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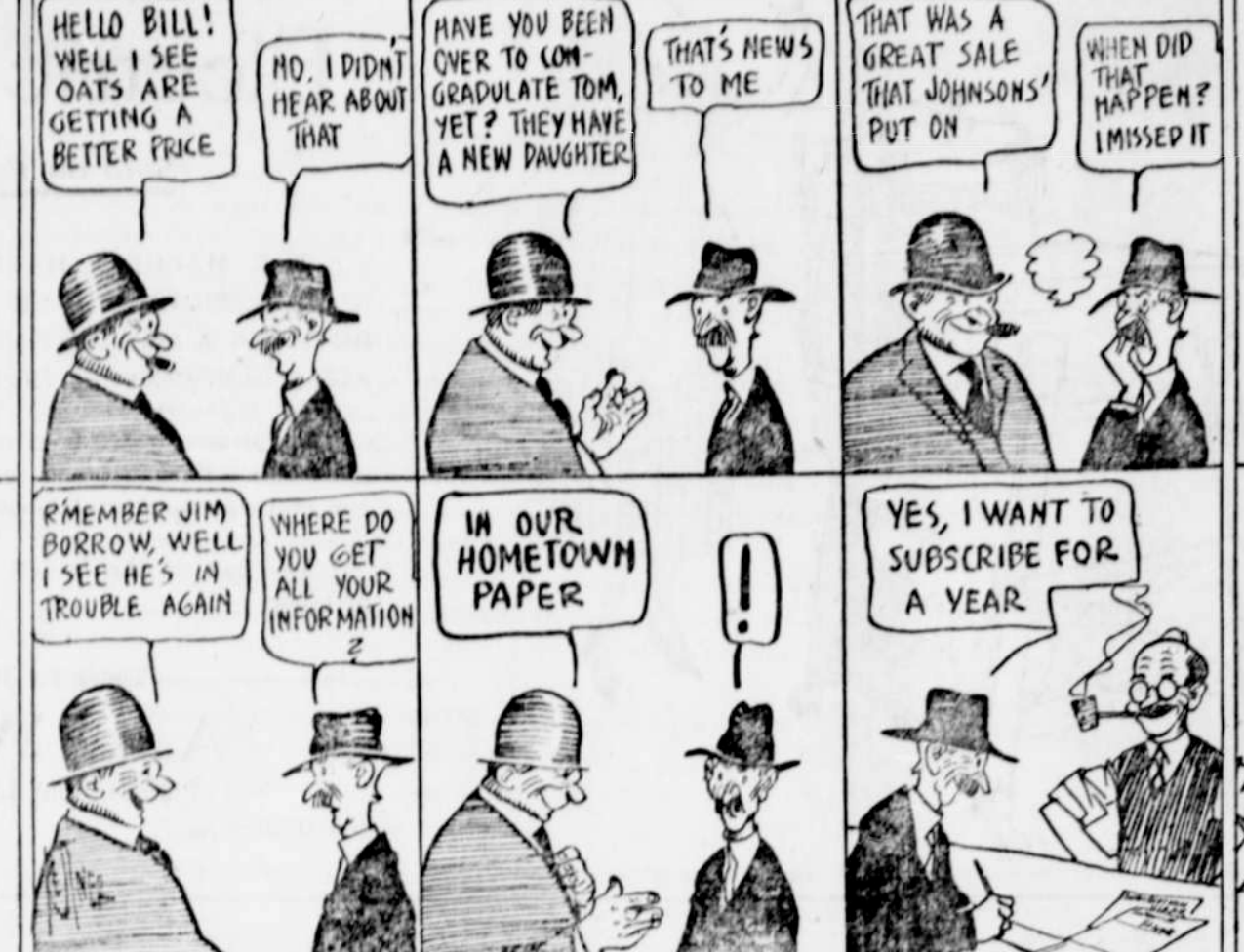
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Home Town Paper Week, November 7-12



COUNTRY PAPER GUARDS NATION

Rises Promptly and Capably to Every Emergency.

IS NOT ALWAYS APPRECIATED

Consents interests of Mass of Population—Avoiding Sensationalism, in its Clean Wholesomeness is Its Appeal to Best Class of Citizens—Country Press a National Power.

By WRIGHT A. PATTERSON.

The country communities—the village, the small town and the small city—are the backbone of the American nation. They are the communities to which the nation turns in time of distress and emergency. They are even more than the backbone of the nation. They are the bulwark of the nation. Just at the close of the World War, Mr. Balfour, foreign minister of Great Britain, said to the writer in London that the entire civilized world must look to the small towns of America to preserve for the world the civilization that it had taken centuries to build, because the small towns represented a substantial solidity that the tremendous upheaval of the war had not affected, and it was only such a foundation that would preserve the structure of civilization.

The cement that keeps the people of these country communities together, working and thinking along uniformly sane and safe lines, that makes of them that "substantial solidity" on which world civilization can rely for a foundation, is the country press—the village, the small town and the small city newspaper.

Country Paper Wholesome.

The country newspaper goes to its readers devoid of that sensationalism that is so prominent in the metropolitan papers. It carries to its readers the news items that represent the joys and sorrows of their friends and neighbors, and keeps the hearts of the people of the community beating in unison. It goes to its readers with that sane and kindly advice on local, state, national and world problems; advice that is the result of thought and study beside the hearthstones of the nation, and not in the selfish marts of trade or the brightlights of city frivolity. It goes with the influence of a known and respected member of the community—its editor back of its every word, its every opinion. It goes to a people, the people of the country communities and the farms, that are more capable of thinking along sane, unselfish and practical lines than are those who are surrounded by the selfish and many times evil influences of the large cities.

But the influence of the country newspaper goes far beyond the community in which it is printed. National legislators in the halls of congress realize that this influence is a power to be reckoned with. That when the country press speaks in unison on any national subject it is but voicing the sentiments of that mighty force the people of the country communities, the people in whose hands, says Mr. Balfour, rests the destiny of world civilization.

Fights for Entire Country.

The country press represents and fights for those things that are of value to the country communities, realizing that in doing so it is fighting for those things that are best for the nation and for the world. It works and fights to uphold the country community, to prevent its falling a prey to the selfish greed of the cities. It champions the business, the social, the educational, the agricultural, the industrial interests of the country community not from any selfish angle, but from the broader viewpoint of national good.

The Community Newspaper

By BOB ADAMS.

OF ALL the sheets from East to West the local paper is the best. Deep is our love and deep our debt to Record, Journal or Gazette. When first I landed on this ball, a bit of flesh wrapped 'round a quill, it welcomed me with joy and pride my life has never justified. It follows me my whole life through, with words all kind and mostly true; and even after I am heard 'twill tell my beat and hide my worst. When in Oshkosh or Wickiup I wander homesick as a pup, or if in foreign lands I roam, it brings me pleasant news of home. Across the sands, across the sea, the old home paper comes to me. It is a friend both true and tried, and to it, gentle, I point with pride; ya, I will hock my Sunday pants to pay up six years in advance.

Value Not Always Understood.

But the people of the cities do not always understand the value of the country press. With the increased demand for war supplies there came a demand for a decrease in the consumption of the ordinary needs of peace time. Among the things the consumption of which must be cut was paper. A city man was at the head of the department that regulated the use of paper, and he felt it advisable to so limit the amount of paper available for the country press as to seriously cripple all of these papers, and to have entirely closed many of them. It was the privilege of the writer to present the case of the country press to this man, and it did not take him long to see that the government could not afford to in any considerable degree cripple an institution that represented so much of national good as did these country newspapers.

Country Press Deserves Well.

The country press deserves well of the people of the nation, and especially of the people of the country communities. Individually these papers may not be large in size as compared with the city papers, but quantity is not the measure of their value. They are worth both directly and indirectly far more than their subscription price. For that price they bring to you each week the news of your friends and acquaintances. To those who have left the country home to go either to the city or to some other country home, the country newspaper is a welcome weekly letter that keeps them in touch with friends and former associates. To those at home it carries the news of their friends and neighbors. It records the births and deaths, the marriages, the comings and goings of those in whom you are interested. It furnishes the medium of publicity through which work for a better and stronger community is maintained. It voices the consensus of opinion of the community to the representatives in the halls of the state and national legislators. It is the paper of, for and by the people of the villages, the towns and the small cities.

No country paper worthy of the name ever seeks the support of the people of its community on any other ground than that of giving more than full value for all that it receives. You aid yourself, your community, your state and the nation when you support and read your own "Home Town Paper."

FOUND HOME PAPER IN HEART OF THE ROCKIES

And Through it Peddler Learned That Family He Had Known for Fifteen Years Were His Relatives.

"Publishing a country newspaper reminds me of tossing a pebble into the ocean. We never know how far the circles which it sets in motion will reach," said Williston Manley, publisher of The Plaindealer of Canton, N. Y., the other day, in speaking of "Subscribe for Your Home Town Paper Week," which is to be observed the country over the week of November 7-12. "I had a good reminder of this not long ago," he went on. "One day there appeared in the Plaindealer office a short, stubby, robust man of probably sixty. I knew the minute I saw him that he had come in from the big outdoors in some section. He told me that he had taken the paper for many years, probably forty, ever since he had left Canton, where he was born. He told me where I would find the paper going, and I found it. His post office was in a little town way out in the Rockies. He said he had come back to the old town to live. He paid what he owed and a year over for good measure, and then he sat down and I knew something was coming.

Forty Years in the Mountains.

"Say," said he, "newspapers are great things. You can never tell what they are going to do for you. I have been a peddler out in the mountains for forty years, making my trips, me and the little burro, about once in six months. There were a lot of long jumps between houses. For fifteen years I had been going out of my trail, about five miles to one side, to sell to a family that had moved in. You get rather well acquainted with people if you see them once in six months for that long, so when I got there one afternoon and didn't find anyone home—just the door unlocked, as all doors were there—I went in and made myself comfortable, and when supper time came I didn't hesitate about hunting around for grub. And while I was doing it I found a copy of the Plaindealer on the kitchen shelf, and one or two more around the house—the Plaindealer, mind you, the paper I was taking right from the old home town! And I wondered who these fifteen-year-old friends of mine were. I suddenly realized we had never talked over our pedigrees any."

When the Family Got Home that Evening I asked questions, and what do you think?—that wife was a sort of grandniece of mine. She hadn't heard of her old uncle off stumbling around in the rocks of the Rockies, and I hadn't ever heard that anyone related to me had ever married and was out there living under another name. Your paper introduced us to each other. I just thought you might like to know about it."

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