

LaGrande Evening Observer

(Incorporated)
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THE GREATEST JOY—These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.—John 15:11, 12.



A Pittsburgh physician advises people to avoid "flu" by not fearing it. Another good idea for physicians is to call a cold a cold when it is a cold.

This is a year of very undependable weather. Write a story of sunshine in the morning and it is sure to start raining when the paper hits the press. Had we realized that sooner, the drought would have been broken long ago.

Oregon has the world's champion egg-producing hens. What we need now is world's champion crow-producing roosters so that our prize hens, prize apples, prize cherries, prize lumber, prize roads and prize scenery can be effectively advertised.

Yesterday we read how an Iowa alumnus jumped all over the president of his university, charging mismanagement as one reason for Iowa's failure to secure reinstatement in the Big Ten athletic conference. Today we read how the state board of education expressed its entire confidence in the president of that university, thus rebuking the dissatisfied alumnus. Very good. The practice of going after the scalp

of an unfortunate coach is very general in this day of big football business, but there is no occasion for its spreading to include college and university prexies. If a team gets into difficulties or has a bad season, the alumni seem to think they are immediately privileged to reorganize the whole institution. It's high time some school authorities and boards of education informed them to the contrary. Alumni—being good prospects for gifts when schools are hard up for funds—have always had too big a finger in the educational pie. A state university is operated for the benefit of the people of the state, not for the glory or satisfaction of its graduates. A good policy to promote, but, unfortunately, a hard one to follow.

WHERE WALTER WAITS

Walter Pierce's recent interview on the subject of Democratic candidates for governor inspired the Eugene Register to comment on the receptive attitude of Union county's distinguished Democrat. The editorial "kidded" and complimented Walter, but unconsciously slandered his Eastern Oregon stamping grounds. This is what we read: "Over in the sagebrush country of eastern Oregon stands waiting a very stalwart of stalwarts." And then in the concluding paragraph: "You see how things are. Walter is standing out there on the sagebrush plains waiting for a call." How do they get that way—"sagebrush"? Whoever told the Eugene Register that Union county, where Walter stands, is a sagebrush country? Certainly not Frank Jenkins, editor of that excellent paper, because Frank was over here recently and remarked at the beauty and fertility of the Grande Ronde valley. There's nothing to do but blame this lack of information on Paul Kelly, Register editorial writer, who has resided so long and consistently in the Willamette valley that he probably has come to believe that the rest of the state is eternally dry and flat. "Standing out there on the sagebrush plains—" And who ever heard of calling the colorful floor of the Grande Ronde valley "plains"? One gets the impression that you should be able to stand on the eastern slope of the Cascades and gaze some two hundred miles across a flat country to see Walter working diligently among his famous-faced cattle. No, it can't be done. Plains there may be in some sections of Oregon—maybe in some unexplored sections of the Willamette valley—but not in this neck o' the woods. The proximity and frequency of the Blue mountains make plains rather out of the question. And rainfall and cultivation combine to eliminate sagebrush from the picture. We simply refuse to let Walter stand on any sagebrush plains and wait for a call. If he waits for it anywhere in his home valley, we insist that he stand in a pretty field of alfalfa or a golden stubble field or some other place in keeping with the facts. The Eugene Register should be more accurate, even in political editorials, and send a correspondent over here to find out exactly the surroundings of Walter's stand. Maybe he isn't standing at all. As far as we know, there is no law against a good potential candidate waiting for his call in a nice, easy chair. The way Democratic fortunes have gone in Oregon recently we would suggest that method as far less taxing, far more comfortable. And Walter is not one to waste energy unnecessarily.

THE OPEN COURT

CORRESPONDENTS MUST SUBMIT THEIR NAMES TO THE EDITOR IF THEY DESIRE LETTERS PRINTED.

The Observer, La Grande, Ore.
To the Editor:

In your issue of last Tuesday you make editorial mention of the proposal advanced by the National Council for Prevention of War for universal abolishing of the battleships. In reading your editorial I am under the impression that you feel the proposal is to abolish our battleships, regardless of the action of the other nations. However, as your editorial says, "If England, Japan, France and Italy agree to scrap all battleships the move would be excellent." I cannot help but feel that your position is exactly in line with the National Council for Prevention of War, a position which I understand has been taken by such representative papers as the Christian Science Monitor and the Louisville Courier-Journal.

Hon. Burton L. French, chairman of the house sub-committee on naval appropriations, in speaking of the coming naval conference, says: "I could hope that one of the results of the conference would be that all the nations would be permitted to withdraw their battleships from their naval establishments." Again this is entirely in line with the president's recent statement that he did not see disarmament by agreement, and that we would go as low as anyone and the nations could not go too low to suit us.

American history shows that for the first hundred years and more of our history we were in the lead in moves for world peace. What more striking move could we make now than to propose to Great Britain that she give up her 29 battleships, Japan her ten, France her nine, Italy her five, and in return we would give up our 18. As there are only 52 battleships in the world and as modern methods of fighting have made them obsolete anyway, the psychological value of such a stroke would be immeasurable, while the nations would be as safe as they are now, for, as your editorial states, preparedness is a matter of relativity—that America lead in proposing that we abolish this expensive, obsolete fighting machine and do it all together.

Sincerely yours,
LEIP H. AWES,
La Grande, Ore., Dec. 5, 1929.

FAVORABLE REPORT

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11 (AP)—A favorable report on the nominations of William R. Castle, Jr., of Washington, to be ambassador to Japan, and Nelson T. Johnson of Oklahoma, to be minister to China, was made to the senate today by the foreign relations committee.

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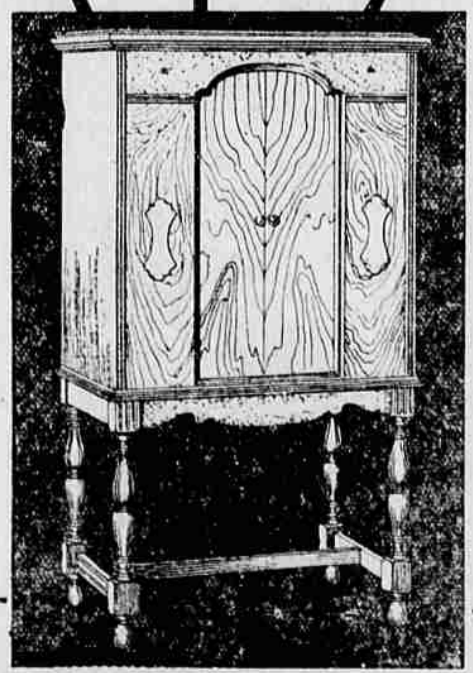
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