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THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS

Editor and Owner.

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TAFT AND PRISON SENTENCES.

When President Taft refused to cancel the prison sentence of the rich southerner sentenced for peonage he again showed the country that he is a president with courage, and that it is not necessary to play a brass band every time he does an act that he believes is right. Without a prison sentence the rich would need not respect the law for money is plentiful with them to pay any fines that might be imposed, but they all detest the idea of going to jail. And that is what President Taft is enforcing. He demands the rich man shall do time if his crime is of sufficient importance to demand it.

By the way, do you know this country is apparently getting ready to repudiate Taft, and if it does the nation will be proved one of the best presidents who ever filled the chair. It looks very much like Taft had to go at the next national convention, or perhaps the next national election. And it is because he followed a man who turned on the lights and demanded applause from the populace. Taft is not that kind of a man. He is a statesman. But if you will give Taft's administration a little thought you will see that in his unfinished term he has done more for the coun-

try than his predecessor did the entire time he was in office. Yet Taft is slated to go and will go unless the public mind changes somewhat.

MONEY, MONEY, MONEY.

In every story printed relative to what the legislature of Oregon, which convenes today, intends to do, there appears an outline of what may be expected in the way of increased appropriations. Expenditure of moneys of the state are everywhere to be made, according to the forecast.

It behooves every taxpayer to pay careful attention to the legislative proceedings, study every bill that is up for passage and to offer any suggestion that may seem proper.

For instance, how many voting taxpayers would approve of the proposed bill of Lionel Webster for state aid for road building, which in its title may seem all right, but which in reality creates an expensive highway commission and carries enormous appropriations.

But its money, money, money they want and they will get it unless the legislature puts its foot down hard, and the way to help the legislature do that is to write to some of the members occasionally.

THAT TARIFF AGAIN.

Woolmen in national convention at Portland demanded that the tariff on wool be let alone. Quite right, we agree with them because this country produces a great deal of wool. But there may be a feeling among the lumbermen that the tariff on lumber should not be molested, and again we say quite right for we produce quantities of lumber. Away down in the southland producers of other commodities may meet and they will say let the tariff alone on their products and they have friends and supporters who will say quite right for they produce those commodities.

And that is the history of tariff and tariff reform. We all want a revision

downward when the revision affects the other fellow, but we do not want the tariff tampered with when it touches our own resources. All of which goes to show men are human, extremely so, and the welfare of self is the first and foremost thing after all.

SPOKANE'S DUTY.

The assassination of Captain Sullivan in Spokane is a blot on the fair name of the entire northwest. There has not been a crime its equal since Baker City suffered a permanent stain when ex-Sheriff Harvey Brown was dynamited at his home. Spokane owes it not only to herself but to the entire country to search out, apprehend and punish the murdered of Captain Sullivan. Such crimes are becoming too numerous; they strike at the peace, happiness and safety of a nation, and unless the inland city lays aside everything to hunt the murderer she is not entitled to the good name she has always borne.

OLYMPIA SOLONS

(Continued on Page 7.)

ies of the first class, home rule. Local option measures likewise will occupy a prominent place in the legislative program.

A retirement fund for school teachers will be proposed and also a measure looking toward the state supervision of charities. Reforms in court procedure and a proposal to increase the scope of the juvenile court will be advanced by the lawyers.

According to present indications the initiative and referendum will be brought before the senate and house for consideration, and a sharp fight for the adoption of both measures probably will be made. A fight to put through a measure for the election of United States Senators, somewhat in the direct manner of the Oregon Statement One provision may be presented also.

The question of a shorter ballot will be fought out at this session from all indications at present.

On account of the recent action of the traction companies in King county, in arbitrarily raising rates, and which the people are now fighting in the courts, an extension of the powers of the state railroad commission will be asked for to include jurisdiction over public service corporations of this character within the state.

Officers Elected.

Without a hitch, Senator Paulmans, of Pierce county was elected president of the senate and Taylor of King county, speaker of the house today. The session adjourned after a short time.

Polindexter Seems Elected.

The legislature wont consider the election of a successor to Senator Piles until January 18. It is hardly

believed there will be any opposition to the election of Polindexter who won overwhelmingly in November.

A WHITE HOUSE JEST.

General Harrison's Objections to Monuments to "Vest."

As a general thing, one of the first duties of the wife of an incoming president and one of the things she usually enjoys heartily is to attend to such rearrangements and refreshings of the White House as may be necessary or advisable according to her personal taste, the size and customs of her family, and so on.

I remember one occasion, writes Colonel William H. Crook in the Philadelphia Saturday Evening Post, when Mrs. Harrison had finally decided upon some slight architectural changes and had brought her architect's plans to the president and asked his opinion of them. General Harrison studied the drawings with care and noticed that several niches were left, each plainly marked. At last he said:

"Well, my dear, here is a place for Lincoln, and here is a place for Grant's bust. And you have left three places for Vest." Then he added, with well assumed indignation, "I am decidedly opposed to so many monuments to Vest—in the White House."

Mrs. Harrison hastened to explain—what her husband, of course, knew all the time—that the word "Vest" was the architect's contraction for vestibule, of which there were three on the plans, whereupon the president said he was satisfied and handed the drawings back to her, with a twinkle in his keen blue eyes.

A FIERCE ANATHEMA.

The Pious Wish a Woman Flung at Jean Paul Richter.

Jean Paul Richter once observed that if a lady officer wanted to give the word "Halt!" she would do it in the following strain: "You soldiers, all of you, now mind what I say. I order you as soon as I have done speaking to stand still, every one of you, on the spot where you happen to be. Don't you hear me? Halt, I say, all of you!"

Upon this a strong minded woman made the following comment: "Now, M. Jean, it was an unlucky day on which you wrote that sentence. May you never hear anything but that little, concise word 'No' from every rosy pair of lips you meet. May you halt wifeless through life. May your buttons be snappish, your strings knotty and your stockings full of holes. May your bootjack be missing, your feet corny and your shaving water cold, your razor dull, your hair stand up, your collar lie down. May your beard be porcupine, your whiskers thinly settled and your mustache curl the wrong way. May your coffee be muddy, your toast smoky and your tea water bewitched, and, with a never dying desire for affection, may you crawl through creation a meek, miserable, nasty, forlorn, fidgety, fussy, ridiculous, ruined, defected old bachelor."

High Sounding Names.

Writing in his Paris paper on the growing custom on the part of parents to give their children "high sounding" names, Clement Vautel says: "When the boy is old enough to understand the rebels at being compelled to carry through life a name like Anacreon or Hipparchus. But he has company. I know a deputy whose parents named

him Franklin. The name in itself is not so bad, but he has two brothers, Voltaire and Socrates respectively. Fancy this scene in the nursery: Franklin howling because Voltaire has broken his toy, while Socrates laughs at both. The mother as peacemaker shouts, 'Stop, Socrates, or you'll be punished!' In a narrow street in Versailles one broiling hot day I saw a woman spanking a child, shouting in anger, 'You naughty Epaminondes! I'll teach you, Epaminondes!' I could never think of the Theban general after that without laughing."

To Say and to Do.

"Do you wish to go to church this evening? Father is going to preach, you know," the minister's fair daughter asked.

The young man considered. "Um! The last time I went he rather fell on some of my small fallings. Do you know what his text will be tonight?"

"Yes; 'Love one another.'"

He regarded the round pink cheek approvingly.

"Suppose," he suggested softly, "that we let the old gentleman go preach, while we sit here and practice?"—Lippincott's.

Not Perfect.

A horse dealer was showing a horse to a prospective buyer. After running him back and forward for a few minutes he stopped and said to the buyer: "What do you think of his coat? Isn't he a dandy?"

The buyer, noticing that the horse had the heaves, replied, "Yes, I like his coat all right, but I don't like his pants."—London Tit-Bits.

Shop Talk.

"If we didn't have to give back any change think of the money we merchants would make."

"We all have our troubles," said the magazine publisher. "Sometimes it frets me to have to print any reading matter, but I suppose it must be done."—Kansas City Journal.

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Twelve Thousand Stolen.

Wheeling West Virginia, January 9.—The First National Bank of Elm Grove was robbed of \$12,000 sometime Saturday or Sunday. The thieves entered and secured the money and escaped. Kim Grute is a man of about

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