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WILL HE ACCEPT?

Some few issues ago the GAZETTE voiced a sentiment favorable to President Roosevelt as his own successor in 1908. When first mentioned by this paper very little attention had been given by the large papers of the country to the discussion of this matter, although they had been making various and sundry efforts to select timber suitable for the presidency when President Roosevelt retired.

During the last week or more we notice that the metropolitan papers of the East and West are commenting on the possibility of Roosevelt accepting another term as the chief man of the nation. It is a fact most satisfactory to chronicle that in the discussion being waged at present there is nowhere visible any objection to President Roosevelt. The matter seems to hinge wholly on whether he will or will not accept.

Some of the papers state emphatically that Teddy will not under any circumstances accept another term as president because he said last November that he would not. They argue that the president means what he says. Well and good; true, he means what he says, but he is no fool and might change his mind, as many a wise man before him has done.

We have strong faith in the loyalty and love of country in president Roosevelt. If conditions were such that in his mind there existed a great need of his service to his country, and the people demanded it, we believe he would serve again. The present administration is certainly proving one of general purification in all ways. Trusts, corporations, and combines are toeing the mark more than they were and this is mainly due to the individual effort of our strenuous president.

But of all things that President Roosevelt will have to his credit, the one great thing that will mark him in history is his connection with the Panama canal building. To carry such a gigantic task to completion has been the dream of many great men and many have already proved their inability to cope with the matter.

The president is greatly in earnest in the matter of canal, but cannot hope to see it anywhere near completion during his present term. He recently dissolved a commission of his own creation and has chosen another. In so doing he cast no stigma upon any member of the commission—just quietly stated that the commission was not satisfactory. That was enough. If there was blame, he took it. In this he had the courage to face the truth and undo that which he had previously done.

If he faces the truth and courageously accepts a mistake in an instance of this character may we not figure that he would, in order to complete the canal and satisfy a large majority of 80,000,000 people, reconsider what he said about never again accepting the presidency? Of course he would reconsider; of course under these conditions he would accept—otherwise we do not read him aright.

REALLY GREAT!

The Educational Exhibit of Benton County School Children Goes to the Fair.

During last Saturday and yesterday the large show windows of the establishments of R. H. Huston and J. H. Harris were

ablaze with the educational exhibit of the school children of Benton county. The exhibit is destined for the Lewis and Clark Fair and Supt. Denman will ship it to Portland today.

That the children of our schools have succeeded far beyond expectations will not be denied by anybody who was so fortunate as to see their work on display. How mere children could do some of the things that have been exhibited is too much for us, and yet it was in evidence in great quantities, from various parts of the county and all bona fide. There is exhibited in much of the work contributed evidences of rare skill. Many items of the exhibit are the result of rare talent, and there are many parents in this county who have children for whom they should make every effort, in order to develop the gifts of nature to their offspring.

Some of the work done denoted nothing short of genius. For instance, there were in the collection one or two maps that looked as though they had come from the hands of a first-class engraver. If printed they could not have been more perfect. Another map that attracted great attention was of a patch-work bedspread, laboriously worked into a map of Oregon. Each county is plainly showed and each in different color—as many colors and pieces as "Joseph's coat." This quilt would rejoice the heart of a "webfoot" on a frosty night.

There are all kinds of "busy work" for little "tots" in the collection and nearly all schools of the county are represented in this class of educational effort. Some of the work is really amusing and the more you gaze at it the funnier it becomes. In one's mind you fancy you see some "little shaver" at the task set him, working away as though his very existence depended upon it, his face wrinkled into seriousness befitting a statesman.

There is some relief map work of every country of the globe in evidence and it is fine, very fine. It will not be equalled at the Fair, much less excelled, is our guess. On these maps are showed all the mountains, lakes, rivers and valleys of the country pictured.

Other maps are drawn showing the products of every section, the grain and fruit belts, the animals and regions they inhabit, mineral districts, in fact there seems to be nothing omitted.

One or two schools have sent in collections of Benton county woods. There are various shaped little blocks of wood, nicely polished, and labeled in such a manner as to be readily understood.

All together it is a really great exhibit of what our school children can do. The many, many anxious and weary hours the little fellows have labored to bring this about for the glory of Benton should be an object lesson to many older people. These children are to be men and women in a few brief years and they will fall heir to the present responsibilities of their fathers and mothers; cares and trouble will be their inheritance in a large degree and they are now preparing for this time. Will they be prepared? Yes, in most cases they will work on to even better things than their fathers and mothers knew, as they are enjoying better opportunity for preparation than had their parents.

Supt. Denman, while he had a lot of patience-trying work to do in putting the exhibit in presentable shape, is very proud of it nevertheless. He thinks it a winner—so say we all.

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