

The Observer

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IN THE OLD HOME TOWN



in which there shall be no fighting.

THE GAS MAN. By Herbert A. Cox. When do gas men, roads do meter, Taint no use to fuss and fret, Kane dar ain't no way to beat her Date has ever been found yet.

An' it ain't no use to grumble When the gas bill comes to you Fo' dar's gwine to be a rumble If you don't pay when it's due.

So jes' let me tell you, honey, When do gas man comes about You had better have do money Or do gas no gwine out.

Someone suggests that we have knee-length nighties to match P.T. man blankets.

No, friends, sea-food is not going to be any cheaper, when Henry Ford gets Mussel Shoals.

STARKEY HAS A GOLD SPELL. (Special to The Observer.) STARKEY, Jan. 24.—It was 32 degrees below zero on January 17, and on the succeeding night, January 28, it dropped to 23 below, the coldest weather experienced this year.

Bible Thought. For Today

PEACE AND SAFETY.—Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.—Isaiah 26:3.

The Community's Loss

How closely we are ever at the door of the great beyond was brought forth yesterday morning when the many friends of Mrs. Herman Siegrist learned of her passing on. Taken so unexpectedly in the prime of life, it is hard for her friends to realize that the place she has filled in such a loving manner in the life of the community is vacant.

Her life was one of devotion to her home, her friends and the welfare of the community. Those knowing her realize that an ideal wife, a loving mother and devoted daughter has left our midst. No family could suffer a greater loss than hers, but the loss extends further than to that home which has been so overcast with sadness. As a member of her church and clubs she was ever active in helping make the community in which she made her home a better place to live and it will be many, many years before the part she played in social and church life in La Grande has become dimmed by time.

In such times of deep mourning little can be said that heals the aching hearts of the bereaved family, but the family of Mrs. Herman Siegrist has extended to it the sympathy of the community as a whole, in a measure such as is seldom meted out to the grieving ones left behind when the grim reaper passes among us.

The Father of the Automobile

The name of George Baldwin Selden would mean little to the average newspaper reader, if it were not coupled with the explanation that he was the inventor of the automobile. He filed the other day in Rochester, N. Y.

There is considerable dispute, as usual, over the credit for this great invention. Some maintain that the first practical, commercial motor car was built by Ransom E. Olds at Lansing, Mich. Others give the honor to Alexander Winton of Cleveland.

Although priority is claimed for an Englishman named Butler and a German named Daimler, there is little question in this country at least, of Selden's claim to have been the pioneer developer of the internal combustion engine which is used now by nearly all automobiles, and which has made the airplane possible. He began working on a self-propelled steam vehicle in 1879, but soon gave that up. The idea occurred to him of utilizing, instead of steam pressure, the pressure produced by explosions within a closed chamber. He exhausted, one by one, the possibilities of ammonia gas, sulphuric acid and other liquid fuels, and finally, in 1876, concluded that the solution of the problem was to be found in volatile petroleum products. The "gas engine" and the motor car followed quickly.

Selden's name may be recalled hereafter with that of James Watt, who did not really invent, but first improved the steam engine. At present it seems possible that steam will be supplanted by the gas engine, for nearly all purposes. Eventually we may expect electricity to displace both.

Back to the Constitution

"Back to the Constitution" is the motto of the Marshall-Wythe School of Government and Citizenship, just opened at the College of William and Mary at Williamsburg, Virginia. It marks the first movement, by an institution, engaged in producing large numbers of teachers for the public schools, to combat radical propaganda and tendencies by equipping its graduates to carry into their classrooms a thorough knowledge of governmental fundamentals and particularly of those issues and ideals which distinguish our own mechanism of government. This school will teach how the govern-

ment functions, and why it functions as it does. It will naturally be compared with the Williams College Institute of Politics, which promises valuable contribution to the study of comparative politics. The two lines of study might easily run together.

Our constitution, it should be remembered, is essentially an English document, despite the fact that its checks are Greek in origin and its balances Roman. It was devised by a people who, if we forget the negro slaves, were 95 per cent of British stock. Today less than half our population is of British origin. The majority of our citizens come of races whose political traditions and instincts are very different. It is, therefore, logical to suppose that the Constitution, if it is to continue to function adequately, must from time to time be modified somewhat to suit other racial ideas and ideals. The study of Comparative Politics would tend to simplify and guide the process of alteration.

More Competition

American shipping interests have a new worry. Germany, for more than three years past connected only with Brazilian and River Plata ports, has started two steamship lines to the Caribbean and Central America, offering a combination freight and passenger service.

The situation, from the American point of view, is complicated by the fact that Caribbean berths were already overbooked and there was not business enough to allow American craft opportunity for profitable competition. Now the Germans invade the field, and their cheaply produced goods and low freight rates make them particularly dangerous rivals.

It only means one more problem for Congress on the Shipping Board, another problem added to the scores arising out of the foreign trade situation which are as yet unsolved.

Whatever our national regrets, it is true enough that neither the legislative nor the administrative body has made any notable progress as yet. We are used to being told that we are not a military people, and the talk always affords us satisfaction. It appears that we are not a nation of international traders, either—and probably it will take more than laws to make us so.

This nation is in a pretty bad way, says a writer in an eastern newspaper, all because it is without a "super-talman" to run its government. It seems a great pity, but until we have consulted a better dictionary than the one at hand, we can't make any helpful suggestions.

PORTLAND TO HAVE OPERA

Portland, Oregon, is to get five great performances of the Chicago Grand Opera company, March 22, 23, 24 and 25. Under the terms of a contract recently signed the company will appear in the Portland Public Auditorium prior to the annual engagement in San Francisco and will make Portland the opera center of the northwest for this season.

The contract calls for the entire Chicago company with Mary Garden, Mafurora, Kassa, Baklanoff, Lazari, Rimini and 40 other world stars, together with an orchestra of 70, ballet of 20, 72 stage hands, five conductors of music and a vast array of scenery and equipment to present operas on the same order it is shown in Chicago, New York and other eastern cities.

The company will travel to the road in three special passenger trains of 17 baggage cars of scenery, costumes, etc. A total of 321 persons will be carried. Mary Garden, general director of the company, says the productions in Portland will be exactly the same as in Chicago and manufacture are the performances on the east. To get the company out of business men of Portland have raised a guarantee fund of \$75,000, which will cover the cost of the five performances.

A Kansas Explanation. No wonder a hen cackles. When she has laid an egg she has launched the possibility of a race that never ends.—Atlanta Constitution.

THE OFFICE CAT



Those thieves who robbed Eliza Root's cellar of a lot of rare wines were evidently in too much of a hurry to frisk the place for Root beer.

John Earleycorn may be dead, but it certainly takes his funeral procession a long time to pass a given point.

LOOKING BACK TO CHRISTMAS

The shirt won't do, The socks won't fit, The tie's pale blue—I can't wear it. The handkerchief is made for show, But when I sniff I want to blow. Linburger cheese Is perfume rare Compared with these Cigars I share. But I'd be game And full of cheer If Christmas came Ten times a year.

Another Christmas has passed with out Bill Hohenzollern eating that dinner in Paris.

Why are they called "house guests" in the society items? Inquires the sub-let. Very few people compel their guests to sleep in the coal shed or garage.

Love at first sight may be all right but it doesn't cost a cent to take two or three more looks, unless the movie fan.

A certain legal wise guy says the flapper thinks a grand piano is one that plays by pushing a button.

One of the theatrical managers is planning to put on a play in which there are to be no love scenes. If it is a success, let's try to have a war.

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ROAD BONDING LIMIT LARGE

PORTLAND, Jan. 24.—Under the road bonding act, based on the 6 per cent limitation, Oregon counties can issue \$61,348,251 in bonds. Advantage of the law has been taken to the extent of \$21,297,44, so that counties are still in position to issue \$39,950,807 when they see fit.

These statistics have been compiled by John B. Yeon, state highway commissioner, in preparation for a conference of the commissioners this week. It is the intention of Commissioners Booth, Yeon and Barratt to meet the latter part of the week and select a programme of jobs to be advertised for letting at the February meeting. Mr. Yeon is especially desirous of getting work under contract next month so that contractors may take advantage of the entire summer season. Also it is the wish of the commission to allocate the funds on hand among the several counties, a matter which has been delayed for a month or more.

So that the commission would know how the counties have assisted in road construction under the bond system, Mr. Yeon gathered the statistics. The theory of the commission is, apparently, that the statistics will be used to ascertain whether big counties have had more of their share of state co-operation than the poorer counties, when comparison is made with the money spent by the state.

Only three counties have issued no bonds for roads. These are Harney, Josephine and Washington. Harney, with its 6,357,120 acres, is the largest in the state, and has a road bonding ability of \$766,067. Josephine has bonding ability of \$493,618, and Washington \$1,300,442. Josephine, while unbonded, has a large amount of outstanding warrants, most of which represent money for roads. Clackamas, Crook and Grant counties have touched their limit; Lane has almost reached it but there are many counties which have bonded only from 30 to 50 per cent of what they are permitted.

The total amount of the road bonding limit in the state based on the 6 per cent limitation is \$61,348,251.82, while the bonds voted to November 20, 1921, total \$21,297,244. The bonding limit on the 6 per cent limitation basis is \$1,581,987.11 for Union county and Union county had voted \$1,498,300 in bonds November 31, 1921.

While a tentative map of the primary and secondary road systems was discussed with a representative of the bureau of public roads the past week under the federal aid law, the commission did not formally submit the map and further time, has been requested of the secretary of agriculture in which to make the filing. There are some roads tentatively on the secondary system which may not have the unanimous approval of the commission, and these may call for a minority report. There is one such road in eastern Oregon and another in western Oregon, but these may be ironed out before the map of the system is officially submitted to Washington.

Every road on the map will be inspected by engineers of the department of public roads; and those reports, with recommendations, will be sent to the Secretary of agriculture. It is possible that those government engineers may recommend the Sherman highway through Sherman county as the northern end of The Dalles-California bypass instead of the formation through Wasco county to The Dalles.

All Epitaphs. Just thinking over nobody does anything so good as somebody doesn't think he could do it better if he was a-take the trouble to try. A

Water Not Incompressible. Water, generally regarded as practically incompressible, decreases 20 per cent in volume when subjected to a pressure of 180,000 pounds to the square inch.

READ THE WANT ADS!

Timely Apologies. Few things do more to lubricate the wheels of existence than the timely and kindly apology, and few things are more tiresome and irritating than the apology that is an intrusion and unnecessary. Well-bred persons are always ready with a more or less perfunctory "I beg your pardon," and they feel not the slightest humiliation in making this sort of apology. It is a remark that may be applied freely to perfect strangers as well as to close friends.

Silent Atraction. What surprises me most about Scotland, writes a visitor, is not the absence of haggis and the hilt, or the presence of finely metalled roads, but the silence of the barbers' shops. Artful and silent say nothing more to each other than the few words necessary for the success of the operation in hand. When I remarked on this phenomenon to a much-traveled Scot, "Aye," he commented, "they're both thinking hard about the tip."—London Post.

THE REASON FOR OUR SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH IS OUR SUBSTANTIAL SERVICE THE MONEY YOU SAVE IS WHAT COUNTS The man who is earning good money and has no cares for the present, should not forget the future. A small deposit weekly, semi-monthly or monthly, will build a substantial bank account in a surprisingly short time. We pay 4% interest on time and savings accounts. A dollar will open an account. UNITED STATES NATIONAL BANK LA GRANDE, ORE.

Don't Cheat Yourself SINCE THE INSTALLATION OF OUR NEW SYSTEM WE HAVE RECEIVED A GREAT MANY FAVORABLE COMMENTS FROM OUR SUBSCRIBERS. WE HAVE ALSO RECEIVED MANY ORDERS FOR NEW TELEPHONES. WE HAVE HEARD RUMORS, HOWEVER, TO THE EFFECT THAT CERTAIN AGITATORS ARE MAKING A DESPERATE EFFORT TO HAVE A NUMBER OF OUR SUBSCRIBERS ORDER OUT THEIR TELEPHONES WITH THE EXPECTATION OF HAVING THE RATES REDUCED. OUR RATES, WHICH COMPARE FAVORABLY WITH THE BALANCE OF THE STATE, WERE AUTHORIZED ONLY AFTER A CAREFUL INVESTIGATION AND THEY WILL NOT BE REDUCED, SO DON'T CHEAT YOURSELF OUT OF YOUR TELEPHONE SERVICE. TELEPHONE SERVICE IS THE CHEAPEST COMMODITY IN EXISTENCE. HOME INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE CO.