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THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS
Editor and Owner.

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This paper will not publish an article appearing over a nom de plume. Signed articles will be revised subject to the discretion of the editor. Please sign your articles and save disappointment.

THE SERIOUS SENATOR

Elsewhere in the Observer appears a communication from the pen of Senator Turner Oliver. By reading it carefully one can easily understand that the learned senator is not only

using a hemorrhage of words to justify his acts in the legislature, but that he is also laying aside modesty by "tooting his own horn."

According to the solon his standing in both the senate and the house was "A-1." This may be true but he did not add that this particular legislature as a whole was so much like a bunch of rabbits that "a standing" among the members does not count for a great deal with the common people.

In enumerating the different bills he "fathered" the senator demands respect for them and, while not admitting some of them bore directly upon his private law practice, he does contend they have merit. It will be noticed he refers to a bill which he was requested by the attorney general to draft relative to an escheat case, yet two hours after Senator Oliver had sent the communication to this office for publication a telegraphic report from Salem informed the Observer that Governor West had vetoed this particular bill. It is customary

for a governor to consult the attorney general when a case involving title to land is concerned. He may not have done so in this particular instance, but if he did then Attorney General Crawford is occupying a peculiar position—telling Oliver to draft such a bill and advising Governor West to veto the same measure. It will be remembered that Senator Oliver and Governor West campaigned the state together, therefore it stands to reason had the governor seen any merit or justice whatever in the bill he would have given his traveling companion, Senator Oliver, the best of a doubt and let the bill go through. But he did not, and the solon from Union county is offered to face a veto on his pet measure from a governor whom he helped make.

The normal bill mentioned by the senator needs no comment. Any boy from the La Grande high school is sufficiently posted on state politics to realize that at this particular time there is absolutely no chance for any state normal to be coined, considering the redhot fight that has been on over normals in Oregon for the last four years. It was worse than child's play and a squandering of time to force such an issue, and that is the reason the senator got no "backing from home."

His mention of the Cochran boys and fees for lawyers does not interest this paper. If there is a fight between the legal fraternity and there is any danger of tralling ethics in the dust, as between the senator and the Cochran boys we have no doubt the latter will be able to care for themselves.

The Morrison escheat case always seemed to us a case that was far fetched, but that is not the question at present. The question is whether a state senator is justified in practicing law before a legislature on the people's time.

When Senator Oliver speaks of any personal ill-feeling toward himself he is knowingly mistaken, for as a citizen and a neighbor he is held in high esteem, but throughout his public life and as senator from this district he takes himself entirely too seriously. His public acts are open to inspection and when this paper criticises Senator Oliver that criticism must be under-

stood to mean his official acts, which we do not agree with and which we believe the people of this district do not regard as wholesome; which the governor has refused to stand behind, and which evidently the attorney general has decided are not proper for the welfare of the commonwealth.

SUBSTITUTING SCHOOL FOR STREET.

(Baltimore News)

Regarding the development of the idea of using school buildings in cities to their capacity, the New York Times carries a half-page article descriptive of the reform which the city of New York has accomplished in this respect. Realizing the narrow confines of the average city home, especially in winter; realizing that the child is endowed with an inalienable right to "fun" and recreation, the metropolitan school board has without exception opened to the use of the children who are taught in them by day the schoolrooms as a club at night. Teachers are on hand to supervise the evening; the gymnasium is opened and in running order; games are played, dances held, every inducement put forward to further innocent and healthful social diversion. Each school maintains a library, halls for the nursery games, rooms for quiet ones, facilities for music and the like. Every night in the city thousands on thousands of children, who otherwise would be living in the irritating circumstances of cramped quarters or attempting to find pleasure in the questionable resorts, are in these schoolhouses entertained and made comfortable in an entirely wholesome environment.

The alternative of the congested tenement or the open street in the city is made doubly hard in winter by substituting for the stierwalk the dive or the suggestive cheap theater. In the one there is mental and moral stagnation in the denial of the individual life; in the other there is a risk always attending the immature which always attending the immature, which makes for the tragedies that in the slums constantly question the value of civilization. Between these hard necessities the school, at least for a great number, offer the hope of

a happy mean.

New York, we are told, does this work at a cost of 4 cents a scholar per day—a small price for the return when it is considered that the real end of education is instruction in life, and that in the cities the streets and their allurements are constantly combating at night all that the tendency of the school is to build up by day. Baltimore with its \$5,000,000 investment in schools, might well investigate to its benefit the manner in which New York and other cities which they have endowed their children.

"THIS IS MY 63RD BIRTHDAY"

Ellen Terry

Ellen Terry, the celebrated English actress who has recently completed a tour of America was born at Coventry Feb. 27, 1848, and made her first appearance on the stage under the management of Mrs. Charles Kean. After leaving the management of the Kean Miss Terry filled small engagements at several London theaters. Then followed a short engagement at the Queen's Theater, playing in "The Taming of the Shrew" and acting for the first time with Henry Irving. Leaving the stage for seven years she returned to the Queen's Theater, making her reappearance in Charles Reade's "Wandering Heir." Then followed engagements with Mr. Bancroft and Mr. John Hare. On Mr. Irving taking the management of the Lyceum Theater in London, he was enabled to secure the services of Miss Terry, who made her first appearance at that theater on Dec. 30, 1878. Miss Terry remained with Sir Henry Irving until a year or two before the latter's death and shared equally in the great fame won by their appearances in the plays of Shakespeare. Their first tour of the United States and Canada was made in 1883.

"THIS DATE IN HISTORY"

1760—Indians attacked Fort Dobbs, N. C.
1801—Congress assumed jurisdiction over the District of Columbia.
1802—Lord George Bentinck, who led the fight against repeal of the British Corn-laws, born, died Sept. 21, 1848.
1805—Napoleon started on his second

journey across the Alps into Italy.

- 1807—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, the poet born in Portland, Me. Died in Cambridge, Mass., March 24, 1882.
- 1810—John Gilbert, celebrated actor, born in Boston. Died there on June 17, 1889.
- 1871—A joint commission met at Washington to settle the "Alabama Claims" and various disputes between Canada and the United States.
- 1881—Battle of Majuba, between the British and the Boers.
- 1900—Gen. Cronje and the Boer forces surrendered to the British.

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