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MONDAY - - - - MAY 15, 1899

SHOULD PAY IF ABLE.

dred patients at the state asylum for the insane near Salem. The daily total has been running between 1175 lightening of the burden in this and 1190 for some week. The number is not likely to be decreased. On the contrary, it is on the increase. The gardens must be enlarged each

year, and calculations always made for the future on a little larger scale than were made heretofore. This year there must be planted some 1100 to 1200 bushels of seed potatoes, in order to raise enough of that vegetable for next year's supply, and more than a hundred acres of land must be devoted to the raising of potatoes. So, in symmetrical proportion, with all the other vegetables. The keeping of the insane is cost ing the taxpayers of this state an enormous sum annually. The per capita expense is not too large. The patients are kept as cheaply as pos sible, consistent with principles of humanity. People will keep on going crazy, as long as the laws of heredity and the operations and syllogisms of nature remain the same. The same causes will produce the same effects. There will be cases of congenital insanity and idiocy and tendencies leading to the more pronounced forms of the former, so long as there are dissipated and diseased and otherwise poorly equipped or illy-mated fathers and mothers. The same causes will produce criminals and otherwise defective and poorly equipped and ordered individuals, likely to become public charges. But the writer was speaking of the asylum for the insane. It costs a great deal of money (nearly a third of the revenue of the state), and its cost cannot be diminished. It must increase, at least proportionately as

the burden, by means of taxation. Is there no way to lighten the TRANSACTA ENERAL BANKING BUSINES burden?

There is a way.

There is a way to lighten it by one-third, as the writer is informed by one who ought to know.

In New York the state is divided into asylum districts. Patients from a certain group of counties are sent to a particular institution, located near. When one is committed, asylum commissioners for that district are informed. They go to the locality from which the patient came and there inquire concerning the ability of the new ward of the state or of his near relatives to pay. If he finds him or any of them able, a certain monthly rate is fixed, which sum becomes a lien like any other tax. If he or they are less able, then the monthly charge is fixed accordingly. If not able at all, nothing is charged. If anyone so charged thinks himself taxed too heavily, or beyond his ability to pay, he may have the case reopened for a hearing. In this way a large part of the bur-

property or income, or by their relatives, upon whom they would other-

wise be a private burden, who are able to pay. There are known to be men and women in the asylum here at Salem possessing a great deal of property in their own rights. Others have tich or well-to do relatives. Still others have relatives who could pay \$5 or \$10 a month, and who should be obliged to do so, since the general public has assumed the great bulk of the burden, the erection of buildings, the purchase and improvement of lands, etc. The most able of these patients pay nothing now. There is no authority for the charging of any dues, and in fact none for the receiving of any gratuity, even were it offered. In truth, it is often tendered by private individuals, desiring the treatment of their relatives or friends, or by physicians wishing

to send their patients. The same rule might well be invoked in the keeping of all other public charges, even the criminal

This subject is well worthy of con-There are now nearly twelve hun-

The Oregon legislature at its next cession ought to provide for the manner,-Salem Statesman.

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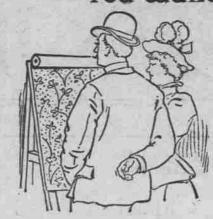
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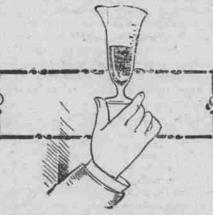


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Spokane Flyer 5:40 p. m.	Walla Walla, Spokane, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, Milwaukee, Chicago and East,	Spokane Fijer. 5:00 a. m
8 p. m.	FROM PORTLAND. Ocean Steamships. For San Francisco— Ja uary 22, and every five days thereafter.	4 p. m.
8 p. m. Ex.Sunday Saturday 10 p. m.	Columbia Rv. Steamers. To Astoria and Way Landings.	4 p. m. Ex.sunday
6 a. m. Ex.Sunday	WILLAMETTE RIVER. Oregon City, Newberg, Salem & Way Land's.	4:30 p. m. Ex.sunday
7 a. m, Tues,Thur. and sat.	WILLAMWITE AND YAM- HILL RIVERS, Oregon City, Dayton, and Way-Landings,	3:30 p. m. Mon.,Wed and Fri.
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