

LaGrande Evening Observer

(Incorporated)

An Independent Newspaper

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STRENGTH AND GLADNESS—Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised. . . . Glory and honor in His presence; strength and gladness are His place. 1 Chron. 16:25, 27.

THE PENDLETON PAPER OBJECTS

Elsewhere on this page we present the editorial printed last night in the Pendleton East Oregonian on the subject of the Eastern Oregon normal school location. We are sorry to see such a thing appear in print, especially in the press of our friendly rival city across the Blue mountains. It is a direct insult to the Board of Normal School Regents and to the intelligence of the people of Oregon. It is offensive to the spirit of sportsmanship for which most Oregon communities are known.

We do not believe that the editorial in question reflects the true sentiment of the people of Pendleton. That city is well and properly renowned for its fine citizenship, its personnel of good sportsmen. There are very few people in Pendleton narrow enough to think in the terms of that editorial. We are confident that most of them know that the normal school location, strictly on its merits from every angle, was a "horse race" between this city and theirs from the start.

They know that members of the Board of Regents had been presented facts and arguments in great detail about various cities long before the trip of inspection. They know that all of the material presented during that trip was available to every member of the board before hand, that any intelligent citizen might well have made a sensible and impartial decision with this data at hand. They know that mere population figures are of no importance in considering a school location unless qualified by the obvious tendencies of that population to send its youthful students in certain directions.

But that is not the sorry part of the East Oregonian's insinuation. The sorry thing is that the Pendleton paper assumes that everyone who voted for Pendleton was prejudiced, unduly influenced, sinister. What a type of mind it must have to possess such a view! If the vote had been five for Pendleton and four for La Grande, would the East Oregonian have wailed at the unfair and prejudiced decision of the four La Grande supporters? Is it not conceivable to the East Oregonian that we, the people of La Grande, have a belief in the excellence of this location as sincere as that possessed by our neighboring city? Cannot the East Oregonian believe that five members of the Board of Regents might happily have acquired the same point of view? If the East Oregonian can obviously admit the prejudice of its fellow townsmen in its favor, which it does, is there great room for condemning the contrary prejudice of another member?

"As far as Pendleton is concerned this town can win or lose and take the outcome calmly," says the editorial further. Calmly? "Pendleton people are ready to congratulate the citizens of La Grande upon their victory." Fine. We are already in receipt of many messages exhibiting good sportsmanship from Pendleton citizens. But they came by wire, by letter, by word of mouth—not by the East Oregonian. We are still in a receptive mood, however, anytime the Pendleton paper feels inclined to print congratulations. We even publish Baker paper editorials as models—or we can send a copy of the one we had written Monday morning to print in case Pendleton was the fortunate city.

The East Oregonian dies hard. Its concern about the future normal school students is becoming, but its concern about the future of Pendleton is more obvious. Fortunately the future of both is also the concern of others equally competent and will be well taken care of.

NOT THE OUTCOME BUT THE WAY IT WAS SECURED.

The East Oregonian had the impression that the normal school regents or most of them at least were trying to decide the location subject strictly in accord with the merits of the case and with an eye only to the welfare of the institution and its students.

We are disillusioned. The voting yesterday indicates a previous understanding of some sort. The votes cast for La Grande are the votes that La Grande people have been claiming with positiveness and with reiteration from the very start. They made such claims with assurance long before the board members made their tour and before the members were in possession of the facts that should have governed their decision. It also appears that the three men who voted with Messrs. Pierce and Bragg are men who had received political favors from the present governor. Three other members who had no such entanglements and who by reason of their experience and ability are outstanding members voted along with Mr. Hartman in favor of Pendleton. To be plain, the voting creates a strong feeling, verified by inside facts, that considerations having nothing to do with the merits of the case seem to have been the deciding factor.

That is not a pleasant situation, but we may as well call a spade a spade. The case called for a disinterested decision and it will be hard to convince anyone that such a decision has been given. This involves no criticism of La Grande. It is a good town and La Grande people are good people and they are justified in wanting the normal school. Pendleton has no quarrel with La Grande upon the subject, but that is not the point.

The future students of the Eastern Oregon normal school are the only folk who should be given a moment's thought. They are the people who will pay the price if a blunder is made and the board yesterday voted to place the school in a city that is not centrally located. The population west of the Blue mountains is 50 per cent greater than is the population east of the mountains. With the school located at La Grande the students from the 12 counties west of the mountains will be imposed upon each year by being made to pay unnecessary travel expenses equal to a month's living costs at a dormitory. When we remember that students are usually short of funds and that most students who drop out of school do so because they cannot meet expenses the arrangement planned seems intolerable.

As far as Pendleton is concerned this town can win or lose in such a case as this and take the outcome calmly. Pendleton is the capital of the greatest producing region in Eastern Oregon and it is in favor from anyone. The serious part of the business is that the board's decision as it stands works a real injustice upon an unestimable number of future students from the district that has the major part of the population of Eastern Oregon and always will have it.

Pendleton people are ready to congratulate the citizens of La Grande upon their victory, but the conditions that seem to have determined the outcome of the contest makes another subject entirely and a serious one, to express the idea mildly.—Pendleton East Oregonian.

THE CHOICE OF A NORMAL SITE.

The choice of La Grande as a location for the new eastern Oregon normal school will occasion little surprise, and we are glad to add, little hard feeling. La Grande was the leading candidate from the first. She is a fine-looking, up-to-date city, she contributed liberally to the campaign fund, always insistent in practical politics; she had two of her citizens on the board as well as an ex-citizen, and she was well located to being the center of the three large towns of eastern Oregon. La Grande will make a good home for the normal

CONGRATULATIONS, LA GRANDE.

It is a pleasure, not accompanied by any feeling of keen disappointment, that The Morning Democrat extends its congratulations to La Grande on its Christmas gift in being selected as the location of the Eastern Oregon normal school.

As the next practical site to Baker, La Grande offered a solution to the problem of location of this educational institution and its selection brings no resentment or feeling of envy.—Baker Democrat.

MECHANIC OVERCOME MARCHIFIELD, ORE., DEC. 22.

(AP) — William Christenson, 22, mechanic for a garage was over-

come by carbon monoxide gas last night while adjusting motor. He was still unconscious shortly before noon but his recovery was expected.

LAST-MINUTE SUGGESTIONS OF

Christmas Gifts for Men

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Handkerchiefs 25c up | Hdkf. and Tie Sets \$2.50 |
| Collar Band Silk Shirts \$7.75 up | |
| Imported Wool Mufflers \$3.50 up | |
| Lined Kid Gloves \$4.50 up | Silk Mufflers \$3.50 up |
| Wool Knit Vests \$3.50 | |
| Comfy Slippers \$2.25 up | |
| Belts \$1.00 up | Belt Sets \$1.25 up |
| Pendleton Bath Robes \$15.00 up | |
| Bath Robe and Slippers to Match \$8.75 up | |
| Initialed Hdkfs. 35c up | Stetson Hats \$6 up |
| Men's Silk Pajamas \$6.50 up | |
| Collar Attached Shirts \$2.75 up | |

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BELOW
ZERO

Buck Jones rides the winds of adventure in a gale of laughter and a storm of thrills.

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---try 'em

A BIT OF THRIFT
A BIT OF DETERMINATION
A BIT OF POSITIVE ACTION
—will soon build for you a bank account that will be the "BEACON LIGHTS" on the shores of success reflecting the light of opportunity for you

—the time —now
—the place —here

La Grande National Bank

—where your efforts
—meet unlimited co-operation.

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Safety Comfortably

TRAVEL BY MOTOR STAGE

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Leave La Grande for Joseph | 9:00 A. M. - 4:00 P. M. |
| " " Baker and Boise | 9:25 A. M. - 1:25 P. M. |
| " " Baker only | 5:30 P. M. |
| " " Pendleton | 11:00 A. M. - 5:30 P. M. - 6:15 P. M. |

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