

THE OBSERVER

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1916.

WHAT SCHOOL ATTENDANCE SHOWS

School enrollment gives a good idea of the comparative population of cities. School attendance of opening days in the three largest cities of Eastern Oregon shows with certainty the comparative size of the cities.

In Baker there were 1,303 pupils registered in the public schools on opening day. These figures are now much larger. In La Grande, which opened a week later and thus should show a larger comparative registration there were 1161 pupils, while Pendleton, also later in opening than Baker reported "nearly 1,000", although definite figures were not given out. In addition to the public school figures were the 125 registered at St. Francis academy, but as La Grande and Pendleton parochial school figures are not available, no comparison may be made there. La Grande is known to have a smaller attendance and Pendleton possibly larger, but the Round-Up City's total school attendance is not nearly as large as that of Baker.

The school figures therefore show that Baker is still leading in population despite the claims that have been sent out from the other cities.—Baker Herald.

The Baker Herald stands on quicksand when it attempts to base accurate population estimates upon her school attendance, more especially if high school enrollment is included. There are numerous reasons why the Herald computes with false premises. In the first place, Baker lacks the number of ranking high schools Union county has, and is therefore not subject to diffused education as is La Grande. In all Baker county there is scarcely a high school of the rank that Union county's lowest has attained—speaking now, of course, outside the metropolis of either county. Baker's high school, and her grades as well, draw from the entire county because the county possesses few schools outside of Baker with modern advantages. Haines, Huntington and one or two other centers alone offer educational advantages at all comparable with Union county's small schools.

Consequently Baker draws with much vigor from all corners of her county such parents as seek and can afford to abandon their inadequate facilities at home to reap the benefit of Baker's advanced school system. Those return to their homes at vacation time and do not rightly classify Baker as Baker's population. La Grande on the other hand faces school competition such as Baker doesn't dream of. At Island City and fine schools; at Imbler the school board is providing splendid high school facilities; Summerville has a good school; Elgin boasts of a high school equalled by few small towns. Cove, small as it is, has a high school; Union has a remarkably efficient high school equipment; North Powder likewise has a good school system. In all of these communities the condition that exists in Baker county is eliminated. Only at a few points as Medical Springs, Kamela, Hilgard, Stacey and similarly remote and sparsely settled locations are there real needs of moving elsewhere to educate one's children especially in the three first grades of high school. If Baker county carried a big list of high schools like the total prevailing in Union county, her school population would be to an overwhelming extent purely local and therefore like unto La Grande's. Unless conditions are equal and similar, population of cities cannot equitably be measured or compared by scholastic enrollments.

T. R. NOT COMING HERE.

Theodore Roosevelt was unable to accept our invitation to speak in La Grande since he is not coming further west than Denver. We are sorry. We always like to honor great Americans, no matter what party they belong. Since T. R. cannot come, we extend the same kind invitation to Col. Bryan.

TO THE VICTOR BELONGS THE SPOILS.

Jackson Sundown, the winner of the Round-Up championship, deserved his victory. He rode like a hero, and bore his honors like a gentleman. He is Nez Perce Indian. The thousands at the Round-Up gave their decision by applauding his mastery riding. The judges merely ratified their decision. Hats off to the bronze champion!

NO OPPOSITION FOR GOOD REASON.

Nick J. Sinnott has no Democratic opposition for re-election to congress in this district. And for good reason. He has the Democratic nomination himself. Besides he discovered that fur hats could be made out of jack-rabbits.

THE JOB SHOULD LOOK FOR THIS MAN.

Marshal N. Dana, a well-known Portland newspaper man, has announced his candidacy for county clerk in Multnomah county. Mr. Dana is not only a clean newspaper

man of ability, but he is a man of the highest character and sterling integrity. He has a high sense of obligation and is devoted to the public service. If elected he will be a power for good in Multnomah county. That is why he is running for office. He has a good position on The Journal. He is not looking for a job but a chance to do real public service.

Flotsam and Jetsam

You picked your job and it will continue to fit you until you grow out of it. If you want a better one, show your better self. You can't hold a bigger place than you're qualified to manage. Your wage is calculated upon your ways. Change, and so will your prospects.—Herbert Kaufman.

"Germany Conserves its Supply of Nuts" says a headline. We look them up.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

After The War, What? (Pendleton Tribune.) All the information which drifts across the ocean in these times of stress is demonstrative of the fact that the European nations are preparing for vigorous resumption of trade the moment the war ceases. Fleets of merchantmen are being built. Men unable to perform military duty because of age or minor physical disability, are capable of work in the ship yards and machine shops, and with a foresight born of necessity, the governments of the old world are preparing to promptly begin and vigorously prosecute the campaign which will be necessary to restore their industries, and regain their foreign trade. There will be monumental debts to be paid, and the world will witness such business rivalry as it has never seen before.

If every voter in the United States would stop for a moment for candid consideration, there would be a unanimous vote for Hughes. This country must re-establish the protective tariff, or its markets will be overwhelmed by the low priced goods of Europe. The Underwood tariff law was already establishing soup houses when the war came.

Beating the Income Tax. (From the Philadelphia Press.) A school superintendent in Illinois is said to have had his salary reduced from \$4000 a year to \$3999.95 in order that he would not be obliged to pay income tax. A genius of this quality needs a wider field for his patriotic activities than is afforded by the office of a school superintendent.

Hughes is Making Good. (The Evening Telegram.) Long ago we assured the readers of the Telegram that Gov. Hughes would be a revelation to the country when he was more closely known. Since he has publicly appeared the man has begun to unfold. He is showing himself first of all to be an upstanding American. He has had the experience, the training, the qualities of mind and heart to make a great administrative official. But outside and altogether beyond this he has clear and definite convictions on public questions, a tight hold on principles and the clear courage to maintain them against any odds. Watch his tour of Indiana and note how he is stirring things and the enthusiasm with which the people are flocking to see, hear and cheer him.

It is not surprising that Shadow Lawn feels the need of coming out of the shadow into the sunshine of busy political activity.

PROTECTING THE YOUTH

It is so well recognized that certain occupations may involve serious dangers to young, growing persons that most states now have their child labor laws, Massachusetts, which has been a leader in legislation of this character, is now engaged in a systematic effort to collect information that may be of value in determining the need of changes in its present laws and regulations governing the employment of minors. At the request of the Massachusetts Board of Labor and Industries, Assistant Surgeon M. Victor Stafford of the U. S. Public Health Service was detailed by the Federal Government to cooperate in various occupations on the health and physical development of the children now permitted by law to work therein. A report of this study with respect to the cotton manufacturing industry of Massachusetts has just been published by the Federal Government as Public Health Bulletin No. 78, entitled "Influence of occupation on health during adolescence."

The physical condition of 600 boys between the ages of 14 and 18 employed in this industry in different parts of the State received careful study. It was brought out that in Massachusetts boys between these ages for the most part do not remain long in the cotton mills. This fact and the strict regulations of the State governing the employment of minors may not make some of the conclusions equally true elsewhere, but among the facts disclosed the following may be mentioned.

A considerable portion of the younger boys all of those over sixteen were undersized and physically undeveloped for their ages while those between fifteen and sixteen averaged larger than other classes of boys of their age with which comparisons were made. This fact is explained by the accumulation in the mills of strong boys waiting to reach the age of sixteen to go into permanent "full time"

occupations. The presence of a noteworthy proportion of undersized boys is not ascribed to the effects of the occupation but to the fact that the cotton mill offers one of the few chances of employment for undersized boys. Evidence of injurious effects of their work or working conditions, even the temperature and humidity of the mills on normal boys was seldom found, although further investigations of possible effects of atmospheric conditions is recommended. Probably as a result of the State regulations relative to the issuance of employment certificates comparatively few cases of dangerous diseases were discovered. There was, however, a wide variety of defective conditions disclosed by the investigation, many of them of such a character as to impair seriously the future health and economic usefulness of the individuals concerned if not remedied.

PICKED UP BY THE STROLLER.

The stroller had a pleasant chat the other evening in the lobby of The Foley Hotel, with Charles H. Dodd, a Portland implement man who had been up the Wallawa branch selling farm machinery. Lots of the grain was still unharvested, and Mr. Dodd and The Stroller worried about it a great deal. They would have spent a much more pleasant evening if that grain had been in the warehouses. Mr. Dodd is a wonderful man. One time he worked for \$2.00 a month at Stamford, Connecticut. His next job was for \$75 a month as an engineer on the Panama Canal. That was in 1852. Pretty big jump wasn't it? Mr. Dodd can speak English, French, German and Spanish. He was one of the builders of the Chamber of Commerce building. If you want to meet one of nature's noblemen, meet Mr. Charles H. Dodd the next time he comes to La Grande.

Fred J. Holmes was once a drugist and went to the old Bishop Scott academy.

Ex-Senator Levi W. Ankeny told The Stroller at the Round-Up that he studied under the late Harvey W. Scott at Kingsleys Academy, at Forest Grove.

Louis W. Hill, president of the Great Northern, was brought to the Round-Up through the efforts of Arthur C. Callan and Frank T. McCollough, of Spokane. Callan is a Portland business man and a candidate for the legislature and speaker. Mr. McCollough is interested in business and banking. Both attended the laundrymen's convention at Spokane and conceived the idea of getting Mr. Hill to the Round-Up. They burned up the wires and finally got Mr. Hill to accept. The Stroller has delegated

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New Styles in Women's & Misses' RAIN and UTILITY COATS

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THE QUALITY STORE

them to bring him to the next Speed 'Em Up.

Seeks Conspiracy Indictments. Salem, N. Y., Sept. 28.—The attempt of his enemies to blacken his moral character and oust him as Reform Warden of Sing Sing Penitentiary having failed, Thomas Mott Osborne is planning to bring them to book with some conspiracy indictments, which are being considered by the Washington County Grand Jury, which reconvened here today.

It is whispered that eight men, one of them a former state official, will be indicted, charged with political conspiracy against Osborne. Convicts and ex-convicts, some of whom testified against Osborne when he was indicted for alleged prison mismanagement, in Westchester county, will testify in his favor here today, it is said, telling how they were threatened with punishment if they didn't testify against him before the other jury.

The fight against Osborne originated it is said, because his efficient administration of Sing Sing affairs cut out a lot of graft.

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School time again

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PUT YOUR MONEY IN OUR BANK; YOU SAVE IT, YOU ADD TO WHAT YOU HAVE.

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