

THE OBSERVER

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WHEN THE MERCHANTS MEET.

This evening there is to be a meeting of the merchants in honor of N. A. Perry who is president of the Oregon Retail Merchants association. It is a pleasant thing to honor Mr. Perry and no doubt if the entire retailers of the state would join in a movement for protection and advancement the result might be good.

But as the different associations stand today they are purely local and connection with a state organization cannot be considered very beneficial. It is pleasant to hold state meetings and enjoy the personal meeting and acquaintance from over the state, but also like the Oregon League in all probability when a delegate starts on his homeward trip he will wonder what good had been accomplished.

Enthusiasm is a fine thing but it does not buy the baby shoes. Waving the banner and yelling hurrah for the state is excellent while it lasts, but it requires continuous stimulant to continue that banner waving process.

What we need is application of more business along with enthusiasm. We need methods adopted which will get results. Money spent for a clerical force and a man who can keep up an indexed system is the best money spent, after all, for such men are always on the job. The stump speaker is a poor detail man. He believes in "letting George do it," and the George that keeps things together is the man who hovers over his desk and figures it all out in a practical manner showing where there is a profit to the individual who enlists in the cause.

But it is not necessary to mention these things this evening at the banquet. Let us attend and show Mr. Perry that our hearts are right, hear his eloquent speech on what is being done and return to our daily duties happy for being able to have shown our hospitality, but as far from the goal of effective work as a state unit, as we were six months ago.

Locally merchant associations get some results and we believe they are worth the price.

FRANK BENSON'S HEALTH.

It was the pleasure of the writer to have a personal visit with Governor Frank Benson a few days ago, and we want to state right here that his

long illness and affliction has not changed him a particle. He is the same Frank Benson possessed of all the splendid characteristics which have caused wide popularity and friendship throughout Oregon.

No man has suffered more than he has. The acme of physical torture he has known for many months, but through it all that streak of red blood known as bravery and manhood is ever apparent.

The newspapers have frequently overlooked tender heartstrings in commenting upon Mr. Benson's illness, especially upon his probability of resigning an office that by a tremendous majority the people elected him to fill. In our opinion Mr. Benson has reached a point that was necessary for him to reach before the rebuilding process could occur. It was positively essential that he undergo severe treatment to kill out the infection, but that now having been accomplished there is every reason to believe that rest and quiet will bring back the strength that has been sacrificed in order to stop the local ailment.

Governor Benson leaves next week for Arizona where he will remain for some time, living out of doors and enjoying the warm sunshine. And the governor cannot help but know when he is in camp under the southern sun that a whole commonwealth centers its hope for his speedy recovery there. There is no man in Oregon who at a day's notice could have as many friends around him as Frank Benson, and those friends would not come from one or two localities but from every corner of the great state of Oregon.

LAND TAX FOR GOOD ROADS.

It costs money to build good roads says the Telegram. The average expense in the Pacific states, so one expert says, is about \$7,700 a mile. In thickly populated rural districts the burden is not so heavy to bear as we set it against the advantages gained; but in the more sparsely settled districts the burden becomes prohibitive. The question arises as to how it may be equalized, so that we may be assured of the good road building, and that it may work out to something like a state system.

It is proposed that land held by the large individual owners, corporation and railroads be made to bear a larger percentage of good roads tax than other property. That proposition will suit everybody but the people from whom it is proposed to collect the extra tax. We may rest assured that those people will raise all manner of objection, constitutional, legal and otherwise. There will be the cry of discrimination and confiscation; but there will not be much said about the justice and ethics of the situation—at least, not by the heavy landowners.

To the man with little land, and that improved to citizens who believe that all property should bear its equitable burden of that expenditure which is essential to accelerate the progress of the community and increase the value of all its property in the same proportion, the man with the idle land will appear to owe more to the community than the man who utilizes his property and thereby adds to the value of every other man's holding. That is the theory upon which

this proposition of special taxation is advanced, and it is a sound theory.

It is well known that large tracts of land held by wealthy individual owners, or by large corporations, are handled gingerly by the Assessor. The assessment is rarely anywhere near the value, even if it be assumed that assessments are to be made upon that basis. If one ever wants to test this, all he has to do is to try and buy the land. Much of such land is held in the contemplation of a future value, that is sure to accrue as the community grows, and by the active industry of the man who owns less land, or may be of him who owns no land at all.

As a factor in communal progress good roads have an undeniable place. It is unfair that the progressives should build the roads for the non-progressives; that they should be assessed to burdensome degree just to put money in the pockets of men who, having acquired real property in large tracts, hold it that they may reap what other people have created. In the commonly accepted way of considering property and tax measures, this may sound like heresy; but it isn't. It is the truth. If there is any way by which the idle land can be taxed for the construction of good roads, that way should be sought out and it should become of legal force and effect.

The quicker a cold is gotten rid of the less the danger from pneumonia and other serious diseases. Mr. B. W. L. Hall, of Waverly, Va., says: "I firmly believe Chamberlain's Cough Remedy to be absolutely the best preparation on the market for colds. I have recommended it to my friends and they all agree with me." For sale by all dealers.

A Loss of Memory

By M. QUAD

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Up to the age of forty years Peter White had been a hardworking man; then he married the Widow Smith and sat down and communed with himself: "I've almost broken my back with hard work, but now that I've married money I'm going to take things easy. I'll hire some one else to do the work, and I'll do the bossing."

He fondly expected to carry out this program, but he ran up against a stone wall the very first thing.

"You'll not only work as hard as ever, but a good deal harder," was the reply of the wife when he stated his case. "I've got to do it in the house, and you won't get out of it outdoors. The matter is all settled, and we'll say no more about it."

Peter communed some more. As he couldn't force matters, he determined to resort to strategy. He went home from the cornfield one day with a blank face and asked the wife who he was.

"My stars, what do you mean?" she exclaimed after a look at him.

"I was hoeing corn and hustling when something gave way in my head. I can't remember who I am. I can't remember who you are, but it seems as if I had seen you before. What's the matter with me?"

"Good lands, but it must be something awful! Don't you remember that you are Peter White?"

"Yes; it kinder seems that way, and yet I'm all the time wondering if I haven't Sam Johnson. Your name is Schermerhorn, ain't it?"

"Hear the man talk!" she wailed. "Can't you remember that I was the Widow Smith until I married you? We were married only a few weeks ago. Peter, for heaven's sake, don't go out of your head!"

"Smith! Smith!" he mused. "I don't think I ever heard the name before. Mrs. Jackson, can I get supper here?"

"He calls me Jackson! The poor man has had a stroke or something!"

Peter was taken in and cuddled up. Chicken soup and toast were made for him, and the wife milked the cows and fed the hogs. The doctor came and looked at Peter's tongue and heard some of his queer talk and pronounced it a case of loss of memory. He said that some time in the years ago Peter had stood under a tree during a thunderstorm and had been knocked into a cocked hat by a thunderbolt. The real effects of the injury were just coming out.

Peter was to sit in the house or wander around as he liked. After about a month of coddling a slight improvement was noticed. He remembered getting married to some widow or other and was willing to admit that it might be to Mrs. Smith.

Just how long Peter might have worked his little game and continued to grow fat on it cannot be told, but one day when he had gone to the village a pill peddler stopped at the house. He was told of the case, and he did some thinking. He didn't claim that any one brand of his seven kind

A TELEGRAM RECEIVED
from Santa ClausRead what it says about the new dolls
IT SOLVES the GIFT QUESTION for Little Folks

TOYLAND, Dec. 1, 1910

N. K. WEST,
The Quality Store:

I am sending you a collection of my newest dolls. Among them Baby Bumps, Talking Teddys, Billikens and Talking Esquimos. They are all unbreakable. They will sell from 50c to \$1.25. You will receive these dolls and toys in a few days.

KRIS KRINGLE



Wait and see these dolls before you buy for the little ones

Useful Gifts for Older Folks

Neckwear Bath Robes Smoking Jackets
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N. K. WEST, THE QUALITY STORE

Old Man Satan.
Satan knows the way to go.
Don't you ever worry;
Track you through de heat an' snow—
Git you in a hurry!

Listen, people,
What I say:
Don't you git
In Satan's way.

Satan knows de fruit dat grow
In de fiel an' thicket.
Best of all—for him—he know
Des de time ter pick it!
—Atlanta Constitution.

C. M. HUMPHREYS
Candidate for City Recorder
Respectfully solicits your support.

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Chinese vs. White Men

"The white man is regulated by society and is heavily taxed to support the city, its schools and other institutions. He is expected to work, and only allow his employees to work a stated number of hours daily, which is quite right and proper.

The Chinese laundries are subject to no regulations. Old buildings are occupied. Here they sleep, amuse themselves and work under conditions which are extremely unsanitary. They work twice as long as a white man could, perhaps work for a penny or two cheaper, only because their mode of living enables them to do so. Every dollar they save is sent out of your country to China. You and your city lose.

A plant such as Cherry's New Laundry represents an investment of time, talent and thousands of dollars. A visit to this plant will show you that here is the "Spirit of the Times." Congenial employment is given a number of skilled assistants who live and spend their wages in La Grande.

Can you compare the organization and plan of this modern plant with the ill-kept Chinese laundries? To appreciate the difference, watch them, then watch us.

Steam laundry methods are perfectly sanitary. Our methods cleanse, we do not polish over and above the dirt.

We want you to think this over, then give us a chance to show you how nicely we launder your linen at very reasonable charges.

Perfection is not claimed, but it is our aim to get as near to it as possible.

Cherry's New Laundry



EACH EYE

I fit separately with the proper lens to give perfect vision, which prevents all eye strain that causes headache. The leading physicians of La Grande are now sending all their patients to me when they suspect eyestrain. I Grind all my Glasses.

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With our ample resources and facilities we can render you efficient service and handle your business to your entire satisfaction.