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week brought to light methods employed by real estate men and others of La Grande that is to be regretted. As the land office is located there, it was necessary for applicants for homesteads to go there to file. For a week previous to the opening people from all parts of the country were arriving for the event. But few of these knew anything about Hermlston or any irrigation system. Instead of showing the strangers what they had to offer and tell of the advantages of the Grand Ronde valley, the real estate men formed a knockers club and used every effort to depreciate Hermlston and the Umatilla project. They gave out if a man secured a homestead he would not get water unless he had a "pull;" that there were not more than two tracts of land worth having; that wherever water had been turned on the sand immediately absorbed it, thus making it a useless expenditure of time and money. In fact they used every argument to be thought of which would injure us. As a result a large number who had intended to file left discouraged.

The Herald has a just complaint and so has Hermlston and this entire county. It is galling to have to submit to the tactics employed by the curb stone realty dealers of La Grande. Those men know nothing about the Umatilla project. They don't care anything about it. But when casually asked by prospective settlers for information they are "right there." They knock the project and sneer at its possibilities because it is not their proposition. At the same time they are probably trying to sell land that does not compare in merit with the offerings under the project.

It would be well for the growing irrigation district of this county if the land office could be moved to a town where the sentiment is more favorable to irrigation and especially governmental irrigation.

**AS TO A FLOOD.**  
 With the unusual amount of snow in the mountains and the end of winter not yet in sight fears of a flood are being aroused. It is entirely possible that we may have some high water. The melting snow though never causes excessive high water in the Umatilla. To produce a flood it is necessary for the snow waters to be augmented by heavy rains. There was much snow last winter but we had no flood.

It is a source of satisfaction too at this time to know that Pendleton is now better protected than it has ever been before against possible floods. Not only has the levee been strengthened and extended, but the old Lee street bridge, a former menace, has been replaced by a modern steel bridge since last season. Under the circumstances it is difficult to see how Pendleton can be injured by anything short of an entirely unprecedented flood.

Railroad Commissioner Oswald West says he will not be a candidate for reelection. He intimates that the fact that he is a democrat would probably keep him from reelection even should he desire to remain in office. But Mr. West has made a very creditable record as railroad commissioner and he might be chosen again despite his political faith. The people of Oregon often act very independently of party lines.

From market conditions at this time the eastern Oregon woolgrowers will be able to secure good prices when the sales days are held. What the sheepmen are interested in now is the answer to the algebraic proposition, "how long will the hay hold out if the winter continues for X number of days?"

of their whiskers, and each do a little on his own account. Let trees be set, and then cared for, until established. This spring will be a very propitious time for setting with all the extra moisture in the soil. Set not altogether the stereotyped locust, but maples, or elm or horse chestnuts or some of the improved varieties of nut bearing chestnuts, as well. They do well on a dry soil. Set trees and seeds and care for lawns. There are some very fine lawns but there should be more of them. The indiscriminate hitching of horses on the streets, around the churches and court house is filthy and unnecessary.

Let the city assume full care of the sidewalks. The pedestrian is entitled to as much consideration as a team, there are many more to walk than ride. Make the grades, stipulate the material, and the width, and order them built along vacant lots or any other property where the travel or convenience of the people would be benefited, and if these walks are not built, go on and build them, and charge the cost to the abutting property owner, giving abundant time to pay it in. Get more lights and put them higher. They will throw the light as far again. Make lawns about the school buildings and set trees and care for them, nor allow the children to make these school lawns look like a corral. Look at the north side, naturally a beautiful residence section, and the sidewalks, conspicuous for their absence. Why, a stranger would get lost in the mud or the dust without a guide, and that fine new school building, with no walk at all in front of it, and the walk across the lawn is just like a farmer would lay down from his back door to his barn. Then the academy is not much better, with that old ragged, unkept cemetery right under its window. Children and young people don't get all their education inside the school buildings, their surroundings and environment have a great deal to do with their refinement and good breeding.

A man can blow his own horn if he don't sell a clam, but if he has no claims to sell, the public soon finds it out and passes him by. License or no license don't make a town. There are other things just as important to a prosperous city.

**NEWTON WHITFORD.**  
**IF WOULDN'T DO.**  
 "At a dinner at 'Claridge's,' the smartest hotel in London," said, with no little pride, a Chicagoan, "I sat beside young Rhineland Stewart, Anita Stewart's brother, you know, Anita Stewart married Don Miguel, of Braganza."  
 "I joked Rhineland a bit on the kill that he wore at his sister's Scottish wedding. He took my joking in good part. He said the kill was a fine convenient dress, and till recently he had thought it suitable everywhere and for all purposes."  
 "Recently, though, he suggested that the house servants in Tullech Castle should wear as livery the Stewart kill; but the major-domo objected."  
 "Now," said Mr. Stewart, "what is your objection?"  
 "Owell, sir," the major-domo answered, "a man cannot clean upstairs windows in a kill noo, can he?"

**A Roomful.**  
 The Rev. Daniel Isaacs once alighted at an inn to stay the night. On asking for a bed he was told he could not have one, as there was to be a ball that evening and all the beds were engaged.  
 "At what time does the ball break up," asked Mr. Isaacs.  
 "About 3 o'clock in the morning, sir."  
 "Well, then, can I have a bed until that time?"  
 "Yes, certainly," replied the landlord, and away Mr. Isaacs went to get between the sheets.  
 About 3 o'clock in the morning he was awakened by loud knocking at his chamber door.  
 "What do you want?" he asked.  
 "How many are there of you in there?" inquired a voice.  
 "There's me, and Daniel, and Mr. Isaacs and an old Methodist preacher," was the reply.  
 "Then there's plenty of you." And the speaker passed on, leaving Mr. Isaacs to enjoy his bed.

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**HAD IT STRAIGHT.**  
 The cleverest of attorneys occasionally find their match when engaged in their favorite occupation of breaking down an opponent's witness, and this frequently occurs in the case of "horsey" individuals.  
 The following wordy contest between a hostler and a counsel is one of the most amusing specimens of the kind.  
 "Now, I ask you sir, under what authority are you prepared to swear to the mare's age?"  
 "The best authority," said the witness gruffly.  
 "Then why such evasion? Why not state it at once?"  
 "Well, then, if you must have it—" "Must! I will have it!" thundered the counsel, interrupting the witness.  
 "Well, if you must and will have it," rejoined the hostler, with imperishable gravity, "why, then, I had it myself from the mare's own mouth."  
 A simultaneous burst of laughter rang through the court, during which the nonplussed attorney subsided, and it was with difficulty that the judge could restrain his risible muscles.

**WHERE FATE BLUNDERED.**  
 Mrs. Margaret Deland, the noted author, at the end of her recent brilliant arraignment of "the new woman" at the Waldorf-Astoria, said, "she is—the new woman I speak of—too selfish. She thinks only of herself. It must have been she in person who visited the Boston fortune teller."  
 "Lady," said the fortune teller, shuffling the cards, "fate decrees that you will visit foreign lands. You will mingle in the court life of kings and queens. Conquering all rivals, you will marry the man of your choice, a tall, dark, handsome gent of distinguished ancestry—in fact, a peer of the realm."  
 "Will he be young?"  
 "Yes, young and rich."  
 "The visitor in her excitement exclaimed the seer's arm."  
 "But how," she cried eagerly, "how am I to get rid of my present husband?"  
 "—New York Telegram.

**HYMNOLOGICAL INEPTITUDE.**  
 The story of a minister who held a religious meeting in a penitentiary and aroused the ire of the inmates by announcing as a hymn that one beginning, "The dying thief rejoiced to see" is equaled by the tale of the local prospector whose church got in

debt not long ago. A congregational meeting was held for the purpose of exhorting it, and the chairman of the board of deacons, or whatever the financial body was, got up and stated the situation and ended by calling for a special collection to make up the deficit.  
 "I suggest that we sing a hymn," one of the members of the church suggested.  
 This idea was carried out and the number of the song was announced. A smile overspread many faces, however, when they reached the line, "When we asunder part it gives us inward pain."

**THE OFFICER KNEW.**  
 A story is told concerning two thirsty gentlemen who found themselves in a prohibitionist state, and were discussing the question of how to obtain alcoholic liquor, when a pleasant looking policeman appeared and wished them "Good morning."  
 "I say, Jim," said one of the travelers, "let's ask the officer."  
 "Follow me," said the constable, and he conducted them in and out and around about until they stood in front of the cathedral. The travelers looked at each other in astonishment.  
 "Surely, my good man," said the first, "you do not mean to tell us that we can obtain what we want in a church?"  
 "You see the church, do you?" said the policeman solemnly.  
 "Yes," assented the two.  
 "Well, that's the only place in this state where you can't get it."

**Just an Experiment.**  
 They had taken advantage of the fact that it was Richard's first visit to the country and filled his childish ears with some ancient chestnuts. With solemn faces they told him when they wanted apple butter they fed the cows apples, and when they wanted peanut butter they doted her on peanuts. Richard heard all, but made no comment. Some mornings later they found him heading for the barnyard with a coal oil can.  
 "Gracious, Richard!" said his mother, anxiously, "what in the world are you going to do with that?"  
 "Why, ma," he replied innocently, "I was going to give the old cow some kerosene, so she could furnish some of that petroleum butter she talks about."  
 A Missouri man has been put into jail for having married thirteen wives. He is not a criminal. He's a fanatic.

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