

THE WEST SIDE

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1890.

LET us drop this new court house question.

MAIN street of Independence should be raised at least two feet and the bridge when rebuilt made higher. This could easily be done now.

If the people of Polk county should have to pay for building a court house this year they have only themselves to blame. This is a matter in the hands of the people entirely.

SALEM with accustomed pluck, will set about building a larger and better bridge across the Willamette. This county should pay for part of the bridge, but should not have to keep either end in repair. That should be looked after. Let Salem repair the bridge.

MARION county paid for most of the Salem bridge and now the bridge is on Polk county soil, on Kaiser's bottom. Polk county is getting rather more than her share of the ruined bridge. If it is sold for old iron what per cent. will this county get of the proceeds?

It will be noticed that we come out this week in reduced form. The truth is there are no trains running, nor any means of communication with the outside world. We are not sure that we have paper enough to get out more than two issues of this paper. Our readers will pardon our brevity.

LET us suppose that the county seat of Polk county were at some other point than where it now is, and it was certain to remain there, would the people of Polk county even then ask to be taxed to build a new court house? The people would say, let us get some money in our treasury. Let us get out of debt. We have just sunk \$5000 and more in the Salem bridge and will be called upon to "pony up" \$20,000 for the next feeder to Salem. Bridges, culverts and crossings on the county roads are damaged. Repair them first, we cannot get along with poor bridges and roads.

THE COUNTY SEAT.

The Dallas *Observer* comes out this week asking that our troubles in Polk county be settled by petition and remonstrance. It says in other words that Dallas must have a court house, that a petition must be passed, and if the petition gains the day it settles the matter and will not enter politics. There is no reason why it would not enter politics then than now. Only a few months ago it was settled in that way, and still it does not satisfy the *Observer* man. He wants it his way or he is not satisfied.

If Dallas cannot submit her question of county seat right squarely before the people she should not live in hopes of gaining her ends by tricks or chicanery. If Dallas can dictate in this matter as much as she wishes to do she had better say at once that only voters in Dallas shall count and then it will surely settle the matter as the *Observer* wants it. That would be as fair as saying that only the names on the assessment roll or poll books shall be counted. There are only nine hundred and seventy polls, and this small representation is to decide the building of a court house in Polk county. And then just now is certainly a poor time to try and burden the people of Polk county with an expensive court house. Our assessment lower than ever and tax rate higher; our bridges gone with floods and will need repairing. Such haste in the matter looks in bad taste just at this time. The *Observer* appears afraid

of fraud if our legislature allows an enabling act which is fair for all, but thinks if it can get a petition of the right kind before the county court it will be far better than a legalized vote. The issue at the present time must come up either open and above board or else underhanded and through prejudice and infamous practices. It is better that it be settled squarely in a fair manner and an enabling act will do that, and now nothing else will. Is the *Observer* willing to submit this question or will it still insist that the petitioners alone have the right to settle it? If it will come squarely before the people and allow this question to be submitted through another legislature and agree to so allow it, then there is no reason why it should enter politics for than each candidate will understand that he is to favor an enabling act. What is fair for one, is fair for another.

QUARTERLY MEETING.—The fourth quarterly meeting of Independence charge, Evangelical church, will be held at the Calvary church next Sunday. Rev. E. C. Poling, P. E. will officiate. Preaching at 11 a. m. and 7 p. m. Communion after morning sermon. There will be no preaching here at Independence Sunday morning, but on Sunday evening.

The Sheridan *Courier* and the *Observer* of Dallas came out on the half shell this week. The *Tribune* here did not come at all.

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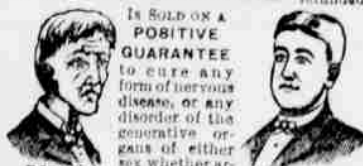
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