

THE OBSERVER
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SECOR'S FINANCIAL PLAN.

If "Patrick" SeCor can pull off his plan to finance the Union County Fair association as indicated in last evening's Observer, there will be a goodly number tiptoe and call him blessed. For Union county people want a fair—one that can be depended upon each year and in order to have that the home of the fair must be free from mortgage and not subject to the semi-annual interest payments.

Under the SeCor plan the whole transaction is reduced to units. He would unitize the fair grounds by selling it off in town lots with the deed carrying express privilege of holding county fairs there as long as the association lives. At first thought it sounds good. Every stockholder would be protected from actual loss which seems sure to follow unless something of this kind is done. A deed to a lot in that part of the city is always worth what it will cost under the SeCor plan. And, best of all, the county is then assured of a permanent fair grounds and the whole energy of the association can be centered upon the annual exposition rather than to scraping money together to pay interest.

THE PIONEER AND SETTLER

As we understand the common acceptance of the term, "pioneer" it has reference to those who came to this country in its early history. Men and women who shaped the destinies of things in this neck o' the woods. The "settler" came later. Probably after the schools and churches were built and roads laid out.

The settler deserves proper consideration, but the pioneer deserves profound respect. It is easy for we Johnny-come-laties to enter the

west in Pullman cars and after arriving here walk on streets properly paved and enjoy the other luxuries of modern civilization. But the pioneer first of all is entitled to admiration for his grit and fortitude. The settler was also a stayer and did his part. But in reality the two should not be confused.

THE CASE OF CHESTER BROUGHN.

At last Chester Broughn has been caught. After running the gauntlet of many juries, facing a number of courts and enjoying acquittal it was left to a Malheur county jury to find the young man guilty of passing worthless checks.

The conviction of Chester Broughn should be a warning to every young man or woman who has begun to flirt with dishonesty. Broughn is apparently a bright young man in many respects. He has some winning traits of character, but he positively would not abide by the laws of man and as a result he is finally caught in the legal net and is headed straight for prison.

There is one interested more in this case than any other person, including young Broughn himself. That person is his mother. She is a woman of excellent education and refined tastes, who loved her boy, just as every mother loves her boy. Through the many instances when young Broughn was charged with crookedness there was one who always stood at the bar of justice pleading with court and lawyer to save him—to save her boy, her baby boy, for this boy will always be her baby, regardless of his age. The pangs of grief which pierce that parental heart must be terrific as she hears sentence upon the baby she had "cuddled" so many years—the boy whom she was so proud of and pictured as a successful citizen in the future.

The one who suffers most in this case, where justice was forced to act to protect society from young men like Broughn, is the mother.

BROWN—HE PAYS.

Carl Brown, carrier on the Lardo-Warren mail route, spent Saturday in town looking after business matters and greeting old-time friends. Mr. Brown has made an enviable record in carrying mails to Warren the past fall and winter, and has done it at great personal cost, pending an adjustment of compensation by the department for the enormous increase in parcel post mail. The new order now admitting 56-pound packages to the mails will enable the miners in Warren and Big Creek districts to

ship practically all their supplies by parcel post. The charges on supplies taken into that region at this time of the year by freighters is 10 cents per pound, or \$5.00 for 50 pounds. The postage on a 50-pound package by parcel post to points within the second zone (150) miles is 54 cents.—Meadows Eagle.

There are thousands of Browns paying the cost of carrying on Uncle Sam's parcel post business, says a Boise newspaper, in this connection. They contract to carry mail; they are now required to carry freight. They cannot quit excepting at the expense of their bondsmen. The parcel post is desirable, but it ought to pay at least the cost of service. It is now bringing in enough so Uncle Sam could afford to do it. Uncle Sam alone can get away with such a dishonest way of doing business.

SINGING TO A PHONOGRAPH.

One of the Most Trying Ordeals in an Opera Artist's Career.

Specially constructed violins, cellos, tubas, drums and reed instruments are required as accompaniment to the grand opera singer when he or she essays to wait the voice upon a phonograph record. And it is safe to say this singing to the phonograph is the most trying ordeal in the artist's career.

Singers like Caruso, Melba, Farrar, Amato and a host of others are united in declaring the singing for records is the hardest work they ever have undertaken. They are bereft of their audiences that inspire confidence, and they necessarily must be careful to avoid false notes or inflections. The slightest clearing of the throat or the muffled shuffling of feet will spoil a record. And then it all has to be done over again.

The singer is ushered into a great barnlike room, curtained off at one end. Through this curtain protrudes a gigantic brass horn, suspended from the ceiling. It is attached to the phonograph record.

It is then the singer notices a bevy of musicians, but with instruments the like of which he never has seen in any theater. The violins are of different shapes from the instruments with which he is familiar. The horns are of varied shapes, and to each is attached a little funnel that points in the direction of the large receiving horn. This is to concentrate the sound.

The conductor sits on a platform high above his musicians and the singer. Thus he offers no obstruction to the free transmission of the sound waves. The singer is stationed upon a platform and close to the mouth of the horn.

A red light flashes, the musicians pour forth light, soft melody, for which their instruments are particularly designed, and the grand opera artist loosens his vocal cords. His tone must be steady and strong. The slightest variation is recorded upon the wax record, and a trivial noise may spoil the performance. Once he has finished, the record is placed upon a producing machine and played over to detect faults. These errors are pointed out and the singer rehearsed to prevent them. Again he repeats the song, and perhaps a dozen times he is forced to sing before a perfect wax impression is obtained.

Great grand opera artists are paid thousands of dollars for a series of records, and the sale of these brings millions to the manufacturers.—Indianapolis Star.

Dueling Prime Ministers.

In the old days a number of British premiers figured on the dueling ground. John Wilson Croker wrote in 1841: "Within the last hundred years six persons have fought duels who have been prime ministers—Pulteney (Lord Bath), Lord Shelburne, Mr. Pitt, Mr. Fox, Mr. Canning and the Duke of Wellington. I might also add Peel, who twice challenged, and Castlereagh, who was almost a first minister. Of late years the custom has certainly decreased, and the house of lords has not now, I dare say, above half a dozen who have actually fought."—London Standard.

Kansas in Rims.

I love the state of Kansas, with its fields of wheat and corn; I love the Kansas sunset and the Kansas dewy morn, and, speaking metaphorically, I grow fat on Kansas crops and never mind the absence of the yield of rye and hops; I love the Kansas porter and the Kansas topnotch steer; I love the Kansas zephyrs and the Kansas atmosphere; I love the Kansas sermons, and I love the Kansas jokes, but the thing I love in Kansas most is the Kansas kind of folks.—Kansas City Republic.

You Can Lower The Cost of Living

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Take your choice of any Tailored Suit for - \$9.90

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35 Men's and Boy's OVERCOATS
Values to \$15.00

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Men's Heavy CLOTHING Reduced

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The Organ.
Like most important inventions, that of the organ is veiled in mystery. The invention of the organ has been attributed to Ctesibius, a barber of Alexandria, about 250 B. C.; also to the celebrated Archimedes, 220 B. C. It is certain that the organ was brought to Europe from the eastern or Greek empire and was applied to religious devotions in churches about A. D. 650.

It is Different Now.
When the first Pullman car was put into operation on our railways the system of bookkeeping was very crude. The conductor collected the fare from the passengers and before he turned the money in to the company collected his own salary from the revenues. No receipts were given, no records kept.

Paid Her in Full.
Candid Hostess (on seeing her nephew's fiancée for the first time)—I never should have known you from your photograph. Reggie told me you were so pretty. Reggie's fiancée—No; I'm not pretty, so I have to try to be nice, and it's such a bore. Have you ever tried?—London Punch.

Legal Ability.
"Why does a man have to hire a lawyer for every little thing? Ain't the laws plain?"
"You don't understand. A good lawyer can take any law and prove that it doesn't mean what it says."—Washington Herald

A Paradox.
"Since Footlight inherited a fortune he is a paradox."
"What's the answer?"
"He's both the richest and poorest actor on the stage."

Bean Decision Means Much.
Portland, Jan. 16.—The decision of Judge Bean, of the United States District Court, in the suit involving the legality of the six-for-a-quarter streetcar fare absolutely robs the council of the right to regulate charges, fares or rates which may be expected of patrons by a public service corporation in this city and curtails the power of the council to fix a compensation for the granting of a public utility franchise, according to City Attorney La Roche and Commissioner Daly, in commenting on the decision this morning.

The fixing of all charges, rates and fares is left entirely with the state railroad commission and this body can also rescind any section of a franchise which provides that a public service corporation shall pay a remuneration to the city for the grant.

In other words, the city has prac-

tically nothing to say about what charges shall be made for service or what compensation the city shall receive from a public utility company for a franchise. Commissioner Daly is going to secure a written copy of the opinion as soon as possible and go over it thoroughly to determine if the city has been left any loophole through which it may retain at least a bit of its power to have a little to say what shall be a reasonable regulation of service or a reasonable compensation for a franchise.

"It now looks as if our only recourse is to carry our fight before the state railroad commission," said Daly. "I have already determined on this step, and the city will be prepared to show that the company can sell six fares for a quarter and make money. In all probability I will submit a report of the case to the council tomorrow and ask for the privilege of preparing an appeal to that body.

"According to this decision, if the city granted a franchise to a public utility corporation and attempted to limit in any way the charges which may be made for service, the company after accepting the franchise could appeal to the state railroad commission on the ground that the regulation was unjust, and if the company made a showing to justify its contention in the minds of the commission, the provision of the franchise could be set aside absolutely. Also, if a franchise is granted with the provision that a certain compensation be paid the city for the privilege, the state railway commission could declare the compensation unjust and the company still would retain its franchise and would not have to pay the city anything for the privilege.

"As a concrete illustration, should the city grant the franchise now pending to the Portland Railway,

Light & Power company for the right to cross all the bridges owned by the city over the Willamette, and the city would make an exact compensation of 3 cents a car for each car crossing the bridges, the company, after accepting the franchise with this provision, could turn around and appeal to the state railroad commission on the basis that its earning capacity would not warrant this 3-cent charge, the commission could rescind this clause in the grant, and the franchise would still be retained by the corporation.

"It appears to me that this proposition is absolutely unjust, but we are going to make a strong fight to protect a few of our rights in the matter."

La Grande National Bank

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UNITED STATES POSTAL SAVINGS DEPOSITORY.

Capital\$100,000.00
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La Grande National Bank

La Grande, Oregon

Berry Bros. Grocery

A nice assortment of Vegetables to pick from for your Sunday Dinner: Celery, Cauliflower, Cabbage, Carrots, Head Lettuce, Hot House Lettuce, Sweet Spuds, Green Peppers, Parsnips, Turnips, Dry Onions, Pine Apples, Grape Fruits, Jonathan Apples.

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