

The Observer

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Bible Thought For Today

GUARD YOUR THOUGHTS:—Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.—Philippians 4:8.

Oh! Boy!

There was a Boy Scout play in La Grande a few night ago, and there is a great sight if one will only go to school and see the youngsters there. In other words, take an invoice of La Grande children. The Scouts are fine and the school kids are of the best. They are the men and women of tomorrow and they will gradually take their places in La Grande's affairs.

That bunch of Boy Scouts are almost well enough seasoned to run things very well right now, but the next few years will add the finish which will mean responsibility, fearlessness and right thinking.

It is great to see children growing up. There is nothing so good and wholesome. They are depending upon Dad now, but ere long the dad will be depending upon them.

We wonder if the parents of La Grande ever visit the schools; if they ask Scoutmaster Pryke how the boys are getting along? Or have we reached a point where we think we pay out taxes, and money should do it all?

If that is the idea, it is a wrong idea. Money will only do so much. It will only provide for the expenses. There is something far more important than the money you pay—it is the interest, the deep, loving interest you take in your children.

Let every father and every mother ask themselves if they have been to school lately to visit the classes and talk with teacher. And those who have logs let them interrogate themselves relative to the Boy Scout work.

Listen if this nation breaks down—and God forbid any such ending of this great republic—it will be due wholly to the breaking down of the American home. That's something to think about.

Charlie Hall and Julius Meier

Charlie Hall of Marshfield is a state senator from Coos and Curry counties. Julius Meier is one of the prince merchants of Oregon. Meier is for an exposition tax on the people, either property, gasoline or some other kind of a tax. Hall is opposed to the tax. He believes Portland should finance her show and not tax the rest of the state. He believes that stock company should be formed and let all buy the stock who care to.

The two boys met the other day at a meeting of the Oregon Chamber of Commerce, whatever the mischief that is, and they had a row. Meier demanded Hall to explain why he opposed the tax, and Hall surely explained it to him.

There was had blood shown. There was the essence of a state row that will reach from the Innahsa to Coos Bay exhibited, and the row is on the question of whether Portland will force the state to help pay for the exposition. Mr. Meier is wedded to the exposition idea as Oregon's only avenue of escape from almost bankruptcy. But Hall is old-fashioned and believes the only way Oregon will come out of the financial dumps is to settle down and go to work, thus paying off her debts.

was not individual, it was not local—on the other hand, it was a state-wide scrap, which, if pressed will line up the people just as the late session of the legislature lined up on the exposition tax measures.

Employ Home Folk

No one takes care of La Grande so well as La Grande people who are interested in the city and her future. The temporary auction house has been abolished in order to prevent the itinerant peddler from unloading his junk here and then go on after the sun goes down; the Ad Club and all other city organizations stand firm for the employing of home labor, not only in a public way, but also try to induce business firms to always give preference to the La Grande man who has a family and who owns property here.

This is the right spirit and never should it be modified. It is a cold old world and if a city does not stand by its own people, the neighboring cities will not reach out and offer the olive branch.

We believe in strict conformity to the teaching of keeping La Grande money at home as much as is possible.

The tramp plumber is prohibited by city ordinance from practicing his trade without establishing himself and taking out a license; the tramp electrician can no longer find work here; the tramp sign painters and every other trade should be treated in the same manner. And when it comes to employing men in public capacity the Observer hopes every effort will be made to employ the home man, for is the chap who has interests akin to our own.

Will R. King, the political sky-rocket of Democratic faith, has shown up again in Oregon. Like Jonathan Bourne once was, he prefers to live in Washington, D. C., or some other distant place, and run for office in Oregon. He now seeks to beat Dr. Morrow for Democratic national committeeman from this state. It is not our fight, but if the Democrats turn down Dr. Morrow, who is a permanent resident of the state, and elect a carpet-bagger like Will R. King, then the admission is plain that Oregon Democrats have not only lost their reason but also their sense of justice.

J. D. Lee, Republican candidate for governor, has begun a post card campaign with his picture on one side of the card. Like the birds that arrive early to tell that spring has come, so Mr. Lee's cards indicate that a primary election is due before long.

If Portland Would

(Frank Irvine in Oregon Journal.) Due to the bitter row in the legislature, 1925 exposition plans are in the air. A meeting Thursday of the executive committee, in the thought of originating some new plan of financing, in the example of the state of uncertainty that has been created by the outcome at Salem.

Julius L. Meier, head of the exposition organization, who has made a devoted struggle to get the program on its feet, favors some new plan. Others still favor a state tax levy to be presented as an initiative measure "at the November election."

Probably the suggestion to be made herein will go unheeded. It is a situation and it is a time when Portland could well afford to finance the exposition. If the old feud between the up-state and Portland, now opened afresh, is to continue to be widened by further endeavor to induce the up-state to bear a considerable burden, it will cost Portland more than the exposition will cost.

It was a mistake in the beginning to place the up-state portion at \$3,000,000. That was done as a result of the enthusiasm which up-state boosters brought with them when they came to Portland to attend the state-wide conference.

It is unfortunate in the extreme to have this feud active at this particular period. We are short in population. Neighboring states have left us far in the rear. The work in development is waiting. Portland is on the threshold.

It is possible that by superior numbers, superior means and a strenuous publicity campaign an exposition tax by which the up-state would be compelled to raise \$3,000,000 for the fair could be passed.

But it wouldn't pay Portland to do it that way. Portland has done enough for many parts of the state to deserve help for the exposition. But it is not a good time now to press an issue that has set most of the up-state newspapers against Portland; that has raised a bitter row against Portland in her back country and set in motion threats, if not actual cases of boycott, against Portland.

Perhaps the railroads, which will profit enormously from the fair could be induced to contribute the extra million.

ference on the exposition. They did not know the sentiment in their own communities. In consequence of their reports the up-state's portion was placed at 50 per cent of the cost of the exposition.

It should be understood in Portland that there are more than 50,000 farmers and their families in Oregon, and that the average farmer, with his nose to the grindstone in the payment of taxes, is not as enthusiastic as are Portlanders over benefits to come from the exposition. Promoters of the exposition argue that it would increase the value of his land. But the increased valuation would increase the taxes of his land. He is a farmer and he is rarely fitted for other lines of activity. He must stay on his farm and work it and keep it going. It was from that viewpoint that a very strong opposition arose in the up-state and was reflected in the legislature. And it is a sincere opposition.

It is not in the actual process, of a splendid growth. Never in the history of Oregon was there half so much activity in the Portland harbor as in the last 18 months. There never was such an outlook for a gigantic movement in the lumber industry in the very near future. It is a time of all times for Portland to be broad visaged, to be alert and to have the good will of her back country.

In considering new plans, the executive committee of the exposition can well afford to take plenty of time in arriving at conclusions. Too much haste at the time the state conference was held has nearly wrecked the plan. The blunder of that time can be easily repaired by intelligent action now.

It would make laughing stock of Portland to abandon the exposition. Just what would Portland say to congress and the president, after the action taken at Washington for an exposition? Just what would Portland say to neighboring states who have pledged their support to the exposition? The whole country would set the town down as a jackass.

Is \$6,000,000 an unalterably fixed figure for the exposition? Suppose the sum were cut to \$5,000,000. Portland could pay that sum and be out but \$1,000,000 more than the fair would have cost her under the original plan. Portland people would vote that extra million overwhelmingly and with admiration and good will which would result would be worth far more than many times a million dollars to Portland at the present time, and for a good many years in the future.

Perhaps the railroads, which will profit enormously from the fair could be induced to contribute the extra million.

If all would set about it, several times that million dollars could be saved in the three years until the exposition by pruning down the cost of city and county government.

It would be wrong for the public-spirited and sacrificing endeavors of President Meier and his associates on the exposition board to come to naught. It has been a splendid public example and it deserves to succeed.

Country Club Notes
High Lights About the Links, Club House and Natatorium.

New Trap Ready
Country club members will have an opportunity of trying their marksmanship tomorrow. A new trap was presented the club by Dr. Pfy and this is now installed and ready for use. A number of members are anxious to shoot and the first tryout will be held tomorrow at 1 o'clock. All members are invited to attend. Trap shooting has always been a very interesting sport and it is particularly timely now for the season on game shooting has closed and it enables the local sportsmen to keep in practice. Ammunition can be had at the club house.

Entire Stocks of Shoes Reduced 20% Some New Ones For Spring Included!



Men's Suits and Overcoats Are Selling At ONE THIRD OFF

Still Going Strong! the Big Event of the Year! 27th ANNUAL JANUARY CLEARANCE SALE

N. W. West & Co.'s Annual January Clearance Sale is an event of but once a year. There are hundreds of articles needed by every man, woman and child that are reduced now for the only time during the year, and in which great savings can be realized in their purchase now.

We are now going on our second week of the sale—the first of which has already passed the mark of 1921—it is going to be as we predicted, a bigger event than ever this year—and those who have not yet participated should be here within the next few days. Shop in the morning and get the limit of good service.

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PORTLAND 1925.
Don't cry, little town, don't cry. We have spoiled all your fun, I know. All your wires are crossed, and you've really been bossed; And we've caused you a lot of woe, but we were in the right, that you can't deny.
Don't cry, little town, don't cry.
Don't cry, little town, don't cry. Let your narrow minds broaden and grow. It will soon be seen, 'Twas a greedy scheme. Just a hoax for yourself, you know. Don't backbite and knock, when you can't get by.
Don't cry, little town, don't cry.
Don't cry, little town, don't cry. Don't be grouchy and mean and low. No one loves a fellow whose back's streaked with yellow. So buck up, you'll find it so, 'Tis hard not to have your own way, don't sigh.
Don't cry, little town, don't cry.
Don't cry, little town, don't cry. It was coming to you, you know. We may be hard-boiled, but you are selfish and spoiled, and we make a generous foe—not lie.
Don't cry, little town, don't cry.
—JUNIUS, OBSERVER

THERE'S A REASON.
"The rapidly increasing divorce rate," remarked the wit, "indicates that America is indeed becoming the land of the free."
"Yes," replied his prosaic friend, "but the continued marriage rate suggests that it is still the home of the brave."

A CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK.
"You see, every time you are a bad boy, papa gets a gray hair."
Boy (after a moment's reflection).—Oh, but you must have been a very bad boy. Look at grandpa!—Boston Post.

DON'T HIT US.
A skirt once had frills and furbelows, but it doesn't come furbelow now.
The world is now safe for democracy but it's still a good idea to hire the best lawyer you can get.
Also—
Even though the world is safe for democracy, it isn't a good idea to sass a cop.
Extracting tips from the tipsy is now numbered among the lost arts. By the time a man becomes tipsy he has nothing tippable left.
The Brooklyn Eagle asks "on how much may a man marry?" The chap to put that question to is the marriage license clerk.
WHO SAYS THEY NEVER COME BACK?
Cape Girardeau, Southeast Missouri. J. H. Hutson of Bloomfield, who died on Sunday and was buried on Monday, returned to his home Tuesday afternoon.
IN AFTER YEARS.
"You seem to enjoy hearing that woman abuse her husband."
"Yes, I was engaged to him before she met him. She took him away for years."
Any man would willingly pay 10 cents on the dollar if only someone would supply the dollar.
An Oklahoma man has seen his wife for the first time in ten years. She must be a movie fan.
READ THE WANT ADS!

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