UMBRELLA COURTSHIP.

The wind was damp with coming wet
When James and blue-eyed Lizzie met:
He held a gingham o'er his head,
And to the maiden thus he said:

"Oh, lovely girl, my heart's afire
With love's unquestionable desire;
Say, dearest one, wilt thou be mine,
And join me in the grocery line?"

The maid in accents sweet replied:
"Jim, hold the umbrella more my side;
My bran-new bonnet's getting wet—
I'll marry yer, yer needn't fret."

Mr. Dawes' Startling Statements.

Mr. Dawes, Chairman of the committee of Ways and Means of the House of Congress, made a statement the other day which will not only arrest attention, but will startle the country. In the course of a speech relating to the financial condition of the Government, he declared that the total outstanding obligations for the current year were $393,846,000; that to meet this extraordinary expenditure the receipts were only $341,789,000. It is noteworthy, also, that the public debt, instead of being diminished, is increasing, as he tells us. This financial showing proves that there has been wretched mismanagement somewhere. It cannot be, it seems to us, that it costs all this vast sum to administer this Government in a legitimate and proper manner.

We well remember that during Mr. BUCHANAN'S Administration there was a great hue-and-cry because the expenses of the Government reached some sixty or seventy millions per annum, and it was charged by his opponents that there must be an immense amount of stealing to swallow up such a vast sum. Certainly some twelve or thirteen years cannot have made this immeasurable difference under any thing like a decent attention to our Government finances. If we make a proper deduction for the annual interest on the public debt, we still have left upwards of two hundred and seventy millions of dollars, which are swallowed up in carrying on the usual branches of the public service in a time of profound peace. What makes this vast increase in the last dozen years? Can an honest account be rendered consistent with legitimate and proper administration? The country, we apprehend, will doubt it. The contrast between the two periods is too great, the difference too enormous, to be consistent with integrity and capability. It used to be the fashion to talk about the cost of the monarchical system of Europe. To contrast our own republican simplicity with the gorgeous display, the standing armies and the costly paraphernalia of the kingdoms of the old world; but at the rate now going on our Republic will soon far excel in costliness any Government of Europe. Indeed the rate of taxation in this country is more burdensome to our people than the rate imposed by any monarch of Europe upon his subjects is to them. But, we repeat, what has made this vast increase in the last dozen years? The answer may be found—in part, at least—in the vast increase of Government officials, with fat salaries attached. It would be curious to note how many thousands of new official agents have been created within the last eight or ten years, in many cases simply as a reward for partisn services and to satisfy the importunities of partisans.

At the rate expenses are now being increased it may become a serious question whether a system so costly is worth maintaining. But the real question lies behind this one. Is it the fault of the system, or those who mal-administer it? That is the vital question to be considered, and, we apprehend, with sober and right thinking minds there will be but one answer: A Republic, rightly administered, is the cheapest and best Government in the world; but a rotten Republic, where the official body is bent on money-making and given over to luxury, indolence and pride, is the worst government in the world. And now we hear much said about reform. Who has made reform necessary except those who tell us that abuses exist? And will those who have created the abuses reform themselves? Will those who profit by the abuses which they have created forego the enjoyment of those profits? Is it sound philosophy to expect official corruption to reform itself? A great political thinker and writer, one of our own great countryman, said, many years ago, that a revolution was necessary once in each generation; and he was largely instrumental in establishing the ballot as a peaceful means of achieving such a revolution, instead of resorting to the violence of the sword. Happily for our country, the people can peacefully inaugurate a revolution at any time they see fit through the quiet agency of suffrage. *S.F. Chronicle.*

POSTAL CONTRACTS.

We copy from the S. F. *Chronicle* the following paragraph which shows what a saving has been made in the recent lettings of mail contracts on this coast:

"There appears to have been a marked improvement this year in the letting of contracts for the carrying of the United States mails on the Pacific Coast. The total sum to be paid this service for the coming four years will be but $896,000, a saving from the four years past of $628,000. On some of the routes the cutting down was enormous. For instance, that from Mesilla (New Mexico) to San Diego, which has been costing the Government $124,000, is now cut down to $55,000, at which figure it was let to Kerns & Mitchell, of Fort Smith, Arkansas. The San Diego and Los Angeles route is let at $12,000, per annum to William Buckley. The route from Hamilton to Pioche, in Nevada, was let to James Remsen for $1,675. It has been $51,250 yearly. That from Palisades to Hamilton, Nevada, which costs now $17,000 per annum, under the new contract with Levi McDaniels will cost $1,450. The route from Reading, California, to Roseburg, Oregon, was let for $24,000 instead of $100,000, the present sum. This gives an idea of the extent of the retrenchment which is being practiced in this direction."

A tax will be levied in Mr. Wooley's neighborhood, Washington county, to build a school house. It is to be 34x42 feet, with cupola and bell. Go in farmers! You are on the right track when you take a decided stand in favor of good schools.

Dr. F. A. Bailey, assisted by Dr. Vite, of Hillsboro, succeeded in removing a large tumor from the person of Mr. Kennedy, last week, which is understood to have been of long standing. This is only one among a large number which they have successfuly operated upon in this county, some being exceedingly delicate cases.

A Salem young man who spit tobacco juice on the church floor, was ordered out of the house by the deacon, but showed fight and the deacon subsided.

PLATFORM
Of the Independent People of Oregon.

Resolved, 1. That extravagance and corruption have become so prevalent in the administration of the affairs of this State and nation as to burden the people with taxes that are not necessary to good government, make politics a trade and debauch the morals of society; that there is no good to hope for a remedy for these evils through the two political parties that have heretofore ruled the country, and that the welfare of the people demand that every citizen, laying aside all party prejudices and differences of opinion upon immaterial points, unite in selecting for the public service men who will exert themselves to secure public economy, retrenchment and reduction of taxation in every practicable way.

2. That we view with alarm the reckless course of the State and National Governments in the multiplication of officers beyond the requirements of the public service, many of whom, while receiving salaries from the public treasury, are devoting themselves to their private pursuits. And we demand that officers paid do give their time exclusively to the service for which they are appointed.

3. That we favor the adoption by the National and State Government, of all reasonable measures of securing cheap transportation; and to this and we favor liberal aid from the General Government for the opening and improvement of our harbors and rivers; for the construction of the Portland, Dalles and Salt Lake Railroad; the completion of the Oregon and California Railway to the Southern line of the State, and the extension of the Oregon Central Railway to Junction City. That the interest of the State demand the completion of the Oregon Central Railway to Astoria; that we favor such aid as may be consistent with prudence and public economy; for the construction of roads across our mountain chains. And we favor the immediate construction of a wagon road along the south bank of the Columbia river from the mouth of Sandy to the Dalles.

4. That all property rights, individual and corporate, should be subject to law; that we would give all proper aid, encouragement and protection to corporations, companies or persons engaged in transportation, commerce, or any other legitimate pursuit; but we would hold all subject to law; and we demand that the rates of freight and fare on railways within the State be fixed by the Legislature of the State, and on inter-State railways, by Congress.

5. That we demand a return to the salaries fixed by the Constitution for State officers, and we condemn all the schemes that have been devised to increase such salaries by indirection. That the compensation of all officers should be only such as would pay them fairly for the services they perform; that County Clerks and Sheriffs should have salaries fixed by law according to their services; that the law increasing their fees should be repealed and a law enacted providing reasonable fees to be charged by them in cases where private parties alone are concerned, such fees to be paid by officers into the County Treasury. That we demand the passage of a law to protect the public against unreasonable charges for the State printing.

6. That we favor a liberal system of public schools, but we condemn the act creating a monopoly in the sale of school books, and demand its repeal.

7. That we demand the repeal of the Litigant printing law.

8. That we demand equal rights for all citizens, and accord special privileges to none.

9. That the interests of the people demand competition in the transportation of freights to and from our seaboard; that we are opposed to the purchase or leasing by the State of the Canal and Locks at the falls of the Willamette, but would hold both the State and Lock Company to a strict compliance with their existing contract.

10. That we especially condemn those acts of the Legislature that they have enabled speculators to obtain the public lands of the State in large tracts, to the exclusion of poor men and men of moderate means, who would take them for homes.

11. That the removal of a faithful and competent officer, merely because of his political opinions, is a gross abuse of power. That the use of the appointing power to reward politicians for services in conventions and elections, is no less corrupt than any other species of bribery. That the removal of faithful public officers for the conscientious performances of their duties is an outrage upon good government.

12. That personal character is the proper criterion by which to judge of the fitness of men for public position, and it is dangerous business to men of disreputable private character.

13. That the General Government should pay all the expenses, losses and damages necessarily arising from its course of dealing with the Indians; and we demand that our fellow citizens in Eastern and Southern Oregon be indemnified by the Government for their losses and damages in the late Modoc war.

14. That we are in favor of such legislation on the subject of the liquor traffic as will allow each precinct to decide by a vote of the citizens thereof whether liquor shall be sold in that precinct or not, and which shall make the venders of intoxicating drink responsible for damages which may be done by the abuse of that privliege where sale is permitted.

15. That the uprising of the agricultural class, and their organization into a compact society for mutual protection against the extortions of oppressive monopolies, commends itself to the favor of every just mind, and cannot but result in ultimate good to the whole people.

(Signed) W. S. ELKINS Chairman.

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MARY AND I.

'Twas evening in May; and the soft zephyr sighed
Through branches low bending above
My Mary and I, as we wandered along,
And whispered of beauty and love.
"We'll make us a nest like the birdlings," I said,
"And never shall part any more."
"Oh, yes," she replied, "and can furnish it nice
At HURGREN & SHINDLER'S STORE."

"Fair creature, there's many a wealthier man
Would gladly have you for a bride;
But no one can love you more fondly than I
—My Treasure, my beauty, my pride!
Oh, had I a mansion, with carpets of gold
And silver, I'd cover the floor!"
But, smiling, she said, "You can purchase the best
At HURGREN & SHINDLER'S STORE."

"I'll spread you a couch upon which to recline
When evening shall call us to rest,
Of the fleeciest down." "But," she said with a sigh,
"I like hair mattress the best."
"Then so it shall be, love; the tables inlaid,
And seats from some far distant shore."
"Oh, no," she exclaimed. "They have elegant sets
At HURGREN & SHINDLER'S STORE."

"But, Mary, alas! I must sadly confess
My means are but slender as yet;
To furnish a house in the style you demand
Would hopelessly plunge me in debt—
To ask you to share my poor lodgings and board
Is something that I should deplore."
She said, with a smile, "You can buy very cheap
At HURGREN & SHINDLER'S STORE."

"To-morrow, then, love, let us journey along
To the corner of Alder and Front street—
'Tis numbers **98** and **100** (river side,)
Where lovers so happily meet;
How many fond souls might be severed for years
From those they so fondly adore,
Were it not for the beautiful furniture they have
At HURGREN & SHINDLER'S STORE."

They have marble-top bureaus and elegant sets
Of Bed-room furniture new,
With center-tables, and what-note, and mirrors great,
And an endless variety of chairs, not a few,
They do a cash business, and with money in hand
To purchase every style of furniture lower,
Are able to supply all the public demand
At HURGREN & SHINDLER'S STORE.

We went, Mary and I; and can I ever forget
The pleasure that beamed in her face,
As she gazed at the marvels of beauty displayed
In HURGREN & SHINDLERS place!

We furnished our home in an elegant style,
Have been married a twelve-month or more
And Mary is singing this song to her babe,
Of HURGREN & SHINDLER'S STORE!!

n39 1y

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