

THE OBSERVER

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"ESPEE" HOUSE ORGAN.

The Southern Pacific Railroad issues a "house" organ occasionally and in the last issue we notice that our old friend, John M. Scott who used to be with the O.-W. and is well known in Eastern Oregon, has considerable to say to the employees of the road.

In fact the "Espee" never attracted much attention until it began getting men in its employ from the O.-W. Before that time it was considered a product of early day politics, carrying the odium that political railroads always carried.

The "house" organ is a good idea. It not only informs the employees of the road as to conditions generally but it takes the general public into the railroad's confidence to a certain extent—a thing that no western railroad should overlook if it wants to avoid trouble.

PLUMMER'S PROGRESSIVENESS.

By mentioning the progressiveness of O. M. Plummer, manager of the Pacific International Livestock Exposition, we do not mean that he belongs to the once promising Progressive party, for in the very nature of his position we would guess he is a standpatter, but we do wish to commend him for beating all the other livestock shows in one respect.

When the Exposition was held in Portland from December 6 to 11 the usual custom of "padding" the program was followed. Then Plummer got in his work. He hired a bunch of printers and linotypers and stenographers to work all night and got out a catalogue showing the awards at the Exposition. The following day stock men and other visitors were surprised when presented with a complete printed pamphlet showing who won and where the stock was located.

Anyone who has ever attended even a county fair will appreciate at once this bit of progressiveness on the part of Manager Plummer.

AND THEY HAD MONEY LEFT.

When Oregon wants a job done well she invariably picks a man from the Eastern part of the state to do that job.

This was shown in the recent San Francisco fair. Outside of California Oregon was the "best dancer at the show" and attracted more attention than any other state. In arranging for our exhibit, our building and our entertainment features it was plainly necessary to have a financial head and the state picked W. L. Thompson, a Pendleton banker, for this task.

The wisdom of this choice is shown when it is known that after George Hyland, the Oregon building manager, and all the rest of the boys who took part in the show, had presented their expense bills and the same had been audited and paid, "Bill" Thompson took the adding machine slip in the fingers of one hand and a cigar in the other, saying "it is about as I had it figured in my head." But there was a balance to the good, which is the essence of this editorial mention. Few states enter an exposition and do not finally have a deficit. New York state now has a state capitol scandal over the amount of money spent at San Francisco, but Oregon instead of having a scandal has "money in the bank" and all expenses paid.

When it comes to making both ends meet leave it to "Bill" Thompson and the other Eastern Oregon bankers.

BUT HE WON'T BE NOMINATED.

Just now the Observer's mail is flooded with literary on the boom of Senator Weeks, the standpat candidate for the presidency. Every morning there is a new bunch of statements telling why some of the new Englanders are who want Weeks in the White House.

All of which seems to us like wasting energy. The nomination of Weeks would be a mistake; it would be worse than a mistake, for he is classed and apparently rightfully so with the "standpat" reactionary element of the east and his vote west of the Mississippi river would be a negligible quantity, while in the east President Wilson would skin him out. We do not believe any thousand delegates in convention assembled to nominate a candidate for the Republican party will ever pick Weeks.

HEARING AND SEEING.

The Ear and the Eye and the Power of the Brain to Memorize.

Is the ear more retentive than the eye? Are we more impressed with what we hear than with what we see?

There is a familiar legend of Macaulay reciting a good part of "Paradise Lost" during a voyage to India and of the historian's ability to rise from a book and repeat word for word what he had read. There are also records of John Stuart Mill's ability to remember the printed word.

But the balance of evidence seems in favor of the power to memorize that which passes through the ear into the brain. "Memory" Woodfall, who lived in the latter part of the eighteenth century, could attend a debate and report it exactly without notes, a pure feat of aural memory. Toscanini can conduct a number of difficult operas without the score before him. Thomas Beecham, the London orchestra leader, conducted from memory Strauss' "Rosenkavalier" upon twenty-four hours' notice. Von Buelow is said to have memorized a Stanford symphony on the train between Hamburg and Berlin and to have conducted it without the score in the latter city. Dr. Kunwald can conduct from memory a large number of orchestral works, with all their nuances of interpretation.

It is a question for the psychologist. The popular verdict probably would be in favor of the prowess of the ear rather than of the eye. There are a large number of people who can remember an air exactly, but to whom the printed word is an evaporated thing as soon as it passes from their eyes.—Cincinnati Times-Star.

MURDER WILL OUT.

"The Best Laid Schemes of Mice and Men Gang Aft Agley."

Once upon a time there was a lady who wished to have her real age kept a secret. In order to get away with it she instructed her son, in case any one asked how old he was, to knock off about 50 per cent.

She told people the boy was large for his age and explained the gruff tones of his voice by saying that his tonsils needed attention.

One day the rector of the church called, and while waiting in the drawing room for the lady to put the finishing touches to her makeup he talked with the boy, who was pretending to read "Little Lord Fauntleroy" for the seventeenth time. The boy volunteered the information that the next day would be his birthday.

"Ah," said the rector, "and how old will you be then?"

"Ten years old," replied the boy, as per instructions.

"Indeed!" said the rector. "I dare say you haven't any idea what your mother is going to give you for a birthday gift."

"Oh, yes, I have," was the unexpected answer. "She promised to give me a safety razor."

When the rector rushed into the hall to see what had caused the loud crash he had heard he found the boy's mother lying on the floor in a dead faint. Moral—Old Father Time cuts all bluffs.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

The Rat and the Bulbs.

According to the French naturalist De Parville, a gardener planted one afternoon 250 tulip bulbs on a terrace, and next morning he noticed that the ground had been disturbed and that the bulbs had all been taken away. He was confident that rats had done the work, and, taking a spade, he began to dig in the hope of discovering their nest. Soon he unearthed a large female rat, which he killed, and after digging a few more minutes he discovered an underground chamber lined with hay and leaves and connected by a corridor with two holes, which were evidently used as storehouses, for in them he found the 250 tulip bulbs. This was remarkable, but more remarkable was the fact that they were neatly arranged in two rows and that not one of them had been gnawed or otherwise injured.

All Are on Time at Sydney.

At Sydney, Australia, any telephone subscriber can obtain correct standard time by calling up the Sydney observatory, says the Scientific American. If he wishes merely to check his watch or clock he asks for "Time," and is connected with an operator who reads off the correct time to the nearest half minute from a clock controlled by the standard clock of the observatory. If more accurate information be required he asks for "Exact time" and is connected with a high frequency buzzer which transmits the actual beats of the observatory clock.

"SAFETY FIRST"

There's only one "Safety Policy"—that of buying well known and best known makes of goods—at the N. K. West & Co. Store, you are fully assured of getting the best in wearables that will give the best of satisfaction or give you more wear and value for your money. The West Store picks from the best manufacturers of the country—everything is new and of that desirable quality which characterizes this store—and the prices are always the lowest.

- "Seigle" suits and coats for women \$10.00 to \$35.00
"Nemo" Corsets \$3.50 to \$5.00
"Henderson" corsets \$1.00 to \$3.50
"Pine Tree" school girl Ribbons, yard 25c
Colonial Drapery Fabrics, Scrims 12 1-2c to 40c
Cretomes 12 1-2c to 50c
"Utz and Dunn" and "Pingree" Shoes for women and Misses \$3.00 to \$5.00
"Romper" and "Whites" Shoes for children \$1.00 to \$2.75
Finest stock in town of Dress Goods, Silks, Notions, Linens, Domestics, etc.



LAFAYETTE DOLLARS.

Why They Were Issued and What They Are Now Worth.

In 1899 congress ordered 50,000 Lafayette dollars to be coined in aid of the fund for the erection of the Lafayette monument in Paris in 1900. The first one of the issue was struck at the Philadelphia mint Dec. 14, 1899, on the one hundredth anniversary of the death of George Washington. This coin was set apart for presentation by the president of the United States to the president of the republic of France.

The Lafayette dollar is a legal tender dollar and bears upon its face a double medallion of the heads of Washington and Lafayette and on the reverse a miniature reproduction of the equestrian statue of Lafayette, with the inscription, "In Commemoration of Monument Erected by School Youth of United States to General Lafayette, Paris, France, 1900."

The Lafayette memorial commission was authorized to dispose of them at \$2 apiece, the profit going to the monument fund. The whole proceeding was to honor the memory of Lafayette, and there was but one issue of the coins—viz, 50,000. They have become widely scattered, mostly in the hands of collectors, and are worth \$1.10 to \$1.25 apiece.—New York Times.

UNTIL DOVE WINS OUT.

St. Paul Resident Refuses to Get a Hair Cut Until European War Ends.

St. Paul.—William A. Fischbach has undertaken not to have his hair cut till the European war ends.

Shaking his tawny mane, Fischbach says the Turks defending Constantinople have nothing on him.

Fischbach has not had a hair cut for a year. He has a wager, he says, that he will go unshorn till peace is restored.

Forewarned.

Little Harold was spending a few days at his aunt's house. Just before they sat down to the dinner table he took his aunt aside and whispered: "My mamma don't allow me to ask for a second helping of dessert. I thought I'd let you know, so you wouldn't think I didn't like the kind of pie and things you make."—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

A Good One.

"I don't see so much in these witticisms aimed at the mother-in-law." "Think she is unduly joshed, eh?" "I do. Mine lives with us and when my wife storms at me the old lady takes my part quite frequently."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

A Good Guess.

"My doctor sized my pile up pretty accurately." "How's that?" "He said I was as sound as a dollar, and that was all I had."—Judge.

Flippant Flings.

These are the "good old days" people will talk about forty years hence.—Tolledo Blade.

Then, again, talking of the power behind the throne, how about being the first mother-in-law of the land?—Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph.

An advance in the price of motorcars is predicted as one result of the war. Why is it that the necessities of life are always the first to feel the blow?—Philadelphia Ledger.

No Sense of Proportion.

The young man who had spent his efforts for several years without result in studying art was talking with his practical uncle, who had patiently paid the bills.

"Of course," said the young artist, "I know I haven't made much of a go of it, but I don't think you ought to advise me to try something else. You know it's best to put all your eggs in one basket and watch that basket."

"Um! That may be, Charlie; but did you ever think how foolish it is to put so many baskets around one basket egg?"

Rubber Trees.

Rubber trees planted in Ceylon have attained a height of fifty feet and a girth of two feet from the surface of the ground in six years. At the end of that time the trees are ready for tapping in order to extract the latex, or sap, which is transformed into rubber.

Evading the Issue.

"Has that borrowing friend of yours dropped out of sight?" "Oh, no; he manages to keep in touch with me."—Baltimore American.

Why Not Have More Birds?

La Grande, Dec. 30.—(To the Editor)—There are few of us who do not know some of the birds and few who do not enjoy watching them if they chance to come within our range of vision. But most of us are not doing anything to bring them where we can see them. We have an ideal location for a "bird city," as some towns are known in the east, for the timber covered mountains close us in on one side and on the other is the brush bordered river. But there are few birds in town compared to the number there should be, mostly because of the English sparrow, that pestiferous foreigner who overruns our trees and buildings, and the superabundance of un-belled cats.

The love of birds and one's interest in them is far from being a sentimental hobby. Birds have an economic value aside from a purely aesthetic one and are recognized as valuable factors to the natural resources of the country by the government. The agricultural department at Washington estimates that each bird, aside from the destructive ones such as English sparrows, certain kinds of hawks and yellow bellied sapsuckers, are worth one dollar a year to the community in which they make their home. The birds come to us of their own accord, offer their services, and depart unpaid. It seems only reasonable that when we can have such valuable servants gratis that we should make some effort to attract and hold them in our vicinity.

Of course everyone knows that birds make their living by eating insects, worms and noxious weed seed but few realize what an enormous amount they consume. They are small, indeed, but they need a great deal of energy to make possible their flights and with their rapid digestive powers and the constant demand for food much more can be consumed by a very small bird in a day than seems possible.

The songbirds of this town are very few and are growing scarcer every year and if we wish to have these interesting, instructive and valuable little creatures about us it is necessary for us to work together to destroy their arch enemy the English sparrow and to encourage them with our attention and kindness. Let us make of La Grande a "Bird City." —SARAH GRACE PICKENS.

CASH SPECIALS FOR FRIDAY
30c Bulk Coffee 25c
25c Golden Rod Washing Powder 20c
Two Pounds Peanut Butter 25c
Powdered Sugar, pound 8c
Try Teagarden Syrup, one-half gallon 50c
Tea garden Syrup, gallon 95c
Joel's Grocery Store
Corner Cedar and Washington, Main 759
Main 759 Our Own Free Delivery.

The careful man knows his time is slipping away and his earning power is also slipping away. Your time and earning power are going, put your money in the bank for old age or a rainy day.
BANK YOUR MONEY TODAY. YOU MUST DO SO TO HAVE IT TO-MORROW.
BANK WITH US. WE PAY 4 PER CENT INTEREST ON TIME DEPOSITS
La Grande National Bank
LA GRANDE, OREGON
Capital \$200,000.00 Surplus \$50,000.00 Resources \$1,000,000.00
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