

THE OBSERVER

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TAXED TO A "FRAZZLE"

It is going to cost, providing no appropriations are exceeded, \$3,063,815.75 to run the state government of Oregon this year.

Oregon is a new state, unsettled, with big, sparsely cultivated, counties and little home owners and small farmers trying to get a start. How does this sort of a bill hit the small communities?

Take some of the valuations of the counties and compare them with the state budget for the single year of 1912. The value of all the property in Wheeler county for 1911 was \$3,576,005.00. If Wheeler county had to pay the expenses of the state government for this year it would only have half a million dollars' worth of property left after it met the state's bills.

What do you think of a state government that confiscates the value of an entire county in perpetuating itself for twelve months?

Rich, populous old Yamhill county would last but little over five years at the present rate. Yamhill county has something over fifteen million dollars' worth of property in her bounds, two state legislatures would take it all and have a deficit if Yamhill had to bear the entire burden.

Malheur county couldn't pay the state's bills for three years; Marion, one of the richest counties in Oregon, would be broke in eleven years. Clack-

amas could endure the burden for ten years and Baker for six. Columbia for four and a half and Gilliam for two.

Figure it out, you fellows who can look ahead. What sort of an inducement has a state to offer industry, home builders, small farmers and investors when it is taxing its people at a figure that means confiscation in a few years for some of the richest communities in the state?

And the interesting and blessed thing about it all is that there is every indication that the present \$3,063,815.75 will be but the start. At the last session of the legislature, pledged to economy, the state budget was jumped up more than 100 per cent. There are double the number of office holders, hungry superintendents, theorists and hobbyists now fattening at the state crib, and these will come down to Salem with numerous other hungry ones looking for rich pickings. The Salem hog, the clique from the state institutions and a lot of dreamers with bills for new boards and new commissions, will be on hand and unless the people of Oregon make a firm stand the log-rolling legislature will do as it has always done, pile appropriation on appropriation; take junkets; fall the Salem blather and hang up a \$6,000,000 purse instead of the present \$3,000,000 one.

And when the taxpayer remembers that the state tax is but a small part of the burden, that each county jumps this lead for local purposes from four to ten times he can begin to observe down the long lane of woe ahead a bright red spot that looks like the jumping off place.

Oregon is being taxed to death to support a lot of petty political machines and alleged reformers. The ultimate consumer, the home owner, the small business man and the wage earner are toting the load— Isn't it a good time to wake up?

HEALTH DAY

New Hampshire is the first state in the Union to observe an official health day, according to the Survey. If Christmas, Thanksgiving and fifty Sundays be set apart for religious and moral instruction and rest; if February 12 and 22, May 30 and July 4 be given to patriotic utterances and commemorating great citizenship; and if the first Monday in September be designated for considering the labor cause, why not a "Health Day"—why not a day given entirely to spreading information and to focusing thought upon such an important element in both happiness and efficiency as public health? So thought Dr. Ellen A. Wallace, state superintendent of the Department of Health and Heredity of the New Hampshire Women's Christian Temperance union, who initiated a "Health Day" movement in New Hampshire, and so thought Governor P. Bass, who gave his official approval. The Health Day plan met with quick and favorable response. Besides the general co-operation of local temperance unions throughout the state, the Red Cross society, American Medical association Educational committee, the Grange State Board of Health, the public schools, the churches and the newspapers press worked for its success. In Manchester and Concord the superintendents of schools directed all the

teachers to observe the day, and the newspapers of these and other cities, which have a very wide circulation in New Hampshire, gave editorial backing and liberal space to health articles written by able physicians and sanitarians. Still there is some doubt as to the observance of the day becoming widespread.

Germany will spend \$3,000,000 for an aerial war fleet. This ought to furnish enough aeroplanes for the entire army to accomplish self-destruction and bring victory to the enemy without firing a single shot.

Since the girls seem to be in full control down there it might be well to change the name of the state to California.

Farming is gradually getting to be a lost art in Mexico. A man can't wear gold lace and follow a plow.

Judging by the claim bureaus this country is certainly going to have about seven presidents, and maybe it needs that many.

CENTER OF THE EARTH.

It May Be a Mighty Mass of Molten Precious Metals.

Did you ever stop to consider the fact that in all probability the center of the earth is a globe composed of gold, iridium and platinum? These metals are, of course, in a liquid state, the iridium at the exact center—that is, provided there is not some heavier metal at present unknown to man occupying that place—the platinum next and the gold surrounding the other two.

"But," you say, "what proof have we that this proposition is correct?"

In answer I would say:

"Two proofs, and perhaps more."

First, the three metals are the heaviest known substances, compared bulk for bulk. This being the case, they would naturally be attracted to the center of our planet. In the beginning the earth was liquid, if not gaseous. In either case the heavy metals mentioned were held in solution. By gradual condensation the metals settled to the center, iridium first, platinum next and gold last.

Ages ago, when the crust of the earth was thin—very thin—all of the gold now known was thrown out in volcanic eruptions. This last mentioned fact is the second reason for believing that our globe has a golden center, woven around a nucleus of iridium and platinum.

A third reason for believing that there is gold at the center is this: The earth as a whole weighs five times as much as a globe of water of the same bulk, while the rocks forming the outer crust are less than three times as heavy as water.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

QUEER QUITO.

A City With No Chimneys and Where Carriages Are Curiosities.

Travelers in South America see many strange places, but the queerest of all is probably Quito, the capital of the republic of Ecuador. The first thing which strikes a visitor to that city is that there are no chimneys to the houses.

Charcoal is all that is burned there, and consequently no smoke arises. Another peculiarity is that while the streets are well paved you may pass days in the city and never see a wheeled vehicle.

There are some carriages in Quito, but they are rarely used, and when one of them comes rattling along everybody turns out to look at it as at some curiosity.

A third peculiarity is that while the bulk of the population dress in ponchos (a kind of cloak or loose garment) and short linen trousers a considerable number of people—white men—are to be seen walking about and wearing frock coats and tall hats. These men, the visitor is generally told, are enlightened and cultivated men, natives of Spanish origin, who claim that they form the nation of Ecuadorians. Indians, of course, do not count.

Every white man in Quito who can possibly manage it wears this sort of coat and hat to emphasize his importance and highly civilized condition.

This dress justifies him in calling himself doctor and others in so styling him, and he also thinks that it gives him a claim to come into your apartments without being invited and try to borrow 5 cents from you.

His Car Manners.

Mrs. Knicker—Does your husband read the paper at breakfast? Mrs. Becker—Yes, and I don't know why Everybody has a seat.—New York Sun

Don't do anything till you do it, and when you've done it stop doing it.—William Gillette

The Rest Was Easy.

She—I am weary of being a bachelor girl. He—Well—er—do you know I'm a bit sick of being a splasher man.—Boston Transcript.

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Butter—Fancy creamery 30 cents 1
lb. roll; 2 lb. roll 55 cents.
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Ranch eggs—20c.

Feed and Grain.

Alfalfa Hay—\$13.00 (retail).
Timothy—\$16.00.
Grain Hay—\$13.00.
Bluestem—\$1.75.
Patent—\$1.35.
10s Corn Meal—35c per sack.
Bran and Shorts—\$1.35 and \$1.45.
Oats—\$2.00 per cwt.
Rolled Barley—\$1.85 per cwt.

Cattle, Hogs and Fowl.

Cows—4c
Steers—\$5.00 to \$5.75.
Sheep—4c.
Light hogs—\$7.00.
Heavy hogs—\$6.00.
Chickens—Hens, 13c; old roosters
11c.Ducks—Live weight, 12½c.
Geese, live weight 10c.

Fruits.

Home grown apples—\$1.00 to \$1.50
per box. Grade establishes price.
Oranges 40c to 50c.
Bananas—40c per doz.Vegetables and Miscellaneous.
Potatoes—Per cwt., \$1.75.
New potatoes—10c lb.Spinach—6c lb., 4 lbs. for 25c.
Hot house green onions—5c bunch
3 for 10c.Celery—Per bunch 15c, two for 25c.
Beans—White, 1-3c; Lima, 10 cents
Rhubarb—10c.Onions—\$3.00 per cwt
Old cabbage—4c, new 6c.
Sugar—Cane, cash price \$6.45; 30
days' time, \$6.85 per cwt.; beet sugar,
cash price, \$6.25; 30 days' time \$6.75Hothouse cucumbers—25c.
Green Peas—15c.
Green asparagus—15c; 2 lbs. 25c.

DEWEY SAW THE POINT.

He Paid Up After His Dog Had Been
Kicked Around.Admiral Dewey had an English bull-
dog of which he was very proud. So
marked was his affection for the dog
that an atmosphere of "love me, love
my dog" had sprung up around the ad-
miral and the canine. It is further re-
ported that the animal came near caus-
ing trouble between the head of the
navy and the late "Fighting Bob" Evans.Admiral Dewey while on a tour of
inspection when he was in command
of the Pacific squadron took the dog
along with him. He lost sight of his
pet on Evans' ship but in a few min-
utes saw him hurled skyward from the
companionway as if shot from a cata-
pult. With blood in his eye Admiral
Dewey rushed over to see the reason
for the sudden ascent, surmising cor-
rectly that some one had kicked the
dog. He saw "Fighting Bob" at the
foot of the steps."Sir," roared the admiral, "what do
you mean by kicking my dog?""Sir," roared Evans in return, "I'd
have kicked that dog if he had been
the property of the president of the
United States! He chewed the legs off
two pairs of fifteen dollar trousers and
destroyed an edition de luxe of the
navy regulations."Dewey saw the point and paid for
new uniform trousers.—New York
World.

His Way.

"At the beginning of each week Tite-
wad gives his wife the money to run
the house on during the week.""I suppose he asks her how much
money she wants and then hands it
over?""No, he asks her how little she can
get along with and hands that over."—
Houston Post.

Too Much Nothing.

"This cheese is full of holes," com-
plained the prospective purchaser.
"Yes, sir," said the proprietor
"That's right.""Haven't you got one with the holes
full of cheese?"—Louisville Courier-
Journal.Who fears is worthy of calamity.—
Ben Jonson

A MASTER OF DETAIL.

Paintings to Suit Abbey Had to Be
Historically Correct.One of the strongest characteristics
of Abbey was his terror of anachro-
nism. No detail of a great canvas
was small enough to escape his in-
finite precaution in this regard, no re-
search too exhausting that yielded the
correct answer to some archaic matter
of dress or armor. Because of this
scrupulous care his studio at Morgan
hall, itself an ancient building, more
than 300 years old, became a veritable
museum of heraldic shields, coats and
casques. Whenever he wished to paint
a certain detail of complicated armor
he purchased or borrowed a whole
suit as a model. Once, so the story is
told, when Abbey had completed a
large painting depicting an ancient
court scene he discovered that the
quarterings in the heraldic shield
woven in a woman's skirt were incor-
rect. He painted out the skirt and
corrected his error.His masterpiece in oils, the "Quest
of the Holy Grail," which he did for
the Boston library, has been pronoun-
ed perfect in every detail of architec-
ture, of dress and heraldry. His "Coro-
nation of Edward VII." has been
praised by antiquarians because of its
perfection and accuracy of detail. It
was this painting which won Abbey
his greatest fame in England.Though Abbey spent nearly all of
his working years in England and on
the continent, he did not consider him-
self an expatriate, and he was always
keenly American in his sentiments.
Baseball was with him a consuming
passion. When he discovered that
there was none to play his favorite
game in England he took up cricket as
the next best thing, and cricket was
his favorite pastime.—New York Sun.

Professional Pride.

A local puglist was brought before
a police magistrate charged with as-
sault. Said the magistrate:
"Prisoner, complainant says that you
wilfully and maliciously knocked his
hat off."Up spoke the accused, pride in his
voice:"No, your honor; I didn't knock his
hat off. I knocked him from under his
hat."—New York Times.