La Grande Observer-Star

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What Will the Future Generations Be?

The United States Public Health service has collaborated with the Children's Bureau in a study of mental defectives in a county of Delaware. The findings are such as to make even the most heedless of easy-going Americans sit up and think.

The pamphlet just issued is depressing reading. Story after story of vice, immorality, misery, poverty, filth is told until the reader is inclined to feel despair creeping over him. But the general conclusions and recommendations for prevention and care of this state of things turn a more hopeful light upon the case.

There are a good many grades of mental defectives. Some of these are able, with a little supervision, to do work which will make them self-supporting. Some are entirely helpless. Between these extremes are some who need institutional care, and some who need only varying degrees of supervision.

The modern state institution recommended by the pamphlet includes a department of custodial care for low-grade cases demanding constant attention, a school where intensive, specialized teaching is done to develop mental powers to the fullest possible extent, an industrial department for training in useful work, and a farm. Farm work helps the mental defective to develop and support himself, and the farm will help support the institution.

The presence of feeble-minded children at large in the community is a constant menace to society. In school they waste the time of the teacher and normal children, because they are a constant source of disorder and they require a different kind of teaching. Leaving them there does them no good, and does the normal children harm.

For their own sakes and for that of the community, defectives should be childhood. They should receive special care and supervision, so that the most may be made of their small powers, and a check be placed on the breeding of defective stock.

Public Will Gladly Say Farewell to Tips.

A prevailing idea seems to be that prohibition will see the end of the tipping evil. Certainly the overgenerous tips given by men more cheered than prudent will be a thing of the past when John Barleycorn is no more.

If prohibition brought no other reform it would still be desirable, for tipping is one of the most pernicious vices with which a good-natured world is plagued.

In the old days when salaries for waiter service were ridiculously low, it was fair, perhaps, that the waiter who served pleasantly and well should have an extra fee. But since those days the system has grown to one of public extortion which puts the loan sharks and the pawn shops to shame. It leads to an abuse of wages and of service.

In some of the big hotels mechanical hat-checking devices have been installed, which, even if they call for a definite small fee, are infinitely less grafting than the outstretched palm of the underworked hat-boy. And if gradually the easy-going public, no longer "seeing through a glass, darkly," refuses to be held up by the tip-toed waiters, so much the better. Fair wages, good service and a square deal all around should be the result.

More Sanitary Living and Working Conditions.

Employers and welfare workers often find that one of their greatest difficulties is interesting shop workers in sanitary personal habits, and such habits of order as will best promote the cleanliness of the place where they work, and hence the health of the employes themselves.

While there is a better understanding than formerly of the importance of hygiene, still there isa multitude of workers who feel insulted if approached on the subject, or who remain stolidly indifferent.

There must be something more than shop education if all these people are to be reached. Dr. Carl Scheffel, a welfare worker and health expert of high standing, thinks that the greatest support of the employer in these matters of cleanliness and health is to be found in the public officials of his town.

If the sanitary policy of the town is good, if cleanliness of streets, houses and yards is insisted upon and enforced by the authorities, it creates a public spirit which makes it easier for the private citizen to carry out the same policy in his workshop.

The employee who might resent or see the clean standards proposed by his employer as the more impo-

tion of capital upon labor will feel very differently if he believes the shop policy is simply carrying out the mandates of the local government.

Chautauqua Is Showing Its Worth.

No one should stay away from Chautauqua. Yesterday's program was very fine. If you were in the city spending a week you would relish at such entertainment. Here you have it within walking distance, so do not stay away.

The Collier boys' quartet yesterday were refreshing in every way. The four young men were full of life. Youth was frolicking in every movement and in every verse. They sang well, they appeared well and no time in the program did they not have their audience with them.

Dr. Boyle's afternoon address was good and should have been heard by every parent. Admitting that his address fitted the country better twenty years ago when boys slept in the garret and people had spare rooms called parlors, and admitting that things have changed today so many of his illustrations seemed a little out of date, it was still a good talk.

W. M. Whitney, the monologist, last night was a perfect wonder. He gave a play—"Turn to the Right"—and left no character in the play out. It was a story that leaves a good impression; a story that does the young and the old good to hear. He talked for two hours and held his people. It takes quite a man to do that. Just what salary he is drawing we have no way of knowing, but somehow we feel that he is an exceptional speaker.

There are other very good things on the program. If you miss a single session, you have missed something.

Be there at every meeting. You are the one who will be ahead by so doing.

The Little Word "Not" Crept In.

In yesterday's mention of the new park entrance, which is a fine piece of work and is admired by everyone, the little word "not" crept past the proof-reader and upset the whole story.

What the Observer intended to say was that the park entrance "is not only very appropriate, but it is there to stay." What we did say was "not very appropriate, but it is there to stay."

As a matter of common knowledge anything that Mr. Bohnenkamp builds is built right and the design and building of the park entrance is no exception to his lifelong work in the building game. The entrance is something the park has long needed and it has been the fond hope of all park advocates to some day have a proper front. Now we have it and as a community we feel very grateful to those who took charge of the project.

Reaching Out the Helping Hand Again.

Members of a farm bureau in West Virginia have added sowing seeds of kindness to their other agricultural pursuits. Funds have been provided to place two Serbian boys in the Agricultural College of West Virginia and pay all their expenses for at least two years. When they have completed their course these boys will return to Serbia to help their people by their knowledge of American methods of farming.

This state has been much interested in the struggles of the Serbian farmers to protect their homes and their government, and has given other practical aids before this. Much fine seed has been sent to help in the replanting of the fields.

The Serbians are good farmers; that they will profit enormously by the modern ideas of American farmers there is not the slightest doubt. Other states might well follow West Virginia's example.

Everyone Must Be Square With Roads Project.

Governor Olcott is endeavoring to sift to the bottom the charges that defective pavement has been laid in the Willamette valley. This is right and the governor will have the unanimous backing of the entire state in his effort to see that nothing but the square deal prevails in state paving and road work.

If his desire to uncover any slippery in the woodpile, it is quite possible that the governor will find, however, that the crafty work of paving concerns is at work. There are lay lines of business that maintain such shy and foxy propagandists as the paving companies.

For instance, the legislature very properly equipped Attorney General Brown with funds to fight the Warren Bros. points on bituminous pavement. Naturally the big concern smarts under such legislation and independent paving companies are to this concern thorns in their side. Yet the independent companies constitute the one real safety valve for the public. Without them Oregon either could not pave at all or it would be subjected to the will and demand of one big concern.

It will be noticed that the defective work alleged is found in a few places in an independent paving company's work. The company will make good any defects, according to word from Salem, yet there is an inclination to make considerable capital of this instance. We believe whoever the contractor is, he should make good to the state, but we also believe that it would be well to look deep under the covers for the possible conspiracy, which if carried out as it looks would cause so much commotion that the present Highway Commission might refuse to be "hossed" around and resign. Apparently that is exactly what some interested parties want. They cannot use Benson, Thompson and Booth, and they know it. The "intelligence" department of the paving octopus has had its lesson and it knows that with the present commission in power there is nothing to do but shoot straight all the time, and that independent companies will get as much recognition and as many contracts as they can handle.

If sufficient hurrah can be raised to disgust these men and cause them to resign, then there would be a chance with a new commission. And besides, so far as can be learned the attorney general has not as yet handed down any opinions relative to patents on paving. In fact, little has been heard from that office, due possibly to exhaustive search being made of patent records. But the Highway Commission goes on according to legislative orders and refuses to recognize any patents in the paving business, guaranteeing protection to the small contractor who will lay bitulithic pavement.

The burden resting on Governor Olcott's shoulders is heavy. His wish is to protect the state, but that protection will not be of lasting merit should some small contractor be made the subject of heated newspaper argument thus drawing public attention to this one case, while the large concerns put their house in order and prepare to give Oregon a good trouncing on paving prices.

We hope the Governor will keep firm in the belief that this state must have the small contractor as well as the larger one; that the deep-seated plans of paving concerns shall be pierced and punctured before he renders too strong a verdict against the smaller concern; that, to be plain and frank, this state will never stand for the expenditure of money already appropriated if there is not to be clean, healthy competition in paving contracts, and that the present Highway commission is composed of men who should not be subjected to a lot of hectoring by men who are planning deeply to force the commission to resign.

A Fire Department That's Worth While.

While everyone was having a good time yesterday there were some faithful men who stayed on the job. These men belong to the La Grande fire department, and without their work yesterday there probably would have been a much smaller La Grande today. Numerous calls clattered into the fire station and each time before one could say "scat" the hum of the motor was heard and the department was running at fast speed for the scene of the fire. Such a dry condition has not prevailed for years and every match or fire-cracker proved to be a dangerous article.

The boys had their fire truck all dolled up for the parade but a fire broke out while the parade was forming and it was forced into active service. That was the beginning, and during the entire day there were calls from different parts of the city.

They were on the job all the time and too much credit cannot be given these men who vigilantly watch to protect property and save lives. The volunteers also responded when possible yesterday and they must not be overlooked in passing the bouquets. It is with regret that one of these boys was quite badly injured while making a run to assist in extinguishing a fire in South La Grande.

La Grande Honors Her Service Men.

In the parade Friday was a section under command of Captain H. M. Bouvy. That section was composed of service men who have returned home. Every man who marched in that parade was honored and revered by the general public. The soldiers and sailors are glad to be back and the people are jubilant over their return. When they were asked to take part in the celebration it was with the feeling that this Fourth of July was to be made a greeting—a work of home-coming event. And it was. As they marched down the streets the cheers were long and loud, and the inward prayers of thanks for their return were many.

Union county and La Grande as a city has done everything possible for the boys who enlisted, all in appreciation of what the uniformed men were doing for the country. The large multitude of people who would earn estly at home in all ways now rejoice that they can be privileged to see their boys back in line of march on the Fourth of July.

It is a great privilege both to the people who worked at home and to the boys who went to mingle on such an occasion and the service men in section of the parade was one that brought forth hands and cheers.

The Passing of the Wop and the Dago.

The man of the house stood on the porch a moment with the pounding contractor. His eye passed casually from the trench-digging operation over the backs of the men engaged in the work.

"Itanans you got there?" he asked.

"No. Czecho-Slovaks. You know—them popular people we read so much about in the newspapers nowadays."

"Good workers?"

"Yep. They're good people, all right."

Now, this may not seem an especially important, inspiring or even interesting conversation. But cast your mental eye back about a year and a half. What would the colloquy have been then?

"Dagoes you got there?"

"No. Wops."

That "dago" of those days amounted to very little in the scheme of things. The "wop" was just nobody. The word had come to convey the impression of a herd of ignorant, unskilled laborers hardly over the level of intelligence of the mules they pulled away the wagon loads of dirt they dug.

The Italian of today is a member of a nation important in world affairs. The wop—there is no wop. There is no greedy, cruel, oppressive Austro-Hungarian empire to create wops. There are Czecho-Slovaks, upstanding members of a vigorous, respected young republic. There are Czechs, Poles, from another. There are Jugo-Slavs.

Because these people among us can now think with pride and affection of their home-lands, they will hold up their heads the straighter and more as Americans.

The world may not yet be safe for democracy. But the world is safer, better, happier, because there is today more self-respecting democracy in it.

Rounding Up the Parlor Bolshevists.

"Round up the Parlor Reds!" says the Washington Star. And it's not a bad idea.

There are many silly, good-natured people who have read a little, heard a little and thought a little less, who do harm by talking mild Bolshevism which they themselves do not practice at all.

They talk about "freedom for the down-trodden." They declare themselves as "opposed to restraint." They affirm a sympathy with the revolutionaries which they do not really feel. They are only talking to pass the time away. Yet they make mischief, for by their words they sow the seeds of revolution where perhaps they never grew before; they encourage the violent to believe that even among people of education and refinement there is toleration for violence. They interest the young, who have neither self-control nor judgment, to throw the ardor of their youth into the fires of anarchy.

Such people as these should be rounded up, and it is whispered in government circles that it is being done.

These are not the times for parlor Bolshevism nor kitchen Bolshevism. They are the times for patriotism, for the careful observance of law and order to be carried out in every household and every organization.

"I can stand bad people," said a brilliant woman, "But God deliver me from a fool! You never know what harm they will do." Even so.

Mr. Corey's Boomerang Returns to Plague Him.

If Public Service Commissioner Corey had known more about railroad rates, he would not have written that letter to the commercial bodies of Eastern Oregon urging them to indorse the proposed absolute long-and-short-haul clause of the interstate commerce commission, remarks Edgar B. Piper in the Portland Oregonian. He probably did not know it, for he has much to learn on the subject with which he deals as public service commissioner, but he is urging the producers and consumers of Eastern Oregon to act directly against their own interests. It does not appear whether he speaks also for his colleagues, Mr. Buchtel and Mr. Williams, but if he does they too need information as to which way the interests of Oregon lie.

If transcontinental rates were readjusted on a strictly mileage basis as are local rates, water lines would get practically all the business, especially as the Panama canal has removed the factor of time which formerly favored the railroads. Mr. Corey dwells sympathetically on Portland's lack of water lines in the past, but he may withhold his sympathy, for there will be plenty of water lines in the future, and they would be in a position to compete with the railroads, numerous railroads should be in effect forbidden to compete with them. Being deprived of this large volume of business and being entitled under the law to a fair return on their investment, the railroads would say and could not be denied, permission to make good the loss by lifting all other rates. The coast cities would pay some of this advance on their local rail traffic, but the people of eastern Oregon would pay on everything which they ship and receive. Portland could stand it, but the interior would be hard hit. It is only transcontinental business which enables the railroads to bring movement of cars both ways near to a balance. Without that business the railroads would have to haul empty cars west, and traffic would have to bear the cost of hauling them, by paying higher rates.

The producers and consumers of Eastern Oregon, the growers of wheat, fruit, wool, cattle and all products of the soil, every person who eats a can of corn or buys a pair of shoes, would pay for the privilege of preventing railroads from competing with water lines. The jobbers would pay too, though they are most clamorous for Senator Poindexter's long-and-short-haul amendment, but their business, though filling a useful place, is not to produce, but to sell what others have produced. The jobbers of the interior might possibly extend their field into territory now held by Portland and other coast cities, but all would pay more on local traffic and Portland would still have the advantage of cheap water lines. The whole system of blanket fruit rates to all points between the Missouri river and the Atlantic coast, and of low lumber rates to the Missouri river would be swept away, and the lumber men of Baker county would feel the effect along with those of the Willamette valley.

In reopening this controversy, Mr. Poindexter is actually the champion of the Spokane jobbers, who have kept the rate question stirred up for many years in order that they might sell other people's products a little farther west than was possible when railroads were permitted to meet water competition. By depriving the Pacific coast of ships, the war has favored these Spokane firms, but the water lines are coming back in double strength, and the Spokane firms will learn how much ultimate good their long years of litigation have done them.

For all the harm that the Poindexter amendment will do to Portland directly, this city can afford to remain indifferent to it, though indirectly everything that harms any part of Oregon harms Portland. But no person can patiently see a policy advocated in the pretended interests of a part of the state which is really harmful to the interest not only of that but of many other parts of the state and is helpful to none.

The Airplane Becoming a Nuisance.

The enthusiasm over airplane progress is not unanimous. In the midst of the chorus of praise for such achievements as those of the trans-Atlantic fliers comes a discordant note. A resident of Harbor Grace, New Foundland, writing to a St. Johns paper just after Alcock's plane had started for Ireland, said:

"I wish to voice a protest against an airplane being allowed to fly over the city, frightening our poultry and thereby interfering with the supply of eggs, so important during the present shortage of food. This nuisance is only beginning, and now is the time to stop it, before the airplane becomes as great a pest as the bicycle and the motor car."

The evil he complains of has already been noticed in the United States, though it does not seem to have elicited any such vigorous protest in this country. An airplane is not unnaturally mistaken by timorous flocks for a chicken hawk, causing panic, and possibly a lowered egg-production, in many a poultry pen and farmyard.

Something surely ought to be done about it, says the Salem Journal. If airplanes continue to interfere with the hen's peace of mind how can they be tolerated in any orderly community? As an extreme illustration of pending catastrophe, think what an airplane whizzing over the O. A. C. campus might do if the egg-laying occupation of that world champion hen should be disturbed!

Refreshing, Refining Chautauqua.

The annual Chautauqua season is upon us. People are gathered at the park enjoying the outing, listening to the music, the lectures and lifting their thoughts to higher and better things. A deal of information is obtainable from the speakers that otherwise would not be gained and those who religiously attend every session will get much out of the week of events.

La Grande is abundantly blessed with a park for this occasion, and we never mention the park that our mind does not drift back to the good women of this city who years ago, visualized the needs of a growing town and hung tenaciously to the plan of creating for this generation and generations to come, a spot where the tired might rest, where the weary might forget their cares, where nature combines its beauties and man's work to make a place by the roadside where he who will enter can forget the world and be by the world forgotten; where he can raise his eyes to the heavens and give thanks at being permitted to live in a land where such spots are made possible, where elevating programs are arranged; where the higher things of life are discussed; where world topics are brought forward, and the mind is given instruction how to think on questions that are before the world to be solved.

And the women of La Grande made this possible. They are still making it possible, for after the creation of the park they did not desert and turn it over to hard business lines, but their personality is still there; their tender care is everywhere to be seen, with the result that La Grande is known far and wide for the beautiful park in which Chautauqua and other events are held.

Thinks Germany's Offer of Hundred Billion Gold Shows She Can Pay More

BERLIN, July 8.—Richard Calwer, financial writer, believes that Germany's offer of financial indemnity supplies her enemies with a weapon which may encourage them to force her to fully comply with the terms imposed. He writes:

"Germany, they will say, appears to be quite solvent and her credit unimpaired if she is able to offer a gold indemnity of one hundred billion of her own initiative. If she volunteers that much, she is in reality capable of exceeding that limit, will be the enemy's logic, and it is surprising to think this had not occurred before to men responsible for the offer."

The Observer furnishes and prints Butter Wrappers.

NEW STATE HIGHWAY LOCATED THROUGH CANYON

County Must Raise Funds Now to Match What State is Spending to Carry Work to Completion

WALLOWA, July 8.—Surveyors of the new state highway through the valley have finished the canyon and are now approaching Wallowa. They were not made aware as soon as the state highway commission was assured that Wallowa county meant business, and they will locate the entire road from Minam to Joseph as rapidly as they can get over the ground.

When they were partly through the canyon they were called back and had to relocate part of the new road, as their first survey had run too close to the river to suit their superiors. Nothing definite can be known as to the details of the location of the road through the valley until the surveyors proceed farther. Naturally this is a matter in which many residents and property owners are vitally interested for everybody wants the road to run past his place if possible. But somebody will disappointed.

In surveying the state highway through Union county the engineers apparently paid no attention to property lines, but ran their grades where they thought the road ought to be, on the theory that the interest of the whole community is greater than that of any individual. This should work out all right, except where individuals wish to place their interests first, and there is no telling what juries will do.

Further work on the road will not be possible until the county has provided money, to meet state funds. The county will get this money from the sale of bonds, authorized at the special June election. T. M. Dill, who has been engaged by the county court to look after the legal details of this bond issue, has prepared the necessary papers, transcript of the records, etc., with the idea of selling part of the authorized bond issue in a few weeks. It has been thought that $100,000 of bonds should be sold this year.

This will give plenty of money to meet the county's part of the cost of the state highway for the year. By 1920 plans for the remainder of the county highway system will be worked out by the state and the federal government, and the remaining $200,000 of bonds can be issued.

Summer Complaint Quickly Relieved

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