

# The Observer.

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The republican party has had former insurgents, and grew stronger after shedding them.

Coxy states that most of the old populists are socialists. It remains for Milwaukee to show the world that it is both or neither.

The census will show Illinois to be far too great a state to allow itself to be plagued for ever with small and questionable politics.

Perhaps an English princess will be queen of Portugal. The Victorian age in European royalty may be pronounced in full flower.

Theo. Roosevelt, by appointment of President Taft, will act as a special ambassador to represent the United States at the funeral of King Edward in London, today.

Congressman Longworth points out that the tariff duty of 400 per cent on peanuts was held at the instance of southern democrats. But they've got it, now their hearts are bleeding for all the other consumers.

The new expedition to Mount McKinley to find the foot tracks of Dr. Cook, shows that exploration is so fast becoming a joke that it will be hard hereafter for promoters to finance their expeditions.

Medicine and law have their respective codes of ethics. Each might be improved, perhaps, yet their existence has a good effect. Journalism should have its code. There should be press associations existing like bar associations, and medical associations, for the improvement of the profession.

Judge George, chairman of the state republican committee, has made a statement wherein he avers that statement number one is no part of the direct primary law, never was and never ought to be. The Judge goes further and says that he would under no circumstance countenance the taking or carrying out such a pledge, and also that a member of the legislature doing so is, in effect, morally guilty of bribery.

The census of the United States is the largest and most expensive single statistical enterprise in the world. In no other country which regularly takes a census, except Russia, are there so many people to be enumerated. In no other important census-taking country, except Russia, is the population so sparsely distributed. The number and the complexity of the interrogatories are far greater than in the census of any other country of the world. The necessity of completing the enumeration of the population and the farms within the short space of one month explains the need of such an army of enumerators.

That there are practically no limits to the human memory for words, would appear from such extraordinary cases as that of Cardinal Mezzofanti, who spoke 85 languages, and had in many of them an ample vocabulary. His store of separate forms must have run far up into the millions. Such attainments are useless save for the linguist, but they show that the meager vocabulary of the ordinary person is due not to any defect in storage capacity, but to indifference, neglect, or obstinacy. Probably all of us could double or treble our personal vocabulary with slight effort if the needs were felt. A hunting trip to Africa for instance.

## WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH OUR TARIFF?

The most radical freetraders have seldom entered any serious objection to a tariff for revenue only. As the present tariff bill is admirably fulfilling such functions, it may in time be accepted with a better grace than is now shown by enemies of the administration. Insofar as it has succeeded in replacing a deficit with a surplus, the new tariff law has certainly justified President Taft's assertion that it was the "best law ever enacted." Official figures for the ten months ending May 3d show receipts for customs nearly \$38,000,000 in excess of those for the corresponding period in the previous fiscal year. The total receipts under the new law for customs, internal revenue, corporation tax and miscellaneous collections in the ten months mentioned, were \$543,659,878, as compared with \$493,199,632 for the ten months to May 3, 1909.

The advantage to the treasury, by this heavy increase in receipts, was further enhanced by a great reduction in expenditures. The deficit for the ten months ending May 3 last year was more than \$70,000,000, while this year it was but \$17,000,000. If this remarkable increase in imports continues through until June 30th, as now seems certain, the end of the fiscal year will find a substantial surplus to the credit of the treasury department operations, instead of a deficit.

This fine showing was made after the payment by the treasury of \$27,000,000, on Panama canal debt. No bonds have yet been sold to make good this expenditure, and if this item, which properly belongs to the classification of "extraordinary" expense be eliminated, the treasury would actually have shown a surplus for the ten months of approximately \$10,000,000.

The big increase in import business was in a large part due to a reduction in the tariff which encouraged the importation of large quantities of goods which would not be brought here under the old tariff. This reduction, when considered by individual items, was apparently small, but it amounted to \$5,000,000 on the dutiable importations; and in the articles restored to the free list by the new law, there was a saving to the importers of nearly \$15,000,000.

It would, of course, be an impossibility to frame up a tariff law that would prove satisfactory to all of the interests affected. The law now under fire in this respect is put to an extra hard test for the reason that the building of the Panama canal, the requirements of the new navy, heavy increase in the pension and other branches of government expense have necessitated a greater revenue than any previous tariff bill was called on to produce. Thus far, the new law has proved more of a success than was expected.

New York has been a striking example of a city operated by political rather than business methods. With a yearly revenue from taxation and other ordinary sources of \$150,000,000, and with 60,000 employees, until recently New York city did not know how much it owned, while, by placing the business of the city on a basis of favoritism rather than competition, a loss has been entailed, estimated from \$10,000,000, to \$20,000,000 per annum.

A Boston brain specialist proposes a scientific plan by which he hopes to be able to detect what he terms "budding geniuses" among children. Experiments will be tried on children in the recently founded children's institute at Worcester to discover and develop all possible future geniuses in that community. What motive is back of this plan is not stated. Whether it is to enable New England to regain her waning power in the political councils of the nation or whether it is to prove that New England is still intellectually superior to the rest of the nation cannot be learned. Worthy as is the plan of this doctor there is little basis for expectation of filling the world with geniuses through any means of this kind. History records that many geniuses of the world have been duffers and seemingly blockheads as boys and it was only by struggling against the severest forms of adversity that they developed the quality and brain power that later started the world. He may help many boys to better places but geniuses are not developed by such methods.

## GENERAL NEWS OF THE DAY.

### Comment Suggested upon Topics as They are Presented to Readers.

A \$50,000 fire wiped out Bonanza, a town 30 miles east of Kalamath falls Sunday a. m.

Commander Peary has been made a member of the "Pocket Piece club," the insignia of which is a \$10 gold piece.

Four million acres of wheat has been abandoned in the central west as the result of frost. Why do people stay in such a country?

A democratic leader in congress is a man trying to win by cultivating republican insurgency and not by offering any principles of his own.

The forest service has turned 300 Angora goats loose on mountain slopes as an experiment to keep the weeds from the fire breaks.

Missouri is organizing "a farm for every man" movement. The show-me state is fertile in ideas and good at giving them a national start.

The Costa Rican city destroyed again by earthquake is near a volcano. A town may consider such a neighbor picturesque, but it is dangerous.

To sum up in percentage the six leading cereals show a yield of 7.5 per cent greater than last year, and only 4 per cent below the sum of record years in each.

Andrew Carnegie is sore on Pittsburg because the people look more interest in a ball game than in his college exercises, and refused to give any more money.

A rat plague, like one of the plagues of Egypt, has broken out in Haddingtonshire, England. Every man has his hand against rats, and they have "rat days" like Baltimore.

Halley's comet is a mighty tame affair for the amount of publicity received. What's the use of having a twenty million-mile tail if you don't show it? Even a peacock knows better.

Mr. U'Ren has acted wisely in withdrawing two of his proposed constitutional amendments. Some of his other propositions would better be sidetracked also, says the Oregon Daily Journal.

Lord Kitchner, is the chief reliance of England today as a military commander; and in practical experience in war he far surpasses any European general outside of Russia—and the Russian generals boast only of defeat.

Uncle Sam's declaration that in the future no knock-kneed men will be admitted to military service, leads one to inquire whether the country wants beaux or fighters. Some of the best fighters in history have been knock-kneed.

Six hundred kegs of powder were fired in one charge in a big blast in Willow creek canyon on the Oregon Trunk line grade. A huge mass of earth and rock was lifted into the air to a height of 100 feet or more and kept practically intact until the descent commenced. The mass fell on the Sherman county side of the canyon from whence it was loosened.

"One touch of nature makes the whole world kin." The king of England dies and the mikado of Japan mourns. The English sorrow, and the Japanese in America sympathize. As the world grows smaller, its heart grows greater. Tennyson's allegory of King Arthur's Table Round, "which was a symbol of the mighty world," is expressed in actual life by the fellowship of nations in things of the heart.

Caleb Powers is a candidate for congress in Kentucky. Not so very long ago he stood a most excellent chance of being hanged for complicity in the assassination of Governor Goebel. For a man to be secretary of state, once sentenced to be hanged, twice sentenced to life imprisonment and then freed to become a political power, is rather a good deal of romance and excitement to be crowded into a single life. Most humankind prefer to take things easier.

## Fourth of July at DeMoss.

Arrangements are being made to celebrate July 4th, 1910, at DeMoss Springs as usual. Both this city and Wasco have signified the intention to join in helping the movement. Arrangements are under way by which the Cornet Band of this city and the Lyric Bards band will alternate in furnishing the music. Concessions for the occasion are now being disposed of.

### Track of the Comet.

The earth passed through the tail of Halley's comet at 6:7 p. m. Wednesday. Tuesday 23d an eclipse of the moon is scheduled, between 9 and 10 p. m.; best view of the comet 24th, 10:30 p. m.; 25th 10:45 p. m.; 26th 11:15 p. m.; 28th 11:40 p. m.; 30th 11:20 p. m.

### Relics of Pre-Historic Man?

Portions of well preserved skulls of an Indian man and woman, on exhibition at Dr. Morgan's dental rooms, needs but a stretch of the imagination to associate them in life with the cataclysm that drained the Inland Empire when it was an expansive sea, and created our present land. It was a hot old time those days, and if the people we are thus discussing were here and escaped the fire consuming ordeal there must have been some remarkable circumstance in connection with their escape. These relics came from the awful pit of an immense blast set off on the grade of the Oregon Trunk Ry, and were gathered by J. O. Thompson of this city, at work repairing the Shearer bridge. The relics are immense, and worthy of historic research.

### An Eye-Sore to the Public.

Ten years ago, coming from the Grass Valley Fourth of July celebration, early on the morning of the 5th, L. Barnum and The O Man broke a buggy spring at a meanly, dirty little ditch across the road in front of the Dougherty domicile. Last Sunday that identical meanly, dirty little ditch was there, at that identical spot, smashing things as it has been doing all the time since our first experience with it, and the Lord knows how many years before that. \$5 will fix it and Sherman county will pay the bill; before any further fetes are pulled off in Grass Valley. It is an expense and a disgrace to that neighborhood, and makes the surrounding farms look as if they were going to seed with mustard, Russian thistle, and everything else, dollar wheat excepted.

### Birthday Party.

Geraldine Watkins, daughter of Mr and Mrs A. F. Watkins, near Wasco, celebrated her 8th birthday Sunday May 15th, by inviting her playmates for a jolly reminder party. Presents were given consisting of bouquets of flowers and useful articles. Dinner was served the attractive feature of which was the birthday cake containing a dime. Each guest cut a piece from the cake, the one obtaining the dime to be hostess on her birthday to those then present. Carrie White secured the dime. 19 of the boy and girl friends of the little hostess were present.

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### The New Chautauqua President.

Astoria Budget: J. H. Ackerman, state superintendent of public instruction, was unanimously elected president of the Willamette valley Chautauqua assembly, at Oregon city, succeeding W. C. Hawley, representative from the first congressional district. Mr. Ackerman lectured there a few weeks ago before the Mens Brotherhood and was approached at that time with a proposition to accept the Chautauqua presidency. He has a wide acquaintance throughout the state, especially in educational circles, and the Chautauqua board of directors believe they are fortunate in securing him.

### Rufus Correspondence.

F Bartholomew is buying. Our school will be out Friday. I F Hill went to Portland Monday. School picnic at the orchard Saturday 21st. No shoot Sunday on account of the ball game. R C Wallace went to Roosevelt Sunday, returning Monday. We noticed Mr. Hill delivering groceries Monday in the automobile.

### Born to Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Dingle on the 12th, a girl. All are doing fine.

T A Fowler went to The Dalles Wednesday to prove up on his homestead near town.

The orchard people are busy thinning peaches. Ed Phillips says he is taking off 16 to 1.

Wm MacNab, of Portland, was up one day last week looking after his farm interests in Sherman county.

C C Deo is preparing to build an addition to his store building to be used as a bowling and shooting gallery.

The ball game between Rufus and Cliffs Sunday, Rufus 9, Cliffs 8. There was a large crowd out to see the game.

Read The Observer.

### THE COMING TRACK TEAM MEET.

Sherman County Track Meet and Declamatory Contest.

Bigger and better than ever before. A new feature has been added to the declamatory contest this year in the way of a "c" division, giving an equal chance to the little folks. The contest will occur on May 27th, at Grass Valley, Or. Tickets will be placed on sale next Monday, May 23d, at 1 o'clock. They will be sold at three places at the same time: Wasco, Moro, and Grass Valley, at the drug store in each place.

Be on hand promptly in order that you may obtain your tickets. The number will be limited and those who come first will be first served. Moro section tickets at Dr. Goffin's drug store next Monday at 1 o'clock, p. m.

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