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SECTION TWO.

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La Grande, The Beautiful.

PAPER READ BY MRS. J. T. RICHARDSON AT THE LAST MEETING OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD CLUB.

Can you possibly conceive a better topic at a more appropriate time, than the one we are to consider today?

Under the heading of "Civic Improvement" is a three-fold problem: First—To get into the current of the new understanding that the conservation of physical and moral life is largely economic.

Second—To find practical ways of applying our understanding to the present and future of the town.

Third—To do both with exceedingly little money.

The first step is NOT to change town conditions. The first need is to create the desire to change conditions and feignify the town in which we live, for people must begin to think about civic work before they will have civic pride. So I think organizations that will take up civic problems and discuss them in open meetings make about the best possible means to start civic work. There are so many lines of work or interests of local importance such as sewerage, its possibilities in small towns, its needs, its costs, garbage collections and disposal as carried on in small towns; pure food, discussed by the state inspector or some other expert, and enforcing some of the state laws regarding exposure of foods in stores.

Create An Interest.

Now, for example, the various men's clubs may have a speaker from the nearest city to discuss some matter of live local importance, such as matters of parks, drives, waterways, public playgrounds for the children and good roads, lecture courses may have several lecture numbers selected with reference to civic interests. In New York, there is one bureau, most of whose speakers' addresses are on civic and social subjects. A lecture on "The Redemption of a Typical American City," or "Parks and Playgrounds of the 20th Century," would both be good topics, for the motif of all strong civic lectures is to make or help us to see our greatest needs in our home town. It has been said that the surest means at hand for arousing civic pride is the women's club and it is with pride I speak of the Neighborhood Club, and it is my greatest hope to see that some of the work attempted or accomplished by the following committees may be of practical use, either as direction or warning. The first named committee is the Educational Committee. Under this heading would come the manual training and domestic science in the high school, and this committee could offer prizes to the domestic art classes at least once a year, when their needle work is on display. The committee could ask the public to report to it any children of school age found at work during school hours.

Campaign Against the Fly.

A campaign against the house-fly, not by the old-time method of dividing the town into sections, but by having one lady in the block in which she lives be responsible for unsanitary conditions and reporting the same. This committee, with the aid of plenty of willing workers to get the movement started early enough—in the late spring or early summer—to prevent accumulation that will cause flies, and let each lady appointed be responsible for the entire season.

Then, under this fly campaign, the children can have a hand by the different grades in the various schools competing for a prize by making fly posters. This way, the entire household will become interested, for all they will hear will be flies. The prize I would have would be \$1.00 for the first; 75 and 50 cents for the second and third.

Splendid work may be done by the town improvement committee in connection with Arbor Day. Children should be taught the history of the day. A man in 1872 persuaded the legislature of treeless Nebraska to observe Arbor Day. A million trees were planted that year in Nebraska and millions in other states all over the Union. Arbor Day has other valuations than the merely commercial, for it is now of great significance in the forming movement of civic improvement.

Dream of New Club House.

Then, there is the building of a new club house needed so badly at the present time. Some one will say, "Oh, this is such a big undertaking." But this club likes big things for we are a big club, for we recall, not so many years ago—in the year of 1912—when we held our first club breakfast at the home of Mrs. P. A. McDonald, we were asked to think of the Ship of State and, if you will remember, all our boats were on this Ship of State. The first one, to the retiring captain, (the president), then the one to the midshipmen (the new members), and so on until we came to the one "Whither Bound," and this one meant this very same were in today, for it will be remembered, at that time we were meeting in the Commercial Club room on the

New Foley Building. But the Carnegie fund had been allowed and this library was an assured thing, and this club room was our goal. Our membership was then 95. Now it is near three times this number and we have outgrown our quarters. So, when you think of this club's next undertaking, draw on your imagination enough to see a large auditorium which need be but a one-story building, large enough and spacious, furnace-heated, with a big, roomy stage, and said building could be used for dancing parties and various other purposes and be a credit, not only to the club, but to the town.

But, while we consider some of La Grande's greatest needs, we must not for one moment fail to appreciate what we already possess. Clean, and comparatively wide streets with lots of beautiful shade trees and a splendid city park of which we can boast, and, while we appreciate what the O.W.R. & N. has done in making the green sward at the depot, we certainly do long for a better looking depot, such as Baker and Pendleton have.

Public Playgrounds Essential.

Public playgrounds for the children, a movement which is under way in most places at the present time. Do we need public playgrounds in La Grande? Can we operate them on a supervised basis? The city should do this very thing if we wish to pursue a policy in accord with usage in the most advanced places, large and small, throughout the United States. Conditions in La Grande are such as to make particularly desirable that public grounds be established. The town is congested and there are no vacant lots for children to play on, and few people care to have them scuffle and romp on our park lines. Then the outdoor art committee should ascertain the attractive bits of ground in the town, for every town has these little triangles that could be seeded in grass and the planting of hardy shrubs, and some trees would make an attractive little rest place, and no town can be blessed with too many of these. There is one particular triangle in the city that should be made into a park of shrubs and trees as a resting place. This is the block bordered by Fourth, Spring and Fifth streets, on the opposite corner of the Methodist church. Then, we must remember to plant trees in the spring, for the later show in the fall. Parks should always be kept in a beautiful condition.

Annual Clean-Up Day.

A town improvement committee should take charge of the general Clean-Up Day, which could be ordered by the Commission through a request from the committee. This committee could report driveways and alleys that are untidy, crosswalks that need cleaning to the different grade schools. Some of them this winter, leading to the Greenwood school were in a terrible condition and were ordered cleaned. This same committee might also secure such speakers as Fallington Booth, Bishop Willett, or Governor Folk to talk at Chautauqua on Civic Improvement.

The benefits of such work are manifold—more than at first realized and it is no slight thing to open blind eyes to the beauties of nature in the development of beautiful surroundings. The school which we, old and young, attend all our days, is the school of public life. He who helps to create a better environment for men to live in, is accomplishing a fine task. Our public buildings, parks, playgrounds, libraries, amusements, the posters on the billboards, the memorials of the past, all exert influence in the making of character. It is a splendid thing for a community, year after year, generation after generation, to be learned in the love of decency, beauty and good taste. "This one idea" it has been said, "permeating a town for many years as a principle of action, is worth more than all the fortunes gathered in that town."



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UP-TO-MINUTE NEWS OF
AUTOMOTIVE PROGRESS

(Compiled by The Southern Motor Manufacturing Association, Ltd.)

STATES ISSUE 15 MILE LICENSE.

What may be described as the first "15 mile" license to be granted to a non-resident of Connecticut under an agreement between Connecticut and Massachusetts departments of motor vehicles has been issued. According to this agreement any motorist living in either State may obtain a license from the motor vehicle department of the other state which will entitle him to drive across the line for a distance of 15 miles every day during the time he holds the license. The provision makes it necessary, however, for him to return to his own state with his machines at least once in thirty days. The agreement, it appears, was made for the convenience of motorists who have built-up in a town near the state line, but who live in another state.

PHONE BOOTHS ON HIGHWAYS.

Telephones for use of motorists are being installed at intervals of two and a half miles on the main highways surrounding Dallas Texas, by the Circle Automobile Men's Association. If the plan proves a success it is likely that phones will be installed on roads leading out of Dallas within a radius of 100 miles.

AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER.

To prevent fires in motor vehicles an automatic sprinkler has been invented, to be mounted under a hood in such a position that it sprays the motor with a chemical solution when it becomes overheated and melts a fuse.

TO PREVENT ENGINE FREEZING.

To prevent automobile engines from freezing a Minneapolis man has invented an electric apparatus that automatically starts them and keeps them running for a few minutes when their temperature nears the danger point.



Results From Colds.
Not only cause a tremendous loss but are also a serious danger to the vitality and the system for the more serious cases.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

Estate of John Monaghan, Deceased. Notice is hereby given by the undersigned, administrator of the estate of John Monaghan, deceased, to the creditors of and all persons having claims against the said deceased, to exhibit them with the necessary vouchers, within six months after the first publication of this notice, to the said administrator at his place of business, corner of Adams and Elm streets, La Grande, Oregon. First publication Feb. 19, 1921. W. H. BOHNEKAMP, Administrator of the Estate of John Monaghan, deceased. Dly Feb 19-26, Mar 5-12-19.

MONEY.

Easy payments on improved property. See J. R. OLIVER. 2-18-304

Arthur E. Allen, Stuttgart, Arkansas, writes as follows: Silverthorn's Family Drug Store—I have been using your preparation for barber's itch with much satisfaction. I am now out, so, would like you to mail me, e. o. d., your \$1.50 size bottle.

ARTHUR E. ALLEN, Stuttgart, Ark., P. O. Box 35.

Silverthorn's
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