

THE OBSERVER

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MORE SUBSTANTIAL PROOF NEEDED.

Several days ago Dr. Seeman, in the People's Forum column, quoted a statement alleged to have been from Abraham Lincoln relative to prohibition. That the Doctor was sincere there is no doubt for he obtained the clipping from prohibition literature, but is it right to publish a quotation alleged to have come from Lincoln when there is a question as to its authenticity.

We read the paragraph and like most people, our admiration for the martyred statesman, caused some research to ascertain its truthfulness.

From Collier's Weekly we take the following which bears directly on the subject:

Poems for Prohibitionists.

"Another invective is hurled at us by the National Prohibitionist" because we accuse the Prohibition Party of practical forgery in circulating what purports to be a verbatim account of Abraham Lincoln's stand in favor of prohibition. Their only defense is that one old man alleges that Lincoln made this statement to him just before he died—a flimsy enough foundation, even if we had no real knowledge on the subject. From boyhood to age Lincoln was interested in temperance, and yet he is nowhere on record, either in his own writing or in any authentic history, as speaking one word favorable to prohibition. Look, moreover, at what actual evidence we have. There is his famous speech in Illinois, explaining how much better than violence are education and persuasion. There is the liquor license which his own store took out. There is the ill-concealed impatience of his reply to the clergymen who bothered him about the drinking habits of General Grant. There is also something more conclusive. Our sweet friends, on the "National Prohibitionist," who call us ugly names, have only to examine the records of the Legislature in Illinois. On December 19, 1846, it was moved to enact by amendment that "no person shall be licensed to sell vinous or spirituous liquors in this State." Abraham Lincoln moved to lay the amendment on the table. A week later an attempt was made to pass a provision that a liquor license could be refused if a majority of the voters in the town, district, or ward protested. Abraham Lincoln voted against this restriction. On January 13 he voted again to the same effect. We shall await calmly the "National Prohibitionist's" reply. Abraham Lincoln believed drink to be probably the greatest single curse upon the earth. How it should be decreased was a question

of reason and experience. If he lived today, our guess is that he would like most wise men, approve of prohibition in certain neighborhoods, condemning it in others. The present is not bound by our dead statesman's views. It is bound, however, not to state those views falsely; and we hope, therefore, never to see circulated by the Prohibitionists another document citing Abraham Lincoln as an upholder of their creed."

Lincoln was a retail liquor dealer, and was never ashamed of the fact. He held a regular liquor license in the town of New Salem, Pike county, Illinois. Nowhere in an authorized biography can be found attributed to him the language quoted by Dr. Seeman, and that gentleman is in the peculiar position of owing an apology to the public for an awkward mistake or show proof.

A full explanation on the part of Dr. Seeman will be welcomed.

GAVE WAY UNDER STRAIN.

Today the Observer editorial department was shocked to receive a telephone call from Enterprise stating that W. H. Dilworth, an able and highly respected newspaper man, had taken his own life.

Suffering intense agony for months because of the loss of two sons, who were drowned in a reservoir near Enterprise, this splendid man's mind finally gave way under the strain and he passed to the great beyond by his own hand.

The last time we saw "Dil", as many of us knew him, was at his home in Enterprise. He shook our hand and said, "No, I can't leave this little mountain town yet. Up in yonder cemetery there are two graves that are too new for me to desert. My life, my all is buried there, and when God took them he left Dilworth alone to drift in an endless sea."

And as he looked us straight in the eye there seemed a gleam in his countenance that was not natural. He tried hard to be brave; he was a man among men and realized disasters and tragedies are daily happenings but when his two little boys were snatched from him it tore those tender heart-strings which are only possessed by a mother or a father. The lacerated would would not heal. All the world seemed dark, and poor Dilworth—once a man of fine editorial poise and safe judgment—sank under the heavy load.

His career was spent in eastern states where he held positions that required ability. He came west to view the country and the writer met him at Baker City. We were his first acquaintance this side of the mountains. It is a hard ending for a man who came west to start anew; who came west where everything is life and energy. And now the little cemetery at Enterprise will not only have the graves of the boys, but the father's will be added. They are united at last.

When a man takes a trip east he sees many things, but he usually comes home with the enthusiasm for the Grande Ronde valley stronger than ever. Talk with Mr. Collier, who has just returned from an eastern trip.

This rain is positively the best thing that could have happened for the fall. All dust has been abolished and the clouds of today insure bright weather for two weeks which will include the great event.

Well, the paving is worth while now. It takes a good rain for us to appreciate such an improvement.

People are coming in rapidly for the Union county exposition and already many displays have been delivered to the grounds. Nothing will prevent Union county from having the best fair held in Oregon outside of the state fair at Salem.

FIRST MEETING TOMORROW

NEIGHBORHOOD CLUB WILL INSTITUTE YEAR'S WORK.

Officers' Day to Open Year's Activities with Prominent Club.

Tomorrow afternoon the Neighborhood club will hold its first meeting of the year. The meeting will be known as Officers' day when the retiring officers will figure conspicuously in an informal reception. All members are urged to attend.

MAKING NEEDLES.

Various Processes Through Which the Steel Wire Must Pass.

Needles are made from steel wire, which is first cut by shears from coils into the length of the needles to be made. After a bath of such bits as have been cut out they are placed in a furnace, then rolled until perfectly straight. Next the needle pointer takes up a dozen or so of the wires and rolls them between his thumb and finger, with their ends on a turning grindstone, first one and then the other being ground. The little steel bobbins are next fed into a machine which flattens and gutters the heads, after which the eyes are punched.

They are now complete needles, but rough and easily bent. Careful beating and sudden cooling gives them the necessary temper, and nothing remains but to give them their final polish. On a coarse cloth needles are spread to the number of 40,000 or 50,000. Emery dust is strewn over them, oil is sprinkled on and soft soap daubed over the cloth, which, rolled tightly, is thrown into a pot with others, where it rolls about for twelve hours or more.

When taken from this friction bath the needles require only rinsing in clean hot water, when they are ready to be sorted and packed. — Chicago Tribune.

Fulton and the Clermont.

The first trip of Robert Fulton up the Hudson river in the Clermont was thus described in the American Citizen of Aug. 17, 1810:

"Mr. Fulton's ingenious Steam Boat, invented with a View to the Navigation of The Mississippi from New Orleans upwards, sails today from the North River, near the State Prison, to Albany. The Velocity of The Steam Boat is Calculated at four miles an hour. It is said that it will make a progress of two against The Current of The Mississippi, and if so it will certainly be a very valuable acquisition to the Commerce of the Western States."

According to Edward Hagaman Hall's history, the Clermont made the trip to Albany in thirty-two hours. The state prison referred to stood on the block in New York now bounded by Washington, West Tenth, West and Charles Streets, in old Greenwich village.

All Automobiles Should Be Controlled by the Army.

By Major General FREDERICK DENT GRANT, Commander of the Department of the East.

THE greatly bettered condition of the roads of the United States and the wonderful increase in the numbers and the improved construction of automobiles have suggested to me the UTILIZATION OF THESE MACHINES IN THE MILITARY SERVICE.

Automobiles are purchased by citizens as rapidly as the manufacturers turn them out, and, while they are PRODUCED BY THE TENS OF THOUSANDS, there is NEVER A RESERVE STOCK ON HAND to supply a sudden demand for a large number. Especially is this the case with the larger size of automobiles, which could be of use in the military service in times of necessity.

IT THEREFORE SEEMS TO ME THAT IT WOULD BE WISE IF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PASSED LAWS THAT WOULD CAUSE THE REGISTRATION OF ALL AUTOMOBILES CAPABLE OF TRANSPORTING FOUR OR MORE PASSENGERS AND THAT THE OWNERS OF THESE MACHINES BE LEGALLY OBLIGED TO TRANSFER THEM UPON DEMAND TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR MILITARY USES FOR A SUM OF MONEY NOT GREATER THAN THE FIRST COST OF THE MACHINE TO THE OWNER AT THE TIME THE MACHINE IS NEEDED.

If this were done the government could have at hand and without cost a supply of transportation for the RAPID MOVEMENT OF TROOPS in case of need. The cost would be vastly less than would be necessary under present conditions.

ANNOUNCEMENT Fall Style Display

Our entire Fall and Winter line of

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are now ready for your inspection. Never before have we been able to show as complete an assortment of High Quality merchandise as we are now displaying for this season's wear.



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N. K. WEST The Quality Store

Tales of Cities.

New York police records show that 65 per cent of all persons accused of burglary go free.

The city of Hamilton, O., proposes to cover part of its main street with a glass canopy and illuminate the interior with powerful electric lights.

Although with its suburbs Glasgow has 1,000,000 inhabitants, there is no Great White Way in that city. In fact, electric signs are virtually not in use at all, there being scarcely a dozen in the whole city, and those are small and feeble.

Elephant Threnodies. The natives of certain portions of south central Africa, says the Duchess of Aosta in Harper's Weekly, look on the death of an elephant as an event. They attach an almost religious aspect to it. "As soon as the animal stalked is stretched out on the ground the hunters climb upon the huge, still warm body and there perform a dance, gesticulating and shaking their guns, accompanied by a sort of litany, in which they extol the animal and his qualities, his strength, his size, his cunning; then they praise the skill of the hunter, his prompt eye, his accurate shot. And this song is just murmured, as if they were afraid that if they raised their voices they would attract the curse of the spirit which has just left the animal and is still floating round him."



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