

THE OBSERVER

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ROOSEVELT THE SILENT.

Col. Roosevelt is besieged by reporters at his office and his home. He is the central figure in a political situation that knows no parallel in this country. The reporters are waiting, just as thousands of others are waiting, while impatience consumes their souls, for Mr. Roosevelt to make a statement. They are expectant of an utterance of his views on the presidential situation, and none has been forthcoming. Col. Roosevelt has declined to commit himself and has kept his own counsel, which is exactly the course that is to be expected of him under the circumstances. What statement would he be likely to make at this time? That he is a candidate for the republican nomination? That he will not be a candidate under any conditions? Hardly. Mr. Roosevelt scarcely would place himself in a position that easily might become embarrassing through the making of such a statement. Nothing is to be expected of him but silence and if he volunteers anything it will be the revelation of a new trait in the man. If Col. Roosevelt has any designs upon the republican nomination at this time, and such a design is not likely, he is astute enough to recognize that silence is his best accomplice. The veriest novice in politics would have sufficient perception to realize that if there is a demand for him by the republicans, it will be strengthened and increased much more by his silence than by any statement he might make. If a Roosevelt "boom" is under way, its possibilities as a potent factor in the nomination are much greater if Col. Roosevelt maintains a sphinx-like attitude and refuses to say whether or not he would consent to become a candidate. If he has no designs upon another term at this time, it would not display the political acumen for which he is noted if he issued a statement that he would not accept the nomination under any circumstances. No man is oracle enough to foresee what the future may hold in store and Col. Roosevelt is not gifted with a future vision that will enable him to be a judge of what the words "under any circumstances" might imply. A unanimous call from a convention would be a circumstance hard to reckon with, and if Col. Roosevelt defined his position at this time he would be obliged to be guided by it in the future no matter what arose. There is nothing but silence to be expected of Mr. Roosevelt. If he issues a statement, there are those who believe they know something of his characteristics who will be willing to acknowledge themselves mistaken. While some portion of the people may expect him to offer something, there is a considerable proportion which

does not believe he will do anything of the kind, and the weight of probability is with the latter number. Mr. Roosevelt is silent because it is the only safe course open to him. His time to speak has not arrived.

HOW IS THIS FOR IMPRESSIONS.

To shoot bear and lion is the motive behind a proposed trip to La Grande by a physician known as W. I. Schaffer of Dayton, Ohio. In a letter to Postmaster Richey he asks for a La Grande newspaper that he may get in touch with people who will give him more information about the location of bear and lions near La Grande. Where the Dayton doctor got his information that lions and bears roam Eastern Oregon is not known but it is of course a matter for the Commercial club to kindly set the Eastern aright and point out to him that this is not exactly a jungle where beasts of prey run unattacked and unafraid.

"Champ" is Missouri's pet name for its champion.

It is threatened that we are to get less sugar for a dollar. We can't.

Political conventions like the easy way in which Chicago's latch string works.

It's tough on lazy people that soda water cannot be sent up by delivery wagon.

Mules of the United States are valued at \$561,000,000. Long-eared crop as valuable as corn.

The first Jap auto dealer has sailed for the Flowery kingdom with a number of American cars.

A petrified ham was found last week in South Dakota. Our actors are getting a long way from home.

The thing we do not quite understand is why the members of congress do not vote themselves pensions.

Buffalo has one schoolroom so noisy that the teacher has to use a megaphone. A boiler factory is in the same block.

Francis Rogers, baritone, urges that American schools train youngsters' voices. Wasn't he ever at a football game?

Fortunately for the cause of pure food, the spoken word may be circulated without danger of distributing microbes.

They say that hanging a man does not hurt him any. It must be admitted that no man who has ever been hanged has done any complaining.

Although occurring simultaneously, there is no connection between the strike of laundry workers in New York and the declaration of independence in China.

Sandwich, Ill., was shaken by earth tremors. Now if it had been a railroad sandwich, an earthquake would have made no impression.

Chicago society women are making gowns out of bath towels. There's a chance to utilize printing office towels for mourning purposes.

It is barely possible that the earth shock felt in Illinois was caused by a portly gentleman falling off the water wagon.

An insurance company is fighting a policy on the life of a man who was hanged. They seem to think he deliberately tried to put one over on them.

Children playing with dynamite caps injured ten members of a Los Angeles family recently. Life in that town is just one blamed dynamite explosion after another.

Just as some of our prominent women had sent in their lists of the Twenty Century Women, with Madam Curie at the head, along comes that divorce scandal. It's awful.

MALE AND FEMALE AGENTS—Local and to travel. Best proposition on the road. 7,000 sold in Portland in three weeks. No competition. Call 1417 1/2 Adams Avenue. 1-15-3t

The Island of St. Helena. St. Helena has been an island of tragedies—tragedies that have been lost sight of wailing over the Coriscian. On the second day of my visit the governor took me by carriage road through the turns over the island. At one point of our journey the road, in winding around spurs and ravines, formed a perfect W within the distance of a few rods. The roads, though tortuous and steep, were fairly good, and I was struck with the amount of labor it must have cost to build them. The air on the benches was cool and bracing. It is said that since hanging for trivial offenses went out of fashion

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An elegant assortment patterns in printed craft cloth. Very popular, regular price 20c yd. Clearance price 10c yd.

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Our selection is larger and prices more attractive than ever before.

Window No. 3

Extraordinary values in White Lingeries Dresses, White Linen Dresses and White Wool Skirts.

Values that sold regular up to \$12.50, your choice \$1.90

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Showing of Annual Clearance Prices on Muslin Underwear.

This sale is conducted in the millinery department, and will pay you to buy for months to come.

Window No. 5

Our \$5.90 Ladies' Suit Special is attracting many eager purchasers to our Ladies' (ready-to-wear) Department where every garment is the entire stock is included at great savings.

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Only a few of the hundreds of attractive prices are shown in this window on account of lack of space.

Our Entire Line Reduced.

Men's Window No. 7

Annual Clearance of Men's Suits & Overcoats

We have not reserved a single garment. Take your choice from our entire stock at a discount of from 25 per cent. to 50 per cent. off the regular price. You can see just how much you save.

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Remember This Sale Lasts Only Until February 1st

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"IN FRONTIER DAYS". Pathe An intensely interesting picture. There is such riding as is seldom seen in a picture.

"A CONSPIRACY AGAINST THE KING". Edison An elaborate and interesting film. Indeed, it hasn't a dull moment.

"THE GREATEST OF ENGINEERING FEATS". Kalem Showing the gigantic operations in progress to bring water to New York City. One of the greatest engineering feats ever undertaken.

"THE ISLAND OF ST. KILDA". Pathe A very fine scenic picture.

"THE MISSING WILL". Vitagraph The gully wife, the pretty stenographer, the missing will and last but not least JOHN BUNNY make up this splendid picture.

"THE PLOT AGAINST BERTIE". Kalem Here is a good comedy. Bertie has trouble but he gets even.

Laura Green Wills, in illustrated song production, "MR. MOON, STOP LOOKING DOWN"

no one has died there, except from falling over the cliffs in old age or from being crushed by stones rolling on them from the steep mountains! Witches at one time were persistent at St. Helena, as with us in America in the days of Cotton Mather. At the present day crime is rare in the island.

The Ancient Dragon. The pterodactyl, whose fossil remains have been found in the chalk at Cambridge, England, and elsewhere, with a very varied spread of wings, which in the largest specimens must have reached twenty-five feet, is almost identical with the dragon of fable. A batlike creature, with an elevated body and long neck ending in an absurdly small head with a portentous beak, it could run very swiftly, was a fish eater and could swim, or it flew by means of huge membranous wings, which connected its long fore quarters with its hind legs. The pterodactyl evidently existed down to a comparatively recent geological period, and it is not at all improbable that the traditional dragon is described from the last living specimens as met with by primitive man.

Simplified Spelling Effects. "We find in the letters we receive," said the correspondence clerk, "some marvelous examples of simplified spelling, some of these unconsciously phonetic, some evidently deliberately intended, some that, though they serve their purpose wonderfully, verge on the comic. For instance, we received yesterday a letter from a man who starts off in this way:

"What fx would follow"—and so on. "Of course the meaning of that was perfectly plain, but the bookkeeper and I had to smile over it for a moment, and when we showed it to the stenographer he said that the man who could write words like that ought not to stop at simplified spelling—be ought to go right ahead and invent a new shorthand system."—New York Sun.

Chinese Idioms. When a Chinese writer wishes to express that the wealthy parent of the heroine has set his affairs in order in her favor before dying his idiom is,

"He has settled his plums." "To have plucked the kwai (cassia) flower" signifies gaining the master's degree at the triennial examinations. Their idiom for "Let there be no backsliding" is, "Let there be no absorption of sweat." A runaway wife is said by Liu Chia Chu to "carry her guitar to another door." When you wish to say that you have secured a vindication, you express it, "My adversary has been forced to paint my front door." When a great man dies they say, "A corner of the city wall has fallen."—J. S. Thompson's "The Chinese."

Green Turtles. The green turtle finds its home in the coral reefs lying to the north of Jamaica, though it is found in other parts of the West Indies. The creature is caught by the employment of extremely strong nets, which are interlaced between the rocks. Once caught the turtle is taken to Kingston, where it is kept in special sea water pens on the seashore. When in the pens the turtle is provided with a peculiar kind of sea grass, which it likes very much. Curiously enough, when it is taken away from the West Indies it refuses to eat this grass. Indeed, it will die of starvation sooner than touch the grass, now ever carefully preserved. It takes eight pounds of flesh to make a single quart of soup.

Chinese New Year Today. One hundred and fifty dollar's worth of fire works will be exploded tonight by local Chinese in honor of Chinese New Year, which occurs today.



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