

THE OBSERVER

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A MEMORABLE CONQUEST.

In the days preceding the drawing of the Ashburton treaty when we were disputing with Great Britain over possession of the Oregon country, as the states of Washington and Oregon were then termed, we had some curious arguments in the United States senate.

Daniel Webster and several other wise men argued that the region was not worth contending for. The coast, they said, was subject to a constant downpour of rain and the interior was a rainless region. The country was inaccessible except by a sea route of about 15,000 miles. Someone timidly asked if the territory might not be entered at some future time by

a railway, and a senator from South Carolina replied that the only way a railway could enter Oregon country would be by a tunnel 500 miles long through the Rocky mountains.

Most of that memorable debate might be classified under the "folly of the wise." Long ago the railway conquered the mountain barrier with steam. Today a new conquest is in progress. Man is not content to merely conquer difficulties. He likes to rub it in by making the difficulties that oppose his way furnish the means by which they are beaten.

The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railway is making the watershed of the mountains turn turbine wheels, which in their turn operate electric generators. The electric current is being harnessed to pull trains over the mountains of the great divide. The line for a section of 115 miles between Three Forks and Deer Lodge, Montana, is already under electric operation. This is the first unit of a system which will extend from Harlowton, Montana, to Avery, Idaho, a distance of 440 miles. So in the course of 75 years it has come about that the once impassable mountain barrier, 500 miles in breadth is actually furnishing the power by which trains of all-steel cars are hauled across the divide from either side. The engineers have put it all over the statesmen and politicians.

CLEARs THE AIR?

Does Congressman Bailey of Pennsylvania clear the air when he introduces a resolution in congress to increase the Presidential term to six years, with a one-term limit?

Then the congressman stoutly affirms the Democratic party and Mr.

Wilson have been unjustly assailed in connection with the single term plank in the Democratic platform. He points out that Mr. Wilson did not pledge himself to one term but merely was pledged by the convention to the principle.

People generally, will not like the congressman's attempt to build a barricade behind which this single term stuff may be sheltered. It is a good deal like telling a second story to shield one from the first, and the surroundings all the time grow more complex.

Why does not the Democratic party and its candidates come out squarely and confess to the people that the one term plank was a mistake at the present time at least, thus making a frank, clean acknowledgment of an error. That is the American way of doing things, and the way the American people like. But they do not like Congressman Bailey's way of attempting to hide something and distort a meaning that was made clear in Democratic newspapers and by Democratic speakers in the campaign wherein Mr. Wilson was successful.

SKILL IN THE JOB.

The best pickpocket in New York was taken to Sing Sing for a 10-year term. He was handcuffed to a deputy, who discovered the prisoner attempting to lift a wallet from his pocket. At the end of the journey Robert Manning, the artist thief, handed over to the conductor his watch.

"Here's your watch, old pal. I don't need it," he said.

He was stealing on that somber ride into exile because he found pleasure in the exercise of highly developed skill. He was stealing in the same spirit that a good architect designs a beautiful building or a musician plays a beloved instrument or a successful blacksmith shoes a horse. Manning is called the cleverest in his profession because he takes intense pride in the predatory talent by which he gained a living.

In Manning's zeal is the pathos of a sound impulse gone wrong. His sensitive fingers and quick mind might have been trained to delicate mechanical tasks; he might have created instead of filched wealth. For some reason, in him or outside of him, the artistic instinct which is inherent in everyone became perverted.

The moral of his spectacular "job" performed with one hand confined is for honest persons who lack joy in the job, pride in the day's duty. To the extent that industrialism prevents the expression of that joy and pride, it needs reconstruction.

THE EAST WILL DEMAND A CUT.

When the Eugene Register says "Oregon ought to have the whole of the excess from the sale of the Oregon California land grant lands," no one can doubt the truth of the statement, and when that paper further says, "The rest of the United States is not entitled to a cent, for Oregon alone has borne the burden of interrupted development," again people will say, "quite true, quite true."

But what Oregon should have and what Oregon will get may differ widely. It must be admitted that Senator Chamberlain, Congressman Sinnott and Congressman McArthur are making a good fight for the state at Washington, but it must be remembered that congress as a whole deals with this question. This means that every senator and representative from the eastern states will have his say and his vote, and in the end the bill may be badly warped and twisted from its original shape. The great question is, how diplomatic will our delegation be in this fight thus saving to Oregon as much as possible after the people from the east have had their say in the matter.

No just criticism can be lodged against the delegation for it is doing good work for the state, and even if the heavy vote of the east divides by half what we believe we are justly entitled to, there still should be no criticism of our senator and congressmen.

The Observer has been receiving letters regularly of late from the Bethlehem Steel company. That company writes us in the most serious tone pleading that this paper take up its cause against the government of the United States. It seems that old Senator Tillman introduced a little bill some time since advocating the erection of a government armor plant and the bill carries an appropriation of eleven million dollars for the purpose. We never heard from the steel company until that bill attracted attention. Now we are on the company's correspondence list. Tillman's bill is all right. Not that the government should go into business to drive out privately owned enterprises, but in order that armor plate may be bought at a fair price. The Bethlehem people are now willing to make all kinds of concessions to the government if the bill is killed. Better tie them up in good tight contracts before the Tillman measure is laid on the table.

A Portland attorney, determined to commit suicide, dressed himself in full dress and laid his gloves nearby before he turned on the final dose of chloroform. Such consideration for the underpaid undertaker who is trying to eke out a miserable existence is really remarkable and shows wonderful forethought on the part of the



The Modern Boy

Is more particular about his clothes than was the boy ten or a dozen years ago. He wants his togs strictly in accordance with the accepted style for Spring, 1916, and nothing else will please him—and that is just the kind of boy's clothing and furnishings we are showing.

Smart, Practical, up to the Hour—Also our Values are the Best—

BOYS' "BEST EVER" SUITS SPECIAL VALUE AT \$5.00 For Style, Low Price and Goodness, we will match these suits with any others. Coats in Norfolk Style. Some with 2 pair pants. Full made, full lined, all seams taped, sizes 6 to 16 years. Special Values \$5.00

Boys' "Kaynee" Blouses—guaranteed color—no tapes, no strings. Special values 50c Boys' New Spring Caps, the great value at .50c Boys' "Black Cat" Hosiery, Triple knees, longest wear 25c Boys' Medium Weight Union Suits for Spring 50c up

Boys' New Spring 4-in-hand Neckties, at 25c Boys' Suspenders, good ones at 25c Boys' Fancy Leather Belts, at 25c Little Boys' Wash Suits, all the new styles, priced at 75c to \$2.00

Our Spring Grodons & Stetsons' Have Captured the Town

These famous hats are more than ever in demand. Young men and their youthful-spirited elders have taken a great fancy to the New Stetson and Gordon Hats, which we are now showing.

And there is one great advantage in buying a Spring Hat here—for Stetson and Gordon hats have quality-to-the-last-stitch that has proven itself in the wear through dozens of years of hat making.

Store service here to match the hats—in courtesy, promptness, largest variety, and a personal interest in your patronage.

"GORDONS" \$3.00 "STETSONS" \$4.00



NK West & Co. THE QUALITY STORE

TO SERVE YOU

We Have Spent Over

\$2,500.00

To Equip Our

Dry Cleaning Dept.

CHERRY'S NEW LAUNDRY Inc.

PHONE MAIN 56

TOO LATE!



The Careful man puts money in the Bank before old age or sickness or adversity takes away his ability to earn

JUST LOOK AT THIS PICTURE AND DO A LITTLE "THINKING."

THEN YOU WILL BANK YOUR MONEY.

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 Fred J. Holmes, President; C. C. Penington, Vice President; F. L. Meyers, Cashier; E. Zundel and H. E. Coolidge, Assistant Cashiers.

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one who quit life's cares by his own hand.

There is a little colored boy in Iowa who refuses to salute the flag because he says "America is a white man's country." He has been dragged into court and commanded to submit. Probably a nickel's worth of gum drops and a friendly talk would solve this diplomatic crisis.

A man's wife should select his clothes, says the National Tailors' association. That, however, would involve letting her know in advance that you were about to blow yourself to a new suit.

The war department says it has received assurances of complete harmony from Carranza. If that's true it is the first shipment of the commodity from Mexico in several years.

From the way in which the Portland Chamber of Commerce is getting advice from the press there must be something wrong with the Chamber's way of doing things—some things.

A newspaper man has been punished for getting an uncensored message from Mexico through. The army has won its first victory.

Billy Sunday says it is just as bad to think a man a liar as to call him one. Yet, but not so dangerous.

HUMOROUS AND SARCASTIC

The most popular general in Germany is Von Hindenburg. The best known general in Russia is General Retreat, but he may be succeeded by General Debility. General Indifference commands in England.—Auburn Citizen.

An appeal has been made to the British women for greater economy in dress during the war. It strikes the man that skirts are about as short as they can be made at present without causing comment.—Chicago Herald.

St. Louis children have raised by popular subscription several thousand dollars to buy an elephant, though an elephant would be about the last thing an average citizen with several thousand dollars would buy.—Chicago News.

A Hoopston, Ill., farmer has engaged a hired man and agreed to furnish him gasoline for his automobile. The 1916 model of the Hired Man down in Hoopston differs considerably from the old and familiar makes.—Chicago Herald.

Fashionable society is having a splendid time at Palm Beach, the only drawback being the lack of foreign titles. An importation of Kentucky Colonels might serve as a temporary substitute.—Chicago News.

Just because a bore asks you if you've ever heard the story before don't get the idea that he isn't going to tell it simply because you're acquainted with it. Things like that are entirely too good to happen.—Macon News.

Any man could die of thirst in the Sahara desert but some could pull the

same stunt in water up to their necks.—New York World.

Badly Needed

"There will be no meeting of the Good Health Society Tuesday evening because of the illness of so many of the members."—From the Wakefield Star.

Candor

Mistress—"Bridget, I told you twice to have muffins for breakfast. Have you no intellect?" Bridget—"No, Mum; there's none in the house."—Christian Register.

SPUDS! SPUDS!

We have some fine Early Rose Seed Potatoes Union Sets and all Kinds of Vegetable and Flower Seeds

Fresh Fruits & Vegetables

- New Cabbage, Spinach, Rhubarb, Fresh Tomatoes, Hot House Lettuce, Head Lettuce, Cauliflower, Green Onions, Radishes, Asparagus, Fresh Peas, Bananas, Good Sweet Oranges, Grape Fruit, Hood River, Arkansas Black Apples, Spitzenburg Apples

CITY GROCERY & BAKERY Home of Fancy Groceries Phone Main 75 E. POLACK, Prop.