

### To Raise Five Thousand Dollars for the University.

<b>26</b> Secularists,		
P. C. Mosier, will give.	\$50	
Lou Ames will give.	50	
A Friend will give.	50	
D. Buckingham will give.	50	
A. Slaman, M. D., will give.	50	
R. C. Burtis will give.	50	
A Friend will give.	50	
C. F. Ames will give.	50	
P. Rauch will give.	50	
D. Bolton will give.	50	
Harry Fricker will give.	50	
E. Stewart will give.	50	
A Friend will give.	50	
Mr. Hjermstad,	}	50
Friend from Waldo Hills		
H. Allen will give.	50	
L. E. Fuller will give.	50	
F. Wilkinson will give.	50	
J. E. Brooks will give.	50	
Julius Fisher.	50	
Adolf Wolf & Son.	50	
J. K. Buff.	50	
B. A. Leonard.	50	
A Freethinker.	}	50
Warren Carsner will give.		
J. L. Barnhouse will give.	50	
provided that		

**74** more men (or women) will give the same amount. Where are the seventy-four?

### News and Notes.

Mr. Warren Carsner, of Wagner, adds a good span of horses to the University work.

Mr. Jack Shrum, of Grade, proposes to conduct a singing school in Wagner during the coming winter and donate half the proceeds to the University.

Mr. Mack Ramsby, brother of Rev. Ramsby of this city, was at the convention and made a fine little speech. His advice to Secular workers was excellent.

The work of the O. S. S. U. in sanctioning the work of the Liberal University and the Torch of Reason, makes our success certain. Now let us all pull together.

F. S. Matteson, of Turner, Oregon, composed a song to be sung at the grave of Katie Kehm Smith the first day of the convention. It will appear in the next issue of the Torch.

Miss Katie Matteson patronized the Information Bureau and secured a position as teacher. This is the third young lady who has secured a position by this means in the last month.

Parties who have advertised in the want column of the Information Bureau, in the Torch of Reason, have secured the help they wanted, and as a consequence others have valuable positions as teachers, housekeepers, etc. Is there anything you want?

The tenth annual convention of the Oregon State Secular Union was a decided success in every particular. The ethical basis was made more secure by amendments and the action of the executive board in placing the Liberal University in the hands of the present management was sanctioned and highly commended. The Union, by unanimous vote pledged its hearty support to the Liberal University and made the Torch of Reason the official organ of the O. S. S. U.

The convention at Wagner is a thing of the past, and the Oregon State Secular Union has started on another year with brighter prospects. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, E. Stewart, of Dayville; Secretary, Kate DePeatt, of Ashland; Treas-

urer, L. Ames, of Silverton; Vice-presidents, Mrs. Clara Bailey of Portland, H. M. Daniell of McMinnville, M. P. Hosmer of Silverton, Lottie Pracht of Ashland, Carrie Anderson of Wagner, E. R. Laughlin of Caleb, Cal Geer of Burns, D. C. Andrews of Lone Rock, and Nancy Shrum of Grade, Crook county. A full report of the three days' meetings will be given in the next issue of the Torch.

### Abroad.

(Concluded from 5th page.)

try to Antelope valley, where we found a little city nestled among the treeless mountains. We were then sixty miles from our starting point and it was not yet 4 o'clock, but we waited for supper and then went six miles further and stopped for the night.

Next morning we started before the rise of the sun and sped away over the mountains in the direction of A. J. Shrum's. And what a road! We had passed no scenery on the trip that would compare with it. After leaving Coal Camp, the road extends over the very tops of the mountains for a few miles and then begins the descent of six miles down the mountain to Currant creek. The grade hugs the side of the mountain and scenery below is indeed picturesque. We passed dozens of freight teams loaded with wool for The Dalles. They had begun to climb the mountain, but night overtook them and they were compelled to make a "dry camp" on the steep mountain side. The first two miles of the road extends down a rocky slope, and then we reached the "saddle". Below us was what might be called a valley, it is so far below the lofty mountains which surround it, but it is, in itself, but a vast stretch of barren buttes, almost mountains in size, covered and crowned with lava rock. This place is called "the devil's potato patch", but I think the devil is too smart to plant his potatoes in such a place. It is certainly a misnomer. But it does resemble a potato patch, with hills of mountainous size, and in the midst of this "patch" lives Jack Shrum. Who would have thought it? In a short time we were in the very midst of this desolate stretch of country. Oh, for a camera! I must have one if I ever make this trip again.

A few moments' ride between the "potato hills" found us on Currant creek, which we followed to the mouth of Muddy creek, then up Muddy creek for a few miles, when we began our tussle in earnest with the mountains, which lasted over an hour before we began the descent to Cherry creek, where liveth that man Shrum and his family in a beautiful little valley nestled among the hills. I was glad to get there. Mr. Shrum and my father were boys together. I got there in time for dinner, of which I partook heartily and with great relish. Mr. Shrum's ranch extends twelve miles along Cherry creek and is one

of the best places in Eastern Oregon. He can raise all kinds of fruit, and I ate freely of the cherries, which did not quite agree with me; but Mr. Shrum doctored me successfully and I was soon all right, and after three days I was able to resume my trip. I had a splendid visit. The Shrum family are all Secularists and first-class people. At Volney Shrum's place I visited one night, and found Katie Matteson there employed as teacher, for which position she is indebted to the Torch of Reason. Mrs. Shrum also advertised in the same way, which was the means of getting her a splendid housekeeper. Here I met Mrs. E. J. Smith, of Grant county, who is a sister of Mrs. Shrum and a thorough Secularist. I wish I had space to tell of all the good times I had here. Haying season is on, and I tried my hand at helping, but I won't say with what success.

We left this pleasant place on Sunday, and that evening found us at the home of E. E. Allen, on Bridge creek. Mr. Allen was not at home, but I had a good visit with the rest of the family, and found that the two young ladies expect to complete their education in the Liberal University. Mrs. Allen is enthusiastic on the subject of Secularism in connection with ethics and highest morality. I would have staid longer, but the time for the convention was drawing near, and I took leave early in the morning, resuming my way up Bridge creek. This stream is called Bridge creek because it has no bridges on it, although the road crosses it many times and affords the cyclist much inconvenience and some wading.

In a short time we were in the city of Mitchell, which I described on a former visit as an incorporated city with only one street. The reason there is but one is because there is no room for more in the canyon in which the town is located. The only way you can see any distance is up. But I find that Mitchell has another street. It is a two-story town. One street is almost above the other. This "upper story" of the town is afflicted with disease and is quarantined. No one is allowed to go "upstairs" nor come down. Mitchell is doomed. One year it is washed out with flood, the next year it burns out, and now it seems to be dying out. But there are many good people there and Secularists are not wanting.

In the evening we reached the home of J. L. Barnhouse, on Mountain creek, where we stopped for the night and had a good visit. I had been there before, and am ever anxious to return and give the good people in this community a visit and a lecture. Mr. Barnhouse made me rejoice by giving me a check for \$50 for the University and expressing a wish to be able to do as much every year.

I can't tarry long. I visited at the home of E. R. Laughlin for a few moments, and then we started for Wagner, a distance of about 40 miles right through the mountains. At Waterman I saw Mr. Purdin, Mr. Richards and others, who said they would be at the convention. It was a hard ride that day, but I was equal to it since I realized that I would have several days in which to rest. I found a young man making hay on the bank of the John Day river and got him to take the

bike across on his horse and then come back and take me on behind him and ferry me across. The river is deep and wide, but we crossed without accident and were soon at the home of Z. J. Martin, who has just been elected treasurer of the county, in spite of his Secularism. Mr. Martin cannot be at the convention, but his best wishes are with us. Later in the evening we arrived at the home of Vice-president Warren Carsner, where we found a hearty welcome and a good supper. Everything is in readiness for the 10th annual convention of the O. S. S. U. and we are assured of a grand good time. The DePeatt girls arrived next morning in company with D. C. Andrews and wife, who returned to their home at Lone Rock that evening and brought Prof. and Mrs. Hosmer with them to Wagner on Saturday.

Now for the convention! The Oregon State Secular Union is fast making history, and this promises to be the best convention ever held. What is to follow will be reported in full. With great hopes we will begin our work tomorrow (Sunday).

PEARL W. GEER.

### Lumber Fund.

To raise \$1000 immediately,	
Previously acknowledged.	\$116.50
J. S. Brooks	1.00
W. H. Gates	1.00
People of Wagner	4.70
D. C. Andrews	.50
Mrs. D. C. Andrews	1.00
J. L. Barnhouse	50.00
Warren Carsner	50.00

## Information Bureau

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT? If so, make your wants known to us, and we will try and supply them. If what we do for you is worth nothing to you, we will expect no pay. Cast your eye over the list, and then write to us. Read our ad. on page 6. Address, INFORMATION BUREAU, Box 100, SILVERTON, ORE.

**For Sale.**—A fine little home in Silverton— $\frac{1}{2}$ -acre; apples, prunes, raspberries, cherries, pears; neat little house, painted and papered; good sidewalk. Price, \$450.

**A Bargain.**—87 acres, 3 miles from Silverton; 25 acres cleared, 10 acres hops, 50 acres bottom land; 5-room house, good barn, hop-house; good stream of water. Almost at buyer's own price. We have only 30 days in which to sell. Write or call now.

**Wanted.**—A buyer for a well equipped livery stable. Good horses, good buggies, good harnesses, etc. Cheap. Write to us.

**School Teacher.**—A gentleman with thirty years' experience in the school room, who holds a state teacher's certificate, would like employment as teacher. Can teach vocal and instrumental music.

**Care of Children.**—A girl of 19, steady and quiet, Secularist, wants situation as care-taker and teacher of children. Is competent, can teach rudiments of music and plays the organ. References given and required.

**Secularists Wanted.**—Secularists who are thoroughly interested in the cause are wanted to help build up a Secular community near Silverton, Oregon. It is thought best that each member of the community own a little home of his or her own, which can VERY EASILY be obtained. Write to us.

**Real Estate for Sale.**—80 acres, house and barn, good orchard, all fenced, 8 miles from Silverton, near school, 35 acres improved, on main road. Price \$800.

Twenty acres; 15 acres improved, all fenced, good spring,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Silverton. Price \$700.

One hundred and sixty acres; 12 acres cleared, 4 miles from Silverton. Price \$300.