

The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, JAN. 10, 1917.

THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

One does not have to read through several columns of greetings, congratulations and administrative review to find the meat in the Governor's message. It is devoid of extraneous material and in that respect it somewhat resembles the message that must be submitted even by those who do not approve its recommendations.

In the main the Governor's advice to the Legislature is pertinent and sensible. In some particulars it is courageous. It demands a tradition, a reverence for curtailment of expenditures invite vociferous objections, because they tread on their toes, of officials and institutions entrenched behind custom and state tradition. Some of the good recommendations will not be heeded. It is ever so. The wholly proper suggestion that the Legislature cut its own expenses fell yesterday on the ears of a body that had already begun business along the old lines.

The message is devoted in considerable part to this subject of retrenchment. The Governor's proposals, as he admits, may be largely modified and revised, but they are the only workable basis. We could, ourselves, suggest an important item or two that might be added to them. Consolidation of commissions and offices could attain a broader scope, for one thing, without impairing their functions. The Governor's proposed reductions amount to \$461,000. It is necessary either to eliminate some \$715,000 or provide additional revenues. The Governor proposes an increase in insurance premiums to make up the deficit. We would cut the entire \$715,000 from the budget and, if more revenues were available, apply them to road construction or some other imperative necessity.

There is reason in the Governor's recommendation that there be a greater centralization of authority over state institutions. In control of the penitentiary system the Governor's voice is no more authoritative than that of Secretary of State or State Treasurer. Yet if there is failure in administration of that institution the Governor, who is exonerated from the state in name but not in fact, gets all blame. This is but one illustration.

The Governor is elected with all the solemnity that attaches to the selection of a leader of a nation. His executive qualities produce tons of literature and loud trumpeting in all the halls of the state. But he cannot lead in fact, because in apparent fear that his leadership might not justify the expense of his election, he divides his authority among other officials whose qualities as leaders have not been in issue. The people do some queer things, but nothing queerer than blaming a Governor for not doing something that he is wholly responsible for his not doing.

The Governor's recommendations concerning employment of penitentiary inmates at construction of a new prison unquestionably is sound. His suggestion for the repeal of the act of the Supreme Court is in the interest of poorer litigants, as well as of the overburdened Supreme Court, and is not antagonistic to true justice.

His urgency of sterilization law, applying to the state in name but not in fact, gets all blame. This is but one illustration. The Governor is elected with all the solemnity that attaches to the selection of a leader of a nation. His executive qualities produce tons of literature and loud trumpeting in all the halls of the state. But he cannot lead in fact, because in apparent fear that his leadership might not justify the expense of his election, he divides his authority among other officials whose qualities as leaders have not been in issue. The people do some queer things, but nothing queerer than blaming a Governor for not doing something that he is wholly responsible for his not doing.

There is much in the Governor's message to be heeded and much to be seriously and carefully considered. It comes from one who is in close touch with the state and who has the serious economic and other problems confronting members who are not so familiar with them. Self-sufficiency is a common fault of legislators. Yet the very method of legislation, confined as it is to forty recommendations entrusted to men chosen from near and remote sections of the state, bespeaks the need for wise counsel from one equipped to give it.

GIVING THEM A REASON.

Representative Anderson, who fathered the present year-old dry law passed by the Legislature of 1915, has been placed in a position of similar responsibility as chairman of the House committee on alcoholic traffic. Dr. Anderson has given needed relief to a great many troubled spirits (we do not use the word alcoholically) by saying that he is opposed to the prohibition of the ultra-dry for a search-and-seizure clause.

Search and seizure is an afterthought of the radicals. They are not content with abolishing the saloon, but stopping manufacture and sale of liquor and now with preventing its importation. They aspire to loftier levels of reform. They aim now at individual custom or habit and would stop drinking by anyone in any quantity.

Over in Idaho it is a felony for one to have liquor in his possession but it is a mere misdemeanor for one to get drunk. An intoxicated citizen, who had no visible whisky about him, was confined by a jury of virtuous justitians to the penitentiary by the sapient Dogberry on the bench, after a ruling that the liquor he had drunk was undeniably in his possession.

Possibly we shall attain in Oregon the heights of the idealism dreamed of in Idaho. But as a practical proposition there are lions in the path. It is said that if the extremists succeed in putting a search-and-seizure clause in the law a great many members now favorably disposed will refuse to vote for the emergency clause. The drys say that this action will be a mere pretext or excuse. It will be more.

It will be a reason, and a good one. **BUFFALO BILL.** "Nothing in his life became him like the leaving of it," said the greatest poet through the lips of young Malcolm in Macbeth. Buffalo Bill, calmly awaiting the final summons, had no doubt preferred that the sword of spear, but closes fittingly the long chapter of heroic episodes which have marked his life. Possibly the average American boy, long edified by the stories of Bill's encounters with the Indians, is awaiting the final summons, but closes fittingly the long chapter of heroic episodes which have marked his life.

Who does not remember the most thrilling of all exploits when Bill Cody fought and killed Yellow Hand, the New York, red who in the cowboy chit? The plainsman was then at the height of his prowess, if not of his fame. Yellow Hand, at the head of the warlike Indians, which were being pursued by the Fifth United States Cavalry, rode in the cowboy fashion from amongst his copper-skinned braves and challenged any of the enemy to single-handed combat. Buffalo Bill promptly accepted the gaze, and there, on the plains, under the blue skies and before the eyes of many hundred Cheyennes and other hundreds of American soldiers, Bill shot to death the Indian, after his own hand had been killed. It was an exploit which fashioned the plot of not a few novels.

Buffalo Bill was not in any sense a bad man, as many dead-shots, usually known as Wild Bill, were. But he lived by his physical courage and by his expertness with the rifle. In after life he was a showman, and a good one. The plains are not what they were. The last frontier has given way to the farm, the schoolhouse and the church. The wickup has been banished to the average established by the industry of the farmer and the cowboy. Peacefully horse and plow. The cowboy and his chaps are seen now chiefly at round-ups, and Buffalo Bill shoots glass balls before people and admiring thousands. One may be nervous, but nervous is not necessary there will be regret that the picturesque frontiersman has told his story and passed on.

PRACTICAL DIET EXPERIMENT. There is promise of practical results from the new diet experiment now being conducted in New York, in which a squad of highly young policemen will be used to demonstrate that they can live comfortably and wholesomely upon an expenditure of 25 cents a day for food. This will cut 6 cents or more from the average established by the industry of the farmer and the cowboy. Conclusive experiment conducted under the direction of Dr. John Dill Robertson in Chicago, and at the same time will be based upon a class of men of high physical development and unusual dietary developed appetites. If they can be fed four days for \$1, it will be concluded that the case of the "average man" is not at all as hopeless as some persons would have us believe.

There is more encouraging showing than any other recently made public, however, is made by the report of the Indian Bureau of the United States upon the cost of feeding grown students upon the cost of feeding grown students at the Carlisle school. In the year 1915 the average cost per student succeeded in giving good, wholesome food at a rate for the individual of 16 2-3 cents a day, \$1.17 a week, or a little more than \$5 a month. The advantage of buying in large quantity, of these consumers on regular day, of three meals, 909 pounds of bread, 850 pounds of beef, eighteen pounds of butter, eight pounds of flour, thirty-five bushels of potatoes, twenty-five gallons of milk and other articles in due proportion. There is no evidence of dissatisfaction on the part of the students, the annual cost of whose subsistence is calculated to have been \$60.63. The secret of this economy is probably revealed in the

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Human animals have been housed for two months now. They are getting fat and flabby. Many of them have noticed that they are getting short of wind. Some are noticing that they are getting wheezy—their wheeziness they call asthma. More of them have noticed stubborn skin eruptions.

If they had masters something would happen. They would be put on short rations. They would be made to work. They would get more collards, spinach, turnips, beets, potatoes and fruit. A way would be found to make them take more exercise and less fat would be given. They would get more collards, spinach, turnips, beets, potatoes and fruit.

Another substitute for chasing rabbits is walking in the snow with snowshoes or without. People who walk with uncovered faces in snow storms rarely complain of pimples and blackheads. Pitching horseshoes, while not so pleasant as later in the season, can still be classed as a winter sport, especially in those sections where the ground is not covered by snow. It trains the muscles and cultivates control. It has in it the necessary elements—play and competition.

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 C. F. T. writes: "My five-weeks-old baby's tongue is coated. I understand it is not good to wash a baby's mouth the first year. Please let me know if this is serious and what can be done. Could this be caused by rubber nipple on bottle?"

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