

THE OBSERVER

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Editor and Owner.

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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.

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.

But in many instances the earnings are not within reason and therefore there is a profound secrecy thrown around corporation business.

At once we hear some one say, "what right has the public to butt in to a business where individuals have invested their money?"

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.

How Electricity is Measured.

Few of us, outside of engineering circles, know how that mysterious servant, electricity, is measured.

Strictly speaking, electric energy is measured in kilowatt hours. A kilowatt hour is practically the same as one and one-third horse-power hours.

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 wattmeter is peculiar in that it measures power consumed. An instrument which measures the quantity of electricity or "juice" is known as an ammeter.

The ordinary sixteen candle-power lamp consumes energy at the rate of about fifty-five watts.

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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 battle of Solferino he visited the field, and seeing the terrible sufferings of the wounded soldiers who lay around unattended.

"They are all brothers," he said. "A wounded enemy is an enemy no longer." And he and his corps of helpers brought water and medicine and smoothed the pallets of straw and cheered the unfortunates.

His experiences at Solferino, where he saw that the willing hands of a few untrained helpers actually saved many lives and comforted hundreds of others, inspired him with the grand idea of an organization—the Red Cross.

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 one occasion and asked him to paint a 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 curtain to be?" inquired the artist.

"Ah, well, we will say 15 by 18 meters," Meissonier took up a pencil and proceeded to make a calculation.

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

Arabic 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.

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, left 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.

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.

Thirteen Proves to Be a Lucky Number

West's 13th Annual

Clearance Sale

The Most Successful Sale we ever held

PRICES LOWER THAN EVER BEFORE IN EVERY DEPARTMENT

- Men's Clothing reduced 25 to 50 per ct.
Men's Shoes, sale price . . . 90c to \$2.65
One lot Men's Suits, sale price . . \$2.90
Men's Shoes, sale price . . . 50c to \$2.90
One lot Young Men's Suits, sale \$3.75
Ladies' Suits reduced 25 to 50 per cent
Men's Dress Pants at Half Price
Misses Dress Shoes 90c to \$1.25
Malone Mackinaws, your choice \$4.90
One lot Waists at Half Price
Boys Xtragoood Suits reduced 25 per ct.
Gordon Furs reduced 25 per cent

Annual Clearance of Muslin Und'wr in the Millinery Department.

EVERY ARTICLE IN THE STORE REDUCED

N. K. WEST, THE QUALITY STORE

fen about the year 80, 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 baby, eh? I 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 Elliot.

MARCHED AND MUNCHEd.

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

A reprimand which takes the form of a joke is sometimes more effectual than a burst of anger. Such an example was furnished by a Confederate officer and described by T. O. Moore in his "Anecdotes of General Cleburne."

Apples, chestnuts and persimmons were plenty, but the army had strict orders not to deplete upon private property. One day I was trudging along in the rear of General Granbury's brigade when I ran down the road General Cleburne sitting on the top rail of a fence, while below him lay five or six bushels of fine red apples.

General Granbury saluted General Cleburne, who remarked: "I'm peddling apples today."

"How's that?" "These 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 one—only 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 rail for a mile or two.

Old 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 Chronicle.

To Identify a Child.

My small son did not return at the regular time one day while out with a maid. The thought terrified me that in case of an accident there would be no way of identifying him should he be lost. The next morning I cut pieces of 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 Magazine.

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



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Our charge for dyeing for you won't be high. A sample job is sufficient. For best dyeing and cleaning have us do it. ELITE CLEANING & DYE WORKS, Phone Main 64.

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Grocery & Bakery

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