

THE WEST SIDE.

E. C. PENTLAND, Publisher

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1890.

A correspondent favors Monmouth for the county seat, if the people are allowed a vote on the question.

UNDER the guise of sympathy from the Dallasites, their organ shows the sharp claws, under the velvet glove, and in grossly misrepresenting Independence, hopes to elevate his own little burg in the opinion of the outside world, who may be seeking a location for themselves or friends.

WHAT is the use of building a new court house or having an enabling act? The book "Looking Backward" by Edward Bellamy, says that in the year 1900 all state and county government will be dispensed with.

WHO runs the Observer is a query; but if it continues to cross the "spine anorum" and act like a scelerat, in defaming this town or another it will cause Dallas to come separate and apart from the rest of the county; and instead of getting a new court house it will be inhabited by mud-turtles and lizards for the next decade.

A gentleman from the East says that the only way to settle a county seat fight is to let the people vote upon it strictly on its merits. That in one county where he lived one faction kept the people from having a vote for thirty years and the other retarded the building of a court house.

THE Observer says "our last sack of flour was exhausted during the flood" and that "a boat did come up from Salem to carry provisions when the last sack was exhausted."

It is one of the grand features of our republican government that in all our wars, mercy has been shown the conquered, and the hand of charity has been quick in responding to the distressed; but at Dallas is a one horse newspaper, that pretends to represent the sentiments of the citizens of the county seat, which, because a town has been unfortunate, which is a rival, glazes over its misfortunes, and talks about the people as "drowned out rats."

THE bull frog organ at Dallas croaks about the people of Independence digging up three or four hundred names of persons never heard of in Polk county, and thus defeating the building of a court house. How does the "sympathizer" know that they cannot be "dug up" again, with a few hundred on top, either on remonstrances or at a vote, and that is what hurts. It wants to date the business back so that all new comers of whom presumably Independence has the most cannot vote and let that vote decide the question.

LAW ENFORCEMENT.

The whole community insist that their officers shall hunt thieves, and every citizen is ready to assist in the arrest of the person who has robbed him, and to appear as a witness against him. But we do not find ourselves equally willing to aid the officers to bring to punishment those who are corrupting our youth and desecrating our Sabbath and wrecking our homes. Laws against these evils fail to enforce unless they are backed by an organization of those who believe in the laws and are willing to sacrifice something to secure their enforcement. It is a common thing in the United States for those persons who see a great wrong to seek to right it by securing additional legislation. But a remedy more frequently lies unused in the existing law than most people suppose.

While the temperance people have been contending for more law to regulate, or some statute to abolish, the liquor traffic, the law and order leagues have undertaken to do away with all the evils of that traffic which are prohibited by the existing laws, and they have succeeded in many hundred cities and towns beyond their expectation.

THE GREAT PROBLEM.

The whole world is carefully watching the course of events as the struggle goes on between capital and labor. Each year in the United States sees new consolidation of interests, until the time seems not far distant when a few corporations will control the commercial interests of the world.

When Henry George wrote his novel work "Poverty and Progress," the ideas it contained were scoffed and ridiculed, and yet the demand is so great for a remedy of the growing evils of concentration, that societies are already formed in every town of importance to engraft into our political system the ideas of Henry George.

A late addition to literature of the same style is a most cleverly written book called "Looking Backward" by Edward Bellamy, an American author. The writer is supposed to be living in the year 2000 and looks backward at what has been accomplished. The industrial world has undergone a most wonderful change. The government represents capital and the people labor. All trades and professions receive the same pay per day, and women belong to the industrial army as well as men.

There is no money, no merchandise stores, no idlers, no destitution, no want. The youth of the land are educated at the public expense—as was done in Sparta. At the age of twenty-one all men and women must enter the industrial army and serve for three years at unskilled labor. At the age of twenty-four the choice of life work is made. At the age of forty-five the life work ceases, and then comes time for meditation. No titles are held to property by private individuals. No fortunes are held. Women marry for love only.

As there is no wealth, there is no poverty. As all persons choose their professions and all are rewarded alike, by receiving credit cards from the government, the incentive to engage in disgraceful lines of business is taken away. This is the picture drawn by the author. Let all those who enjoy giving play to their imagination read this book. It has had an immense sale. There are however many thoughts, which have long agitated society, and if ever any such reform is carried out it will be in free America.

BADLY DAMAGED.

That "note" in the eye of the Polk county Observer is growing larger and larger each week and is causing its victim a great deal of irritation and uneasiness. The note has grown so much that it has become "Independence, the great commercial center of Polk county." We are sorry to see our observing friend suffering such torture from so slight a strain on his optic nerve. Why, we have gazed upon this grand and sublime scene for many years, and have also pointed out the same to many of our friends all of whom were unanimous in their opinion that "Independence was the commercial center of Polk county."

Therefore, Mr. Observer, there must be some constitutional weakness in that eye of yours which it would be well to look after, but you know the commandment: "If thy eye offend thee, pluck it out." By this time you fully realize that you can't pluck Independence out, that is a foregone conclusion, therefore, Mr. Observer, let the eye slide. If the high, dry and salubrious climate of the little town of Dallas is so healthful as to cause a scarcity of medical skill, just wait your self over to the "Commercial center of Polk county" and see how quickly our skillful physicians will subdue that "unruly member" of yours and tone up the system generally.

The Junction City Pilot came out in blue paper and the Sheridan Courier on manilla wrapper during the flood.

On Tuesday afternoon the steamer Hoag of the O. P. company came up the river loaded to her guards with two hundred and forty-seven tons of wheat destined for San Francisco via the Yaquina bay.

"Dallas has 300 majority" and yet will continually fight the demands of the people for an enabling act. Dallas will not have three or four hundred railroad men just entering Dallas with a railroad, like she had in 1880.

TEN years ago there was a vote on the relocation of the county seat in Polk county. Dallas signed a paper agreeing not to ask for a new court house for ten years. On the strength of there being no new court house to build, the people voted to let it remain where it is. Dallas is clamoring for a new court house, and the people say, "not until we have another vote." Never until we have that vote will the question be settled. The assertion that the county must have a new building is all bosh. In Lane county, they have no better court house. In Tacoma and Seattle the court houses are not expensive buildings. The plain fact is that Dallas wants a new court house to hold the county seat against any change, while the people want a vote on a change before they are taxed to build a new court house. Of the two plans, which is governed by the most selfish motives.

Monmouth and Dallas items came too late for publication. Now that C. P. Huntington owns the Narrow Gauge, and has agreed to complete the Astoria and South Coast railroad, what will be the plan of operation of the road? Does it not seem probable that this west side will be made the main line into Portland?

Sometime last fall we remember paying a cash subscription to help paint the exterior of the Methodist church of this city. Either that church should be painted or our money returned. Six months is too long to wait before commencing work.

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Mr. Hugh Baldwin, of Cherryville, Kansas, writes to have his subscription to the West Star renewed, and Rev. E. R. Mangatoyd, of Mount Vernon, New Jersey, says he cannot yet dispense with the news of his friends at Independence.

Some advertisers appear surprised when we refuse their space, such as they want, in this paper. The truth is that during our dull season when we would cut our paper all to pieces to favor an advertiser, they do not want an advertisement. In our busy season they want us to give them half the paper for a month or two and at the same price as the yearly customers. When we add an extra price for short term they consider they have a right to "kick," but if the truth were told this paper, has the most cause for doing the "kicking."

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I desire to inform the residents of all Polk county, that I have opened a well selected stock of BOOTS and SHOES, on the west side of Main st, near C, and I wish my old friends to call and inspect my stock. No matter whether you need a pair of BOOTS or SHOES for yourself, your wife, your brother or your sister, my stock will contain something to suit you. I wish you to understand that it is, with me, No Trouble to Show Goods.

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