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Now the country in that vicinity is becoming dotted everywhere with neat little houses. They are not home-stead shacks. They are dwelling houses, weatherboarded and painted. People are living in them and it will not be long until they will have pleasantly surrounded homes.

The erection of this modern school house out upon the Umatilla project is an event of importance and it is an event of which people may well take note. Some day there will be many school houses in the west end of this county and in that section there will be a school enumeration equal to the present enumeration for the entire county.

EDUCATED MEN NEEDED.

Just at present there are a score or more of Pendleton students home for the holidays. They come from almost every important school in the northwest. To these various schools these students have been attracted by different considerations. But they are all guided by the same general purpose—a desire to better themselves and to prepare themselves mentally, morally and physically for their duties in the world. It is well that they have such desires and are following them out. The world today is looking for high class, well trained men to take the lead in the different lines of endeavor. College men are now filling places of responsibility as they have never done before. In the future the percentage of college men in the ranks of the successful will be even greater than at present. This is because college or university training is now open to every one and the strong, ambitious young men and women seldom fail to avail themselves of the opportunities to secure such training.

HELP SWELL THE PARK FUND.

One of the best movements now underway in Pendleton is the one which looks to enlarging the public park fund. At this time the sum of \$500 is to the credit of this fund. It represents the money the city received for its portion of the new wooten mill site. Last spring this money was placed in the park fund. But the amount is not sufficient to accomplish much in the way of park improvements. The fund must be increased so that by the coming spring or summer there will be sufficient money to accomplish something along the line of providing a park system for the city.

The ladies of the library and civic club now have a very practical scheme for raising more money for this fund. Friday evening Bernard Daly, the famous Irish singer will appear in "Sweet Innisfallen." Half the profits of that performance are to go to the park fund. It will be the last performance at the theatre for 1909 and if reports are to be relied upon Bernard Daly will be one of the most pleasing attractions of the season. As a result local people will have an opportunity to see a highly meritorious play and at the same time aid in a very worthy civic movement. Finish the old year by attending "Sweet Innisfallen."

It is bad news that the switchmen's strike is far from settlement and that a general strike may result because the trainmen and the railroad officials have been unable to agree. It is time for some disinterested party, such as the president of the United States, to intercede in an effort to avert further trouble. The public needs some representation while the negotiations are underway between the two conflicting elements.

In the government's suit against the Cunningham claimants, who want title to coal worth several millions of dollars, the United States has been represented by a young attorney who graduated from a night law school in 1907, according to Collier's Weekly. The government has abler lawyers than that when it goes after eastern Oregon ranchers.

Zelaya does not approve at all of Secretary Knox's diplomatic policy. It is very easy to understand how Nicaragua's ex-president came to hold such sentiments.

Idaho people are now "confiscating" coal that is enroute to eastern Oregon. That is an old stunt on the part of Idaho people.

If you would like to see the old north side cemetery improved during the coming year be out Friday night and help swell the park fund.

An interurban traction system and the extension of the Umatilla project. These are the two great things Pendleton and Umatilla county want during 1910.

Help build up "Our Town."

Let us return thanks that the lumber trust did not corner the Christmas trees.

THE FORERUNNER.

I've talked awhile with the engineer—The chap who's doin' my old time tricks. Except that he runs on a track that's clear. While I drove the overland coach and six—A coach and six across that plain That now flies past in the window pane.

This chap has a throttle in his hand, And there's never a ticklish turn to steer; I held the ribbons, understand, And a shot gun always rested near; No headlight gleamed on the faint, rough trail When I was the one who carried mail.

The engineer sits as warm as toast, As he perches high on his iron boss, And man's the time I've looked the ghost When the norther swept the plains across— That endless, pitiless, frozen plain That whizzes past through the window pane. —Arthur Chapman in Denver Republican.

THE NUMBSKULL.

Once—at least—upon a modern time, a Young Man grown, he calculated, too big for his native town, bethought himself to win a faster way in the Big City near the sea, where mammoth piles scraped the clouds and in whose canyons of streets life bristled continuously. The Young Man saw no ample field for the talent his foolish friends said he had in the single business street that sprawled its miry way from the railroad station to the "dry goods emporium." The lure of the larger populace was in the Young Man's soul. He fondly dreamed of the wealth he would quickly amass. Everybody, he thought, must have money in the Big City, for were not all the San Francisco date lines in the papers he read followed by stories of multi-millionaire merchants, wealthy men and rich women?

Among those who wished the Young Man well was another young man who had been so deficient a pupil in the school in which the Young Man shined that they dubbed him "Nummy," which, being translated, means numbskull. "If you like, Nummy, I'll send for you and give you a good job when I get my own business," volunteered the Young Man as he jauntily flicked the ash from his cigarette. Whereupon Nummy, pop-eyed, replied: "Will you, sure?" Then with less enthusiasm he went on: "Naw, I guess I'll stay here. It's safer."

Twenty years later the Once-Young Man—scanned of face, frosted of hair and needy in clothes—drifted back to his native town. Riding with the village hackman from the station, he saw the place had stretched itself over the open fields he remembered as a boy. Many business houses and many pretty homes were new to him. "Whose store is that?" he asked, pointing to a pretentious and busy establishment. "That's Nummy's. You remember Nummy, don't you?" "Nummy? Why, he was a fool in school."

"Yep; he's one of our leading citizens, now." "And whose great house is that upon the hill yonder?" "That's Nummy's, too." A few hours later the Once-Young Man awkwardly greeted Nummy in the latter's office. "And how's business in the Big City?" Nummy asked. "Well, 'tisn't what it might be," responded the Once-Young Man. "That so?" Nummy squinted understandingly at the Once-Young Man. "How'd you like to come back and work for me?" "First rate," replied the Once-Young Man briskly. "I always did like the fresh air of the country, anyway."

MORAL: Not all the Golden Eggs are plucked where nests are thickest.—Harry T. George in the Examiner.

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WILLIE WATSON.

Ere he sailed away from home Willie Watson wrote a poem. Warbled he, with punctured lung, something of a serpent's tongue, which, he said, a high-priced dame, used to injure and defame. People cried: "O, hully gee! Who's the dame of high degree? Give her name and station, pray!" Willie Watson sailed away. 'Twas the scandal of the age; guessing contests were the rage; people wondered who the bard smote, with fountain pen so hard; and the papers pawed the air, speculating in despair: "Twixt whose jawbones is it hung—that outrageous serpent's tongue? Tell, O tell the truth today!" Willie Watson sailed away. Then the poet reached this shore, where our

native bardlets roar, and he stepped on Freedom's ground, and reporters railed 'round, asking: "Who's the dame or maid, that our little Willie flayed?" To the crowd the name he fung, of the girl with serpent's tongue. O the brethren of the press see the depths of sordidness, know what the malice can achieve, see the webs that hate can weave; and they size up maids and lads, noblemen and kings and ends; and they sing this simple lay: "Willie Watson, sail away!"—Walt Mason in Portland Journal.

There are no numbers on some of the doors in Poverty Place and the wind has blown the chimneys down. And there's a "tip" for the Christmas joy-shoppers.

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HAVE YOU?

"Friend, haven't you often worn goggles of blue
 And in seeing life's sham and its shame
 Have you felt it was all a big scramble, and you
 Might just as well get in the game?
 That nothing much counts but a big bunch of cash
 And the man that was good was a 'jay';
 And the whole blooming country was going to smash—
 Say, haven't you felt that way?"

"And haven't you felt it was hardly worth while
 To try to live up to your best?
 And haven't you smiled a cynical smile
 While something 'way down in your breast
 Would whisper, that life was more precious than gold,
 And sweeter than fame or display,
 And the faith that had slipped took a brand new hold—
 Say, haven't you felt that way?"

"You have thought that the battle of life was but war
 And its pathway was rough and uphill;
 And didn't you turn your face to a star
 And manfully say, 'I WILL'—
 And weren't you stronger, and didn't you find
 It better, and didn't it pay
 To be patient and brave and cheery and kind—
 Say, haven't you felt that way?"

—Selected.

WE NEED IT SORELY.

Anyone who has studied the geography of this section of eastern Oregon and is familiar with the life of the country can readily appreciate the vast importance to Pendleton of having electric lines extending out from this city to the tributary country. The establishment of a traction system with this place as the base of operations is the one great step that must be taken in order to insure Pendleton's supremacy as the chief city of this part of the state. A line is needed connecting the west end of the county with Pendleton. A line is also needed between Pendleton and Grant county, a line from Pendleton to Heppner would be valuable, and a line between Weston and Pendleton is essential in order to insure for this city its just share of the business from that region.

At this time the Oregon-Washington company is ready, so its representatives claim, to establish the nucleus of such a traction system. Just at present this company's detailed plan is not before our people and it is not in order to discuss the same. But it now seems that the negotiations which have been on so long will soon be brought to a head and that it will be up to the people of this city to accept the company's offer or reject it. Just what stand the local people are going to take with reference to this matter the next few days will reveal. It is safe to predict however, that if the company's scheme is as favorable to Pendleton as the traction men intimate the offer will be accepted. Pendleton has too much at stake to turn down any enterprise that promises so much for the material advancement of this city and its surrounding territory.

AN EVENT OF IMPORTANCE.

Did you notice in yesterday's East Oregonian an item to the effect that a \$1500 school house is to be built in the new school district No. 112, out upon the Umatilla project? It will be a two room school house modern in every particular. It will not be like some of the rural school buildings in this county.

A year ago there was not much but sagebrush and desert where this new home of learning is to be located.