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Premier Kerensky, of Russia, has a big job. It looks as if he were going to make good.

Saturday is registration day for the women of La Grande. Let all register for patriotic service.

PUBLIC DANCING.

A hard-working citizen of the community, Mr. Spencer, has been running a public dance at Zuber Hall. He is refused a license by the chief of police on the ground that Mr. Spencer has been running a disorderly dance. We submit that there are two things evident about this way of handling this case. In the first place if Mr. Spencer has been running a disorderly dance in the past, the chief of police failed in his duty in not arresting him; if there were others who were disorderly in their conduct at the Zuber Hall dances they should have been arrested.

Revoking the license does not solve the problem, except it probably is the easiest solution from the standpoint of the chief of police: There is a dance at Zuber Hall; I have to watch it; it causes me lots of trouble; therefore I will stop it.

Young people need amusement under proper surroundings; it is the business of the city to see that they have proper amusements under safe and normal conditions. Big cities look after their public dances but they do not suppress them; they go so far as to engage municipal chaperones and dance inspectors to look after them to see that they are properly conducted. Furthermore there should be no favorites; if the amusements of the masses are to be curtailed, let the dances of the fashionable be abolished, too, or inspected and regulated. Now that liquor is abolished, it ought not to be difficult to allow the young people to dance under proper chaperonage without disorder. Since the chief of police confesses he is not able to handle the problem, let's get some one who can.

THE WATER PROBLEM.

The water problem has brought itself to the public notice. It has done the city of La Grande much damage this Summer. It will do the city more unless it is taken up and handled in a vigorous fashion. The Observer submits that this is one of the problems that should be worked out by the city administration and about which the body of citizens should not be bothered or annoyed. The citizens have furnished the money; they pay the taxes; they are willing

to pay the water rent; what they want and demand is something for their money, good, pure water, so that they may use it and enjoy it and good health. So the water problem of any city resolves itself into a question of management and engineering. It is evident that the Beaver Creek system is a bad investment; it needs reinforcement in order to successfully fulfill its function. While the problem is up, the city administration owes it to the public to solve it finally and completely. To do this the most competent hydraulic engineer and experts available should be employed, the possibilities of artesian water investigated, the opportunity of bringing water from other streams into Beaver Creek investigated, the problem of keeping the pipelines and reservoirs clean and sweet, solved. The system has already cost a fortune and is a failure; good money should not be thrown after bad, but it should be definitely ascertained how much more of an investment the city must make in order to have a good and unfailing water system.

No one likes to spend money, but the question of the public health is so important and the future of La Grande so much at stake that we should be done with dilly-dallying, with childish experiments and get down to a complete and sensible solution of the problem. If experts are needed, they should be employed. Surely La Grande ought to be able to get a water system if she is willing to pay for one; there should be men competent to build one or reconstruct the present system, and to do it speedily. The Observer believes the citizens of La Grande have been very patient, perhaps too patient under the inconveniences they have suffered.

BILLY SUNDAY MAY FIGHT SATAN AND KAISER FROM TRENCHES.

By GEORGE MARTIN.

(United Press Staff Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 14.—Billy Sunday is scheduled to fight the devil in Washington in January, but he may carry his battle against the Old Boy to the French trenches instead, it was learned today. Thus would the rip-roaring evangelist kill two birds—Kaiserism and Satanism, with one verbal stone. Not only would he be in a position to give Auld Cloutie another bunch of his favorite solar plexus wallops, but if Kaiser Willie happened to be anywhere along the front Billy could yell a few of the shrivelling phrases he addressed to H. I. M. in New York across the trenches.

Among Billy's favorite predictions about the Kaiser when he battled Broadway and New York last Spring was the one wherein he declared that when the Kaiser died and appeared at the gates of hell the devil wouldn't let him in. Sunday has had many invitations to go to France and preach in the trenches. He has also had many invitations to tour the draft army cantonments in this country. So far, owing to other engagements he has not accepted either. He is however, considering going to France. His son George will be in Washington this month and is expected to give a definite answer as to whether his father will come here or go to the war front.

After wearing himself out one day recently telling his own Hood River, Or., congregation what a "plastic, rat-hole, rum-soaked, deceitful, pusillanimous, cheap politician" Pontius Pilate was and how "rotten" he treated

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Christ., Billy turned to the question of going to France and said:

"One of the hardest things I have to go up against is saying no to invitations from commanding officers of different cantonments to address our soldiers. One of the members of General Joffre's party, when the commission was in New York City, visited me and tendered an invitation to go to France and address the soldiers. We have been thinking and deliberating over it and we don't know yet what we will do about it."

VACANT BUSINESS PROPERTY HURTS A NEIGHBORHOOD—TO SAY NOTHING OF THE OWNER.—CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING FINDS TENANTS FOR DESIRABLE STORES OR OFFICES—QUICKLY, INEXPENSIVELY.

Rippling Rhymes

By WALT MASON

Every Little Helps.



We all are doing what we can, to make the war a big success, to help along the Red Cross plan, or to alleviate distress. I see the busy women knit, as down the village street I come, I watch their shining needles flit, I hear their silver thimbles hum. I mark the farmer as he shucks his corn and throws it in a van, and he, while earning needed bucks, is helping, like a little man. I watch the poet slug his lyre, and sing glad songs about the flag; and his poor effort may inspire some man who finds his courage sag. I note the grocer sell his prunes; he asks a modest price per pound, and as he nails the pica-yunes, he helps to make the wheels go round. The pastor of the village kirk, who in his pulpit takes his stand, and urges men to pray and work, is helping, too, to beat the band. All men who pass along a smile, a word of courage and of cheer, are doing something worth the while, they help to bring our triumph near. He does not help who idle stands, who saws no wood, who tills no soil, who loafs around with empty hands, discouraging the lads who toil.

(Copyright 1917 by George Matthew Adams.)

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