

The Observer

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THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

The message of Governor Ben W. Oleott, delivered to the thirty-first Legislature on Tuesday at Salem, was very similar to messages delivered by other Governors in years past, except that it probably covered more subjects and went into greater detail than has any other executive officer in many years past.

It will be noticed that the Governor cautioned the Legislative body against heavy expenses for the state in the fore part of his message, but, before he finished, he mentioned many governmental ideas and offered many suggestions which, if carried out, will mean a large expenditure of the people's money. The Observer does not call attention to this in the way of criticism but it is common practice for an executive to review any situation, touching the high points, but leaving details to be worked out.

The Governor is quite right relative to the Boys' Industrial School and, without question, Oregon would be much better off if it transferred all the boys to a big ranch where cheap, open air buildings house them rather than stick them in the buildings which are now used. His reference to the Penitentiary being model and the Insane Asylum of Oregon being nearly perfect will have considerable weight but will not change the desire of many Legislators to make personal investigation and to do some questioning of their own.

His idea of erecting a saw-mill at the Penitentiary will have the most profound consideration, but he it remembered that other Governors have had just as sincere motives in the creation of industrial plants at penal institutions which plants have proven failures.

The Governor touched upon the educational question, but did not show what it would cost to educate a boy or girl in any of our higher educational institutions. There are men who have served many years in the Legislature who do not hesitate to assert that Oregon could contract her education in colleges of national repute at a great financial saving. This, of course, would be thoroughly impractical because our loyalty to Oregon naturally prompts us all to stand by her educational institutions but that loyalty should not prevent the strictest inspection and, in some cases, probably a complete revision of the institution.

As a whole, the Governor's address was what might be expected and, although extremely long, it was couched in beautiful language and made a very good impression upon the large number who assembled in the Representative hall to hear it.

THE KITCHEN PEDOMETER

Statistics compiled for the conference of Vocational Workers of the South, held in Montgomery, Ala., show that a housewife preparing three meals a day for an average family walks two miles. The figures were obtained by using a pedometer on students of the "model home" at one of the vocational schools. They were therefore moderate. If a student walks two miles a day along the familiar route of stove, sink, pan, and table in "model home," with everything arranged for the utmost convenience, it seems likely that the average housewife, without such efficient arrangement of her house and working utensils, must walk three or four miles.

Next thing somebody ought to attach a pedometer to Mother while she is making the beds and cleaning the house, and doing the washing and ironing with or without modern machinery. Also on occasions when she is doing her fall cleaning, or feeding a thrashing crew or taking care of several of Sunday visitors or celebrating the Christmas holidays.

If there were one of those pedometers in every home, it might be granted soon that housekeeping is a job. And along with the pedometer there ought to be some kind of machine to register the energy expended by another merely keeping on her feet, quite aside from her domestic duties, for several hours a day. This is an illuminating and constructive line of inquiry, in an industrial field that will stand a good deal of exploration.

BETTER JUST SERVICE

Better pay for jurors and a tightening up of the laws regarding exemptions are two reforms needed in connection with more efficient administration of justice. In most courts the fee for jury service is so small that attendance upon a case of any length means a financial sacrifice which many good citizens cannot afford. Aside from this, lengthy law cases are tedious. The two reforms together result in continual application for exemption by men whose sound qualities, education and business experience especially fit them to serve as jurors.

As a rule exemption is easy to secure, not because the presiding authorities are cowardly indifferent,

to the interests of justice but because the easy-going habit of Americans has penetrated to the courts as well as elsewhere. So long as things go with a fair degree of surface smoothness, little heed is given to subtle undercurrents, either by the court or the potential juror, and if the latter has a fair excuse, the former lets him off from duty.

The evils of the "piped" tax are those apparently that have ever before. It is a time that popular opinion was roused to the importance of the jury as a safeguard to the public as well as to the rights of the individual; that fees were moderately commensurate with the expense involved by the juror in giving up his time, and that all eligible citizens were held to service.

THE HOUSE OF PATRIOT

The House of the Patriot who attends the inaugural ceremonies at Washington will be safe upon the ground of the House, it bills backed by Senator McCumber of North Dakota and Senator Jones of Washington are passed.

Under Senator McCumber's resolution it will be unlawful for any person or corporation owning or operating a hotel or boarding place to charge between March 1 and March 8 unless a special charge for similar services during December, 1923, and January and February of this year. It will be forbidden also to require that a guest stay more than one day during the inaugural period. A fine of \$1000 per day for each day the law may be violated is included in the measure, and it provides that the person so charged may collect five times the amount he paid.

Undoubtedly these bills will be revised under discussion, but some such measure will probably pass, and it is desirable that it should. There is no more reason why the honest visitor to the pickpocket should not be permitted to give our guest advantage over another.

BUSINESS PICKING UP

The first week of the new year showed a significant turn in the business tide. The stock exchange, which is generally a good barometer,

er, registered unmistakable optimism. There was a general upward movement in standard stocks and a notable improvement in the price of Liberty Bonds.

Commercial and industrial conditions supported this investment price movement. Retailers in various lines, after getting their high-priced inventories pretty well cleaned out during the holidays, have begun ordering again. Wholesalers report greater activity than for some time. Manufacturers who expected a considerable period of inaction are opening closed factories.

Altogether the situation is encouraging. The year has started well. It will improve steadily if business men keep up their courage and if they do not attempt to raise store war prices as soon as the public begins buying again in normal volume.

"Who feed European children?" queries a newspaper. We would say because they are hungry. What would you say?

The Federal Trades Commission has placed the lumber industry of the country on trial under the Sherman Act. From the number of saw mills that are idle in the northwest, it would seem that the Trades Commission is trying to indict a corpse.

When Mayor George Baker's picture appeared in the paper as Chief of Police of Portland, someone mistook the title over the picture and wondered what that fellow was in.

for. Those who personally know George Baker, however, believe that he will do a very genteel job of cleaning up the city.

George Putnam, who runs the Capitol Journal at Salem, the only country publisher showing sufficient prosperity to increase his newspaper equipment during these strenuous times. George is putting in a sixteen-page stereotype press, which will transform his journal from a first-class country paper to a dignified metropolitan sheet. But with all of this progress Editor Putnam has not scented up a particle but still wears the little jockey cap and gets his shoes shined only once a week.

Mistletoe is a comparatively recent favorite for Christmas decoration. In the 18th century, rosemary, holly and holly were used.

Terrible Results From Colds. Colds not only cause a tremendous injury to every one who contracts financial loss but are also a serious them as they lower the vitality, and prepare the system for the more serious diseases. It is not at all unusual for people who have serious lung trouble to say, "I had a hard cold last winter." Why not take Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and ure your cold while you can.—Adv.

Nothing better sold for colds, for coughs, for grip, than that wonderful combination at 27c and 65c, at

Waltham's
FAMILY DRUG STORE
LA GRANDE, OREGON.

Painless Parker The Famous Dentist

PEOPLE living a hundred miles or more away come to my office to have their teeth fixed up. I make it a rule that these from a distance shall be waited upon immediately and their work be completed first, so they can go back home as soon as possible.



Twenty-eight offices, and all my associates in these offices have been taught how to practice painless dentistry as well as I can do it myself. We have fixed up the teeth of over a million people and call our way of practicing "the E. R. Parker System."

Years ago I discovered how to extract and fix teeth without hurting, and was so successful that people called me "Painless" Parker. My practice has grown until I now have



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Right Food a Big Factor in keeping one sturdy and fit to do things

Grape-Nuts

is a wheat and barley food that is scientifically made for a definite purpose.

It has delicious taste; is easy to digest, and contains all the building values of the grains that make for health and comfort.

There's a Reason for Grape-Nuts

Made by Postum Cereal Company, Inc. Battle Creek, Mich.



A TRIAL WILL CONVINCE YOU.

NOTHING that we could say would so thoroughly convince you of the value of Chamberlain's Tablets as a personal trial. We can tell you of thousands who have been permanently cured of chronic constipation, indigestion, biliousness, sick headache and disorders of the stomach and liver, but this will have little weight with you as compared to a personal trial. That always convinces.

Chamberlain's Tablets

NEW MINERVA YARNS



NEW MINERVA YARNS

Next Season's Prices

For This Season's Stock

BLANKETS AND COMFORTS



HALF PRICE!

An entire stock, complete in every way with the finest of qualities of blankets and comforts. Add right at the time when they're needed—these cold nights make warm blankets almost a necessity.

Here you may buy them at just ONE HALF the regular price, a saving of just 50%.

In doing this we are willing to take the loss of several hundred dollars in order to clear our stocks at once. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday were banner days in this department. Many supplied themselves with bedding for several seasons at these exceptionally low prices.

PRICES OF 3 YEARS AGO prevail here now. \$20 all wool blankets for \$10—\$10 mixed wool blankets for \$6, and so they are sold.

ALL ORIGINAL PRICE TICKETS REMAIN on every blanket and comfort. You pay just one-half the amount—like they last at HALF PRICE.

MEN'S DRESS SHOES

\$5.95

Still going strong, although many of the best have been selected since Monday morning. But there are all sizes in all kinds yet. The fact that there are over 200 pairs in the beginning makes possible your selection even now.

Men say "they're excellent value," and they are undoubtedly well worth much more than this sale price.

Styles for every foot. See window. While any remain at \$5.95.

SPECIAL

"Oakdale" and "Vigilant" SHEETS

\$1.48

These are 82x90 and 72x90, good quality sheets in two odd lots. The quantities are limited and we advise immediate selection. If you're shopping here, examine these, some are slightly soiled from sale handling, but you will see they are exceptional values at this low price. While any remain at \$1.48.

If You're Shopping—Shop Here. La Grande's Greatest Sale of Merchandise Since Before the War!

Coal and Wood

Rock Spring lump coal, \$92.00 per ton at the yard or \$12.00 delivered. 26-inch dry pine wood, \$17.25 per cord delivered. Save money and buy from

STILES & COMPANY
Phone Red 3541

Livery - Feed AND Sale Stable

T Ave—Phone Red 722
W. E. McClure, Prop.

PLUMBING

Any kind of plumbing and repiping, at reasonable prices, by—

C. DeKeyser
281C Adams Ave.
Phone B. 4051

WHAT IS YOUR TELEPHONE SERVICE WORTH?

The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company has built up a telephone system in Oregon from 207 stations in 1900 to 9452 stations in 1923. This development was secured for the most part during a period when cost of labor and materials was normal. During these 23 years the Telephone Company has carried out its part in the building of Oregon. Its operating expenses have increased faster than its revenue—for the last five years it has been operating at an increasing deficit. This condition cannot permanently continue.

New capital cannot be obtained by public utilities at all except when rates are such as will afford reasonable assurance with efficient management of earnings sufficient to earn for legitimate fixed charges and establish a basis of credit. This does not mean that rates should be such as in themselves will supply the capital, but that they be such as to justify capital investment in competition with other business ventures. The proposed rates represent a very small increase to the individual user—about 2¢ to 3¢ more per day. In the aggregate they represent a revenue to the Telephone Company sufficient to enable it to continue to serve the public, meet its payroll obligations and show a reasonable return upon a legitimate investment.

Adequate service is dependent upon adequate rates.

The Pacific Telephone And Telegraph Company