

THE OBSERVER

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CANT STAY ON THE TRACK.

If our old friend, Col. E. Hofer of Salem, would only stay on the track once, he would certainly land and do a lot of good. But his trouble is his innate desire to switch. For instance he started the Tau-Lincoln club in Oregon which promised to be a big factor in the state. Where do we find him now? RATHER THE ROOSEVELT blind campaign and doing all that he can to get the former president featured in every newspaper in the state. But with all Colonel Hofer's love him still for every once in a while he hits out straight from the shoulder and the ball's eye winks. Recently he addressed a series of questions to some legislative candidates in southern Oregon that sound very good indeed. Here they are:
J. A. Bachmann, George Neuner and Albert Abraham of Roseburg, all want to become state senators.
All three are bright and able young men—"astoot politicians," lawyers,

and have served in the last two legislatures.

They are personal friends of the writer, and will forgive him for asking questions.

They know there is a limit to the amount of taxes the people can be forced to pay—the line of confiscation. The last two legislatures have been notorious for expending graft, salaries, commissions and jobs.

Will they be willing to come to Salem and stand in for a better order of public business in the legislature?

Will they come to Salem and submit to an anti-graft, anti-raft and anti-tax expansion program?

These men are good citizens, Methodists, Christians, republicans and stand for good government.

But will their come to Salem and keep their hands off the property of their fellow citizens?

To raise salaries, create new offices, construct boards and commissions will not enter into their platform promises.

Yet they will come to Salem and do all these things, which, if a taxpayer interrogates them, they will make their hands in holy horror and condemn.

Gentlemen, answer the people's these questions!

If elected, will you organize the legislature on frampop lines, as has been the ancient and disreputable custom?

Will you participate in the immemorial fraud known as the clerkship craft?

Will you refrain from introducing bills to create offices, raise salaries or impose burdens on the taxpayers, unless a clean majority petition therefor?

Unless you will act on these lines and give the people a decent legislature, for heaven's sake stay at home

THE SMALLEST PERSON IN THE WORLD.

La Grande is in the hands of dog poisoners again. We thought this community had become sufficiently civilized and enlightened to be free from such pests. But they have cropped out once more and yesterday Judge Knowles' dogs were killed by poison.

How low, contemptible and mean the person must feel who reads an account of the result of his cowardly work? Think of rolling a pill that kills and in the dark of night dropping it near your neighbor's door. Is a person who would do such a thing even a step ahead of the bomb thrower? All that is needed to level the two is the nerve which the bomb thrower possesses and the poison dropper does not.

Suppose a little child had in innocent play taken the poison-charged food intended for the dogs, and a little life had gone out through the helms work of the degenerate who dropped the poison. Would not the community be up in arms over such a transaction? It is mere chance that such was not the case, which makes it imperative that all efforts be made to catch and punish any person so devoid of decency, so devoid of the elements of humanity who will drop poison in door yards or on

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the streets.

"Only dogs were killed" may be the opinion of light and frivolous people, but think for a moment. There is not a dog with a home which is not the direct object of love of some child. Would you, as an adult citizen, do anything to wring the heart of a child; would you lend yourself to a transaction that would cast the first shadow across the life of babyhood. If you would, may the Good Lord have pity on your poor shriveled soul.

NOT FOR THEM.

Ex-Senator Charles W. Fulton, republican, and John M. Gearin, democrat, either of whom was considered a probable candidate for the United States senate, have announced decidedly that they will not run. This announcement strikes the republicans and democrats alike, for Gearin is the recognized leader of democracy in Oregon while Fulton holds the same place in republican circles.

It means that this state will never have the services of either of these men in public again, and if you will look closely for the cause no doubt you will observe that the cause is what is known as present day modern political methods. Neither Gearin nor Fulton cared to enter a turmoil amidst snapping and snarling.

Another rancher has come out on the side of earnest state patriotism. C. D. Huffman in last evening's issue of the Observer dealt the \$40,000,000 boys a body blow, and he has with him the great majority of the people.

Even the supreme court sidestepped the Oregon system and decided to lay any burden that might arise from a decision on the shoulders of congress. Verily, this humanity is a strange quantity.

LUMBER VS. STEEL.

Although this has been mentioned as a "steel age" the lumber of the country has not by any means been given the knockout blow that some may imagine. Take the construction of railway coaches, as an example. When the Harriman lines and other roads first put on the steel car the travelling public relapsed into a feeling of safety and congratulated the companies on having finally provided a life insurance for every passenger. But, in less than three years railroad managers have begun to change front on the steel car and gradually sentiment is drifting back in favor of the steel frame and the wood coach. It has been found that in case of accident the percentage of danger is lessened little if any by the use of the steel car; that they are harder to heat, noisier and an enemy to sanitary conditions.

Nothing brought a showdown between wood and steel in car building so well as the Fort Wayne, Indiana, wreck which gave each a test and the wooden car came out ahead.

All of these facts are of interest to Oregon—a wood producing state, and the spirit of loyalty to the forests here should cause every citizen to stand upon facts in every instance that gives wooden construction of any kind superior to steel.

CHAUVINISM'S COST.

Figures compiled in Winnipeg indicate that Canada has lost \$25,000,000 through the rejection of the reciprocity pact with the United States. This is the first expense charge to be credited against the conservative parables to passion to disturb calm judgment in the settlement of a question that concerned national development. The loss for the last year will not be a drop in the bucket when the whole reckoning is made.

Canadians may place the loss of \$25,000,000 to their debt account in national affairs under the heading: "Misplaced display of patriotism." They will awaken some day to the real cost of subscribing their aid to the chauvinists who, under the guise of patriots, led them from the paths of sound judgment and reason. In the meantime, farmers in the United States will not display any sympathy because the Canadians have lost so heavily through the defeat of reciprocity. They will take the philosophic view that the loss of our northern neighbors is their gain and rejoice accordingly.

Holiday Tomorrow.

Tomorrow is a legal holiday and the postoffice will be open only at holiday hours. The general delivery windows will be open in the morning.

BETTER ROAD SYSTEM

(Continued from Page One.)

Union county today lies between La Grande and Island City and they greet with glad acclaim the Kiddle proposition.

Convict Labor Wanted.

The auto owners also took action to urge County Judge Henry to make application for 30 or 40 convicts this summer who would be placed on bad road districts and allowed to work that the convict system might be given a careful trial in this county.

Present Tax Law Obnoxious.

The present automobile tax law was declared obnoxious and the association will bring pressure to bear on Union county's delegation to Salem's law-making institution to have the present system of taxing autos abolished and offer in its stead, a law which will give to the county 66 2-3 per cent of the sum raised by taxing automobiles, and give 1-3 to the state road fund, the money to be handled by the present force of officials without creation of any more clerk or supervisor jobs. At present the county gets little or no benefits from the large sums donated to the state's general fund by Union county automobile owners.

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