

THE OBSERVER

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The final showdown is now on. Last winter the legislature passed the compensation act. A bunch of highbinders slapped the referendum on it. The state held another election to determine whether the compensation act was a legal document. The verdict was heavy in the affirmative. But still there is another heat to trot. What is termed a friendly suit has been brought to test the law and Senator Claude McColloch of Baker county is down at Salem trying to show the supreme court that the people knew what they were doing, while Attorney General Crawford and Attorney Kerr of Portland are trying to prove that the people knew not what they were doing. Now what do you think of that?

Baker county is feeling the gentle and fatherly hand of Governor West, who says to the pioneers of Baker, "you are a lot of bad, bad men and we will have to discipline you." Meanwhile the Salem hog continues to root up the garden patch of the state while the governor is looking across the mountains to see that some floater, who just landed in Huntington from Chicago does not play poker or expectorate on the sidewalk.

Down at Oregon City there is a pretty little fight on between the medical fraternity and an osteopath. The osteopath is a popular man and was chosen county health officer, and now the medical men refuse to report to him. Ouster proceedings are on and the osteopath shows fight. It is just such a fight as Oregon City likes, for the day is dark and dreary when some kind of a scrap cannot be brewed in two hours' time in William U'Ren's town.

In the language of Joe Campbell, when the Warren company's bill was being considered by the council as a last official act, "we are stung, skinned and beat, but we are going through with it." A word of explanation is in order, for Joe really meant that inasmuch as he had voted for the ordinance ordering the work done he would vote for the issuing of a warrant to pay the bill.

And now a strike among the marble cutters delays the work on the supreme court building at Salem. A little too much marble construction around Salem, coupled with the erratic notions of a boy governor is what is causing this tremendous statu-

tax. Think it over when you go to pay your taxes this year.

Really things are coming Sargent's way. To have a new baby girl at his house and be relieved of the office of councilman the same evening bears evidence that he carries either a horse shoe or a rabbit's foot.

The most laughable thing just now is Bourne opposing U'Ren's views on paid circulators for referendum petitions. These two old cronies will surely have a hard time making people believe that they still do not occupy the same coil spring mattress.

After the first of January be careful that your income does not exceed \$3,000 or the federal officers will be after you for that income tax. The law exempts school teachers, and salaries exempt most everyone else in Union county.

It would seem that the O-W. R. & N. company in changing the leaving time of the "pony" to 4:45 in the afternoon has just about reached perfection in the service of that train.

"I got as much use for you as the city of Portland has for her disgraced police force," is the way one little La Grande boy called down a companion who had mistreated him.

Toy Young is shipping several cars of potatoes to Chicago. About next year Toy will be wanting to send a ship load to the new republic across the water.

The referendum election cost Multnomah county alone \$11,531.10. Quite a chunk of the university appropriation could have been paid with this useless expense.

LIMERICK MAN STILL LIVES

Hot Lake Springs, Nov. 21.—(Special)—"The Limerick" man, peace to his ashes! took his departure when Charley King, an old La Grande man, returned to his present home in Phoenix, B. C. Since then the guests at Hot Lake Springs have been busy gathering daffodils—not the fragrant flower of the "Fields," but that literary (God save the word) license which permits of the play upon one's name. The manager of Hot Lake was asked the other day for his "Tape" measure—'twas "Pat," the "Pat-rician," who did the asking—that a "Plank" might be obtained for one of the "Bridges" over the "Eddy" of the largest of the "Brooks." They have a "Mason" to do the necessary "Stone" work. "Willis" there to help if necessary. The "Work," however, will have to be done at "Knight." The "Guy" does not want to assist, but the job will be "Prest-on" him.

Just then through the "Hall" came the two "Cooks," each with a "Kerr" following. One was dressed in "Brown" and the other "White." The engineer came, also, rubbing his hind. The doctor examined it and said: "Why, it's a 'Wort-man,' and the 'Moore' you 'Foster' it, the longer will you have it."

Then turning to the man from The Dalles, he added: "Got a bee and 'Gosting' it; that might help."

Then some one, Mary "Or-mandy" ran out into the barnyard and the "Cox" began to crow. "Wat-son" of



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a chicken made the most noise no one knows. Now, don't get in a "Huff-man."

FOR THE CHILDREN

The Ring—A Game.

The greater the number of players in this game the more fun. Two camps are formed, an equal number of players in each. One of the camps is to defend a place chosen as a goal, which the players of the other camp are to endeavor to reach.

When the goal has been decided upon and the players of each camp chosen the guardians of the goal stand at their post while the players of the other camp assemble and, without being seen by the guardians, choose from their number the person whom they think most likely to reach the goal without being taken.

To this one they intrust some object they call "the ring;" then all scatter. The guardians of the goal try to capture all their adversaries, because they do not know which one holds the ring. This task is quite difficult, especially if the bearer of the ring is a good runner, because his course will be favored by the tricks of his partners, who will defend him by allowing themselves to be taken or by drawing off the guardians from their goal.

If the player who holds the ring reaches the goal without being taken by the guardians his camp keeps the ring, even though some of his party have been taken prisoners, and the game begins again by putting the ring in the hands of another player on the same side.

If, on the other hand, the holder of the ring is captured before reaching the goal the two camps change sides, the former guardians becoming holders of the ring and the first holders the guardians of the goal.

The Toad and the Grasshopper. "If you please, sir," said the toad to the grasshopper, "you're so unceremonious that you are almost impertinent."

"I impertinent?" said the grasshopper. "How do you make that out?" "I'm forty years older than you, and you hurl yourself at me as though you were my equal."

"Forty years! And pray what have you been up to all this time?" "I was shut up, sir, in yonder stone."

"Yes, and what did you accomplish?" "Nothing," replied the toad.

"Then, sir, you might be my superior in years, but in nothing else. If you had used your life to some advantage there'd be a reason, but now"—and the grasshopper sniffed the air.

"I'm only one week old, but I have chirped and hopped and chirped, and—well, what's the use of wasting time on a lazy thing like you? I have work to do, so goodbye," and with another sniff the grasshopper left the poor little toad on the roadside and went his way.

Game of Twilight. Each child takes the name of a flower, and seats are provided for all but one, who stands in the center and slowly spins a wooden plate, calling the name of a flower at the same time. The girl whose flower name is called leaps up to catch the plate before it falls, and the vacant chair is taken by the spinner.

If the plate is not caught before it falls a forfeit is required from the one who fails to catch unless it is

plainly the fault of the spinner in not giving it a sufficient impetus, in which case she must try it over again. If, instead of a flower, "twilight" is called, all change places, and the one who feels to secure a seat becomes the spinner. If "moonlight" is called all must sit still, and any one who jumps up is liable to forfeit. If "double twilight" is called a double change of seats is made.

The Bat. Of course you know that the bat is not a bird at all. Birds have feathers, and the bat has soft, smooth fur. He is absolutely harmless unless frightened or hurt, and he is a very useful little fellow. He eats mosquitoes and houseflies and the insects that cause most of the worm eaten apples.

Bats fly only at night. They soon become friendly with any one who is kind to them and will come to be fed or stroked. One who has studied them says that the good they do is very great and that the value of one of the little animals might easily amount to \$50 a year.

Riddles. What is the best word of command to give a lady who is crossing a muddy road?—Dress up in front, close (clothes) up behind.

Why is a postman in danger of losing his way? Because he is guided by the direction of strangers.

What fruit is like a statue? Fig (ef-f-gy).

Why should Denmark be an eminently religious country? Because it has had so many Christians kings.

What would Neptune say if the sea were dried up? I haven't a notion (an ocean).

Dot's Feet. "Ma," cried Dot, "my button shoes are hurting me."

"Why, child, no wonder," exclaimed ma; "you put them on the wrong feet!"

Dot looked puzzled; then said: "What will I do, ma? They are all the feet I got."

Nonsense. The sun was up. The day had come. Miss Buttercup (The pretty one) Put on her cap Of yellow silk And filled her lap With butter-milk.

Serious Harm From Noise. Investigations made by physicians prove that there is appreciable harm from noise, and serious harm too. It is no doubt true that a normal nervous system can apparently adjust itself to all sorts of adverse circumstances. We couldn't exist otherwise. Nevertheless the inimical agents make an impress and, like water dropping on a stone, can overcome resistance in time. These investigators have found many abnormal nervous conditions in those who have long been immersed in loud noise utterly unaware that any harm was being done.—London Tit-Bits.

Water Safety. In Massachusetts all streams of water unsuited for drinking must be marked so that the fact cannot be overlooked.

His Status. Mrs. Honk—Colonel Honk is a congressman at large, isn't he? Honk—Yes. They haven't arrested him yet—Puck.

All that thou givest thou wilt carry away with thee.—Turkish Proverb.

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