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SEEK TODAY—Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near. Isaiah 55:6.

"Dempsey Turns Farmer" says a news dispatch. Well, it does take a lot of hard fighting to make that game pay these days.

Walla Walla is copying La Grande's sewage disposal plant, first of its kind west of the Rockies. They could not do better. The local plant has proved entirely efficient.

The Oregonian rightly objects to the plan of some state authorities to build the new state office building on a corner of the present capitol grounds at Salem. It would ruin an otherwise beautiful setting. Some day Oregon will wish to build a more adequate and more flattering capitol building and its style should not be cramped by such an architectural error.

Mr. Hoover has expressed himself on the prohibition before and does so again, as a courtesy to Mr. Borah's recent questionnaire to presidential candidates. No one doubts Hoover's attitude on prohibition. He is dry, not necessarily for a moral reason but for obviously important economic reasons. We only hope that the campaign will not be messed up with continuous questionnaires on this subject. The wet and dry issue is going to be plain—perhaps painfully plain—before the ballots are counted and the presentation and answering of questionnaires will not accomplish anything.

ANOTHER FREAK LICENSE LAW

Not satisfied with the present law and believing the proposed \$3 auto license too drastic a change, State Senator Dunne is preparing to institute a new auto license and gas tax measure designed to strike a happy medium while keeping highway revenue practically at its present point. License fees for cars would be cut about in half, with a \$10 minimum, and the loss in revenue made up by increasing the gas tax to five cents.

In theory this new plan is logical. It would provide relief for some car owners and would make those who use the highways most pay a greater share of the cost through a high gas tax. Actually, we are inclined to doubt any real benefit from the change. Fees are not now so high that they will make or break any car owner. To increase the gas tax to five cents, on the other hand, would tend to curtail travel of tourists in this state and to force Oregon residents to "shop" for motor fuel across the state line where no such penalty existed.

Tourists are valued in Oregon not only because they pay a gas tax but because they pay for other things that mean a profit to Oregon business. More than that, they are, in many cases, potential settlers and make their preliminary exploration and investigation via Oregon highways. Neighboring states would not be slow to capitalize a high gas tax in Oregon, and, sorry as it may seem, thousands of tourists are influenced by just such small considerations.

About two-thirds of Oregon's population resides within a comparatively short distance of a neighboring state's border. Although it's doubtful economy, many car owners would recognize that advantage and buy gasoline outside the state. With the Vancouver bridge free, one can imagine how many Portland residents would find occasion to drive to the Washington side for the Sunday afternoon airing and bring home a tank full of foreign gas.

Another point in Mr. Dunne's measure is not in accord with present tendencies—the allowing of quarterly license buying so that the car owner who finds himself financially embarrassed on January first can buy three-fourths of a year's license on April first if the condition of his pocket-book improves. In other words, just because a man doesn't use his property, doesn't get value out of it, his tax would be reduced.

Such a plan, it seems to us, is grossly unfair to other property owners. The man who owns a small house and is short of funds because it is unrented doesn't have his property tax reduced a quarter or a half because he isn't getting the use of it. He pays just the same, even if he gets no value out of it for a year, while the man with a car representing an equal investment could avoid his tax simply by not running the car.

The present plan is moderate enough in that respect and errs in favor of the car owner, but the Dunne plan is without merit. Perhaps it will tend to divide dissatisfaction among car owners with the \$3 license plan and thereby protect the superior existing system.

La Grande Eighth Grade Pupils Spell Considerably Better Than Ninth Grade Pupils of Year 1846

Editor's Note—Here is the second of a series of four articles dealing with a comparison of school children of 1846 and of 1927. The following spelling tables, etc., represent the results of an examination given Springfield, Mass., ninth grade pupils in 1846 and the same examination given La Grande eighth grade pupils late last year. This series was prepared by Supt. J. T. Longfellow. The third and fourth articles will appear in The Observer tomorrow and Monday.

SPELLING

Following in Table 1, are the words of the spelling test—truly a formidable list—with the comparison of results in 1846 in Springfield, Mass., and in 1927 in La Grande, Ore.

FLOOD CHECK

PLAN URGED

BY HOOVER

(Continued from Page 21)

Wills of Ohio, another republican presidential candidate that Hoover give the committee his views especially on the question whether the government should shoulder the entire flood cost or whether the state should participate.

Reminding the secretary that he had stated in public addresses that adequate flood control is a national problem, the Missouriian asked him whether states could be assessed 20 per cent or the whole cost should be borne by the federal government.

"You have no right to draw the conclusion that because I said it is a national problem that I bound myself to any definite plan," Hoover replied. "The matter of contributions is as complicated as the problem of engineering."

Wills Questions Him

Senator Wills took up the questioning and there was a straining forward of spectators and committee men. The Ohioan asked the secretary whether he adhered to a general plan of flood control legislation by congress with the details left to a commission or whether congress should adopt a definite plan.

"My own feeling runs in the direction of adoption of the latter plan—a flood way and the strengthening of levees," Hoover replied. "It seems to me that it will be the more constructive plan, but again that is a matter the war department must advise you on."

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24 (AP)—President Coolidge is not disposed to demand that a portion of the cost of Mississippi flood control be assessed upon communities benefited, if congress wants to place the entire charge upon the federal government.

Spelling—Table 1

Words Used	% Correct
1 accidental	18.46 19.27
2 accessible	79.5 89.7
3 baptism	36.4 28.5
4 bibliography	63.5 79.7
5 characteristic	35.4 39.2
6 deceitfully	45.6 85.4
7 descendant	47.1 82.6
8 eccentric	28.2 52.6
9 equivalent	42.6 39.2
10 flaccid	29.0 18.1
11 flaccidness	49.4 73.3
12 feignedly	32.9 37.9
13 chastity	27.1 44.8
14 helms	54.8 50.9
15 hysterics	49.4 82.8
16 imbecility	47.1 56.0
17 inconceivable	58.8 19.9
18 inconvincible	23.5 69.3
19 inconvincible	37.6 63.8
20 inefficient	38.8 45.7
21 irresistible	15.3 32.7
Average	40.6 52.6

Spelling—Table 2

No. Pupils Taking Test	Girls	Boys	Total
1846 Springfield	32	53	85
1927 La Grande	52	54	106
No. who had	1846	1927	
Words correct	No. %	No. %	
1	3 3.2	1 1.9	4 3.8
2	9 19.2	1 1.9	10 9.4
3	6 7.1	2 3.7	8 7.5
4	6 7.1	0	6 5.7
5	1 1.2	1 1.9	2 1.9
6	5 5.9	4 6.9	9 8.5
7	5 5.9	4 6.9	9 8.5
8	5 5.9	9 14.0	14 13.0
9	3 3.2	12 19.6	15 14.1
10	4 4.7	12 19.6	16 15.1
11	8 9.4	8 12.7	16 15.1
12	3 3.2	11 17.7	14 13.0
13	4 4.7	12 19.6	16 15.1
14	1 1.2	9 14.0	10 9.4
15	2 2.3	7 11.0	9 8.5
16	1 1.2	3 4.7	4 3.8
17	4 4.7	4 6.9	8 7.5
18	1 1.2	4 6.9	5 4.7
19	4 4.7	2 3.7	6 5.7
20	2 2.3	4 6.9	6 5.7

From Tables Number 1 and 2, the following points are observed:

1. That modern La Grande pupils can spell considerably better than could the Springfield pupils of 1846.

2. That the girls of 1846 and 1927 appear to be better spellers than the boys.

3. That a most superficial examination of the words of the list indicates that many of them are "trick" words, and are rarely taught in our present day schools, or even used by present day adults.

4. That fifteen of the twenty words were correctly spelled more frequently by the 1927 La Grande pupils than by the 1846 Springfield pupils.

Of the class of 1846 only 16 pupils approximately 19 per cent of the class—stood as high as 70 per cent, the present passing grade; while La Grande in 1927, 38—approximately 36 per cent of the class—attained a grade of 70 per cent or higher. Also in 1846, 24—more than 25 per cent of the en-

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the class—misspelled 17 or more words; while in La Grande in 1927, only 4—less than 4 per cent of the class—misspelled 17 or more words. The mistakes in 1846 were interesting. The 31 pupils who misspelled "baptism" spelled it in 15 different ways, and "heirless" was misspelled by 43 pupils in 22 different ways. It is evident that originally in spelling was not unknown to the children in 1846. "The dear dead past; the good old days."

ALICEL PERSONALS

ALICEL (Special)—A. L. Taylor is still confined to his home on account of a severe case of tonsillitis. C. C. Conrad was hauling hay from the Jim German ranch last Tuesday.

Mrs. Murry of La Grande is spending a few days at the home of her daughter, Mrs. D. B. Ruckman near Alicel.

Several from here attended the Elks annual ball Wednesday night. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Phayle, of La Grande, and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Rosenbaum and daughter Helena May, of Baker, drove out to the Carl Fuller home Sunday.

The Alicel store was broken into again on Wednesday night and several cartons of cigarettes and also several cans of smoking tobacco were taken. The thief gained entrance to the store this time by breaking a window in the post office. Mrs. Bryant, postmistress has the postal authorities investigating the case as well as the sheriff.

SALEM, Ore., Feb. 24 (AP)—C. Proebstel of Pendleton, district attorney for Umatilla county, is a candidate for another term in the office. He filed with the secretary of state today his candidacy for the republican nomination.

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