

EDITORIAL PAGE OF THE LA GRANDE EVENING OBSERVER

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A HIGHWAY FOR EASTERN OREGON.

The Observer received a telegram this morning that the proposed road bills now before the State Senate and House of Representatives include a highway through Pendleton, La Grande and Baker. It is to be hoped that at this session of the legislature, a bill will be passed that will definitely establish a state highway through this part of Eastern Oregon. Once the highway is authorized by law and the route fixed, funds can be provided for building the road from the state highway fund, and the counties also can do a certain amount of work each year. The automobile as a means of transportation has come to stay, and it is not hard to realize just what this highway would mean to this state in the way of development. The day is past when a section isolated from automobile travel will advance rapidly. A state highway connecting our country with the Columbia River highway would bring a steady stream of travel, which could not help being beneficial to every citizen in this district.

If a complete state highway system is to be established we should all work to see that the rights of Eastern Oregon are not lost in the shuffle.

THE FORUM

HIGH COST OF LIVING

Editor of Observer:

The high cost of living is a problem still unsolved. Your latest correspondent on the subject (Jennie Disqua) writes a very interesting article on the cost of living and other matters, of vital importance, such as success and failure in life pursuits. For several reasons I conclude that the writer is a woman: First, because the letter is non committal, second, a great deal can be read between the lines, third, it is mild and peaceifying; fourth, the ending is better than the beginning.

Her promise to procure me a job in Washington right away is very encouraging, and nothing stands in the way only the writer's doubts of my ability to live on fifteen cents a day. She may consider the bargain closed right now. I will agree not only to live on it, but will also agree to maintain normal weight.

It is just possible that a little wider experience of nation and peoples might tend to remove some of the scepticism about pleasure-living being more conducive to health and longevity, than all the dainties on the President's table.

The applied knowledge of these facts will lessen the cost of living very considerably, but to bring it down to a just proportion of a laboring man's earnings will probably require a complete change in our economic system of distribution.

Uncle Sam will have to step right in between the producer and consumer and say to the one, "You must receive a generous profit on all your

labor and expenditures," and to the other, "You are entitled to the residue and must have it at cost price plus storage." He will say to the speculator, "Depart thence go and produce something," and try to make an honest living. For like all other purcsites you are a hindrance to life and growth."

Uncle Sam regulates the profits of the gulewags, and has made it illegal to speculate in gaelway tickets. If ticket scalping is a crime, why should wheat scalping, or potato scalping be allowed? If car shortage, does not effect the rate of freight by rail, why should a hypothetical shortage of grain be allowed to raise the price of flour?

When our good natural Uncle Sam gets ready to spend the enormous sum that Jennie Disqua has figured out for the cultivation of young brains then man will learn how to procure nourishment for his body in a different way, but until then it is likely he will have to dig and grunt for it. At present man in general very much resembles John Burroughs figure of the man with a much rake who was so busy raking sticks and straws that he could not see the angel holding a gold crown over his head.

As regards success in life I must differ from Jennie Disqua. It cannot be measured by dollars nor jobs. The man or woman who during life has learned from whence they came and why they came here and who has so lived that they leave this world as clean morally as when they entered it, will have made a success of life. —dollars or no dollars.

L. Garrick.

Confession of fault makes half amends.

"Where There's a Will, There's a Way."

There's no task too great to undertake—if you have the will. If you will to save money, you can do it. You don't necessarily have to be "short" to save—just bank a part of your earnings at this bank, each week or month—you will be surprised at the rapidity of its increase. Then you are ready to tackle the larger things in life. Show your will, and determination to win, by starting an account with us today.—And Stay With It!

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Child Labor.

Salem, Ore., Feb. 12.—(To the Editor)—Every good mother and father is concerned with how child labor is regulated in Oregon. At present the child labor laws are enforced by a commission of four devoted women and one man. The total expense to the state is less than \$5000 for each two-year appropriation period.

These four women have at heart the welfare of the child. They are Miss Pauline Kline of Corvallis, Mrs. Millie R. Trumbull of Portland, Mrs. Turner Oliver of La Grande and Mrs. Sarah A. Evans of Portland. Mrs. Trumbull is secretary of the board and the only paid executive in charge of the work. She is sensible and experienced, a woman of judgment and courage. Her work requires rare qualities of tact, patience and firmness in dealing with rapacious employers and greedy parents who conspire to make little children lie about their age so as to evade the law. She brings to bear upon her work the experience and training of years of social service, and that genuine affection for children which places their welfare before all selfish consideration.

This work is now in jeopardy, as legislators propose to consolidate it into one of the paid political boards, where it would be administered as a mere detail by state officers busy with many other matters and concerned primarily with making political records for themselves. This would be sacrificing the children's welfare on the altar of political consolidation.

I urge good mothers and fathers to write to their members of the senate and house beseeching them to consider the little children and not let the politicians get control of Oregon's child labor administration.

C. C. CHAPMAN.

Would Keep Out of War

Imbler, Ore., Feb. 5.—Should we declare on Germany? No. Is it a last resort? No. Germany hopes President Wilson will warn Americans from the blockade zone. So does Mr. Bryan, and he says to not grant clearance papers to any vessel to enter said zone. Would not this be a thousand times better and cheaper than to enter the war? I do not want my boys to have to cross the ocean and fight and die for monarchial governments, for, as Bryan says, if we enter the war it will be on the side of the allies and we must not do that. We are all ready to defend our country against invasion and all crossing the ocean and entering the blockade zone to get into this European war. One side is as bad as the other. Let us keep cool, at a safe distance, and let them fight it out.

I am a Wilson man. He has done great things for the country, for which we laud him, and we hope he may make no mistake in letting us be drawn into this war. A. F. Wilson.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Scarlet Women Speak.

In San Francisco, where a crusade against the uptown "lenderloin" or "red-light" district is being waged, a chief among sinners courageously met in intellectual combat a chief among accusers. She attacked him in his own pulpit with earnestness and exceptional vigor. Keeping safely within the bounds of propriety that governs discussion in a house dedicated to God, she put this crucial question to the pastor: "What do you propose to do with us scarlet women after you have driven us into the street?"

Of course, the minister of Christ could not reply. There is no answer. Ever since society was organized it has turned its back upon the scarlet woman. She never has had a place except among the women of her own kind. The door to good women is closed and forever kept stoutly barred.

Has the scarlet woman any claim whatever upon society? The sensational debate in a San Francisco church established one startling precedent—her right to be heard in her own defense. Not a voice was raised in protest. The fact that the Associated Press and its powerful newspapers carried a wall from the underworld, for the first time in history, to all the homes of the United States is proof that at least in this land the scarlet woman is still regarded as a human being.

In the play "Forget-Me-Not," which middle-aged folk will remember, the author raises the question of a double standard for men as against a single standard for women. He puts on the lips of Stephanie, an erring woman, these words which she hurls with tremendous dramatic effect at a rich libertine: "Why should a man lead two lives while a woman stands or falls by one?"

The spokeswoman for the San Francisco scarlet women proposed a remedy, not for the denizens of the red-light district, whose cases are irremedial, but a preventive for the future. She said to the pastor of the church: "You and your people say 'our boys must sow their wild oats.' All right, you see before you the harvest of those wild oats." She begged church mothers to rear their sons so that they would not debauch women.

The extraordinary incident at San Francisco illustrates for the thousandth time the well-known truth that in no public question does all the right

lie on one side nor all the wrong on the other side. Also it illustrates the advisability of each side speaking to the other with entire frankness.

It must be confessed that in dealing with the social evil, American cities have done even less than the older European cities, which have done little to check it. Crusades, of which the present one in San Francisco is a type have never accomplished permanent reform. No betterment can ever be worked so long as city governments shut their eyes and refuse to recognize the existence of the social evil.—Evening Telegram.

Burbank Gives New Dahlia to Oakland

California City Adopts and Names its Official Flower. Will plant it on Wizard's Birthday.

Oakland, Calif., Feb. 13.—Luther Burbank, whose plant magic has made his name known around the world, has just succeeded in propagating another flower wonder. It is the largest white dahlia ever produced. It is to be known as Burbank's Oakland dahlia, being thus named because of the great floriculturist's kindly feeling for this city.

Burbank offered Oakland its choice of a new rose he has recently developed, the dahlia or a magnificent gladiolus. The Oakland chamber of commerce, to which the offer was made, selected the white dahlia.

The planting of this official flower of Oakland will be made a fate event. It is planned to bring Burbank to this city on his birthday and make the day a municipal holiday. State, city and county officials will be on the reception committee and the school children will turn out en masse in greeting.

The dahlia is to be planted in one of the big public parks of Oakland. This detail is not yet decided, but popular sentiment favors the City Hall Plaza.

It was in this park that the oldest oak in Oakland—its age was variously estimated at from 200 to 500 years—recently died from senility. Its place has been taken with a sturdy young oak from the foothills of the Coast range of mountains.

It is hoped to make the Plaza a typically Oakland park, for the Chamber of commerce has requested each of the other 27 Oakland in the United States to send it a tree to plant beside the central oak. Oakland, Md., already has responded and the other Oakland are falling in line. The request for oak trees following the refusal of the other Oakland to surrender their name to this city.

After the Oakland dahlia is planted in this park representative of all the Oakland, each city and town of that name will be given a bulb of the official flower for planting in one of its parks.

Marine Corps Tries To Find Mens' Heirs

Washington, D. C., Feb. 14.—The endeavor of the European nations to locate relatives of men who have fallen in battle while serving with the various foreign legions bears an interesting comparison to similar efforts now being undertaken in this country to trace the relatives or heirs of men in the American service who have died, some of whom left valuable property.

The United States Marine Corps issued a bulletin today, containing the names of Sergeant Albert Jolly, of Melbourne, Australia; Corporal Thomas Brophy, of Dublin, Ireland; and Private Owen Woods (former address unknown), in a further effort to locate their heirs or next of kin. These men, who have been dead over ten years, left effects of considerable value, and numerous inquiries during that period have failed to locate their rightful heirs.

UNION MEN BOUND TO GRAND JURY

(Continued from Page 1.)

Local persons differ in the matter but the majority of the people seem to think Arant is a victim between the two contending boards.

The prosecution showed that an attempt had been made to hold a joint meeting of the health committee and the school board Sunday, February 4, but that there was but one member of each body present. No legal or definite action was taken at this meeting, the evidence showed. Superintendent Arant was not ordered to close the schools.

The schools opened Monday morning, February 5, as usual, but between the Sunday meeting and the opening of school the city marshal, following the instruction of the chairman of the Union board of health, had placed a white (measles) quarantine flag on North school. When he learned of this action School Superintendent Arant is said to have immediately conferred with the school board and he was informed that the board had not ordered the school closed.

Superintendent Arant then conferred with County School Superintendent A. E. Ivanhoe and District Attorney Hodgkin, who informed him that

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they knew of no law where schools could be closed on account of measles or at least without consent of the school board.

Under these instructions the flag was removed by Superintendent Arant and school was continued until the following Tuesday evening when, at the regular meeting of the school board, the health committee presented a written petition to the school board requesting that the school be closed. Though it was further shown in the evidence that M. K. Hall, county health officer, was called and advised the school board that school could not be closed for measles.

The school board decided it would be for the best interests of the community to close all city schools.

It was also shown in the examination last night that no flags were put up at other public buildings by the health committee and public gatherings were unrestricted, excepting restrictions were put upon children under high school age attending Sunday schools or other public gatherings and theaters.

During the course of the examination there was a great deal of animosity shown between the two local boards.

When seen today District Attorney Hodgkin said in regard to the Union controversy that while engaged in the trial of cases in the circuit court and attendance upon the grand jury a case instituted in Union against Professor Arant for violating a quarantine of the health officer of the city of Union

was brought to his attention, and that he was not consulted and knew nothing of the institution of the case until after it had been commenced. He believes that the case is essentially a question between the health board of the town of Union and the school district and that inasmuch as the case was instituted by the health board at Union, it being entitled, "State of Oregon, G. H. Rollins, W. D. Hanks, O. M. Crossland and W. M. Emery, against E. E. Arant,"—and A. J. Terral, the attorney who had the case in hand, and representing the plaintiffs had looked into the matter and was attending to it, had informed him that a lawful order of the state health board had been violated he thought it best the parties in Union settle it among themselves. While he is doubtful about the law of the state having been violated from the circumstances reported to him by both sides, yet inasmuch as the proceeding had already been started without consulting him he deemed it not proper to recommend a dismissal to the justice. He states that the question should have been tested by an injunction proceeding in a civil action in the circuit court between the town and the school district, or those representing the contending sides; that inasmuch as the case is to come before the grand jury the facts will be presented to the circuit judge for his opinion as to whether a law has been violated by the superintendent of the schools tearing down a quarantine flag placed on the school grounds by the city health officer, quarantining against measles.

"What Did You See?"



SCENE FROM "OLIVER TWIST," A PARAMOUNT PICTURE PRODUCED BY LASKY.

Fagin discovers that Oliver Twist has been watching him as he counted over his hoard of loot. Oliver in this case is lovely Marie Doris and Fagin is Tully Marshall in the Lasky adaptation of "Oliver Twist" for the Paramount Program. It will be remembered that Oliver is brought to Fagin's den by the Artful Dodger, but does not suspect the real nature of the place until he becomes an unwilling witness of the theft of Mr. Brownlow's handkerchief.