

THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS, Editor and Owner

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A USEFUL CEDAR TREE.

In the death of Willis Duniway state printer, Oregon has lost one of her best citizens. He was always an Oregonian; always loyal to the state's enterprises and never failed to use his every influence to advance the interests of every portion of the commonwealth.

He came from excellent blood for the Duniway family is well known among the hardy pioneers who helped carve out the excellent Oregon of today. Ill health claimed him several years ago else Willis Duniway would have been among the most prominent of the state's citizens. He was at one time a receptive candidate for governor but was forced to abandon the ambition because of failing health. The newspaper fraternity of Oregon deeply regret the death of Willis Duniway.

"PUT" FOR STATE PRINTER.

The governor could do no more graceful an act than to appoint George Putman of the Medford Tribune to the office of state printer. "Put", as he is known far and wide, is not only capable to hold the job and hold it well, but he has ever been a friend to the governor and when others ridiculed the chief executive for some of his flighty and eccentric moves, "Put" stood pat and fought the governor's battles.

HARD TO BEAT THE OLD FRIENDS.

Hughie O'Neil, the all-purpose man of the O-W R. & N. company, was in La Grande last evening adjusting matters between the public and the common carrier and, as usual, he did not forget to pay his friendly call to the newspaper. You know Hughie is a newspaper man by instinct and would be by practice if there was more money in the business. Anyway there is something about the O'Neil twins (which includes Jack) that makes them fit mighty close to the people. In reviewing railroad row in Port-

land Hughie said that Ben Trumbell the Illinois Central man, was to quit the service Saturday and retire, and because of that vent the railroad men about 200 strong were going to give Ben a little feed and show their appreciation of the old chap. He also stated that Jack, his brother, was located in Seattle and has a good position. Jack was on this territory for years as passenger agent and he was one of the greatest "trouble shooters" ever sent out by the tall Wells-Fargo building.

Speaking of the O'Neills, there is an O'Neil Jr., that has the old twin brothers backed off the board. He is twenty-one months old and under "Uncle Jack's" training he has every time table west of the mountains committed to memory besides a few bear stories to fill in.

The old friends how hard it is to get along without them. The time was in Eastern Oregon when one of the "common people" had a grievance against the transportation company the first thought was to take it up with Jack or Hughie O'Neil before it went to the higher-ups. They were the go-betweens, and we have often thought of the many disturbances that have been settled that never reached the ears of president, vice president, general manager or passenger agent.

But time shifts the boys around and this territory has new faces on the jobs. Probably just as good men, but somehow the old acquaintance sticks and many of us still think of the O'Neills whenever we think of railroad business.

Here's hoping the Saturday evening feed may be all that "Moike" Roesch Jack McLaughlin, Chamberlain and the rest of the boys anticipate and that Ben Trumbull may live on easy street for many years.

DISCREDITING COL. MULHALL.

Among the congressional upper crust it seems to have become a popular pastime to discredit the statements made by Colonel Mulhall, remarks an editorial writer on the Portland Telegram and then he reviews the Mulhall statements as follows: There is some foundation for this, no doubt. The character of the man himself invites discredit. He is a self-confessed rascal; and so far as one can judge by his testimony he has lived largely by the dirty work he was paid for in politics. But so far as the country is concerned, Mulhall is not the issue: The issue is what he says he did, and what he proves he did. The facts and not the reputation of the man, or whether he has told the truth in every particular are what interest the great American people.

One of these facts that can be broadly stated is, that Mulhall was a corruptionist and political manipulator, and from the very nature of the man we may believe he would not have worked at that if he had not been paid for it. Another and specific fact of sufficient proof is that Mulhall worked for the National Association of manufacturers, and that he told the truth and has the proof of it in letters submitted to the senate commit-

tee, when he said that certain congressmen lobbied for that organization. In his own way Mulhall has thrown some new light on the way the game of politics has been played, and the essentials of that story are backed by proof in the form of letters written by others, and not to be rejected as competent testimony nor denied on the score of Mulhall rascality.

In his exposure of "invisible" government, Colonel Mulhall has shown up a bad place of business, and no one need be surprised if he should drag in a name now and then that ought not to be involved. But the main thread of his story is not rotten, not by any means; nor, again, should there be surprise if some of those that are involved should desire to hide behind the reputation and character of this man.

The public may not be able to judge of the merit of these discrediting efforts, but it will have no doubt whatever of the general truth of the Mulhall story.

THE MAN WHO MAKES IT GO.

What a personality is worth to an institution never can be calculated in dollars and cents. In a recent hearing held for fixing the present value of the New York Herald as compared with its former value, it was estimated that the personality of the late Joseph Pulitzer, the blind man who made up for the lack of a university education by studies that transformed him into an intellectual genius, was worth from \$150,000 to \$250,000 a year to the World. The object in making the estimate was to check off from former earnings the amount that Mr. Pulitzer would have drawn as salary if he had been a salaried man and not the owner.

Very often in appraising a going concern the value of everybody but the man who makes it go is taken into account. Every understrapper has his label with his exact value marked on it, but the chap who stands in the center of things and makes the wheels go around has no labels. He may be getting more or less than he is worth, but the fact is that usually no exact estimate of his worth is made until his services are no longer available.

Institutions stand or fall through the personality of the man at the top. What may seem a splendidly efficient force very often becomes human junk once the power that stood behind it and cheered it on to do its best is withdrawn. The units remain efficient, but the organized efficiency is lost. Some men exert a chilling, dwarfing influence on those with whom they come in contact, others radiate inspiration and courage as a stove radiates warmth and cheerfulness. Some men repress and suppress those around them, others stir them to attain a standard of which they never dreamed themselves capable. Some men are wet blankets, others are kindling wood. Some put out the fire of enthusiasm, others start it blazing.

When Mr. Pullitzer was alive every body thought he was mighty lucky to gather so many clever and brilliant men around him; today it is plain that he only took ordinary talented men and breathed into them some of the intellectual vivacity that was surging so strongly in him. Sometimes prejudiced, sometimes wrong in his viewpoint he yet was a great man in that he was such a superb "maker of men."

CHILI MAKES A PROPOSAL.

No more effective means of fostering and cementing friendship between this country and the Latin-American countries has been suggested than that outlined by the Chilean minister of foreign affairs and outlined to the state department at Washington in information sent by Minister Fletcher who is now in Santiago. It is the proposal of the Chilean government to send Chilean youths to this country to complete their education along practical and technical lines their government to pay the expenses of transportation each way.

Mr. Fletcher says that the proposal was formally made to Col. Henry L. Kincaid, president of the delegation of the oBaton Chamber of Commerce that recently visited Chili and other South American countries. In his report, Minister Fletcher says: "These youths after returning to Chili will be without doubt the best friends of the United States and at the same time many of them might become the most

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satisfactory agents or representatives in this country of those firms in whose employ they become men of business in their respective lines being able to contribute thus in return to the extension of the ideas, practices and commerce of the United States."

The last few years there has been a remarkable change in the attitude of commercial concerns in this country toward the Latin-American countries. They have discovered that there is a field for trade expansion to the south of us far greater than the field that Europe offers. They have discovered too, that their contemporaries in European countries have been ahead of them in recognizing the advantages of South and Central American trade and have gained a foothold that is proving a serious handicap to the Yankee trader.

The difficulties are intensified through the blind manner in which concerns in this country attempted to break into the field to the south and without attempting to study conditions there. They created a prejudice against the United States, its working to the advantage of European commerce. With the aid of the consular service, the United States government is seeking to overcome all this and commercial concerns are co-operating with the government to the extent that their knowledge of Latin-America will permit them, which is not very great.

It is an excellent idea, therefore, to bring the students of these countries to our own institutions, not only to send them back as friends and representatives of the commerce of the United States, but to keep some of them here, after their educations have been completed, to assist our commercial institutions in properly handling the business that they are now seeking to secure. It would be to the advantage of our government to co-operate with the government of Chili in bringing about such an arrangement as Minister Fletcher outlines and to seek to make similar arrangements with all countries to the south of us.

Harvest Time Is On.

"I am over here trying to induce Herm Seigrist, Jay Van Buren, Joe Carr, Ellis Kirtley and a lot more of these town shaps to enlist in Cove harvest fields," said Tom Johnson this

morning. Continuing the Cove rancher remarked: "We are about to harvest a real crop over there. You know when Woodrow was elected we democrats knew the sun would shine in the Grande Ronde and that the rain would come. You see it came, and we have grain in plenty. The world never was so bright. How about Mexico? Oh, never mind Mexico, let's harvest this crop and then talk about questions of state and chautauqua lectures--what kind of cigar did you say you wanted?" and with that Tom proceeded to

the supply houses to order things to eat for his crew of men.

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