THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS
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THE CONGRESSIONAL SCRAP.

Col. F. S. Ivanhoe, the old veteran attorney, says positively there is no congressional bee buzzing around his sky piece this year. In answer to a direct question from the Observer yesterday he remarked:

"No, no, there is nothing doing with this old man this season. I am not a candidate for congress. The field is well filled with likely looking runners and I shall be one to sit in the grand stand and see the starters score under the pole. The winner in the first heat, which is the primary race, will have my undivided support at the polls in November."

Thus came the final answer of the colonel to those who had thought for some time that when the gong sounded his mettle would begin to tingle and he would enter in what promises to be the greatest free-for-all race ever held in the northwest. That Ivanhoe had his eye on the place early in the game there is little question, but after consulting his business he decided that it would be a losing game even if he were sure by election by acclamation.

This leaves the following runners grooming for the April dash: George Cochran, of La Grande, who has issued a platform that seems to appeal to a great many voters; Jerry Rusk, formerly of Wallowa county but later of La Grande, who clings to non-partisan ideas of politics but who will likely ask the republican party for the nomination; Nick Sinnott, state senator from Wasco county, who has just announced his candidacy, while ex-Congressman Ellis, Fred Wilson, Judge Davis and a number of others have made no definite announcement as yet.

Betting has not yet begun and therefore there are no favorites being played. For a time it was supposed the democrats of the district were holding a tight rein on Judge Bennett of The Dalles, figuring on turning him loose at the word "Go." This theory is knocked out now since Sinnott, who is Bennett's law partner, has entered the race for republican honors, as it is not believed likely that one would run against the other.

The new district is a plastic proposition as yet. No one can quite tell what is most needed which prevents anyone hitting the "keynote." Every candidate has something to say in a general way but there seems to be a demand for a boiling down of generalities, such as are used so lavishly in Oregon, and getting down to brass tacks. This will probably occur in the next few days, for the advent of February showed the calendar up in its true light and convinced all seekers for congressional honors that primary day cometh apace.

Considerable speculation is engaged in relative to W. R. Ellis. Some say positively he will run, while others are just as positive that the old gentleman feels he has had sufficient recognition and is now willing to devote his time to raising fruit and practicing law as a side issue. Then there are friends of Judge Lowell in Umatilla county who claim Ellis shall not run for it will weaken Lowell's chances for United States senator.

It is more or less of a general mixup during which time the people are waiting patiently for something to happen that will clear the atmosphere.

Arcade Theatre

"REVIEW OF THE PARIS GARRISON" ..... G. C. P. C.
A splendid military picture.

"A POLISHED BURGLAR". ..... Essanay
A lively comedy.

"A WESTERN GIRL"...Melies
A strong western story.

"MY BROTHER AGUOSTINO" ..... Lubin
Artistically designed and with a lively comedy ending.

"TERMS OF THE WILL"... ..... Pathe

"THE HACK AND SCHMIDT BOUT" ..... S. & A.
A successful burlesque comedy on a wrestling match.

LAURA GREEN WILLS
In Latest Popular Song.

PITIABLE EGOTISM.

Few states can lay claim to the same number of egotists in public life that can the state of Oregon. Some time ago the Evening Observer printed an editorial on state taxes that has called forth comment from one end of the state to the other in newspapers who uphold a plan of politics that is viciously extravagant. Besides these newspapers the La Follette organization at Portland has written personal letters to the editor on the subject.

And in each instance these critics have worried a great deal because the state administration was mentioned in connection with excessive state tax. Each explained that the governor has nothing to do with levying taxes and proceeded with a complete explanation as to how taxes are levied in Oregon. These men of large egotistical bumps seem to think no one has any sense or judgment but themselves. Every schoolboy in Union county knows how taxes are levied and how valuations are arrived at, but it takes one of these self-appointed custodians of "the people" to show his moppery and big feelings by attempting to enter into lengthy explanation of a proceeding as well known as the obtaining of a hunter's license.

This paper did criticise the state administration, and it had a right to do so. When the editor personally met Governor West it was agreed that the chief executive failed to use his veto as often as it should have been used. The governor says he lacked time alone to wield the knife further, which explanation is taken by this paper as the governor gave it. Files of the Observer will show several editorials commending the young governor when he used his veto, but he stopped entirely too soon.

We were making no excuses for a republican legislature that used little judgment in its appropriations; we have no republican to protect neither do we purpose tarowing protection around a band of public men who insist on trying to fool the public by shouting popular doctrine and at the same time whetting away the public money.

As for these newspapers and personal critics who have written in to tell us how taxes are raised in Oregon, we respectfully suggest to them that Union county has a school system which teaches probably as much of public affairs as they ever knew and in the future when they see an article from Union county on taxes and public expenses, don't think there is need of missionary work among the ignorant here, but read the article twice and the second time its meaning may percolate into and through a brain that is badly bulged on the part where phrenologists claim exists the bump of egotism.

OUR "NON-PARTISAN" BROTHERS

Several men are trying to procure nominations from the republican party on the ground that they are "non-partisans." Did you ever hear of anything so ridiculous? If a non-partisan why enter republican ranks? Why not stand on the principle you advocate?

If the republican party is guilty of all the ills that now beset the government, and we all admit there are ailments in national affairs, why should any man want to stick within the party to get a nomination and then claim he is a non-partisan in the hope of being elected?

This looks like a man had lost his bearing or else he might be starting a new idea in politics. What is a non-partisan, anyway? Often you hear someone say, "Vote for the man." That has been a popular expression ever since the civil war, but usually the "man" who is running wants to affiliate with either the republican or democratic parties—why? He hopes to get his heaviest vote from the party and then get enough "non-partisan" votes to insure his election. Is this not true?

It may be the modern way of doing things in politics. It may be far superior to anything the world has ever yet known. But according to many men who have the reputation of being on the square, if a man will not take a stand on one side or the other, if he will not be counted as either for or against measures of national importance which are invariably fathered by a party, he is not a very desirable candidate for office. Perhaps all of these men of reputation are wrong; perhaps they are not enlightened; yes, perhaps, but what do you really think about it, anyway?

Forty million dollars seems like a large sum of money for highways. Yes, forty millions is a large sum of money. By the way has the scientific dirt road with frequent use of the King road drag ever been given a fair trial in this state? In some localities the people make very, very good roads in this manner and the expense is as nothing compared with forty millions of dollars.

The experiment station residence burnedbut so far as known the barley breeding plant of Bob Withycombe was not injured.

The new city council has some excellent ideas on grading and draining the streets of La Grande that are not paved. It's worth a try, boys, and the town is with you on the proposition.

THIS DATE IN HISTORY.

February 8.

1587—Mary, Queen of Scots, beheaded. Born Dec. 7, 1542.
1791—Bank of the United States incorporated.
1828—Jules Verne, famous French writer of romances, born. Died March 24, 1905.
1836—Philadelphia first lighted by gas.
1843—The town of Point a Pitre, Guadaloupe, entirely destroyed by an earthquake.
1847—Gen. Kearney proclaimed the annexation of California to the United States.
1849—The Roman National assembly divested the pope of all temporal power, and adopted a republican form of government.
1861—United States arsenal at Little Rock seized by the Arkansas authorities.
1862—Gen. Brunside's joint naval and military expedition against North Carolina engaged in the battle of Roanoke Island.
1870—Prince Arthur (Duke of Connaught) attended the funeral of George Peabody at Portland, Maine.
1872—Earl of Mayo, governor general of India, assassinated at Port Blair. Born in Dublin, Feb. 27, 1822.
1873—John White Geary, governor of Pennsylvania, 1867-73, died in Harrisburg. Born in Mount Pleasant, Pa., Dec. 30, 1819.
1887—Sir Alexander Campbell appointed lieutenant governor of Ontario.
1898—President Barrios of Guatemala assassinated.

"THIS IS MY 66TH BIRTHDAY."
George R. Parkin.

George R. Parkin, a distinguished Canadian journalist and educator and organizing representative of the Rhodes Scholarship Trust, was born in Salisbury, New Brunswick, February 8, 1846. After graduating from the Univeristy of New Brunswick he went to Oxford university, England, for a course in classics and history. Upon his return to Canada he became principal of the Collegiate Institute at Fredericton and later of Upper Canada college at Toronto. The latter position he resigned in 1902 to become identified with the Rhodes Scholarship Trust. Dr. Parkin is an ardent imperialist. He has written several books on the subject of imperial federation and some years ago he visited all of the principal colonies of the British empire in the interest of the movement.

Congraulations to:—

Rear Admiral William W. Mead, U. S. N., retired, 67 years old today.

Rush Rhees, president of the University of Rochester, 52 years old today.

Admiral Sir Archibald Lucius Douglas, a native of Canada who has given distinguished services to the British navy, 70 years old today.

A bee's wings are said to beat the air at the rate of 190 strokes a second. That beats the band.

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New Shipment of Spring styles in Tilt Shoes

WEST'S

New Styles in Gordon $3.00 Hats

A Working Capital of Over
$215,000 00 Inspires Confidence in This Bank

The stability of this insti tution,
The substantial men behind it,
Its reputation for progressiveness,
It large loaning capacity,
Its spirt of accommodation,
have attracted customers whose deposits aggregate over $700,000.00.
Promote your interests by allying yourself as a depositor with this strong and successful institution.

La Grande National Bank
LA GRANDE, OREGON.

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SURPLUS	115,000.00
RESOURCES	1,000,000.00

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what could be more comforting or exhilerating than a nice cup of Hot Chocolate, which you will always find ready at this season of the year at our Soda counter? We give it to you pure and cheering, full of that goodness and nutriment so peculiar to the best quality of Chocolate. It is a food, drink and medicine all combined, at low cost.

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