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REDUCING TAXES.

We notice that Portland is entering upon a campaign to reduce taxes and seems to think it is a complex job. Reducing taxes is the simplest thing in the world—spend less money and do without many things we now have in a public way. That is the sequel and it does not take a mathematician to figure it out.

The difficult feature is for the people themselves to give over power to anybody to do this reducing, and the further difficulty is to find the men who can capably handle such a trust.

The process is not hard when once in operation. For instance, Oregon can do without her state fair, she can do without a hundred commissions, she can run her state affairs with five men, instead of five hundred, and we believe everyone would get along about as well as we do now.

We can do away with what are termed higher educational institutions, for a very small percentage of children attend them and those who do attend, in almost every instance, have parents who could pay their tuition. Or the tuition could be very easily paid in most instances by cutting down the personal expense account of the student which now obtains.

In many instances, high schools have gone to seed and the graduates of them cannot make a showing in the three "R's". We have most certainly gone crazy mad over what is thought to be education by injecting a hundred and one things in our schools which have no business to be there.

Until we return to the belief that schools are for book study accompanied by a reasonable amount of drills and healthful exercise in which all pupils take part, we are going to continue paying three prices for what good common sense education we receive from the fact that the great expense of education today cannot be traced to the work in grades but occurs after the pupil leaves the grade work.

Then, there is the road program. Even those of us who have been road enthusiasts have begun to feel alarm at the amount of money roads are costing. The engine feature of Oregon highways, when once tabulated and laid before the voters will defeat any road bond issue in the future.

Yes, it is easy to reduce taxes but in doing so we must make up our minds to do without a lot of things which under modern living are thought to be necessities, yet they are not.

CHURCHES WILL SUFFER.

The spectre of the empty pew is sure to be magnified tomorrow. When a holiday follows Sunday, and it's summer time, and there are celebrations afar off, and there are camping spots to be inspected, and two consecutive days of freedom from work and the responsibility of business, just then man is prone to bundle his family into the most convenient vehicle and be gone. He will be back at his post Tuesday morning, tired in body but refreshed in mind.

Eastern Oregon presents such a variety of attractions this year that the average family is troubled. From the old-fashioned kind to the dust and excitement of automotive races the whole category of attraction is before us. Whither shall we go? Best let wife decide.

DAMMING WATER WITH WATER.

A Norwegian civil engineer has invented a simple method of damming shallow streams, using water drawn from further up the stream itself. The water dam by which he proved the success of his method is constructed across the Skjersjo river in Christiania. It is laced where the stream is shallow and has a comparatively flat rock bottom. A huge canvas hose, 115 feet long and 8.50 feet in diameter, enclosed in a rope net was laid across the stream. It was anchored by cables to bolts set in the rock up and down stream. Each end was anchored to shore.

The hose was filled through a 7.8-inch filling hose laid up stream. When the big hose was full—the filling process required only 20 minutes—it made a successful dam about six feet high. In other locations, where a more permanent dam is needed, the canvas hose will be filled with liquid mortar instead of water. The whole arrangement looks so simple and satisfactory that the only wonder is it has not been done before. No doubt the hose, in its rope casing will wear out some day, sooner perhaps than a dam constructed of masonry. Yet the time and labor saved in its placing, together with its comparative cheapness, commend it and give promise of more general use. Its inventor believes also that it will prove to have various other engineering construction.

The "ridding parson" died recently from exhaustion from making too many raids on liquor violators. But he broke even. Many a private stock, too, was exhausted by his raids.

The Kansas farmers have raised a fair crop and are going to market promptly, pay their debts and buy

equipment for their houses and farms. Six hundred Michigan farmers as soon as their harvest is over, are going to take a motor car tour through three states, sightseeing and studying. Here is something for disgruntled workers in other lines to think about.

They are now using alfalfa juice in fighting tuberculosis. This might be called experimenting in a new "do-it" way?

What business needed a couple of years ago was caution. What it needs now is nerve.

POLITICAL HISTORY

July 3, 1775.—Washington took command of the army at Cambridge.

July 3, 1844.—First treaty between United States and China signed.

July 3, 1862.—Last day of battle of Gettysburg. Lee retreated. The turning point of the Civil War.

July 4.—Declaration of Independence adopted by congress.

July 4, 1848.—Cornerstone of Washington monument laid.

July 4, 1863.—Vicksburg, Miss. surrendered to General Grant.

July 5, 1776.—Benjamin Franklin wrote his famous letter to Strahan, the publisher.

July 5, 1776.—New Haven, Conn. attacked by the British.

July 5, 1801.—David G. Farragut first admiral U. S. navy, born. His greatest reputation was made in the Civil War.

July 5, 1814.—Battle of Chippewa, Canada.

July 5, 1841.—William C. Whitcomb, lawyer, of New York, born. Secretary of navy under Cleveland.

July 5, 1867.—Federals at Lebanon, Ky., captured by Morgan.

THE OFFICE CAT



—By JUNIUS—

In Memoriam.

We, the Office Cat, feel very unhappy. We feel the same as we do when we eat too much of Al's Shrimp Salad, and get a misery in our interior. And the reason is this: We, the dignified Office Cat, in spite of being the offspring of a pillar of the Second Presbyterian Church and a heathen, (father never would go to church) contrary to our youthful training, bet on the Dempsey-Carpenter argument. It was thursty. We had been taught that no Christian or lady would bet, especially on a prize fight. We figured that no Office Cat could be a Christian, so we were willing to split 50-50 on qualifications and bet. And we lost. We had hoped that Carpenter would hit Dempsey on his nose-victoria or some other such vital spot, but, after this, we will put our money on yellow instead of brains. We would wear a black band on our army only we are afraid some one might think we were married and our husband died, and wait a year before asking us to be his'n, and we would hate to think we had to write poems for this column for another year. That would be worse than losing on the fight. P. S. We force to state that we lost 15 good sense on the fight. We thought it was worth it. But it wasn't. It doesn't pay to see too darn reckless.

P. S. Still, Carpenter did have a lovely nose.

Father made a garden—made it Wednesday. Murphy's hens got busy scratching right away. Father didn't see them and those hens, by night, had that garden ruined. "Say, it was a sight. Father made another Thursday afternoon." Taylor's cow



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got in it very, very soon. Broke down all the fences, and by Friday morn once more. Father's garden was a sight for a. Friday, Father tried it again. Saturday Wilson's pup used it for a playground—cut the whole place up. Father went to Murphy, Taylor, Wilson, too. You may pen your pests up now," he said "I'm through."

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