

La Grande Evening Observer

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Shackles of Habit.

That red exit lights in theatres cause panic in moments of disturbance is the opinion of Walter S. Paine, of Hartford, Conn., a member of the Committee on Colors for Traffic Signals, of the American Engineering Standards Committee.

Mr. Paine drew attention to the fact that we are instructed from childhood to regard red as a danger signal. Red is a warning. It means that there is danger of some kind, and that whoever sees it must stop and take precautions for safety.

Red has a psychological import. People stop when they see it. And so they stop at exits, when they should be moving on and out. The delay is due to the real danger, sometimes resulting in panic.

It is not only psychology, but mental habit and social custom that increase hazard. We all glance into a mirror when one arrests our vision. And mirrors are places in elevators, distracting our attention and making us careless when we should be alert.

Motion, action, is a habit acquired by business rush. We are in a hurry in doing anything, not because we must hurry, but because hurry is a habit.

There is a psychology, derived from habit, which guides unconsciously in many things that we do. We don't notice it, simply because it is habit. Our minds run in regular channels. Our work and play are standardized.

Mr. Paine's allusion to the psychology of the danger signal shows how we acquire habits of thought, or mental conclusions. Red is the danger signal because we have been taught and trained to consider red as the caution color.

Criticism of Colleges.

It is becoming the fashion for distinguished persons turning to pessimistic philosophy to "view with alarm" the tendencies of young people, and colleges, in which the more prominent of the future leaders of the nation are concentrated.

If, as a result of their college experience, students are able to enjoy life more fully, then part of the purpose of the institution has been attained. They may be soft, but they are not expected to be prizefighters, and the record of college men in war and peace is sufficient proof that they do not stand back when the call for service comes.

Much of the criticism of colleges is based on the observation that college men are not found among laborers, and that when put in subordinate positions, they are impatient for advancement. That is commendation. The founders of the nation sought the unalienable rights of man, "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

President Pilsudski, having looked over the ground, decides not to be a candidate. And he has no piano to fall back on.

That Briton who, at 98, got a third set of teeth and rejuvenated eyesight, must have had a whole set of new glands.

Many persons should find it easy to be wiser this year than last by starting a Christmas savings account.

Any honest person should pay the cost of experience without quibbling, whether it is worth it or not.

A reformer is a person who always has some scheme for changing the ways of other folks.

Many a husband lives in fear that his wife knows a lot more about him than he hopes she does.

THE OFFICE CAT

A HOT TOAST Here's to a lovely woman— The cause of all our woes— She's fair and sweet, But her tongue and feet— Are always on the go.

BETWEEN TWO FIRES "I don't want to use for a quilter," said Charcoal Eple, modestly, "but it's a man got Thompson in front and a prepared meal behind, he can't be blamed for havin' no doubts."

LOOKING BACKWARD From the standpoint of the fellow who owns a little place in the country, life is real, life is earnest.

TRANSLATED FOR FLAPPERS "When they put a story it always gets a new name and more than half the time it's a lie."

OLLCOTT BIDS STATE GOOD-BYE (Continued from Page One.) The four feature of the soldiers' law presented a new subject in legislation and naturally in drafting the law all features of importance were not fully covered.

IN MY HARBOR "The latest song hit," remarks the Village Idiot, "is 'The Fall of the House of Usher.' It's 'I Had a Thousand Wives to Give, I'd Give Them All to You.'"

Flings at Folly A few years ago basketball was a girl's game, but the boys finally got toughened to it.

SHARP SHOTS Hartford Times: Our wonderful automobiles will not afford opportunity much more, and the lack of drivers on them will tell the rest.

Richmond Times Dispatch: Perhaps another reason why M. C. Cummings had no children, but very good will be that he realizes that we have nothing else left.

PIERCE UNABLE TO GIVE TALK

Failure of Legislature to Promptly Organize and Flooded Conditions Near Salem Responsible.

"Station KGW, the Oregonian," came in guttural, distinct voice last night at a few minutes after nine over the radio receiving stations in La Grande. A few more numbers will conclude our evening program.

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West & Co. ANNUAL JAN. CLEARANCE SALE. With Many Added Events in Various Departments. 28th. Men's New "Stetson" HATS. Entire Regular Stock at One Price \$5.60.

BROTHERHOODS TO MEET SOON. Joseph Chesser, Baker-Pastor of Methodist Church, Will Speak at Fellowship Meeting.

FORMER LA GRANDE MAN PASSES AWAY. Mr. Nash, father of Mrs. Bert Patterson, of La Grande, died at his home in Portland last night at the close of a severe illness.

PROTECTION Against Coughs. NAYAL'S Cherry Cough Syrup. Gives Immediate Relief.

Announcement. We are pleased to announce that we have installed a flower system, producing clear, pure, hard and solidly frozen ice. The J. D. LYNCH COMPANY will have the exclusive sale and distribution of this excellent product in this community, and are ready to serve you.

La Grande National Bank. Statement of December 29, 1922. THIS BANK OWES: To Depositors \$1,419,072.23. To the U. S. Treasury Department, account of circulating notes 290,000.00. TOTAL \$1,709,072.23.