

POLK COUNTY OBSERVER

VOL. XVIII

DALLAS, POLK COUNTY, OREGON, FEBRUARY 8, 1907.

NO. 48.



MOVED?

Yes we are now in the Kirkpatrick building and ready for business.

LISTEN!

We want to tell you that we now have a very complete line of Wall Paper; that we are largely increasing our furniture stock; that we intend to increase it more yet; that we would be glad to have you call and see us.

YOU ARE WELCOME

GUY BROS. &

DALTON

Furniture, Wall Paper, and Carpets. Complete Hardware stock in connection.



HARDWARE

We will now state to our patrons that we are in better position than ever to save you money on your Hardware Purchases.

There is no denying the fact that many articles have advanced materially. The greater portion of them we have anticipated, and bought largely on future delivery, thus saving a large per cent. This is your gain.

We are especially strong on Building Materials.

If you want a range do not forget our Toledo—"The best the Market affords."

GUY BROS.

Complete stock of Furniture in connection.

Main St. Dallas, Ore.

POLK COUNTY

Its Past, Present and Future.

(The following contribution is from the pen of one of Oregon's earliest pioneers, a resident of Dallas, who has been a keen observer of men and a close student of events. The *Observer* gladly gives it space, as it contains much that will be of interest not only to pioneers, but to the many people who have come to Polk county in recent years to make their homes.—Ed.)

(Continued from Last Week.)

This question brings us to the present in thought, and, without going into history, we find that where once stood the wickup and the sweat-house of the aboriginal inhabitant, now stand thriving cities and manufacturing towns, with schools, colleges, and churches whose spires point Heavenward and whose bells proclaim a civilization second to none in the world. Some communities may make a more pretentious show of refinement than Oregon, but beyond all doubt the representative citizen of this commonwealth is a model. He is conservative, progressive and enterprising, with the hard-headedness characteristic of men the world over who keep business and social conditions in balance.

The Oregonian—the pioneer, or the arrival of a more recent date—is not of the Munchausen stripe, neither is he a plunger, but on the other hand he is laying the foundation for business broad and deep. See Oregon's public schools, her reformatory institutions, churches, colleges, railroads, and other institutions too numerous to mention. Of rural schools, on which the foundations of civilization rest, it is said that Oregon has, for her age, perhaps the finest system in the world—the most perfect and universal of any known country.

Agricultural and horticultural improvement has also more than kept pace with other important features in Oregon's development. Her hills are covered with orchards, which bear in riotous profusion, and the valleys that once produced only wild grape are now "deep waving fields and pastures green, with gentle slopes and groves between."

The site of the town of Dallas is perhaps the most changed of any spot in Polk county. When first seen by the earliest settlers, the landscape was a beautiful oak park—great spreading trees, with branches interlacing, and a velvety carpet of grass, without weeds or the semblance of brush or briars. Every fall the Indians burned the grass, and these grass fires kept down the small brush and did not injure the big timber. There was no brush in Oregon then, neither in the mountains, hills nor valleys. All was grass, grass, and big trees that grew on the hills and mountains and by the water courses that led down to the beautiful Willamette, whose placid waters had never been fretted by the white man's craft, and where no sound was heard save the plouting of salmon. No busy machinery, no discordant whistles of scorching locomotives or harvest engines broke the entrancing stillness of what seemed to be a verdant land of eternal rest.

The reader will excuse the writer for this return to the scenes of the fascinating past, for while we enjoy the present and desire to be classed among the promoters of all things for the public and private good, we hope we may be pardoned if the memories of sixty years ago open the very fountains of the soul and incline us to linger in the shade of the almost forgotten past, with its beautiful scenes and recollections, in a land fresh from the Omnipotent hand. Do not call us a foggy or a mossback, for while we love Oregon in its past, we love it more in the present.

The civilization of Polk county is not to be wondered at when one knows the character of its founders; when one knows the spirit of a Colonel Gilliam or a Colonel Ford, together with the Embrees, Thorps, Grants, the McDaniels, and others of a class of men broad-minded, energetic, conscientious and brave. They laid the foundation here with the Golden Rule. Do not think for a moment that fanaticism ever held sway in early Oregon, for no country was ever more noted for its religious freedom, and the various denominations worked in harmony in the first campmeetings in the groves as well as at the revivals held in the settlers' homes.

Colonel Cornelius Gilliam and Colonel Nathaniel Ford, both men of 1844, each arrived here in charge of a small wagon train, the "fittest" of their long trains of the Platte. Though these men were of a distinctive character and far apart in their habits

and inclinations, and both born leaders of men, they were never known to clash on points relative to the public good.

Gilliam was a born frontiersman. Patriotic and a man of war, he came to Oregon fresh from the Florida war and had also seen service in the Mormon war at Nauvoo and other places. He was known to be a man without fear, kind and gentle as a child, exceedingly strong in his friendships, but just. Hospitality and the relief of the needy were the ruling passions of his nature, but as an opponent he was never to be despised. He had that characteristic of being first in war and first in peace, and was known as a generous foe, dictating liberal terms at all times to the conquered Indian tribes of the Northwest.

Colonel Ford had all the elements of a leader. He was also hospitable in a marked degree, and his family were prominent in the social life of the county. As a keen politician, he always carried the day hands down. The pioneers always relied on "Nat" Ford as their leader in education and politics. Always a Democrat and in war times a Southern sympathizer, as were many of the pioneers, the greater number of them having come from the border or Southern states, Colonel Ford prided himself on his Virginia blood. Having held slaves in Virginia and Missouri, he brought several negroes to Oregon. These were freed by the law forbidding the holding of slaves in the territories.

Personal sketches of men and women of these times could be multiplied without number, for characters worthy of emulation were not wanting. In fact, as we see it now, every man and woman of the early '40s was a heroic character. Certainly every woman who was a mother was made of more than ordinary metal, for the heroism that braved them to face the trip across the plains, with all its maternal responsibilities, deserves all the honor that the most prolific pen could write. It must be conceded by the most cynical that the brave, good mothers of those times did as much for the success of the present generation, with all its comforts and high civilization, as did the men.

But enough of the past and present. Let us now take a glimpse into the future, with a firm belief in the great possibilities not only of this immediate community but of the Willamette country in general.

(Concluded Next Week.)

F. E. B.

We heard a man say the other morning that the abbreviation for February—Feb.—means Freeze every body, and that man looked frozen in his ulster. It was apparent that he needed the kind of warmth that stays, the warmth that reaches from head to foot, all over the body. We could have told him from personal knowledge that Hood's Sarsaparilla gives permanent warmth, it invigorates the blood and spreads it along through artery and vein, and really fits men and women, boys and girls, to enjoy cold weather and resist the attacks of disease. It gives the right kind of warmth, stimulates and strengthens at the same time, and all its benefits are lasting. There may be a suggestion in this for you.

Dallas Grange Installs.

The Dallas Grange installed officers for the current year last Saturday morning at 10 o'clock. Frank Butler, Deputy State Master for Polk county, was the installing officer. The first and second degrees were conferred on one candidate. The next meeting will be held on Saturday, February 16, when further initiations will take place. All members should be on hand, and visitors from other Granges will be made heartily welcome.

Oregon's Early Marriages.

Mrs. Mary Prather writes the Portland Journal from North Bend, Oregon, as follows: "Regarding the first white couple married in Oregon, I would like to say something. My father, Alonzo Wood, settled near Independence, in Polk county, in the spring of 1847. My maiden name was Mary Wood. My father crossed the plains in 1846, but we did not get to Polk county till early next year. I was married near Independence on April 8, 1847. My husband's name is Theodore W. Prather, and he settled within a mile of Buena Vista."

Legal blanks at this office. It's a good old world after all; If you have no friends or money, In the river you can fall; Marriages are quite common and, More people there would be, Provided you take Rocky Mountain Tea. Belt & Cherrington.

POULTRYMEN ORGANIZE

Elect Officers and Make Plans for County Poultry Show in December.

A permanent organization of the Polk County Poultry Association was effected at the meeting held in the Court House, Saturday. The meeting was well attended, considering the weather, and sixteen charter members signed the constitution, while many others expressed their desire and intention to join.

The officers elected are as follows: President, C. L. Shaw; vice-president, C. S. Graves; secretary-treasurer, J. E. Beezley; executive committee, C. L. Shaw, N. M. Grant, C. P. Cornwell, Lee Smith and J. E. Beezley.

From the interest manifested at and since the meeting, it is believed that we will have a membership of upwards of fifty before our first annual show which will be held some time in December.

Any person wishing information concerning the association should see some one of the members or communicate with the Secretary, who will be glad to answer any and all questions.

Poultry raisers should begin now to prepare for the December show, for some nice "Specials" as well as cash prizes will be offered. Send in for membership application blanks.

J. E. BEEZLEY, Secretary.

Have Become World-Famous.

A meeting was held at Dallas, Oregon, on Saturday, for the purpose of organizing a poultry association, which will hold annual shows in future. This is a good move and the interest in the exhibition will be fully as great as that shown by the Polk county people in their Angora goat exhibitions, which have become almost world-famous.—Pacific Homestead.

Has Had Many Soft Snaps.

Warren Truitt, formerly state senator from Polk county and afterwards a federal judge in Alaska, is now a state senator in Idaho, representing the county in which Moscow is located. He has also been recommended for appointment as U. S. district judge to succeed Judge Beatty, lately resigned.

Legal blanks at this office.

W. H. Holgate returned from Dallas, Thursday, whither he had gone to set up the postoffice fixtures which had been removed from Corvallis. These fixtures originally cost Postmistress Helm about \$1700, and they are still in first-class condition.—Corvallis Gazette.

Printing, the kind that pays, at the OBSERVER office.

WAS PIONEER OF 1853

Mathias W. Stewart Dies at His Home Near Independence After Long and Useful Life.

The funeral of the late Mathias W. Stewart, one of Oregon's pioneers, was held in Independence Wednesday afternoon, at the I. O. O. F. Hall, under the auspices of that order. Mr. Stewart died at his home, a few miles north of town, Saturday, January 26, after a short illness. He was born at Auburn, N. Y., August 2, 1832. He was engaged with his father in the mercantile business as a youth until 1853. In 1853 he started for the West via Nicaragua, going to Northern California, engaging in mining for several years. In 1861 he settled in Salem, remaining there a short time, and then going to Idaho. In 1864 he returned to Salem, where he lived for several years. In 1868 he moved to the farm north of town where he lived until his death.

In 1868 Mr. Stewart was married to Mrs. Elizabeth Cormack, she being the only near relative in Oregon to mourn his death. The deceased was one of the oldest members of Valley Lodge, No. 42, I. O. O. F.

Farmers' Institute.

A farmers' institute, under the direction of the officers of the Oregon Agricultural College, will be held at Oak Grove on Saturday, February 23. Dr. James Withycombe and his staff of three assistants will be present; also, Mrs. Clara H. Waldo, secretary of the Oregon State Grange, will speak on that date. All-day meeting. Doors open at 9 a. m. Watch for program later.

Monthly Weather Report.

U. S. Weather Bureau, Falls City Station.

The following is a summary of weather conditions for the month of January, 1907:

Maximum temperature, 46 degrees on January 24.

Minimum temperature, 9 degrees on January 17.

Snow, 4.3 inches.

Precipitation, 16.31 inches.

Greatest precipitation in 24 hours, 7.80 inches on January 3; greatest in 40 hours, 10.20 inches.

FRANK BUTLER, Co-operative Observer.

A traveling man suggests that the young lady employees in P. A. Finseth's store should be called "Honey." Why? Because they are in the "Bee Hive."

It's the highest standard of quality, a natural tonic, cleanses your system, reddens the cheeks, brightens the eyes, gives flavor to all you eat. Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea will do this for you. 35 cents, Tea or Tablets. Belt & Cherrington.

TAX DEEDS VOID

Judge Gantenbein Hands Down Decision Which is Far Reaching in Effect.

Tax deeds issued by Multnomah county covering property worth at least \$1,000,000 are void.

This is the effect of a decision given by Circuit Judge Gantenbein last week. Practically it invalidates all the so-called "junk sales" of county and city property for delinquent taxes that have been made to date, and it is estimated that the amount of delinquent taxes for which the sales were made aggregate at least \$50,000.

The decision is one of the most far reaching given in years. It affects property in all parts of the city and county. This is the first time the validity of deeds issued by the county on the basis of sales for taxes has been raised in this state. The Supreme Courts of but two other states—Kansas and Oklahoma—have passed finally upon this matter, and the decision of Judge Gantenbein is in line.

The suit in question was that of George L. Parker against J. K. Kollock, ostensibly a suit to quiet title to property in Point View Addition, now a part of the city, but really to test the validity of deeds issued by the county on the basis of sales for delinquent taxes. It was tried in Judge Gantenbein's court several days ago, and since then the jurist has made an exhaustive investigation of decisions in similar matters in other states. The result is a complete victory for the plaintiff, but before he can resume possession of the property he must "make good" to the county for the back taxes.

A law was enacted by the Oregon Legislature in 1893, and amended in 1901, by which a county is authorized to bid the amount of taxes due, together with the costs for which any parcel of land is offered, and if there be no other bid of such amount the land may be sold to the county.

The court holds that the county has not power under the constitution to speculate in tax titles, and cannot become a competitive bidder at tax sales. A deed given by the county for land bid in by the county at a tax sale must show on its face that it was not purchased as a result of competitive bidding.

The court holds that recitals in tax sales must show that the county's statutory right to purchase the property in question existed at the time of the purchase, and unless a deed given thereon contains such a recital it is invalid on its face.

A tissue builder, reconstructs, builds up waste force, makes strong nerves and muscle. You will realize after taking Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea what a wonderful benefit it will be to you. 35 cents, Tea or Tablets. Belt & Cherrington.

ENGLAND SAYS NO ALUM IN FOOD

In England and France the Sale of Alum Baking Powder is prohibited by law because of the injurious effects that follow its use.

The law in the District of Columbia also prohibits Alum in food.

You may live where as yet you have no protection against Alum. The only sure protection against Alum in your Baking Powder is to

Say plainly—

ROYAL BAKING POWDER

ROYAL is made from Absolutely pure Cream of Tartar,—a pure Grape product. Aids digestion—adds to the healthfulness of food.

