

THE OBSERVER

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THE "BLUE SKY" LAW.

There is being drafted a blue sky law, which will be put up to the legislature for passage this coming winter. The bill provides for such punishment to those who offer worthless stocks and bonds for sale, that it is believed the result will be to drive the promoter out of Oregon.

This is a move in the right direction for if there was a state that has been loaded with humbugs it is Oregon.

But the law will be of no service unless there is a provision made for its rigid enforcement and that provision followed to the letter. We, as a commonwealth, are too prone to make laws merely for the sake of making them. Fewer laws and better enforcement would be a splendid slogan for the coming legislature to adopt and it would meet with the hearty approval of the people in general.

The blue sky law would put out of business, if passed and enforced, all the fake orchard companies, the fake irrigation schemes, the wildcat mining ventures and a whole lot of the Portland addition business. It would pro-

tect the man who is capable of paying only ten per cent down and ten per cent a month, and would place Oregon securities on a higher plane than they are today.

This law would be a hard blow to some of the high financiers of Portland who have grown to believe that it is mere business to misrepresent their commodities and fool the investor. It would also be a hard blow on the company that pays a reasonable price on the physical valuation of a property and then stocks it for three times that physical valuation.

The enforcement of such a measure is the thing to look forward to and not its mere passage.

MURDER IN OREGON.

From daily reports it would seem that murder is on the increase in Oregon. Hardly a week passes that the state does not record a human life taken. The thug is abroad in the Oregon country. The man who is low enough to shoot at a party of young men driving in an automobile is with us. The man who murders a half dozen by strangulation has been in Oregon lately.

Murder, murder, murder is recorded in Oregon constantly and often.

Is it because we have more people? Is it because the thirst for blood is increasing?

Or, is it because of Governor West's lenient policy with criminals? Will someone tell?

THE CAMPAIGN CIGAR.

Occasionally a legislature does something that is worth while. This does not happen so frequently that it should escape mention. In Ohio the legislature recently enacted a law prohibiting a candidate from giving away election or campaign cigars. By passing that law the legislature earned the expenses of the entire session, for it is a law that is eminently worth while.

The campaign cigar, along with the speeding automobile, the Turkish cigarette, the tornado, the earthquake, the fire damp, the yellow fever microbes, the hookworm, the opium joint and the Gila monster is a menace to civilization and domestic happiness. It has been allowed to become a habit and to spread its odious personality broadcast. It has worked itself into the life blood of our republican form of government, like an insidious disease. There are times during a campaign when a wife dreads to have her husband come home, for he comes laden with the aroma which resembles a combination between a second hand New England boiled dinner and the glue factory.

There is no candidate who is going to spend much for the cigar he gives away. He realizes that men do not always vote as they smoke. If they like a candidate they will vote for him without the cigar. The chief value of these cigars is to add a sort of grim and unconquerable political hatred. They are of rope filler and brown paper wrapper and they stir up a feeling of belligerency which not even a leaky campaign torch or a two-hour campaign harangue can accomplish.

The campaign cigar is a delusion

and a snare. They ruin the digestion of the constituent and create trouble in his household and they detract directly from the popularity of the candidate. The Ohio legislature is to be thanked by all parties concerned.

THE GAME.

It is estimated that the people contribute something like \$12,000,000 annually to baseball. This is a large sum, but it is well spent.

The game draws office and store clerks and workmen out into the fresh air and sunshine and, consequently, makes them better folks and more profitable to their employers. It draws the employers out there, too, away from their worries, and makes them better employers.

Americans work too fast, live too fast. Brains or hands are under a strain all the time. There is more relaxation and health on a regular bleacher seat than can be got in forty drug stores. Conservation of natural resources, on which the nation spends tens upon tens of millions of dollars, is a great thing, but conservation of human energy is a greater.

"Go to the game," is sound medical and moral advice. Never mind if you don't understand the fine points. Go out and eat peanuts and watch your compatriots when they haven't anything on hand but the glorious task of "rooting."

It is such a case as the Brazil coffee deal that makes people rise up in righteous indignation at enormous capital and wonder if there is no way to regulate matters so a repetition of such a game cannot be perpetrated. Thus far there seems to be no way. At least, our statesmen and near statesmen have done nothing but talk about preventing such things.

President Farrell, of the O. W. R. & N. is to give some handsome prizes to the Union Horse show. He might just as well order prizes by the gross henceforth, for every town on the system is going to have a gala day of some kind wherein prizes from a railroad official would look good.

Woodrow says he is going to carry New Jersey, anyway. But Bryan is not worrying about New Jersey. He has been in the game too long to let an Atlantic coast mosquito bother him.

Schmitz is back in politics down in Frisco. The reform wave was not strong enough to wash him across the ba, after all.

THE PANAMA CANAL.

The building of the Panama canal is rapidly approaching completion and with this comes many great questions that demand a solution. The first great object of the waterway was to benefit the American people as it is they who pay the bills. It is distinctly our own enterprise and as such our country should receive the first and greatest benefit. That this canal is already being watched by England, France and Germany, who hope to control the commerce of the Orient there can be no doubt, and it is equally certain that trouble is likely to arise unless the United States controls the matter with a strong hand. It is all very well to talk about international agreements but it must not be forgotten that the sword has not yet been beaten into pruning hooks. With feverish haste the German war lord is building up a huge navy and already is seeking a naval base at some point in the Caribbean sea. However much we may desire a peaceful solution of this matter, we shall have but little influence in the future destiny of the canal unless we are prepared to hold it with a mailed hand. Economy of administration is an excellent slogan for the self seeking politician but in this age of commercial activity parsimony can only mean a pusillanimous peace from which we should all pray to be delivered.

Future complications can only be avoided by a readiness to defend our own interests against all comers. The very fact that we are so prepared will be the surest guaranty of peace. No foreign nation should ever be permitted to gain a foothold at any point in the West Indies that threatens the security of the canal. Up to this time the so called Monroe doctrine has largely been a sentimental theory, but it has now become a living fact. Not only that, but it has become so important that the nations of the world should have due notice that it will be enforced to the letter by a government amply able and prepared.

How can this best be done? First, the canal itself should be fortified with the strongest and most impregnable batteries, and every approach from either ocean made dangerous by mines that could blow the most powerful dreadnaught into fragments. The navy should also be kept at the highest point of efficiency and ever ready to repel any attack. For several years it has been our settled policy to build two battleships each year and no parsimonious congress should be permitted to depart from this precedent. These have been the most effective sea fighters that modern sci-

ence and art could produce and it is the knowledge of this fact that has restored the prestige of our navy. We now stand second among the navies of the world, but if this democratic congress is permitted to have its way we shall soon be reduced to fifth in power. It should not be forgotten that only 14 years ago the rotten squadron of Cervera sent a shiver all over this nation and at first we were caught napping. Many of the strongest ships were in the Pacific and the Oregon was ordered by telegraph to steam around Cape Horn with all possible speed. To reach the scene of danger in Cuba required weeks of delay as the distance was more than 10,000 miles. Very fortunately the danger was not so great as at first supposed and Spain was too weak for effective work. What would have happened had we been dealing with England or Germany at that time is a possibility over which it is not pleasant to linger.

It was that incident which determined our government to build the Panama canal. Had it been in existence at the time the Oregon could have reached the scene of danger as quickly as Cervera could have crossed the Atlantic and from that lack of facilities for going from ocean to ocean was born the determination never again to be subjected to such a reign of terror. Then came the project of the canal and the upbuilding of our navy.

Within the next three years the Panama canal will be open and ready for business. Who should reap the most benefit from that enterprise—the men who pay the bills or the nation with the heaviest guns? Suppose that Japan should menace San Francisco, will we have a navy strong enough to send through the canal to her defense? This is a question that cannot be lightly answered. When too late we would curse the parsimony that had allowed our navy to lag in the race. We cannot prepare for war after war has been declared. The building of dreadnaughts is a matter of years and that nation which has them ready will never be attacked by a foreign foe. We have once learned what it means not to be prepared for any emergency, and history teaches us that the arrogant nation always strikes when its opponent is least ready to repel the assault. The greatest assurance of peace is to be amply prepared for war. Woe to that political party that places us at the mercy of a foreign invader.

THIS DATE IN HISTORY.

- May 28.
1672—War declared in Boston against the Dutch; the first declaration of war in the colonies.
7180—Thomas Moore the famous Irish poet, born. Died Feb. 25, 1852.
1837—Samuel D. McEnery, U. S. senator from Louisiana 1897-1909, born in Monroe, La. Died in New Orleans, June 29, 1910.
1842—Noah Webster, the famous philologist, died in New Haven, Conn. Born in Hartford, Oct. 16, 1758.
1866—Fourth regiment of Wisconsin cavalry mustered out after a service of five years and one day, the longest term on record of a volunteer organization.
1880—Forty lives lost in a tornado that swept Fannin county, Texas.
1898—Public funeral of Mr. Gladstone in Westminster Abbey.
1911—The Tobacco Trust lost its case in the supreme court of the United States.

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N. K. WEST
The Quality Store

"THIS IS MY 48TH BIRTHDAY."
Charles Alphonso Smith.

Professor Charles Alphonso Smith, the noted southern educator who was the "Roosevelt professor" at the University of Berlin two years ago, was born in Greensboro, N. C., May 28, 1864. His education was received at Davidson college and Johns Hopkins university. He served successively as instructor in English at Johns Hopkins as professor of English language and literature at Louisiana State university and as dean of the graduate department of the University of North Carolina. He left the last-named institution several years ago to join the faculty of the University of Virginia. In 1904 Professor Smith was elected president of the University of Tennessee, but declined.

Horse Lost.
Lost, strayed or stolen, sorrel mare branded with small c on left shoulder, one white foot, right front, and white stripe in forehead. Suitable reward for information leading to its recovery. See J. F. Campbell, 5 24-11

The first recorded strike in the United States was that of the journeymen bakers of New York in 1741.

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