

EDITORIAL PAGE

The Observer

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OREGON'S NEXT GOVERNOR.

There are those who never lose sight of a political campaign in Oregon. Hardly has the harangue of one campaign ceased until they seek to make candidates for the next.

Trial balloons have been sent up for George Kelly, a prominent timberman of Portland who formerly lived in Eugene, for Senator Ike Patterson of Polk county, who is a farmer and fruitgrower, for Ben W. Oleott, the present governor who succeeded to that office by reason of the death of Governor Withcombe and the interpretation of law by the Supreme Court.

Some say give up a business man for governor, while others say, we have tried these so-called business men and results have not been as good as a politician who senses the state's affairs and knows the obligation of a governor to the people.

It might be that Oregon will awaken and have political parties in state affairs, once more permitting those parties to name their candidates for governor and other important offices.

Did the heavens break in two by that remark? But they might have a few years back. Why is not the hue and cry raised now when it is suggested by a few remote fellows that political parties should name their candidates in party convention?

Because even the fathers of the present system realize, and many admit, that the strong men of the state are to be obtained for in most cases only as they represent a political party which takes responsibility to the people for having such a candidate.

If Oregon is to advance, develop strong characters, she must change her political course. The state has tried out the theory which is most beautiful, but it has not worked entirely satisfactory as all will admit.

FRATERNAL TIES ENDURE

If fraternal ties held all men bound what a wonderful world this would be. Fraternity is a spreading religion, a religion founded and predicated on the religion taught by the Lowly Nazarene as He ministered to the needs along the Galilean shores. Today there are few men who are not affiliated with a good fraternal organization, for in fraternity there is brotherhood and brotherhood is always the endeavor of good men.

Like other good fraternal institutions, may the Odd Fellows grow in number and influence. May La Grande have the privilege of entertaining their conventions in the future. Their coming does none harm, but all good.

GIRLS AND THE TIMES.

"Bad girls flourish in good times and good girls preponderate in bad times," says a police matron of Sioux City, Iowa, and though she no doubt knows whereof she speaks, the Observer incidentally but respectfully moves an amendment by suggesting the term "wayward," rather than "bad." A "bad girl" is a mighty scarce thing. However, what is probably more to the point, this matron says there has been a decline in the number of young girls arrested since hard times set in.

It is a good illustration of the truth of that rare old proverb about Satan and idle hands, and of the saving grace of plain hard work, but at the same time it imposes a responsibility upon those to whom the girls turn for employment.

It is possible to make girls so happy and interested in decent jobs and decent lives that even with improving times delinquency need not increase. On the other hand it is possible to so hurry and abuse them, to overwork and underpay them, because they are the slaves of necessity, that good times ahead, the first change of freedom will be their ruin. It is an old problem, fresh, by procedure for solution.

DO WE KNOW OURSELVES?

It is not likely that the average La Grande citizen has any self-knowledge. In fact, the lack of self-knowledge among La Grande people concerning our own industries and our own

Commercial catalogue is so apparent that the Observer will devote its energies to further enlightenment in this regard. There are potentially heavy payrolls in many a small manufacturing enterprise within the city limits of La Grande.

All cities of any enterprise are alert to additional payrolls. Yet fail to get far because of the resetting handicaps. And, at the same time, these same boosters fail to develop the local institutions already going concerns and needing but home patronage to swell them to greater capacities and larger payrolls. It will be the aim of the Observer to acquaint its readers with what we already have but know little about, and to that end will publish a series of get-acquainted articles within the next few weeks. Wait for them.

SPARKS AND ASYLUMS.

Union county's greatest crop is not wheat, nor hay, nor tourists. It is timber. Likewise is this true of Wallowa county, and Baker, and of the state. It is Oregon's greatest asset. Yet eighty per cent of the terrific ravages wrought by forest fires annually is blamable to criminal neglect and carelessness. The Observer is of the opinion that only insanity or criminality under lie this shocking carelessness. No sane man would burn up his own home. No sane man would touch a match to a \$100 bill. Arson is willful destruction of property by the torch route. It is no less arson when campers leave their camp-fires smouldering in the snow when a lighted cigarette into the tinder grass and powder leaves. Common sense and precaution by campers and smokers will stamp out more fires than all the equipment and man power of a dozen county fire associations.

UNION COUNTY'S PRESENT-DAY FARMS.

If Uncle Ben Brown, the old time pioneer, could come back to earth what would he say? He farmed in Union county when, as Jack Oliver says, the snow was over the high fences from La Grande to Summerville and stayed there most of the winter; he farmed here when primitive conditions obtained.

How would he enjoy himself in one of Union county's modern farm houses where the Nate Zweifel lighting system furnishes light, where the churning is done by electricity, the washing by electricity, transportation by automobile, and farming occupies eight or ten hours a day when it used to be from daylight until dark.

Have we progressed in the brief time since Uncle Ben Brown was on earth? Most assuredly we have. Perhaps too fast. Many believe the speed has been too great and that farming as a business will not stand the expense. All too true. But farming as a business should stand the expense and unless conditions can be brought about to make farming stand the expense of modern living we are a lost nation.

There is no reason why the man who produces what people eat and the wool they wear should not have as many conveniences, as many luxuries and live with as much ease as the man who follows other lines of business. If we are to admit this cannot be done; if we are to say that farming is a calling which does not provide these modern conveniences, then how can anyone urge the boy to stay with the farm?

THE GRANDE RONDE HORSE.

He had better feet and better wind than other horses—he still has those qualities. If David Harum were alive today and in business he would not handle anything but Grande Ronde horses.

And he is coming back, oh, yes, it is in the cards—the horse is coming back.

Albert Hunter and Bill Ledbetter, along with Uncle Sam Brooks, used to remark that the horse would be all right yet and then a Packard or a Cadillac car would whisk by, a truck would chug along, and these men who love horses would look at each other and wonder if they were kidding themselves. They stood pat, however, and kept saying it. Two of them kept right on raising good horses, and now they can very properly say, "I told you so."

More horses are working in the valley than for years past and on the highways the horse-drawn vehicle has begun to appear.

The time for preachers to get good and even with everyone is right now. The new sound amplifier will throw a sermon into every La Grande home. Fine, but who is going to take on the responsibility of picking out the denomination which everyone must hear? If we were a local preacher who had been preaching to empty benches, we would attach the new sound amplifier and make everyone hear us.

Mr. Gompers, after his Denver conference, is positive that organized labor will stick together and not be dissipated by large capital. No one seemed to fear such a thing would happen except Mr. Gompers.

Baker wool-growers are beginning to sell their stored wool. It is a hard pill to take—12 cents a pound now, when it used to be 60 cents—but the boys up there are whistling and making the best of things.

The House at Washington has voted to end the war. Now a majority vote to wipe out the unsettled conditions caused by the war is in order.

If Strickfield's plan to raise fifty million dollars to finance the cattle industry succeeds, he should see that red tape does not prevent Eastern Oregon growers from qualifying.

Mrs. I. D. Taylor, of Oklahoma, kicked a window out of a Pullman car in the Pueblo flood, thus releasing and saving six people. We have never yet heard of a man who accomplished that much good the whole year 'round.

The Huxley divorce case, with its domestic spices, is up again and high society in Salem, Oregon City and Portland, will have something to discuss this summer besides "the Huxley."

THE OFFICE CAT



By JUNIUS

It's Here! Today we offer our passengers something out of the ordinary. Our Great Pome content went like a gasoline tank on fire, as it were. Here-with is a few of the choice and most select.

Fillin' space on a hot day is no easy job, so we conceived the idea of lettin' our readers "rid their chest" of a lotta stray pomes for today's column.

So here goes without an effort: Matilda Hyacinth Dewberry, aged 45, submitted her first poem, which after grave consideration and much scratching of heads, was awarded first prize by the judging committee composed of ye editor, the janitor, the sten, and the circulation man.

The adv. man was too busy looking through his mail to join us. All hail choice NUMBER ONE:

I think that I'll soon go insane, If my farm doesn't have some more rain;

My wheat has all dried; My taters have died, Oh, I wish it would soon rain again. —MATEIDA H. NEWBERRY.

Second Choice— I know of a man quite insane— Who hollers each time we have rain. But when the sun shines He whimpers and whines. And sits up a holler again. —JUNE BRIDE, Loversville, Ore.

There once was a man quite insane, Went fishing and then prayed for rain. It sounded real well, But it stayed dry as hell. Had he better try praying again? —E. PLURIBUS UNUM, Union.

Just for a little spice, we will give our readers one or two of the others submitted, just to show how difficult our judging has been. The janitor favored this one and is much peeved because the stenog. passed it by:

It's enough to drive good men insane, For whenever it happens to rain The girls who are flirts Lift their very short skirts Here's hoping 'twill soon rain again. —PERCIVAL ALGERON JONES, Ordell, Ore.

POLITICAL HISTORY

June 17, 1677—Joliet reached the Mississippi river.
June 17, 1775—Battle of Bunker Hill.
June 17, 1775—George Washington chosen commander-in-chief of army.
June 17, 1864—Lincoln nominated for president.
June 18, 1778—British evacuated Philadelphia.
June 18, 1781—Battle of Ninety-six, S. C.
June 18, 1812—War against England declared.
June 18, 1864—Battle of Lynchburg, Va. ended.

Returning



party entered the political arena as a distinct and separate party in 1912. For a number of years the planks of its platform were in the making, and on August 6, 1912, the Progressive assembled in Chicago to nominate a president and Theodore Roosevelt was the unanimous choice.

In the election which followed the popular vote exceeded that of the republican nominee by over half a million, while the combined votes of the Progressives and Republicans outnumbered those of the Democratic candidate by over one million.

Twenty-Fourth President. Grover Cleveland, democrat. Inaugurated March 3, 1893. Age 55. Term of office, 4 years. Residence, Buffalo, N. Y. Born March 18, 1837. Caldwell, N. J. Died June 24, 1908. Age 71. Buried Princeton, N. J. College, none. Parentage, English.

Censure Comes to All. It is folly for an eminent person to think of escaping censure, and a weakness to be affected by it. All the illustrious persons of antiquity, and indeed of every age, have passed through this fiery persecution. There is no defense against reproach but obscenity; it is a kind of concomitant to greatness, as satire and invectives were an essential part of a Roman triumph.—Addison.

Fraternal Directory

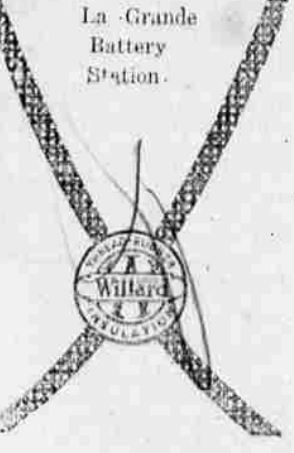
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A. F. & A. M.—La Grande Lodge No. 41, A. F. & A. M. holds regular meetings first and third Fridays at 7:30 p.m. Cordial welcome to all Masons. E. R. GUYE, W. M. A. C. WILLIAMS, Sec'y.
F. O. EAGLES—Aerie No. 255, meets every Friday night at Eagles Hall. Visiting members welcome. J. J. MURCHISON, W. P. J. K. BIRDSELL, Secretary.
WOODMEN OF THE WORLD—La Grande Camp No. 155, meets every first and third Monday at Eagles Hall. All visiting neighbors welcome. Dues payable at the office of the clerk, Rooms 31-32, La Grande National Bank Bldg. W. L. LILL, C. C. R. J. KITCHEN, Clerk.
L. O. O. M.—La Grande Lodge No. 850, Loyal Order of Moose, holds regular meetings every Wednesday night at 8 p.m. in Eagles Hall, next to Elks Building, on Wednesday evenings. Visitors always welcome. Dues payable at La Grande Pharmacy and at J. G. Holm's Grocery Store. D. E. SHANKS, Dic. J. G. HOLM, Sec.
KNIGHTS OF PITHIAS—Red Cross Lodge No. 27, meets every Monday evening in Castle Hall (E. of P. Hall) at 8 p.m. A Pithian welcome to all visiting Knights. C. W. MOORE, C. C. C. L. GRAHAM, K. R. S.
WOMAN'S BENEFIT ASSOCIATION of the Macabees, La Grande Lodge No. 27, W. B. of M. Lodge meets first Thursday at 2 p.m. and third Wed. nights at 8 p.m. at E. of P. Hall. Visiting Sisters welcome. NORA H. MACKAY, Commander. MARJORIE EATON, Record-Keeper.
O. E. S.—Hope Chapter No. 12, O. E. S. holds stated communications on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Visiting members cordially welcomed. HILDA JENNIFER, W. M. FLORENCE BAYON, Sec.

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