

La Grande Evening Observer

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CITY AND COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER.

La Grande's Financial Condition

Every citizen should take considerable satisfaction relative to the financial condition of La Grande as compared with other cities of the northwest. City Auditor Stearns has just issued his annual report and it is pleasing to know that during the hey-day times La Grande has played rather close to earth as a municipality and did not go wild as did many cities and a multitude of individuals.

During those days we were labeled a "foggy town" sometimes. Schemes of various kinds which required large sums of money failed to the disappointment of those behind them and to the disappointment of some citizens. It was a case of sitting on the lid and the job was very well done.

We look back upon the McKennon-Grandy administration and find considerable consolation in the fact that both these men as commissioners were not only careful but they held things down to a very marked degree. Both men have passed on but their work is being reflected today in the fact that La Grande is in better shape financially than almost any other municipality in the state.

When we think of other Oregon cities who bonded themselves for many very fine things we are forced to the belief that La Grande is happier and her people are more contented with their light load of municipal indebtedness as compared with the towns that have fine improvements and decidedly more debt.

The old wheel has a habit of turning around. The good times and easy money can't last forever, and it was with that in mind that the city commissioners of this city for the past five years evidently made their calculations.

The Civic Center

We listened with considerable pleasure at a recent public meeting to H. E. Dixon, who advocated a civic center for La Grande. His argument was good and his contentions were correct up to the point of selecting ground in the heart of the city, which has become far too expensive to even think of purchasing for civic purposes.

Let us view the matter a little differently. La Grande is growing. She has grown in the past and she will continue to do so in the future. The center of population will to a certain extent change with the towns growth. Then why not use foresight and select some plot of ground, which apparently now is not inside property for the civic center and let La Grande build around it?

Agreeing with Mr. Dixon that it would have been very fine if early settlers could have foreseen the future and set apart a suitable park in the heart of the city when land was cheap, but such was not done. There were likely two reasons for not doing it. In the first place, the pioneers who made La Grande were more deeply concerned about their daily bread than they were about parks. In those days everyone worked and no one had time to play in parks. While, in the second place, it would have taken the wisdom of Solomon or some other great prophet to have foretold just where La Grande's center was going to be.

Inasmuch as nothing of the kind has been done up to the present, it is admitted that now is a good time to start and secure some ground to beautify as closely as possible, at least within walking distance of the city's central point.

The little city of Joseph has a basketball team that goes in the top notch class. La Grande knows, for our team met defeat at the hands of the Joseph youngsters. According to rules of the tournament Joseph's squad will go to Salem in the state meeting, and the Evening Observer joins with La Grande schools in giving the loud hurrah for Joseph, hoping her team will wallop all of the Willamette valley basketball players and return to their scenic home victors over entire Oregon.

Judge Thomas H. Crawford is of the opinion that Senator Roy Ritner was not a governor in fact last December. That passes the buck up to Governor Olcott.

February's dull business conditions are offset by the lack of crime committed in the city. There is always a wind that blows some good.

There is no accounting for tastes. Moscow is reported to be overcrowded.

It is always safe to put off until tomorrow the things that should not be done today.

The man who uses judgment to keep out of trouble does not need ingenuity to get out.

The scythe is the poetic instrument wielded by Father Time, but the automobile is more realistic.

If the modern young man is burning anything at midnight it is more likely to be gasoline than oil.

Automobile insurance companies should apply the sanity test to some applicants before issuing a policy.

The postman's job just now is envied by few.

Editorials From Over the Nation

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN TURKEY

Arthur Chester in Current History magazine: It has been the custom of those who wish to condemn the Turk to give religious intolerance as the cause of all disturbances in Turkey. I have never heard one of these people admit that politics, treachery, or any other similar cause had any connection with them. If an Armenian or Greek is killed, it is always referred to as the massacre of a Christian.

As a matter of fact, indisputable fact there is more religious freedom in Turkey than in any other country in the world, more than has ever been recorded in history. There are two classes of laws in Turkey: the civil law, based on the Napoleon code, and to which all Ottoman subjects must conform; and the Moslem or Sheri law, by which only Moslem subjects must be governed. The Sheri law covers all personal laws, such as those relating to marriage, divorce, inheritance and dowry. Religious organizations, other than Moslem, are allowed to administer hospitals, homes for the destitute, and schools, as well as their churches. They make their own personal laws, and try cases coming under that classification. Only in cases where one or both parties prefer to have the case tried by the Sheri law courts do such courts have jurisdiction, and it is significant that in from 40 to 50 per cent of the cases involving Christians this provision is taken advantage of and these are cases tried by the Sheri courts. Can any one point to any other country that allows, or even has allowed, numerous different religious organizations to make and administer laws relating to matters other than religion?

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

Ogawa World Herald: Judge L. B. Day of the court of domestic relations has just made an interesting diagnosis of marriage and divorce as it affects the world today. He thinks there is less to be alarmed over in the number of divorces than is generally felt.

"We are going through a period of transition," said Judge Day. "The age when a woman has deemed to leave or chafe at marriage is being succeeded by one wherein she is becoming his equal. And during this period of transition there is bound to be friction."

Of course, every age has been one of transition. But there has never been so vital a change in the status of women as there has been in that of women of the Western world during the past few decades. With her new freedom, woman has cut loose from many external restraints. And men hardly know what it is all about.

No doubt much of the trouble lies in hasty marriages. As Judge Day observed, "It is a marriage evil rather than a divorce evil" that makes our divorce court records. Perhaps it requires legislation requiring a longer period of reasonable time between application for a marriage license and issuance of that license. Such a law would prevent many a domestic failure. But in the last resort, both men and women must make readjustment and readaptations. Where the marriage relation is properly understood it will be entered as one becomes party to an indissoluble bond.

Instead of deploring the number of divorces, it is better that effort be spent in pointing out the way to marital felicity. And with better understanding among men and women of their obligations to each other, there is no doubt that the great number of divorces will diminish. And marriage will become again a relation not to be lightly entered into.

A HOUSE OF MIRTH

Duston News: In Yonkers the other day a husband shipped out a letter unknown for the present at least. He had related to a policeman on his beat a few days before that things were not just right at his home. One instance of the growing menace there consisted of a weekly beating which was administered to him by his wife, who clubbed him for holding out \$2 a week from his customary \$14 salary. Things finally got so bad that the husband left and the wife's pleading in court for alimony was denied. The gist of the story may be summed up in the familiar lines of a once popular motion picture (the method, "Don't Lie to Your Wife") but the tenor of the situation seems to have disappeared entirely for the most in the case. Doubtless he could see no harm in appropriating a couple of dollars a week for personal comforts. He evidently had no faith in "leave-man" tactics, or else feared that such a policy would be dangerous and unsuccessful around his house. And so he fled. He used good judgment. As a general rule, it doesn't pay to "hold out" on your wife, but if you chance to find yourself married to a rolling pin wielder, we suspect the courts would sanction even holding out.

THE OFFICE CAT

SPASM BY OFFICE FORCE

There was a pig policeman. Saw a billy-lum. Sitting on a curb-stone, Chewing rubber-um. "Hi," said the policeman, "Will you stumme some?" "Thums on your nint-type," Said the billy-lum.

A rare collection is often the bill collector's.

The girl of the period, some one has discovered, certainly should be admired for her fine and manly appearance.

Nobody has heard anything lately of that matrimonial insurance business that was established last summer. Probably the last two or three cases put it out of business.

The letter he forgot to mail is no more disastrous than the advertising he neglected to do.

Amos Tash says when I hear a man say he is a victim of circumstances I always think of the fellow who was kicked twice by the same mule.

A LITTLE RIDDLE

If you have saved all you earn, you're a miser. If you have spent all you earn, you're a fool. If you lose it, you're out. If you owe it, they are always after you. If you lend it, you're always after them. It's the cause of evil. It's the cause of good. It's the cause of sorrow. It's the cause of happiness. If the government makes it, it's all right. If you make it, it's all wrong. As a rule it's hard to get. But it's pretty soft when you get it. It talks to some it says "I've come to stay." To others it whispers, "Good Bye." What is it?

So live that it will never be necessary to send your influential friends around to newspapers to keep out the sordid details.

When buying that collar or hat, it's well to remember that the good looking face in the ad doesn't go with it.

Envy the industry of the foreigner who evades home saying: "They give away money in America. All I have to do is carry some bricks up four teen stories. The men up there do all the work."

The best thing about telling the truth is you don't have to remember what you said.

AND IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING Who was this wild and wino? That made poor Adam pull the boot And taste of that forbidden fruit? A Flapper. A. L. Plummer.

This Cleopatra madden fair Who whom great Caesar lost his hair? Who was this wild and wino? A Flapper. A. L. Plummer.

Who was this wild and wino? That robbed John Baptist of his home? The one that made mere man leave home? A Flapper. A. L. Plummer.

Who is it now that thunders by With scanty clothes and dropping eye For whom some sap would gladly die? A Flapper. A. L. Plummer.

Who is it spends their hard-earned "kale"? Who makes this plant a woful tale? Who is more deadly than the male? A Flapper. A. L. Plummer.

Them Days Is Gone Forever! Some ardent La Grande wit plied to the editor today and spoke thusly: "I recently read an old youth paper relative to silk stockings. It said 'Hold on — silk stockings in your hands?' And then he said, 'He say make I would never have thought of such a thing!' We leave it up to the reader to figure out the meaning of this message."

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