



THE FORUM

The Place Where Everyone Has His Say.

Estacada, Oregon.
May 6, 1919

Bruce Dennis.

Editor of La Grande Observer,
Dear Sir:

I have been editor of the Eastern Clackamas News long enough to know that it is pleasing to one's inner propensities to receive an appreciative comment on the paper. Let me therefore express to you my enjoyment of your Sunday edition, which comes regularly each week and is as regularly and religiously perused from a to z. Both Mrs. Gibbs and myself look forward eagerly to its coming, as it brings us news of friends whom we have left behind but not forgotten in La Grande. We are both well and the change to a lower altitude has been beneficial in many respects. Estacada is beautifully situated and should make one of the prettiest suburban places near Portland. I am getting familiarized with the editorial work of a country paper and find it interesting and suited to my bent of mind. Fortunately I have a very good man to look after the mechanical end, which relieves me of much anxiety. The projected Mt. Hood loop road, we hope will pass through Estacada and if it does, it will mean a great deal to the place and insure its growth and development. I am sending you a copy of my last issue, in which appears a

letter from a former resident which shows the advantages and opportunities of the place. I am endeavoring to get the people here to realize these and to make the most of them. In the editorial, I deal with a point which struck me as decidedly curious as well as interesting. I had always found a good deal of light in the Bible on practical matters, but I was astonished to discover that at the very beginning it states the three fundamental principles underlying a properly directed advertisement. You will not be welcoming the socialist unit house again. But I am wondering what cards Germany has up her sleeve and whether she will sign the peace treaty. However of this I am sure, unless the league of nations is achieved and effective, we may look for another and worse war in the not far off future.

Yours sincerely,
EUGENE H. GIBBS

DECENCY DEMANDS REFORM

Cove, Or., May 10: To The Observer: The La Grande man who took a Cove girl for a drive in his employer's automobile the other night and then proceeded to disrobe her, that he was a gentleman, deserved a whole lot more than the three mile walk the young lady caused him. According to reports they were some four miles from town when the young lady discovered she had not been invited for a drive simply because her "friend" enjoyed her company. By a ruse she let him get out of the car and then drove off and left him. He got a ride for the last mile into Cove and found his machine sitting on the street. It is La Grande's shameful disgrace that she has such liberties at large; men who betray the trust and the love of wife and children. It seems hard to touch them with the law, but if the men—the real men—of the city and of the whole country would but see that sister of laughter never form acquaintances with such moral lepers; if there were enough men who would stand for the sacredness of womanhood and take particular pains to let the despoiler know just where they stand, this would be a cleaner, safer community, and those same sisters and daughters would not be confronted with the dread of finding that there was moving in their immediate social circle some beast who was masquerading in the guise of a friend and of a gentleman.

The work of the professional seducer is dirty, and vicious enough, but no seducer is his profession. Blatantly enough and no woman knows with him who does not know what he is. In the long run, however, he is got tangled up with the law and in that way he can be checked up, but it is not so with his co-worker in the spoliation of innocence and virtue—the smooth, unadorned person whose outward appearance is not indication of his true character to the majority of those who meet him. He is the curse of society and will continue to be just as long as society continues to recognize the double standard of conduct. It is seldom that he slips and encounters the hand of the law and it is his skillful work which is demoralizing society and populating the world of crime with unfortunate victims of human lust.

If La Grande and if this whole community and country are to maintain a standard of moral and virtue manhood and womanhood that is above that of holier-than-thou Russia of today the clean, strong men and women of the neighborhood and of every city in the United States must take a stand now and purge their social circles, rid even their business circles, of such men as the one mentioned in the beginning of this article.

DECENCY.

NOTICE TO LABOR UNIONS.

A special meeting of delegates of all labor unions affiliated with the Central Trades and Labor Council of La Grande and vicinity is hereby called for Monday night, May 12, at 8 o'clock, at the City Hall in La Grande. J. C. MURPHY, President.

Do you know that you get fresh strawberry sundae with whipped cream regularly at Silverthorn's fountain. 5-4t

Silverthorn's
FAMILY DRUG STORE
LA GRANDE, OREGON.

Justice for the Teachers

From the Literary Digest

It is strange that the generous-hearted American people, who poured out their riches so prodigally in response to every patriotic, every chivalrous appeal, and who accorded such enthusiastic and liberal support to every measure and to every group that helped win the war, should have neglected to properly encourage and reward the services of one of the noblest professions in the field of human activities—a profession that in lofty ideals, in unselfish principles, in sacred responsibilities, stands side by side with whatever we wish to bespeak with whatever

power and authority we may have and with such words as may be granted to us, some measure of consideration for the foster-fathers and mothers of our children—the school-teachers of the United States of America.

There is no class of workers of which we demand so much. We commit to their keeping the minds, the bodies, and the very souls of our children in the tender and formative years of their lives, and they, receiving these children, can indeed be said to hold in the hollow of their hands the future of America. We expect these devoted men and women to watch over and care for our sons and daughters as tho they were their very own, to drill them in the arts and sciences, to train them for business and for citizenship, to instruct them in manners and in morals, to do for them those things which we would do had we the training and the leisure.

No class has assumed so heavy a task, with such willingness as these consecrated men and women. No class has performed their increasingly heavy tasks more devotedly, more conscientiously, and with less thought of self. No class served their country more wholeheartedly, more loyally, during the trying and tempestuous times of war, day by day pursuing their rounds of duty, day by day helping the young people, and through the children the parents, to see the struggle in its true light, thus securing the cooperation of the community in every measure undertaken by the Government to win the war.

Truly they have made the nation their everlasting debtor. Truly they have not done their work so well this republic would not outlast the span of a generation.

What then have the teachers received at our hands in return? They have received little of honor and somewhat less of pay. Other classes have prospered; other classes through powerful organizations have secured generous wages. The teachers have no spokesman, however, to demand even the simple justice of a living wage, so to them we give their petty prewar pittance, so meager, so pitifully inadequate, that it places a burning brand of shame and disgrace upon this nation.

The men and women who are making the Americans of tomorrow are being treated with less consideration than the janitors who sweep out the buildings in which they are employed; they are earning on the average, less than the wages given to the scrubwomen employed in the public buildings of the United States Government. Normal-school graduates receive less salary than street-sweepers; high school principals and superintendents less than section foremen; country school teachers less for instructing the farmer's children than he pays his hired man to feed his hogs.

In a certain town of Illinois, for instance, the average wages of fifteen miners for one month was \$217, while the average monthly salary of fifteen teachers in the same town was \$65. In another town a miner, who, by the way, was an enemy alien, drew more than \$2,700 last year, while the salary of the high-school principal in the same town was \$765. We welcome with all our hearts the long-delayed recognition that is being given to the man who works with his hands. We believe that this same workingman will be the first to join with us in asking better pay for those who teach his children.

No wonder there are fifty thousand vacancies in the teaching forces of the schools. No wonder the ranks are being filled with weak men and with immature women who merely use the profession as a stepping stone to something better. No wonder there are 30,000 teachers in the United States who have had no schooling beyond the eighth-grammar grade. Small wonder, indeed, that seven million of our school children are being trained by teachers, mere boys and girls themselves, who have had no professional education whatever.

When we consider that the 740,000 teachers of America are paid an average salary of \$620 a year, when, moreover, we consider the fact that living costs have actually advanced 102 per cent since the beginning of the war, thereby cutting the buying-power of these insignificant salaries in half, we can easily determine that only a fool or a morose would choose teaching as a profession, or would long remain in it unless these terrible conditions were swiftly remedied.

What a crime is this! What an indictment! What an unpardonable sin at the doors of an enlightened people who know that themselves at the head and forefront of the democracy of the world! How can they better prepare for the great and certain task of reconstruction than by setting themselves immediately to rectifying this glaring condition

In these trying and chaotic times when the world is beset by unrest, by anarchy, by revolution, by the devil's brood of appalling evils that follow in the train of war, we must make sure that the foundations of our republic are set on a rock that may stand against the flood. The peace and security of the world of the future will be in the safe keeping of the generation now in our schools. These boys and girls must "weave up the raveled sleeve" of civilization. Their hands must minister to the wounds of the nations. Their minds must meet and solve the difficult and crucial problems that will be their inheritance with the horrors of war and with the poverty and anguish that inevitably follow in its wake that in their time will enter upon it only as a last resort in national self-defense or in support of some great principle of humanity.

Never has there been a more urgent need for high-minded, great-hearted, splendidly trained, 100 per cent American instructors to drive home the vital lessons that these times hold. Never has the future of the nation been so clearly committed into the hands of the teachers. And yet thousands of men and women of ability who would prefer to teach are reluctantly leaving their chosen calling, forced by the hard necessities of their very existence.

The teachers ask no largesse at the hands of fortune. They enter their profession for service, not riches. But they invest years and money in preparation for their life-work and the knowledge they gain is shared with others who themselves use it to their own profit. Teachers, then, by every right and in all justice expect a return that will permit them and their dependents to live decently and in comfort.

In every community reached by The Literary Digest there are readers of foresight, of vision, broad-minded men and thoughtful women who will see—nay, perhaps have long since seen—the critical and compelling importance of this problem. We are directing this appeal to them. We urge them to compare the salaries of their teachers with the wages of those who are doing work of equal value. There will be a challenge in the facts that will stir the community to action.

Let each community invest in schools so that it may thereby invest in a trained manhood and womanhood that can play their part in the great period of rebuilding and reconstruction that lies before us. Let each community set for its goal, as far as is practicable, a minimum wage of at least \$1,000 a year for the teachers of America. This would cost the nation perhaps as much as we spent so gloriously in but one week of the Great War.

We are not pleading merely for the welfare of some single professional class; we are pleading for America; for her larger, her brighter, her richer future, for the fulfillment of her glorious promise. We are pleading for a coming race of men and women who shall be qualified to make complete the work of our forefathers who founded this nation and dedicated it to liberty, and who will bring to full fruition the new liberties that we have won in freedom's cause. We are pleading for a wider teaching of the principles, the purposes, and the ideals of this nation that all men shall know her meaning and shall have equal access to her opportunities; that the light of Americanism will so shine that it will flood every home, every heart, in our great land.

More fresh candies in boxes and in bulk, just the kind you like, at Silverthorn's. 5-3t

BOY BUYS GIFTS FOR CHUMS

Spends Nearly All of \$400 Mother Sent Him to the Bank to Get.

Beaver Falls, Pa.—When little Angelo Collet, nine, went to the bank for his mother's \$400 he saw an opportunity he had long hoped for. He proceeded to distribute the funds among his playmates. Bicycles, air rifles and other things dear to the hearts of the youngsters were purchased, and when Angelo was finally checked there was only \$20 left. Many of the storekeepers have taken back their goods and returned the money to Mrs. Collet.

Fell 35 Feet in Well.

St. Louis, Mo.—Calvin Mueller, thirteen, and his brother, Arthur, twelve, were severely bruised when they fell 35 feet into an abandoned well in the rear of their home here. Neighbors rescued the lads by means of ropes. The covering of the well gave way when the boys jumped on it.

Insects That Help Mankind.

One of the great sources of loss in wheat growing has been due to the injurious activities of the wheat-midge, which feeds on the grain, and, if unmolested by its natural insect enemies, would soon reduce our wheat crops to the vanishing point. But several of our friendly insects keep the midges in restraint, one being the ravenous two-winged flies which seize and carry away the midge, and suck out its juices. Its most powerful foe, however, is the parasite that lives on the midge—a small, black fly, somewhat resembling the ant. The young of these four-winged flies live on the larvae and eggs of the midge. As the midge increases in number, these parasites also increase, for they depend for a living on the midge, and the more midges there are the more parasites there are on hand to eat them up.

FLOWERS WANTED

For the "Soldier Boys" celebration.

All citizens who will donate flowers to be used by the little flower girls in the parade are requested to leave them at our store an hour or two before the parade. Bring anything that looks like a flower, lilies, tulips, apple blossoms, or other flowers. Be liberal. We can't do too much. A. B. CHERRY. 5-3t

More fresh candies in boxes and in bulk, just the kind you like, at Silverthorn's. 5-3t



Familiarity

that begets respect is the sort of familiarity these hats receive.

Many thousands of men wear—

Mallory Hats

because they like them and nearly everybody in the country knows of them and refers to them by name. They have won this popularity and respect through merit. We show the new spring styles and you know they are correct.

Scranton's

TRUNKS BAGS SUIT CASES

The best and largest line of Trunks and Suit Cases in your city. You may have a chair to trade for a bag, or a table to trade for a Trunk; if so call us and a deal to suit you will be made.

Furniture Exchange

Black 1241

Pir and Jefferson

Best prices paid for used Furniture or will exchange for new.

Extraordinary Entertainment

THE NEIGHBORHOOD CLUB OF LA GRANDE
WILL GIVE THREE EVENINGS OF

ART--SONG and DANCE.

May 6th--13th--16th

HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

The best of talent has been featured in these exceptional events and all lovers of high grade amusement should attend the entire series.

TICKETS ON SALE AT SILVERTHORN'S

Season Tickets 75 cents Single Admission 35 cents

Graduation Gifts

We have a variety of appropriate articles from which to select. See our window display of suitable gifts for Graduates.

G. S. Birnie

Jeweler and Optician

When I Say It ---I MEAN IT

When I tell you I'm selling high class tailored clothes to La Grande's best dressers

---I MEAN IT

When I tell you I can make you a tailored suit which embodies style, quality and durability—and still meet your wishes in regard to price

---I MEAN IT

When I tell you that your suit must fit you and satisfy you or I don't want your money

---I MEAN IT

IT WILL PAY TO INVESTIGATE

The Wardrobe

SEE MY WINDOW DISPLAY
WOOD W. BERRY

The Maytag Electric Washer

Will Solve Your Laundry Problem

The Maytag washes your clothes and linen perfectly—without wear; washes in about half the time required by other machines; is made entirely of metal; built on a cabinet, no dust or grease; will do a big washing in an hour at a cost of about 5 cents.

The many points of Maytag superiority will be demonstrated to you here at any time. — Also a complete stock of hand and power machines.

Oregon Hardware Implement & Co.

(Agents for Union and Wallawa Counties)