

THE OBSERVER

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PURCHASING SUPPLIES FOR THE STATE.

A transaction that has almost been a graft regarding the purchase of supplies for state institutions in Oregon, has been going on for years, and apparently Salem dealers have been the beneficiaries. It is now proposed by Jay Bowerman that a new plan be adopted whereby the state of Oregon enters the open markets of the state and purchases supplies where they can be had the cheapest regardless of city or location. This will give every dealer a chance to obtain contracts, if he can make the proper prices.

In a recent interview regarding this and other important state matters Mr. Bowerman says: "Under the present system of purchasing supplies for the state," said Mr. Bowerman, "each of the seven state institutions purchases its supplies separately. This plan should be changed. If nominated and elected, I shall advocate, and, if possible, inaugurate a needed reform in this connection.

"All supplies for the state institutions should be brought together and a saving of probably \$50,000 annually effected to the taxpayers. Under the system which has always been in vogue, by which each institution purchases its supplies independently of the others, there is a wide discrepancy in the price paid by the different institutions for the same articles.

"For instance, the state insane asylum, which buys meats in large quantities, paid only \$7.87 per 100 pounds, for the first six months this year, while the blind school paid \$12 per 100 pounds for the same period. The same article was bought at the other state institutions at the following prices. Penitentiary, \$7.43; reform school, \$7.00; mute school, \$8.00, and

feeble-minded home, \$7.75. Even a greater difference is shown in the cost to the state of flour used by these institutions. This product at the asylum costs only \$3.60 per barrel, while the reform school, buying in smaller quantities, paid \$5.30 for the same article. This product cost the mute school and feeble-minded home \$5.20 each, and the blind school, \$4.50.

"Rice, delivered at the asylum and penitentiary, cost \$3.37 per one hundred pounds, while at the reform school the same article costs the state \$5.25 and at the feeble-minded home \$4.50. Beans for the penitentiary and the reform school cost \$4.14 and \$4.24 respectively, per 100 pounds, as against 6.50 and \$6 respectively, at the mute school and feeble-minded home, for the same quality.

"It requires only a very simple mathematical calculation to show conclusively that an enormous saving of the taxpayers' money could be made by purchasing all state supplies together and apportioning the same to the several institutions. In proposing this reform I feel that I am only responding to a demand on the part of the people of the state that the business of the state should be transacted on straight business principles. The merchant who owns half a dozen stores does not make individual purchases in providing stocks of goods. He takes advantage of the situation, buys his goods in one consignment, secures the benefit of that plan of buying and distributes the stock thus purchased among his several stores as it may be required. Why should the state not introduce and practice the same practical business principles in the purchase of its supplies?"

When shown a clipping from a democratic organ criticizing him and alleging that he is opposed to the direct primary law, Mr. Bowerman called attention to the fact that this very law is endorsed as one of the planks in the platform on which he is seeking the Republican nomination for governor.

"I am standing on that platform unqualifiedly," said Mr. Bowerman. "I am for the primary law, and have never been against it, as my record for the last six years in the state senate shows. I have had opportunities for six years to introduce bills for its repeal, but have not done it. What is more, I shall not be a party to its repeal. If the people want this law repealed they will have to do it themselves. I have never voted for the amendment or repeal of any measure enacted by the people. I have been for the direct primary law, am for it now, and shall continue to be for it. What more can be said."

Taft insists that the republicans are best fitted for office, and with possibly a very few exceptions the precedent is right again.

HAVE AN IRRIGATION DAY.

The management of the fair cannot do anything that will be better appreciated than arrange for an irrigation day during the week. It would bring out some of the vital points of irrigation for this valley and strengthen the fast growing sentiment that the Grande Ronde must have water.

By obtaining speakers who are well-posted on the irrigation question information can be given to the people here that will be of value and the day can be made of great value. Products from irrigated land can be compared with products from non-irrigated land and a perfect illustration can thus be given of what water will do when applied to the fertile soil of this valley.

It is a good thing for the directors to consider, and we hope they will decide to inaugurate an irrigation program for one day of the fall festival.

T. R. admits that he likes to be called "Teddy," and in doing so surprises everyone. For who thought that he did not like it? It would in deed, be hard to say, Mr. Roosevelt.

On October first a reduction of express tariff is to be inaugurated. At last, at last, the express companies have grown ashamed of themselves and decided to reduce a rate that has been too high for years.

Down at Oswego, Oregon lightning killed a man. Is it possible this country is going to take on the electrical storms of the middle states? The climate of the Northwest is one of its strongest assets.

The blue rock shooters are cleaning up their guns for the big shoot at Elgin on September 12, and it is likely that some new professionals will be uncovered. They are after the Observer's solid gold medal as well as the handsome emcash prizes offered by the club.

In the death of Mrs. Cochran the Grande Ronde valley loses one of its early settlers and one of the best women who ever lived. She was a builder and it is due to the efforts of herself and men and women who possessed the same splendid character, that this state has forged forward as it has. One of her greatest pleasures was to note the advancement of the community in which she lived and to see the frontier days dissolve into present day activity. The Grande Ronde deeply mourns the death of Mrs. Cochran and to the bereaved family extends that profound sympathy which emanates from the heart.

Treasurer's Call for County Seal Warrants.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned treasurer of Union county, Oregon, has funds on hand with which to pay all county and seal bounty warrants, which were endorsed "not paid for want of funds" prior to the first day of July, 1910.

No interest allowed on the above warrants after August 25, 1910.
JOHN FRAWLEY
County Treasurer.

What Was That?
Full of faith, hope and ambition, a young woman applied for a position behind the footlights, where she thought the leading part would be about right.

"Ever divorced?" asked the brusque manager.

"No, sir," she replied modestly.
"Had any diamonds stolen?"
"No, and for a good reason."
"What, then, are your qualifications?"
"I can act."

The janitor had to climb a ladder and pick chunks of laughter from the rafters before they could use the stage next day.

The Difference.
"There isn't much difference between a bachelor and a married man."
"Oh, isn't there?"
"No."
"You bet your life there is."
"What is it?"
"A bachelor tries to please nobody, and a married man has to please his wife."

Frank About It.
"See here, madam, when are you going to pay up?"
"Pay up?"
"Yes; pay up."
"As soon as my husband concludes to settle down and bring around his pay envelope."

Nothing Overlooked.
"Whom were you talking with?"
"The landlady."
"What did he charge you for it?"
"Nothing."
"It will be in the bill, all right."

School Days will soon be Here

Vacation time is almost over and a new school year begins very soon.



Complete School Outfits
for the Boy and Girl

Extragood Boys Suits and Overcoats

The kind that give double the wear and satisfaction for the same price, some suits with two pair pants. All pants lined throughout.

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We extend a cordial invitation to every Mother and Father to visit this store and compare our prices and quality with others.

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We have just received a shipment of Cameras and supplies, and can supply your wants in this line.

Get the habit of buying your **FILM PAPERS and CHEMICALS** etc. of us.

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Political Announcements

This column is open to any candidate regardless of Faction or Party and is paid advertising

S. F. WILSON, Athena, Oregon, candidate for joint senator for Umatilla, Union and Morrow counties subject to decision of republican primaries. "I firmly believe in the direct primary law, economy in the use of public funds, good roads, better schools, strict and prompt enforcement of law, the square deal and eternal progress of man and his institutions."

C. A. BARRETT, Athena, Oregon.—I hereby announce myself as a candidate for the nomination for joint senator for the district embracing Union, Umatilla and Morrow counties, subject to the choice of republican voters at the primary nominating election to be held on September 24th, 1910. If nominated and elected I will work for the interest of all the people of my district to the best of my ability.

favor the maintenance of the direct primary law and people's choice for senator and believe the people are as competent to nominate as they are to elect their officers. Very respectfully yours,
C. A. BARRETT.

DR. C. T. BACON, La Grande, Oregon.—The Observer is authorized to announce the candidacy of Dr. C. T. Bacon for coroner of Union county, subject to the decision of the republican voters at the primary election

DR. CLYDE T. HOCKETT, Enterprise, Oregon.—I wish to announce my candidacy for joint representative for the 24th representative district subject to the voters of the republican party at the primary nominating election to be held in said representative district, September 24, 1910. CLYDE T. HOCKETT.

GEORGE PALMER, Pres. W. L. BRENHOLTS, Ass't. Cash.
F. J. HOLMES, Vice-Pres. EARL ZUNDEL, 2d Ass't Cash.
F. L. MEYERS, Cashier.

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