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LA GRANDE EVENING OBSERVER.

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disappointment.

TAXING GROSS INCOMES.

The city of Portland is at least awakening to the fact that her public service corporations should be taxed on their gross earnings. It is proposed to insist on the lighting corporations paying 3 per scent on gross business transacted. Whether this is a just tax or not only those investi-gating matters can tell. But this much is certain-public service corporations in most cities and towns pay nothing like the amount they should for the privilege of doing business.

Furthermore, it would be but right for every public service corporation to issue a report of its business to the public so that watered stock could be detected and the earning power of money actually invested be determined. If this were done the great enmity against these corporations would soon diminish provided the the earnings are within reason and justice.

But in many instances the earnings are not within reason and therefore there is a profound secrecy thrown around corporation business. Too much water is added to actual investment; too much money is received from bond sales for the public to be made wise to the transaction. The day is coming and the corporations of the west as well as the east, had just as well make up their minds to it, when the public will know what legitimate earnings are being made by these concerns that serve the public and receive their business from the public.

At once we hear some one say, "what right has the public to butt into a business where individuals have invested their money?" If the dealings of these companies were with individuals, or if there was healthy competition in their lines this statement might be well taken, but such is not true. Franchises are granted. the right of eminent domain is given and many other concessions are received from the public by these concerns who in return should be compelle to play fairly with the people. Not only in Portland but all over Oregon and the northwest there needs to be a readjusting of the attitude of the public service corporation toward the public.

one and one-third horse-power hours since 746 watts equal one horse-power. The watt is a rate of work just as a horse-power is a rate of work. One tells how hard the dynamo has to work, while the other tells how hard a horse or engine has to work

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to produce the required energy. The measurement of electric power

may be simply explained thus: The current enters the house and a certain fraction passes through a small motor contained in what is called a meter. The moving part of the motor or armature, is connected to an ordinary counter, such as is used on bycicles, gas meters and automobiles. This system of toothed wheels is arranged to count the number of watt hours of electricity. A thousand watt hours is called a kilowatt-hour. The prefix "kilo" always means 1,000. A kilowatt-hour costs about ten cents. If the result is desired in horse-power hours it is only necessary to remember that a kilowatt hour is the same as one and one-third horse-power hours.

The wattmeter is peculiar in that it measures power consumed. An instrument which measures the quantity of electricity or "juice" is known as an anmeter, because quantity of "electricity" is always measured in around among the sick, his light clothores. An instrument which measures the pressure which drives the electricity is called a voltmeter, since electric pressure is measured in volts few untrained helpers actually saved just as water pressure is measured in pounds. The wattmeter, however, takes account of both pressure and

quantity; that is, it multiplies the volts by the amperes and gives the result in watts. Volts multiplied by amperes give watts, just as poundstimes-feet give horse-power, provided we assume that the work was done in a certain time-that is, so much work done in a second, or minute or hour. watts, but this amount of energy must be used for one hour before one-kilowatt-hour can be charged. Two kilowatts for half an hour would amount to the same thing. Thus it is neces sary not only to state the rate of work in kilowatts, but also to state the time curtain to be?" inquired the artist, in hours, hence the bill states that the cost has been so much for such and ters." such kilowatt-hours-that is, so many kilowatts furnished light or power for

owatt hour is practically the same as the electric light on when not needed would be more careful if he remembers that the generator has to actually exert one-fourteenth of a horsepower to keep that single light going. even though the cost is but half a cent an hour.

AFTER SOLFERINO.

"The Gentleman In White" and the Idea of the Red Cross.

During the Italian war of 1859 young Jean Dunant was traveling in that country. After the battiavf Solfering he visited the field, and, seeing the terrible sufferings of the wounded soldiers who lay around unattended, he, with the assistance of several peasant women, formed an ambulance service, with its headquarters in a little church at Castiglione. He helped with his own hands to bind up the wounds of Frenchmen, Italians and Austrians alike.

"They are all brothers," he said. "A wounded enemy is an enemy no long-And he and his corps of helpers er." brought water and medicine and smoothed the pallets of straw and cheered the unfortunates and closed the eyes of the dead and performed the last kind offices for the dying. Dunant was regarded by the hundreds of wounded as a miracle of goodnesslittle less than an angel. "The gentleman in white" was the way in which the officers spoke of him as he moved ing making him conspicuous on the fleld

His experiences at Solferino, where he saw that the willing hands of a many lives and comforted hundreds of others, inspired him with the grand idea of an organization-the Red Cross. -Christian Herald.

COSTLY DROP CURTAIN.

The One Meissonier Didn't Paint For a French Theater.

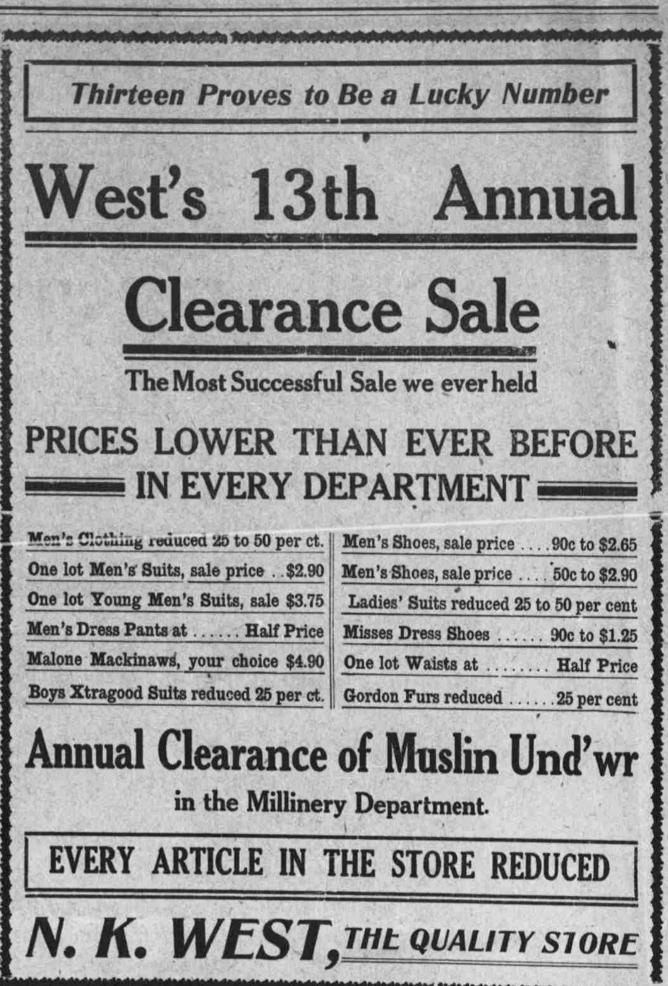
The enterprising manager of a theater called upon the famous French artist Jean Louis Ernest Meissonier on The dynamo or "generator" furnishes one occasion and asked him to paint a a certain quantity of energy in kilo- drop scene for a certain theater and name his own terms, "You have seen my pictures, then?"

asked Meissonier.

"Oh, yes," exclaimed the manager, but it is your name I want! It will draw crowds to my theater."

"And how large do you wish this "Ah, well, we will say 15 by 18 me-

Meissonier took up a pencil and proceeded to make a calculation. At last he looked up and said, with imper-



How Electricity is Measured.

servant, electricity, is measured. We the foot pound is related to the horseonly know that the regular monthly bills call for "1567-1543-24 kw-hr., time in which a certain work is done. for which please remit \$2.40." Many It makes a big difference whether of us have gone down cellar, or up work is done in an hour or a week, in the attic, with a lighted candle to and of course we wish to pay for work stare with mystified wonder and pro- actualy performed. This the wattmefound awe at the little mechanical ter really keeps track of, and, whether meter with its incomprehensible dials we use one light or a hundred, this and unreadable figures only to won- little instrument will always be on der what it was all about.

measured in kilowatt hours. A kil- thinking person who carelessly leaves

watts energy supplied for five hours would amount to 50,000 watthours or fifty kilowatt hours.

so many hours. For example 10,000

The ordinary sixteen candle power lamp consumes energy at the rate about fifty-five watts, since the of pressure exerted by the generator is about 110 volth, and each lamp allows one-half of an ampere to flow through it. This is three and onehalf watts to a candle power. Mazda

lamps use about one and one-half watts to a candle power. One hundred and ten multiplied by a half gives fifty-five, the number of watts.

or as the engineer puts it "joules per second." The joule is, strictly, a certain amount of energy or work exactpower, differing only in stating the hand, night and day, to take a record Strictly speaking, electric energy is of the amount used. Perhaps the un-



"I have calculated and find that my pictures are valued at 80,000 francs

rer meter. Your curtain, therefore, will cost you just 21,600,000 francs. But that is not all. It takes me twelve months to paint twenty-five centimeters of canvas. It will therefore take me just 190 years to finish your curtain. You should have come to me earlier, monsieur. I am too old for the undertaking now. Good morning."

Acabic Numerals.

An illustration of what mankind owes to the labor saving Arabic numerals compared with preceding forms of notation is shown in adding 1848 to 1848, the sum of which is expressed in only four figures, or 3696. Meantime in Roman characters we would have Few of us, outside of engineering ly like the ordinary foot pound, and is to denote 1848 with the capital letters circles, know how that mysterious, related to the watt in the same way MDCCCXLVIII. Repeating these letters explains why Cicero complained of the sweating toil of all addition. On that account Homer's total of Agamemnon's fleet is not the correct sum of the different contingents to it which he gives of the Grecian states, Herodotus is worse yet when he gives the total figures of Xerxes' army after enumerating the quota of the various nationalities which composed it. Likewise what a life insurance company would now do without Arable numerals may be imagined .- Dr. William Hanna Thomson in Designer.

How Machinery Breathes.

An English writer on engineering subjects, Mervyn O'Gorman, calls attention to the fact that a piece of machinery, such as an automobile, labit aside after being used is in danger of internal rusting through a kind of respiration which affects cylinders, gear boxes, clutch chambers, interspaces in ball bearings, and so forth. Every inclosed air space "breathes" by drawing in air when a fall of temperature contracts its waits and expelling it when the walls expand through heat. The moisture introduced with the air is deposited in the cavities and may produce serious damage through rust The popular belief that oil will protect the inaccessible parts of unused machinery is fallacious, since nearly all oils take up about 3 per cent of water in solution.

Acts of the Apostles,

The weight of testimony is in favor of St. Luke as the author of the Act. of the Apostles, though some respectable critics claim that the authorship is quite unknown. There are no sure data for determining the date of the Acts. Various dates have been ascribed. Some think that it was writfen about the year SO, while others hold that it could not have been written before the second century, about A. D. 125 .- New York American.

A Hard Stunt.

"A man can do almost anything when he discovers that he must.' "Have you ever felt that you must get upstairs at 2 a. m. without waking your wife?"-Chicago Record-Herald.

A Sensitive Child.

Uncle Gus-So this is the bary, ch? used to look just like him at that age. What's he crying about now? Niece Susie-Oh, Uncle Gus, he heard what you said .- Chicago News,

By desiring what is perfectly good we are part of the divine power against evil.-George Ellot.

MARCHED AND MUNCHED.

The Soldiers Who Didn't Steal the Apples Ate Thom.

A reprimand which takes the form than a burst of anger. Such an example was furnished by a Confederate his "Anecdotes of General Clebarne." The southern army, marching across the mountains of Georgia, n.d. his supply trains cut off and was obliged to live upon the country.

Apples, chestmuts and perstamons were plenty, but the agent had strict orders not to depredate upon private property. One day 1 was tradeing along in the rear of General Granbury's brigide when I rad down the road General Cieburne sitting on the top rail of a fence, while below him lay five or six bushels of fine red apples. Near by stood a number of soldiers, who looked as mean as men could look.

General Granbury saluted General Cleburne, who remarked:

"I'm peddling apples today." "How's that?"

Three gentlemen," pointing to the soldiers who had stolen the apples, "have been very kind. They have gathered apples for me and charged nothing. I'll give them to you and your men Now get down and take one, and each of your men take oneonly one, mind you-until all are gone."

The invitation was accepted, the men cheering for "Old Pat." When the apples were gone the general made each man who had stolen the apples carry a rall for a mile or two

Cid Postal Rates. The high postal rates that prevailed in the earlier years of the last century made the transmission of a letter or parcel a matter of serious moment. "A packet weighing thirty-two ounces was once sent from Deal to London," writes Mrs. Eleanor Smyth in her life of Sir Rowland Hill. "The postage was over £6, being * * * four times as much as the charge for an inside place by the coach. Again, a parcel of official papers small enough to slip

inside an ordinary pocket was sent from Dublin to another Irish town addressed to Sir John Burgoyne. By mistake it was charged as a letter instead of as a parcel and cost £11. For that amount the whole mail coach plying between the two towns with places for seven passengers and their luggage might have been hired."-London

To Identify a Child. My small son did not return at the

Chronicle.

regular time one day while out with a maid. The thought terrified me that do it. of a joke is sometimes more effectual in case of an accident there would be no way of identifying him should he be lost. The next morning I cut pleces of officer and described by T. O. Moore m wide tape, on which I wrote very clearly his name, address and our telephone number in indelible ink. I sewed one of these pieces to each of his underwaists, in front where it

could be plainly seen .- K. E. A. in Harper's Bazar.

Taking No Chances.

The big steamer had left the pier. The young man on the tar barrel still waved his handkerchief desperately. "Oh, what're you waiting for? Come on," said his companions disgustedly. "I daren't," with one fearful glance backward.

"What's the matter?" "She has a fieldglass," said the young

man.-Everybody's.

In the Barber Shop.

Customer-What do you mean by that sign, "Shaving Pessimists, 25 cents?" Barber - That's because it takes more time to shave a man with a long face .- Judge.

Distance.

"Father, is it very far across the ocean?" "Yes; it's a long way."

"About how many blocks?"-Brown ing's Mågazine.

He that lives upon hopes will die fasting .- Franklin.



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