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COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER.

A WORM IN THE BUD.

Though Oregon is certain to capture many gold medals on fresh fruit entries, the Grand Sweepstakes on apples has gotten away from us. Just because a measly little worm, probably not in the apple when it started from the Oregon orchard, showed up about a quarter of an inch in the calf end of a Newton Pippin when the jury cut it open, Washington, that state made famous by Seattle rather than apples, captured the sweepstakes on Winesaps. In other words, Okanogan, think of it, Okanogan county, had on display the best five-box exhibit at the big apple show. Everything was sailing along gloriously for the Oregon fruit, and up to the time that dinky little wormlet put in his dastardly appearance, Oregon apples had scored ninety-nine points. Oregon apples looked better than the best—they had the proper color, the size was uniform, there was no blemish apparent, the bulge was exactly so, and the pack from all view-points was nothing less than championship calibre—but just before the jury had entirely finished its work one of the experts decided that he wanted to taste an apple from that wonderful display of Newtowns from Oregon. They all looked alike and all were beauties. Even as he gazed with a magnifying glass there was no evidence that the apple of his choice was anything but perfect, but neither did Eve have any suspicion of the result when she selected an apple and gave it to Adam. In both cases the worm was there and fatal was the aftermath. When the juryman slashed into the Oregon apple with his cutlery he gave a yell of dismay and Director Ravlin, in charge of the Oregon showing, got just one glance, had a fit and fell over in it. When he came to, he swam out of the room in his tears, and left the scene to the worm and Okanogan. After this, forty apples were cut open, but nary another worm. However, one was enough, in fact, too many. A worm before a horticultural jury is even more out of place than a woman at an exposition with clothing above the waist line or below the knees and in this instance it proved to be the straw that broke the camel's back, that, so to speak, relegated us to "innocuous desuetude" so far as sweepstakes are concerned. A worm, any sort of a worm, long, short, slim, wriggly, quiescent or otherwise, counts just five points against the possessor thereof, and the loss of those five points was just enough to let the Washington fruit nose out. The worst part of it is that it makes no difference to whom the worm originally belonged. If the exact fact be told there is strong suspicion among Oregonians here that that dinky little worm was not born and bred in Oregon, but instead that it spent its early days in Washington and was brought to the exposition for the purpose to which it lent itself so effectively. The Washington pavilion in the Palace of Horticulture is just across the aisle from the Oregon showing, and it is believed that that worm had been kept in hiding for several weeks and at night had been trained to find its way to the Oregon fruit. At the psychological moment his worship was started on his way and told to do this dastardly work, and he did it. That this was no Oregon worm needs no other evidence than that he had entered the apple scarcely more than a quarter of an inch. An Oregon worm in an Oregon apple would have eaten from calyx to stem and back again forty times in the thirty days since the fruit left the Oregon orchards. There is one thing about Oregon worms—they are real worms, full of life and are of the get-up-and-go variety; that's the spirit of the country. There is nothing anemic about an Oregon worm, while this particular specimen was, as said before, dinky, weak, completely devoid of virility and wholly lacking in anything that would give it the appearance of health. Still, it did a healthy service for Washington and Washington experts here have asked for him that he, or she, may be fittingly honored as the state's greatest friend.

NOBODY LOVES US.

We are in clined to think that Mr. Joseph H. Choate puts it a little too strong when he says that the United States is one of the most hated nations in the world today. It is unhappily true that hatred is now the dominant emotion in a large part of the earth, and that some of it is directed toward us. But hate is a hard word, representing an active passion, and we do not believe it is the feeling with which we are regarded by any nation in general, although there can be no doubt that there are many individuals who would like mighty well to get at our throats. However, we have no doubt that no nation under the sun is more generally disliked than ours. There is hearty dislike, and, in truth, some hatred for us in Germany, because of our stand on the submarine question and because of our sales of munitions to the allies. The same feeling exists in Austria. Great Britain, to say the least, has no love for us. The mass of her people seem to think we ought to have made common cause with them, and we ought not to interfere in their blockade operations. Russia, officially, has never liked us, and the same is true of Turkey. France, we may hope, is our friend, and Italy seems to bear no grudge against us, but Spain has not yet forgotten '93. Japan would like to have a bout with us,

and upon our own hemisphere we are regarded with feelings that range from unfriendly indifference to actual hatred.

There are many reasons for this attitude of the nations toward us. Some dislike us for one thing and some for another, but there is one emotion that influences all of them, more or less, and that is envy. The United States is the richest nation on the globe. Although we are but 6 per cent of the world's population it is estimated that we have one-fourth of its wealth, and we are continuing to accumulate wealth in a way that excites the jealousy and the cupidity of other nations. To imagine that, under such circumstances, we can forever continue to live in "splendid isolation," is a very pretty fancy but a very impractical one. The United States must be prepared to protect its own. It must guard its treasures. When dislike and envy unite it needs but a trifle to create open hostility.—Globe-Democrat.

OLDEST FIR TREE.

News has been received by Portland officials of the Forestry Service that the Douglas fir found in the Washington forest in Western Washington, reported to be more than 1300 years old, is by the count of the annual rings 1144 years of age. It still is the oldest Douglas fir of which the authorities of the Forestry Service have record.

The rings were counted by the ranger on duty near Finney Creek, where the monster tree was found. The tree has been cut down, the stump partially burned and 50 feet of the trunk saved into wood.

For the first 500 years of the tree's growth it attained a radius of 27 1/4 inches and the other 644 years added only 14 inches to the radius.

The oldest hemlock on record is 545 years old and was found somewhere in Western Washington. It had attained a diameter of 60 inches. The oldest red cedar yet discovered by the forest officials was found in the Snoqualmie forest, was 100 inches in diameter and 1137 years of age.

The oldest yellow pine in Eastern Oregon is 687 years old, its diameter being about four feet. Five thousand trees were examined in the growth study.

Give this serious thought: "You don't realize what a nervous strain you are putting on a man in the cab," said a Southern Pacific locomotive engineer the other day to an Ashland automobile driver, "when you dash up toward a crossing just ahead of his train. There he is in his cab and he knows that he can't stop his engine. There you are in your automobile speeding toward the crossing just ahead. You probably know that you are going to stop just at the edge of the track and look up and laugh at him. He doesn't know but what you are going to try to dash across ahead of him. It's a joke maybe to you. To him it's a few seconds of the most intense agony. Why do you do it? When you see a train coming and know that you can't make the crossing and don't even intend to try to make it—why don't you slow down and give the engineer the assurance that his train is not about to hurl you into eternity?"

Portland has a trunk mystery. A man killed his companion for his money; cut up his body, placed it in a trunk and dumped it into the river. If the guilty wretch is apprehended the severest punishment is the penitentiary for life. Perhaps he may be allowed to serve eleven years, the average life sentence in Oregon. The scaffold has its terrors but the people of Oregon have voted it out of existence. The average criminal can hold up and butcher with the assurance that if apprehended and convicted, he will soon be a free man again, ready for another crime.

The great storm which has prevailed on the coast could not find its way up the Columbia, so we were exempt from its ravages. There was no discount on the rainfall, however.

It is a matter of great convenience to the people of St. Helens that the through evening train for Astoria stops at this station. This gives the business men additional time in Portland.

While the east is wading around in snow and the mercury hugging zero, roses, asters and chrisanthemums are still in healthy bloom in flower gardens of St. Helens.

It was an Irishman who made the statement that he was absolutely neutral in this foreign war. He said he did not care which country whipped Germany.

The average citizen certainly had occasion to give thanks for many things. In these days of Wilson prosperity, you ought to be thankful that it is no worse.

Eastern Oregon wants Congressman Hawley to run for the United States senate against Harry Lane. Hawley is a great vote catcher.

Although retired for a good many years, Binger Hermann's double compound handshake has never been equaled by any candidate.

The St. Helens cannery has put up 10,000 gallons of sauer kraut. Should Europe hear of this Germany will immediately sue for peace.

The gates of the great San Francisco exposition will close December 4. It has been a financial success.

Roseburg shipped 10,000 turkeys. There is some gobble to that town.

Candidates will begin to show their faces after New Years.

PATRIOTIC FLAG PRESENTATION

Judge Eakin Accepts Flag for Columbia County.

Following the address of W. B. Dillard, representing the bar in accepting the flag, Judge Eakin in accepting the flag as representing that court and Columbia county, spoke as follows:

In accepting this flag, so nicely presented by the Sons of the American revolution, I wish, as a representative of the court and of the Court of Naturalization, and in that sense, as a representative of the County of Columbia, to express the gratification of the county and of the court at this presentation and of the patriotism which has imbued its presentation to this court.

We sometimes wonder—and I know I have, and I think many do wonder—why we put so much stress upon the flag in connection with our national duties and service. The flag is a beautiful thing; this flag a beautiful one, hand embroidered, the stars are all worked in by hand and the ribbons constituting the flag are sewed together by hand; it is of silk and beautiful in the combination of colors, and it is beautiful to look at, but that does not explain the patriotism which it is supposed to inspire and which I believe does inspire every true American; and I feel, in thinking over this matter, as to what this flag represents and why we should lay so much stress upon it, that it is no sacrilege to say that I believe it stands within the purview of the people of this nation in the same relation that religious symbols stand to religion. It stands to American people just as the cross stands to the Christian religion or the crescent to the religion of the Turks, or of the temple of Diana to the religion of the Greeks, and so it does represent an idea. The flag in itself is little more than a combination of colors, but the idea which it represents in the life of a nation and consequently it means all that the nation which it represents means to the inhabitants. There is the general idea that it means the union of the states of the nation. We have a nation composed of many states under separate and subservient government and they are united, and as said in the revolutionary times, are one and inseparable, and the flag represents that inseparable character, but it means more than that to the American people. We are not a nation that we would call homogeneous, that is, a nation of all one kind, but we are a nation composed of every element on the face of the earth. With very few exceptions, all these elements may become a part of our national system.

Now, it becomes a part of the duties of certain courts in the United States to take in these foreigners, these aliens, born in other countries, as citizens of the United States, and by so doing, they become equal participants with those who have been born in this country, and then the question arises, "What will that mean to them?" Will they still remain Russians, or will they remain Italians, will they remain Germans, or will they remain British, or will they forget those native policies to which they were born and throw them aside and adopt only those policies which they adopt in swearing allegiance to the American government?"

In my judgment, there is a more important meaning to this flag than that of unity of states; it means that they shall cast aside all their native, inborn sentiments of nationality and cleave only to that which they have adopted in becoming citizens of this country. Therefore, this means unity, not only of states, but it means unity of the individual with the body of the state, and that, in my judgment, is the true meaning of the American flag, and in that sense I have used it in naturalization in the Clatsop County Naturalization court, where we have so many to pass through the examination, and I have always held up the flag to them as the symbol of what they would be expected to become when they take the oath of allegiance and renounce allegiance to their former country. That, in my judgment, is the meaning of the flag as it is presented to us today, and in behalf of the people of Columbia county and in behalf of the court, I wish to express the gratitude and appreciation of the county and of the court to the Sons of the American Revolution for this presentation, and I also wish to extend our appreciation of thanks to Major Silva and Mr. Schnabel, who have taken upon themselves the duty and the trouble of being here with us this morning and making the presentation. I assure them that we fully appreciate their efforts and on behalf of the court, I will assure them that we will make full use of the flag in bringing citizens from foreign parts into amalgamation, or attempting to do so, with the people of the United States, for it is in the unity

or amalgamation of the people that come into our country with those who are born into this country upon which depends the strength and permanency and vigor of our nation, therefore I wish to again thank them for their trouble and the patriotic presentation of this flag.

I also wish to express our appreciation of the presence here today of the St. Helens High School. We fully appreciate it and I hope that you will receive some little further impression, at least, in regard to patriotism and the duties of American citizens, by your being present here today, and this feature of the session of the court will now be adjourned.



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