

THE OBSERVER

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WHY THE INCREASE?

The tremendous cost of maintaining state offices at the present time as compared with a few years back is food for the economical thinker. In treating this subject the Oregonian recently called attention of its readers to the cost in the following manner:

In 1903 the legislature appropriated for the offices of Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer and Attorney-General the sum of \$53,120. Ten years later the appropriations for these four offices had grown to \$155,890.

Part of this increase, which is nearly 300 per cent, has doubtless been made necessary by growth in population of the state. But the gain is in proportion far beyond the growth in population.

Probably the greater part of the cost increase in the four offices not accounted for by growth in population is due to enlargement of governmental functions. These are offices that have more or less to do with every state department. Additions to the machinery of government invariably create an overhead expense and it finds some expression in the appropriations for the leading administration offices.

But compared with the increased cost of commissions and boards the rise in cost of conducting the four offices named is a bagatelle. So unsystematic has been progress in state activities that it is extremely difficult to obtain exact figures. A state office that attempted it has prepared a statement on boards and commissions which is presented as "not absolutely accurate, but very conservative."

This statement reports the existence of thirteen commissions in 1903, for which there was appropriated \$67,000. In 1913 the number of boards and commissions had grown to fifty-five and the appropriations for their activities aggregated \$1,178,091.

Thus in ten years the cost of boards and commissions has grown more than seventeen-fold and the statement does not include commissions or boards wherein expense and per diem are allowed commissioners or deputies. There are several of such and each provides a per diem of \$5 per day.

It has been said in opposition to proposed plans or consolidation of commissions that there is danger of impairing the efficiency of the state government and that some departments may be overcrowded with work. But there is little intelligent consideration given to any plan which proposes a severe curtailment of state functions. The idea is to eliminate duplication and to centralize authority, that the business of the state may be conducted more economically and systematically.

As to overworking some department or officer, did anybody ever hear of a proposed merger or trust that failed because it would be too big for one set of directors to handle? Application of more of the theories and industry of private enterprise to governmental affairs will not be amiss. The legislature will certainly give every department a sufficient number of men to do the work under any system of consolidation that may be devised.

A WHITE HOPE AND A SENATOR.

Jim Corbett, while playing an engagement at the Portland theatres and raking in a few dollars of Oregon money, has discovered a "white hope" to go out and win from Johnson the world's championship.

Almost at the same instant Allan Eaton candidate for speaker of the house of representatives against Ben Selling, discovers that Editor Edgar B. Piper of the Oregonian is on a still hunt for the next senatorial nomination in this state.

Hully-gee, how things are happening. But Mr. Piper must be a sly fox, for he has not let his friends know that he has political ambition, other than to vote on election day and otherwise exercise the right of an American citizen.

Eaton, who hails from Eugene,

must have a new instrument to detect political waves, in the high air currents, or he surely has a way of guessing that is amusing. If he has guessed the next senatorial nomination onto Mr. Piper and makes it stick it will be the best political work he has ever done, for ordinarily Eaton's politics are a little strange and hard to understand. Should he clear the political atmosphere in Oregon this far before the next senatorial campaign and center public opinion upon Mr. Piper he deserves consideration, not as a state legislator but as a man far in advance of his time and of a size that even his friends heretofore had not dared to dream of.

With Corbett's white hope and with Eaton's candidate for senator, Oregon can feel that something has been accomplished in the last few days.

LEGISLATIVE COMMENT. (Continued from Page 1.)

Northwest—they have better feet, better wind and better disposition, than are to be found in the horses

of any other part of the Northwest country." And after relating some of his experience as a horse buyer Mr. Williamson further remarked, "I have bought horses in the Grande Ronde valley for many years, and I have never been lied to or jobbed on a horse deal by any rancher or dealer in that valley. I like the people who live there very much. I also like the valley and were it possible for me to cut loose from Portland I would move to La Grande and make that city my home."

It is such remarks as those of Mr. Williamson that make people appreciate La Grande and the Grande Ronde valley more and more. And some times we have to go away from home to hear the good things.

Tonight the electric trains are taking out carloads of people for Salem and it is understood there will be a little meeting before midnight in the state capital at which time the mists will clear away so that tomorrow at 10 o'clock the legislative mills can begin

to grind. The odds on Selling for Speaker of the House are heavy and few believe that Eaton of Eugene will not even make a good showing in the contest.

Time is the Test

The Testimony of La Grande People Stands the Test.

The test of time is what tells the tale. The public soon finds out when misrepresentations are made, and merit alone will stand the test of time.

La Grande people appreciate merit, and many months ago local citizens publicly endorsed Doan's Kidney Pills; they do so still. Would a citizen make the statement which follows unless convinced that the article was just as represented? Below is testimony such as the sufferer from kidney ills is looking for.

backache. This one found it very hard to straighten after stooping, and on doing so, sharp twinges darted through the back. After using Doan's Kidney Pills a short time great relief was had. (Statement given May 20, 1910.)

Over a year later, Mrs. Fike said: "We are still enthusiastic in praise of Doan's Kidney Pills. We still use them with good results."

Price 50c at all dealers. Don't simply ask for a kidney remedy—get Doan's Kidney Pills—the same that Mrs. Pike recommends. Foster-Milburn Co., Props., Buffalo, N. Y.

Children's Coughs—Children's Colds Both are Serious

When one of your little ones shows symptoms of an approaching Cold, give it Dr. Bell's Pine-Tar-Honey at once. It acts quickly, and prevents the Cold growing worse. Very healing—soothes the Lungs, loosens the mucous, strengthens the system. It's guaranteed. Only 25c at your Druggist. Buy a bottle today. Bucklen's Arnica Salve for Sores.

To Catarrh Victims. Be wise in time and use Hyomei for catarrh and head colds. Neglected catarrh too frequently destroys the hearing, smell and taste. Get a Hyomei outfit from Newlin Drug Co. It's the quick, simple and effective remedy.—Adv.

WHY NOT TRY POPHAM'S ASTHMA REMEDY Gives Prompt and Positive Relief in Every Case. Sold by Druggists. Price \$1.00. Trial Package by Mail 10c. WILLIAMS MFG. CO., Props., Cleveland, O. HILL'S DRUG STORE

FARM LOANS Reasonable Rates SECURITY LAND & SAVINGS COMPANY La Grande, Oregon

Immense Assortment! Newest Styles! Emphatic Underpricing! Buy Your Needs now at West's at Clearance Prices 17th Annual January Clearance Sale

Every Article Reduced--Everything Worth While Savings PRICE RECORDS SMASHED ON MEN'S OVERCOATS AND CRAVENETTES

One lot to \$17.50 Coats Now \$4.98

An extraordinary bargain at \$4.98—about 25 coats in the lot—Regular \$12.50 \$15.00 and \$17.50 Overcoats and Cravenettes...good styles in grays, tans and brown mixtures —Famous Kenreign make, now \$4.98



A Sale of Mens "Manhattan" Shirts of Our Entire Stock Which You Know is the Largest in Town

Manhattan Shirts you know are the best in the country, and there are many men who will wear nothing else.. The Manhattan label attached to every shirt is your guarantee for quality. All up-to-date styles — Every Shirt reduced. Many will buy a six month's supply at these prices.

- Manhattan \$2.50 Shirts, now \$1.98; Manhattan \$2.00 Shirts, now \$1.60; Manhattan \$1.50 Shirts, now \$1.20; Regular \$1.25 Shirts, now 98c; Regular \$1.00 Shirts, now 80c; Regular 50c Shirts, now 39c

All Men's Clothing at 25% Discount A Stock of High Grade Suits Second to None

- HIRSCH-WICKWIRE, SOCIETY BRAND BENJAMIN AND FIDELITY SUITS Regular \$15.00 Suits now \$11.25; Regular \$17.50 Suits now \$13.15; Regular \$20.00 Suits, now \$15.00; Regular \$22.50 Suits, now \$16.90; Regular \$25.00 Suits, now \$18.75; Regular \$27.50 Suits, now \$21.15; Displayed right handy easy for you to see and try on.

Entire Stock Ladies' Waists Reduced 20 to 50 per cent. All Ladies' Street and Afternoon Dresses Reduced 1/3. Entire Stock of Women's Furs at Cost. Children's Coats 1/2 price.

A Splendid, Complete, Big, Clean Stock Dry Goods at Clearance Prices

At prices that are so amazingly small that the savings will repay all economical women to supply their future needs as well as their immediate needs. Thousands of yards of Dress Goods, Silks, Draperies, Wash Goods, and Linens, now at substantial savings. Snowy white, piles and piles of new Undermuslins White Goods, Sheets, Pillow Cases, Towels and yards and yards of New Embroideries just received. Hundreds of economical housekeepers always wait for this great sale to supply their household needs because of the savings and because they can depend on the quality and of finding what they want at this store.

Sale Closes January 30th



See Windows

The best and most known makes in this sale at Clearance Prices. "Munsing" Underwear, "Black Cat" Hosiery, "Nemo" Corsets, "Henderson" Corsets, "Fownee" Gloves, "Pine Tree" Ribbons, "D. M. C." Threads Etc.

One lot Men's Stetson Hats, broken lines, now \$2.35

One lot Men's Gordon Hats, broken lines, now \$1.75

One lot Henderson Corsets, broken sizes, \$3.50 to \$4.00 values, Clearance \$1.29

One lot Henderson \$1.50 and \$2.00 Corsets, Clearance 79c

One lot Women's Silk Waists at One-Half price. 50c, 60c and 75c Check Aprons, Waist and Coverall styles now at One-half price One lot Misses' Wash Dresses, values to \$3.00, now 59c

Just about what the trimmings would cost.

Entire line of Boy's Buster Brown Suits now at HALF. Sizes 2 1-2 to 8 years.

Boys Ball Blouses, sizes 4 15 years regular 50c now 38c

Regular 25c Blouses, now 20c

Shoe Bargains of good stylish Shoes. Utz and Dun and Pingree Shoes for Women, reduced. J. E. Tilt and Nettleton Shoes for Men reduced. Boy's and Girl's Shoes reduced. All Rubbers reduced.