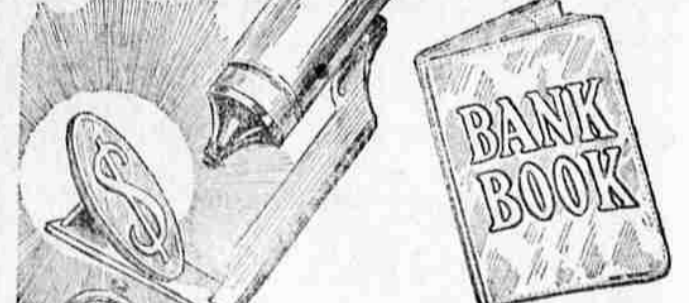
Whitman Examinations Set

Whitman College, Walla Walla, Wash., May 24.—The examination schedule has been posted and the College world has begun to settle down for the final efforts of their year. Senior major examinations are held during the week of June 1st. The finals begin on Saturday, June 10th and last until June 17. Commencement day is on Wednesday, June 21.

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