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THOUGHTS AT RANDOM.

As one reads the magazines, one is struck at the number of institutions that are spending large sums for advertising and whose object seems to be the uplift of humanity.

Many of the advertisements are well designed, strikingly illustrated, and they are written with a distinct appeal to the ambition, awaken desires to succeed, and they inspire longings to get out of unsatisfactory callings into others more profitable.

Undoubtedly these institutions, many of them correspondence schools, do good or they would not have attained their present success. But their success is also another illustration of the allurements of distance. Teachers hundreds of miles away seem more competent to teach by mail than teachers actually at hand. But the whole movement shows what an intense and ambitious people we are. And many of the young men and women who buy the books advertised or subscribe to the correspondence courses will succeed in getting bigger, better, and higher positions. After all it is up to the individual. No one will succeed without the most rigid study, application, perseverance and self deprivation. Success and the pursuit of pleasure do not mix. And the purchase of a few books and a course of study will not advance any one without work back of it.

THE NOON DAY LUNCHEONS.

Business men and professional men of La Grande are getting together once a week at noon day luncheons. This is a good idea. Good fellowship and sociability never hurt anyone.

What a great thing a great metropolitan newspaper could be if it had a man at the head of it who was big and not petty, devoted to the public interest instead of his personal interest, and broad instead of narrow and spiteful.

Bandit Evans died in the poor farm. This should be read by boys who admire Jesse James and Harry Tracey, and other desperadoes of history.

THE FORUM

The People and War. La Grande, Ore., Feb. 12.—Editor (Observer)—I wish to say a few words in appreciation of almost everything you said in Saturday's paper under the caption of "A Few Thoughts of War." I have seen it stated, and I believe it is true, that the authorities at Washington are largely influenced in their policies by the country press of the nation. The country press is nearer the common people than the press of our great cities and is much more apt to reflect the thoughts and the feelings of the masses of our citizens. If the masses could speak on this subject of war there is every reason to believe that their utterances would follow closely the lines of your very frank and candid editorial. I mean the masses in all other countries as well as our own. They would undoubtedly put a damper on jingoism all over the world and save us from the insanities of war. The same gov-

ernments who have almost abolished retail murder and who make every effort to severely punish all who even attempt to commit murder, will not hesitate a moment to commit wholesale slaughter of the most horrible kind because of some real or fancied wrong. There is utter inconsistency in this as every thoughtful person will admit. It is refreshing and encouraging to note that more and more people are taking this common-sense view of war. Let us not be stampeded into war with Germany or any other nation on account of some far-fetched point of "national honor." There is always something to be said and something to be considered on both sides of these disputes, exactly as there is in disputes between individuals. Neither side should arrogate to itself the right to be plaintiff, judge, jury and executioner, all in one. A few hot-headed, over-sensitive leaders in each country should not have the right to plunge their respective countries into a veritable hell of war. No! not even for an abstract moral principle. On account of its very nature a moral

principle can not be settled by force of arms unless we admit that "might is right." If we do that then we can just as well throw all principles overboard and rely on might alone. The thing for this country to do is to stay out of this insane war if that is at all possible. Another six or eight months is about all it can last anyway. One side or the other will be exhausted by that time. After it is over there will be a great re-adjustment among all nations. It would then be well to establish a world's court of arbitration where all minor troubles could be peaceably settled after the fashion of troubles between individuals. If minor troubles and disputes are thus settled there will seldom be occasion for large ones. If there are any they could be settled in the same way. In the meantime a great deal may be done by individuals and especially by the press, towards keeping out of trouble. Instead of whooping it up for war and decorating our buildings with flags (as Wall street did when diplomatic relations with Germany were broken off) let us remain sober and serious and do all we can to tide us over any crisis that may occur. The time around the great and noble Lincoln's birthday is particularly appropriate for calling attention to the importance, good sense and reliability of the common people. He himself thought more of them than perhaps any other of our presidents and they thought correspondingly much of him. J. H. BLUMENSTEIN.

Kamela Personals

Kamela, Ore., Feb. 13.—(Special)—It is snowing again on the hill. About 75 from Meacham, Duncan and Kamela attended the dance given in Kamela hall Saturday night. Refreshments consisting of sandwiches, pie and coffee were served. W. H. Pidcock and wife were Friday visitors in La Grande. A party of Pendleton high school boys came up from Pendleton to spend the day, bringing their skis with them. Mr. and Mrs. Claude Damerell went to La Grande Friday night on No. 18 and returned on No. 5. Lee Mathis of Kamela is a Portland visitor at present. Mrs. Clarence Keith and Miss Rachel Mathis went to La Grande Tuesday to shop. Mr. and Mrs. Kidder came in to attend the dance Saturday night and spend Sunday with friends. Herman Roesch of La Grande was in Kamela Friday. The elk that was found wounded near Hanlen's Spur and brought to Kamela by Mr. Hillman died Friday evening. The best of care and medical aid was given it by Mr. Hillman. Mr. Norden came up from Pendleton last evening to spend Sunday with his family. Mrs. Anne Mustard and son went to Pendleton Friday and returned home Saturday evening. Florence Schubert went to La Grande Friday and was accompanied home by her sister, Bessie. Game Warden Ralph Waldon of La Grande is in Kamela today. LeRoy Morgan was a visitor in Pendleton Wednesday. Section Foreman Bryant and wife were in Pendleton Wednesday. A British aviator has invented a biplane with wings that fold so that it takes up less room on the deck of a ship or in a hangar. Norwegian electricians have succeeded in comfortably heating rooms with an expenditure of from 30 to 35 watts to each 35 cubic feet.

Joseph News Items

Stork Visits Three Joseph Homes, Leaving a Girl Each Time. Joseph, Ore., Feb. 13.—(Special)—John Rudd, a La Grande Y. M. C. A. worker, was in Joseph last week. Mrs. Affie B. Hanna is spending a few days in Portland. The Joseph Boy Scouts celebrated the seventh birthday of their organization last Thursday evening. The Joseph troop has been running three years. On Friday night of this week the Joseph high school building was the scene of much gaiety in the form of a Valentine party, given by the freshman class for the rest of the school. Red hearts were used every where. A prize was given to the couple who could make the best Valentine. This was the chief game the first part of the evening, then a short valentine program was given by the freshmen, the predominating feature of which was a very pretty valentine dance by six girls dressed in crepe paper dresses covered with red hearts. Then more games were played, dainty refreshments served, songs were sung and every one went home in good spirits. H. B. Davidhizar returned the first of the week from Portland where he attended a wheatgrowers' association meeting. Mr. and Mrs. Ben Harmon are the proud parents of a bouncing baby girl. Miss Ruth Wilkins, 14-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Wilkins, had her tonsils removed by Drs. Johnson and Mount Saturday morning. Miss Jean Patton has been quite ill the last few days. A basketball game was played between Joseph and Wallowa at Wallowa last Friday night. The visiting team came off with the small end of the score. Both teams played a fast, clean game. After the game it was announced that the Enterprise team had been disqualified in the race for the county championship. The Baracca and Philathea classes of the Methodist Sunday school were hosts to several other classes at a basket social on Saturday evening. A short program was rendered before the baskets were sold and toasts made after the baskets were emptied. All report a very enjoyable time. Mr. and Mrs. C. Himelwright and Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Roup are the parents of baby girls. The Methodist Sunday school plan to have a social on Saturday, the 23d.

Union Grain Growers Invited to Hearing

Portland, Ore., Feb. 13.—(Special)—Union county grain growers and shippers are especially urged to attend a hearing to be held by representatives of the department of agriculture in Portland on Wednesday and Thursday of this week. The purpose of the hearing is to gather information and data on which the secretary of agriculture will base official grain standards. Suggestions from growers, dealers, millers and others will be invited. The Portland commission of public docks, which is aiding the movement for the bulk handling of grain, is anxious to have as many growers as possible attend the meeting. It is possible that a night session will be arranged to discuss the bulk handling system.

Nine Births In January; 20 in December

But nine births were recorded last month in comparison with 16 in December, 1916, and 20 a year ago last month. Registrar A. L. Richardson records the following births: January 4, Elenor Katherine Gunn, parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Gunn (Hodges) 1105 M avenue. January 4, Joseph Edward Pullian, parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph L. Pullian (Adkinson) 1513 T avenue. January 6, to Mr. and Mrs. Lester T. Sayre (Hampson) 1602 Washington. January 7, Wesley Earl Stoddard, parents Mr. and Mrs. George Earl Stoddard (Thomas) of Perry. January 16, Vincent Nolan Millering, parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Millering (Kindred) Park addition. January 17, Frank Lewis Carsley, parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Carsley (Wilson). January 19, Eileen Groupe, parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Olaf Groupe (Lewis) 1305 Ninth street. January 20, Gilbert A. Haller, parents, Mr. and Mrs. Leslie L. Haller (Anson). January 25, parents Mr. and Mrs. Grover R. Good (Baker) 1706 Spruce street.

Ten Million Men Fit To Serve in Army

Nearly Half Million Youths, Sound in Wind and Limb, Reach Military Age Annually in the Nation. New York, Feb. 13.—If it becomes necessary for this country to invoke its utmost man-power, it could put 10,535,940 soldiers in the field. The executive committee of the mayor's committee on national defense mentioned this fact in a report just made public. Every man of the 10,535,940 soldiers would be sound in wind and limb and his age would be somewhere between 18 and 45. The number of young Americans who reach military age every year is 900,000. To ascertain what proportion of these are physically fit for soldiers, the committee considers conditions in Europe. The report says: "If the French standard of 1910 be applied then 690,000 of the 900,000 men who reach military age in the United States are fit for military service. "By the German standard as applied in 1910, the United States has 459,000 fit young men reaching the military age annually." Trousers into which wires are woven have been invented by an Austrian scientist to keep aviator and others employed out of doors in cold weather warm with electricity.

BUTTER LABELS—For sale at The Observer office.

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LEVY-VOGEL DRUG CO. La Grande, Ore.

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