

THE OBSERVER

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TOM KAY AND STATE EXPENSE.

The Observer has been waiting for some man of state size to come to the front and do a little explaining as to the reason of the enormous increase in public expense. Tom Kay, the present state treasurer, has proven to be that man. In a recent speech he told the story of state waste in a way that the layman can understand him.

He firmly fastened what everybody believed—that the prime cause of state extravagance is due to the horde of office holders and to the large number of commissions, etc., which have sprung up during these days of "non-partisan" administration when the candidates have taken the stump and told the people how they were being grafted. These exemplifications of purity have elected to many places and yet the taxes have trebled in seven years while the state has only one-third more population that she had seven years ago.

It is up to Mr. Kay to follow his own lead in this expose of state business. Let him visit every county and tell the voters at first hand what is wrong, and in doing so Kay will call a spade a spade with no desire to shield or protect any pets.

We need information on the whole scheme of taxation such as Mr. Kay can give and the Observer urges him to take the stump and make a tour of the state.

OVERTIME.

Not long ago the editor of this paper wanted to send a night letter in a certain city where he happened to be. Calling up the telegraph office we asked the party in charge to take the letter and were informed it was only four minutes until quitting time and to take the letter would require working overtime. We called long distance over the telephone and paid telephone rates for the message, which was just double the telegraph rate. Later the telegraph operator called up, probably after reconsidering the matter, and said he would take the night letter. It was too late as we already had the message delivered.

Overtime is something that no man should stand too much of, but a few minutes of overtime will hurt no one and would make help a great deal more valuable occasionally to those who employ labor. There is such a thing as being too particular as to one's overtime, sometimes it kills the goose that lays the golden egg. The man who has reached the top of large business enterprises has never acquired his position of trust and influence because he was afraid to work a few minutes overtime.

SCHOOL HOUSES TOO EXPENSIVE.

It is very gratifying to see a decided sentiment in favor of not build-

ing such expensive school buildings, especially in growing towns and cities where the centers of population are liable to change in the course of a few years.

La Grande has much money invested in brick and mortar—probably not too much, but certainly sufficient for the pocketbook of the community.

We believe the Lou Alderman idea of grouping bungalows for school purposes will become popular. It is a sensible idea, just as all of Alderman's ideas along educational lines, are sensible, and when La Grande is called upon to build more buildings for the rapidly increasing army of school children let us all investigate the Alderman idea before putting up a hundred thousand dollars for another new school building.

In the examination conducted at Pendleton last week for appointment to the United States naval academy, Irving Rand, son of Mr. and Mrs. John L. Rand, of Baker, passed the highest grade and was chosen by Representative Sinnott. If the boy proves to be a "son of his father" in doings things in this world, as he no doubt will, Irving Rand will be heard from as the years go by.

Senator J. N. Burgess, of Umatilla county, has almost been persuaded to run again for state senator in that county. Charlie Barrett, of Athena, will also be a candidate for re-election for joint senator from Umatilla-Union district. It would seem that the boys across the mountains look more carefully after these nominations than they do on this side of the range.

Ex-Congressman Ellis has removed from the second congressional district and is now located in Portland with a ranch on the Washington side of the Columbia as a side-line. The ex-congressman is also letting his beard grow again and the congressional possibilities of the Multnomah district had better look a little out.

Col. H. G. Newport, of Hermiston, who is well known in Union county, took unto himself a bride in the person of Mrs. Lola G. Whitney, of Portland, a few days ago. And here's to success and happiness for the happy pair.

Dan Kellaher came near getting by in Portland with his east side location for the new auditorium. "Asleep at the switch" would have been the west siders if they had permitted such a thing to happen.

Prosperity item: The Northern Pacific is to spend five million dollars in double tracking the lines from Portland to Puget Sound.

A recall petition on the mayor is running lose in Portland without any backing, which illustrates the cowardice possible in invoking recalls.

Will Hi Gill be mayor of Seattle? It is not to be hardly expected, but should it happen Seattle will demonstrate its need of a guardian.

\$47,392.61. CITY OF LA GRANDE, OREGON. IMPROVEMENT BONDS

Notice is hereby given, that the City of La Grande, Union County, Oregon, will receive sealed bids for the purchase of Improvement Bonds, in the sum of \$47,392.61, as follows: \$14,538.63. Bitulithic pavement; \$24,682.77. Concrete pavement, and \$8,171.21 sewer, in denominations of \$500.00, bearing interest at 6 per cent per annum, payable semi-annually at the office of the City Treasurer, bonds maturing in ten years, optional on the date of any interest payment after one year, and must be accompanied by certified check for 5 per cent of the amount bid, said bids to be filed with the City Recorder not later than 7:30

o'clock, p. m., March 18, 1914. The Commission reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

La Grande, Oregon, Feb. 21, 1914. LEE WARNICK, Recorder of the City of La Grande, Oregon. 2-23,4t.

COLORADO'S ULTIMATUM.

For a While It Made Napoleon III. Sit Up and Take Notice.

The man who sent the first private message over the Atlantic cable was commemorated in a recent Cornhill Magazine. According to that magazine, it was William Gilpin, who was appointed governor of Colorado by President Lincoln in 1861.

The line was ready for business on Aug. 5, 1866. At that time Napoleon III. was in the plenitude of his power. His every movement was eagerly watched from both hemispheres. He was believed to have his eye on Bomeia.

Mr. Gilpin was a man of humor, and it occurred to him that it would be a good joke to hand to the agents of the Atlantic cable this message for the French emperor:

"Denver, Colo., Aug. 4, 1866. To Louis Napoleon Bonaparte, Emperor, Tulleries, Pa. is. France: Please leave Bohemia alone. No interference will be tolerated by this territory.

"WILLIAM GILPIN." Mr. Gilpin wrote his dispatch merely in the exuberance of humor. The cable people, eager for custom and knowing that the former governor of Colorado could pay the bill, forwarded it. It was duly delivered at the Tulleries and for awhile startled and mystified the emperor.

The freak cost Mr. Gilpin \$30, and all he got for his money was the reputation of inaugurating the Atlantic cable and the satisfaction of playing a joke on the French emperor.

Cheerfulness.

Mirth is like a flash of lightning that breaks through a gloom of clouds and glitters for a moment; cheerfulness keeps up a kind of daylight in the mind and fills it with a steady and perpetual serenity.—Addison.

Very Trilling.

Ella, the faithful maid, was arranging her mistress' hair one afternoon when she mentioned that she had heard Miss Allen sing in the parlor the evening before.

"How did you like her singing, Ella?" asked the mistress. "Oh, mum," sighed the maid, "it was grand! She sung just as if she was gargling!"

King Alfonso's Joke.

King Alfonso told President Poincare's shooting party at Rambouillet an amusing story of a trick he played on one of his ministers in Spain.

This minister, said the king, was a very bad shot. One day he saw a little



MISSED, AS USUAL.

rabbit moving slowly through the grass about fifteen yards away. He fired both barrels and missed as usual, but the rabbit still remained in sight. Once more the minister fired. He fired in all thirty-six cartridges and at last bowled the rabbit over.

Delighted, the minister ran and picked up the rabbit, which, however, had tied around its neck a card with the words, "Long life to Senor —," then came the minister's name. It was a stuffed rabbit which a keeper pulled about by a string.

"It was a year before my minister forgave me for the trick I played upon him," concluded Alfonso.

He Told Her.

Oscar Seagle is a stanch American and proud of his American lineage. The baritone's family, who are south erners, lost most of their fortune during the war between the states, and as the father died while quite young the family was left in rather straitened circumstances. So Oscar, fired by the American spirit of independence, sought a vocation to earn some money for himself and arranged to accom-

pany the driver of a laundry wagon on his rounds and collect the packages of laundry. Some years later, meeting one of the society ladies in London at a dinner party, the lady said: "Where have I seen you, Mr. Seagle? Your face seems very familiar." "At your back door, madam, often when you came to complain that your husband's collars were not properly done," explained the singer, with a twinkle.

Sarcastic.

A gang of laborers was employed digging a mysterious ditch across the street. It was a sewer or a place to put a gas pipe or something. One man in particular was working as if he were a chorus man in a play, just going through the motions and pretending to dig a ditch. The foreman came along and spoke to him. "Don't be afraid," with rich sarcasm. "Lean on the shovel now an' thin. If it breaks 'ome for it!"—Argonaut.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR HOUSEWIVES

Doorbell That Rings When Knob Is Turned.



In a new invention which has been recently patented the act of turning the knob will ring a bell which is located on the back of the door. This dispenses with the uncertainty of the electric bell, which must be given more or less attention from time to time to maintain it in operating order. The external appearance of the knob is exactly the same as any other, but inside there is a curved segment secured to the shank of the knob. As this is moved back and forth in the movement of the knob a lever which operates the bell is agitated and causes the bell to ring.

Mincemeat.

Boil three pounds of lean boneless meat, and when cold put through food chopper. Then add four quarts chopped apples, one quart of ground suet, two pints of fruit juice, cherry or strawberry are the best; one pound of currants, one and one-half pounds of seeded raisins cut in halves. The juice of four lemons, peelings of three oranges, which have been through food chopper; one-fourth of a citron cut fine, one tablespoonful of cinnamon, one-half tablespoonful of allspice, one-half tablespoonful of cloves, one and one-half pints of weak vinegar, and then add enough brown sugar to suit the taste.

Maple Waffles.

Vermont maple waffles are delicious when served nicely buttered and piping hot. To make them, soften one cupful of finely shaved maple sugar in three cupfuls of milk. Sift one quart of flour with three teaspoonfuls of baking powder and one saltspoonful of salt, then rub in one tablespoonful of softened butter. Beat the yolks of four eggs until light, then add the milk and sugar and stir gradually into the flour; beat thoroughly, fold in the whites of eggs beaten stiff and dry and beat again. Bake in well greased and heated waffle irons.—Rural New Yorker.

Cheese Biscuit.

An excellent cheese biscuit is made by sifting together two cupfuls of flour, four teaspoonfuls of baking powder and one and one-half teaspoonfuls of salt, then with a fork or the fingers work into it one-quarter of a pound of cheese and add gradually about a cupful of water. It is impossible to give the exact amount of water, as flour differs in its capacity for taking up moisture. Toss the dough on a floured board, roll out and cut with a biscuit cutter. When in the pan sprinkle over the top a bit of grated cheese.

Virginia Corn Bread.

Three cupfuls of white meal, one cupful of flour, one tablespoonful of sugar, one teaspoonful of salt, two heaping teaspoonfuls of baking powder, one tablespoonful of lard, three cups of milk and three eggs. Sift together the flour, cornmeal, sugar, salt and baking powder. Rub in the lard

cold, add three well beaten eggs and then the milk. Mix into a moderately stiff batter, pour into well greased, shallow baking pans and bake from thirty to forty minutes.

Old Fashioned Soups.

Take pigs' feet and head, thoroughly clean and place in salt water to soak for twenty-four hours. Then boil until the bones slip easily from the meat. Take up and when cool enough to handle, carefully remove all bones. Mince or grind through a meat chopper, season with salt, pepper and sage to suit the taste and press in a mold. This is very nice sliced and placed in vinegar, or for breakfast sliced and dipped in batter and fried.

Golden Betty.

To make brown betty with cheese arrange in a deep earthenware dish alternate layers of breadcrumbs and thinly sliced apples. Season with cinnamon, a little clove and brown sugar. Scatter some finely shaved mild full cream cheese over each layer of apples and when the dish is full scatter breadcrumbs over the top and bake thirty-five to forty minutes, placing the dish in a pan of water so that the pudding will not burn.

Popcorn Balls.

Pop corn in popper, put in pan. Take teaspoonful molasses, butter size of walnut and one teaspoonful vinegar. Cook all together until it will harden when dropped in cold water, then pour over corn and make in balls.

Japanese Flower Etiquette.

To order a dozen or two of roses or carnations indiscriminately over the telephone, to be delivered in a paste board box by a florist's boy, as a gift to a friend would mean a lack of refinement to a Japanese, writes Grace H. Bagley in Suburban Life. In fact, ignorance of flower lore might result in disastrous blunder. If, for example, you sent a purple wistaria, however exquisite in itself, to a bride she would hardly forgive you, since purple is a color of a bad omen, never to be used on felicitous occasions. On the other hand, you would convey a delicate compliment by sending chrysanthemums, because, on account of their long period of blooming, they signify long life. A peony sent to a friend is a flattering recognition of his distinction, as it is suitable only for those of high rank.

The Comparison Held.

A lecturer went to Yonkers with a letter to a Yonkers citizen from a man in New Rochelle and succeeded in getting an engagement. His three hour lecture proved dull, dry and uninteresting. Next day Mr. Yonkers met Mr. New Rochelle.

"What did you mean," asked Yonkers, "by recommending that lemon lecturer?"

"I didn't recommend him."

"Well, I just guess you did. I've your letter right here in my pocket."

"Better read it over again—carefully," Mr. Yonkers did. It was nonconformist!

"I have heard Mr. B.'s lecture. It is as interesting as it is instructive."

"And it wasn't either," said Yonkers.

"Then the comparison holds," said New Rochelle.—New York World.

A Queer Question.

"I have come to consult you," she said to the prominent lawyer.

"What is the trouble?"

"I have received three proposals of marriage, and I do not know which to accept."

"Which man has the most money?"

"Do you imagine," she asked, "that if I knew I would consult you or any other lawyer?"—Birmingham Age-Her.

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