

THE OBSERVER

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TRAINING CITY MANAGERS.

The University of Michigan, like the Oregon University, has established a course in municipal administration for the training of city managers capable of earning from \$2000 to \$10,000 a year in the positions made available by the new type of government which is in vogue.

A course in municipal government a few years ago meant a course in ward heeling politics. A man couldn't learn it in schools. The classroom was a dark back room, the dingy office of a city boss. There was no such thing then as a science of city government. It was something which everybody could do. Those who failed in other fields found a welcome in the field of city politics for the simple reason that the less the man knew or cared about business the better off he was.

In those days, clean, honest business men had nothing more to do with municipal politics than they could help. The more unscrupulous, by corrupt alliances with the clique in power, fattened off the contracts, concessions and special privileges. The great majority of good citizens sat back disgusted.

What a long way we have gone is made evident by the fact that now we have courses to train men to become efficient city managers. The University of Michigan is by no means the only one in the field. Harvard, Columbia, the University of Wisconsin and numerous others provide such instruction. It is but a symptom of the country-wide awakening to the importance of putting competency in the saddle in city affairs.

Incidentally, those cities which have obsolete charters do not get the full benefit of the new spirit which animates municipal government.

TUBERCULOSIS ON THE FARM.

That tuberculosis is more prevalent in farming communities, and that the city is rapidly coming to be healthier than the country is a statement made by a prominent member of an anti-tuberculosis society.

Strange as it may seem, we actually get more air in the city than do many country dwellers. In the city organized fresh air crusades have awakened most families to the necessity for some form of continuous ventilation. In some parts of the country houses still are closed as tightly as possible during the greater part of the winter. In the city the health department have borne down on the necessity of pure water until the greater number fight shy of private sources of supply. In the country wells with water from doubtful sources are by no means uncommon. The average city man works fairly steadily for a third or more of the twenty-four hours, but usually has enough time left for rest and recreation. In the rush seasons the farmer works abnormally long hours at heavy labor and in slack seasons has difficulty in keeping busy. In the city a united effort has been made to inculcate the means by which good health is to be secured; in the country the intelligent and the progressive know what to do and what not to do, but many others have only heard

echoes of the big urban health campaigns.

Normally the country is healthier than the city. Co-operation, to avoid the ills to which the old type of city seemed an inevitable victim, has made the new type quite a different place. Necessity has compelled cities to guard closely all possible sources of contagion and to undertake the education of their residents to live so as to secure the maximum physical well being.

PUNISHING THE SOLDIER.

In some respects the United States government is about the slowest moving body in this country.

In certain departments it is like the man who has heard of the twentieth century, but who considers it an idle rumor which will be contradicted by later dispatches.

Its attitude toward military prisoners has been in this class.

Instead of taking the viewpoint adopted in so many of the states which form the Union, the Union itself apparently has considered that the way our forefathers did things is good enough for us.

The whole idea back of the treatment meted out to soldiers guilty of purely military offenses has been punishment.

The modern idea is reformation.

Dozens and scores of prisoners in this country take hardened, supposedly desperate criminals and make men of them. The method used is decently kind treatment mingled with a recognition that when they passed inside the prison doors they did not cease to be human. Bad though they may be and often are, they're looked on as inherently good until they're given absolute proof that they're inherently bad.

Today when a soldier deserts—and with thousands of homesick boys in the army it's a wonder more don't desert—he is subjected to the extreme of prison discipline. At army posts he does menial jobs about the place and in doing them is exposed in all his shame to the eyes of every man in the regiment and of every casual passerby. An armed guard stands over him ready to shoot him down like a dog on the first suspicion that he is attempting to escape. All during his imprisonment he is treated like a man of whom the worst may be expected. When his term is over he is dishonorably discharged from the army, his taint of dishonor passing down to his children and his children's children.

It is proposed to change all this, but chiefly to make it possible for the well-behaved prisoner to regain his standing in the army. Nothing could be more sensible than for the United States to get up to the standard of the states in treatment of prisoners.

Huerta is recruiting boys into his Mexican army. They probably will be old men by the time the Mexican war is over.

TAXES PAID; HAPPY.

The income tax man is eternally too late, For I've paid my taxes, county, school and state. Of course my income is entirely too small, So the county treasurer got it quite all. He gave my leg one long, hard pull, And wrote a receipt for taxes in full. So now I sleep nights; no burglar I fear; My "rent" is paid up for another while year.

—C. D. SCOTT.

AMERICAN BOY SEEN AT HIS VERY BEST

The marble scramble on the corner of Adams and Chestnut yesterday afternoon was better than the best circus that ever came to La Grande. Promptly at 4:05 Pat Foley with his able private secretary, "Gustave," ascended to the roof of the Foley hotel building and with his silk shirt sleeves fluttering in the wind, proceeded to untie the packages that contained 10,000 marbles.

From above Pat looked down upon a sea of radiant, expectant faces, red sweaters, shirt sleeves and waving hands and hats. A great shout greeted Pat's appearance, and reminded one of the appearance of a great political rapid fire gun getting off the rear platform of an observation car. Pat was "some" hero for the time being and no doubt would get every vote for Governor from this crowd. More than 750 eager, marble shooting, play-fores, quit-cher-fudgin, sore thumbed youngsters, with hearts that beat like a miniature fire engine, with faces upturned, with eyes riveted on every move of the man with the marbles,— thronged the street and made it look as much like a busy bee hive, or a hornet's nest as any imitation could. There was nothing "staged" about it. It was spontaneous, virile, American. It was a demonstration of the acquisitive quality in man, untrammelled by conventions, unrestricted by any rule of the game, a splendid picture of young boys whose senses have not been dulled by excesses.

The first handful is released. Thirty tinted pellets are drawn to the pavement by a big law, thirty little marbles are stowed away by little hands in little pockets. Another handful comes and another and still another. And Pat and Gustave smiled. How they scrambled and wriggled, writhed and struggled, juggled and jostled, for the little pieces of baked earth. When a marble bounded on the hard pavement and rebounded, ten hands in baseball fashion shot into the air to haul it down and reduce it to possession. The marbles were nobody's marbles as long as they were in the air, but many of them never landed on the pavement, for an eagle eye had measured the path of the marble's descent and placed under it a small gripping machine and clutched it tight.

What a ramble and scramble for the marbles that sought to elude the eager grasp of some midget. Like football players making a center rush four heads focused together when four arms reached out to extract a pink spere out of the gutter.

Fully a thousand spectators witnessed the squirming scene, and went back to their own marble days in spirit when pee-wee shooting was as big an excitement as a baseball game is today.

Then came the counting. There was no cheating. "I bet I got more'n you did," and "Did you win a prize?" were frequent exclamations. And Pat paid the prizes and rose into popularity in the minds of these future voters.

PUBLIC DANCE EDICT

(Continued from Page 1.)

work done by Contractor Childs, amounting to about \$700, was allowed.

The police made 14 arrests, released 10 and had 4 in jail. Fines \$40.00. Josie Palmer was given a chance to go out and get \$10.00 with which to pay her fine for being drunk. She has not come back yet.

The manager's report for the past week, was read, as follows:

The water superintendent spent \$35.90 on taps, metering, repairing a hydrant and a main.

The recorder collected \$40.00 fines and forfeitures, \$75.10 on sewer district No. 3, Sect. No. 1-A, \$2.50 for 5 building permits, \$1.00 dog tax. Of eight cases in court five paid fines and three worked on streets. Has transcripts of bond issues on which we receive bids March 18th, prepared.

The treasurer collected \$700.00 assessment and interest, \$578.70 water rent including \$14.05 warrants. Paid \$1080.00 improvement bond interest, also paid \$385.29 warrants with \$36.68 interest thereon. Also sent out notices.

There were no calls during the week for the fire department. The assistant



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chief resigned with the end of the week and C. W. Drumm was advanced to assistant chief and T. G. Van Vlack was appointed as fireman and janitor.

The street superintendent bought two cords of wood at \$7.50 for roller and 50 yards crushed rock at \$1.40, for repair of North Fir street. He spent \$52.50 for labor repairing North Fir macadam and \$75.00 for street cleaning.

The walk on First street, over the ditch draining Deal Canyon is getting very poor. Several have asked that something be done with it. They want the city to construct the drain so they can build a walk on it. The drain should have a concrete bottom so it can be flushed and cleaned and so flow of water will be greater.

The Bowser Pump company will give the fire department a gasoline 120 gallon tank and pump per description for \$60.00. The fire department will install it, other expense probably \$5.00. This was in the budget.

Respectfully submitted, F. J. Lafky, General Manager.

MISS LYNNE TO SING.

Song Bird to Make First Grand Opera Appearance Tomorrow.

Although she has appeared in European grand opera, Miss Felice Lynn, well known in La Grande, is to make her first American appearance in a grand opera role tomorrow night in Boston, when she sings as Gilda in Rigoletto with the Boston Opera company. Announcement of her appearance comes to Mr. and Mrs. Jay Van Buren today from Dr. and Mrs. F. E. Moore of Portland, who were present in London when Miss Lynne made her grand opera debut.

STORMY SESSION HELD.

Governor and Desert Land Board in Near-Fist Fight.

Salem, March 19. — The stormiest session of the present administration occurred today when Governor West endeavored to get the state desert land board to require the Des Chutes Land company to enter into a contract embodying features which West believes are needed. Attorney General Crawford and Governor West were so angry that a fist fight seemed a certainty.

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