

POLK COUNTY OBSERVER

PUBLISHED SEMI-WEEKLY

VOL. XX

DALLAS, POLK COUNTY, OREGON, JANUARY 12, 1909.

NO. 48

Big Cut ¹/_N Prices

Our second Annual Clearance Sale commenced

Saturday, Jan. 2.

Everything reduced in price. We will save you money on every purchase.

Yours for business

Campbell & Hollister
CASH STORE

FORM DEBATING LEAGUE

Representatives of Eight Polk County Schools Meet Saturday and Effect Organization.

A number of the principals of the schools of Polk county which have ninth and tenth grade work in their courses, met in the office of County School Superintendent H. C. Seymour, Saturday afternoon, and made arrangements for the organization of a High School Debating League for Polk county.

The purpose of organizing this League is to make it possible for pupils in the ninth and tenth grades to have sufficient training in the art of debating to enable them to take up efficiently the debating work in the High School League of the state, when they have reached the eleventh and twelfth grades.

The first preliminaries, in which eight teams, representing as many schools, will compete, will be held February 24, 25, 26 and 27, judges being secured from McMinnville College, Willamette University, and the Oregon Agricultural College. On March 25 and 26, the four winning teams in the February debates will be tried out, and the final debate, between the two winning teams in the March preliminaries, will be held on April 23. H. Hirschberg, of Independence, has promised medals to the winners in the final, and it is thought that others will offer prizes for the debates preceding it.

The schools represented in the newly organized league are: Dallas, Independence, Monmouth, Falls City, Perrydale, Ballston, Bethel and Rickreall. Professor James E. Dunton, of Ballston, was elected president of the new league and Superintendent Seymour, secretary and treasurer. Those present at the meeting Saturday afternoon were H. C. Seymour, and R. R. Hill, of Dallas; W. R. Kirk, of Independence; L. K. Traver, of Monmouth; F. E. Bonnerman, of Perrydale; O. D. Byers, of Rickreall and James E. Dunton, of Ballston.

Traveling Library Received.
A travelling library of 60 volumes sent by the Oregon Library Commission has been received at the Dallas Free Library. The new books deal with history, travel, agriculture, etc., and fiction both for children and adults and will no doubt be found a valuable addition to the already large list of books in the library, from which its patrons have the privilege of choosing.

Mrs. George T. Gerlinger reports that the sale of the Red Cross stamps in Dallas during the holiday season brought in \$7.65 nearly all of the 1000 stamps that were sent to Dallas being sold.

LARGE GROWTH SHOWN

Census Indicates Great Advancement of Schools in Polk County During Past Year.

The school census of Polk county, compiled by Superintendent H. C. Seymour from the reports of the clerks of the various districts, has just been completed and contains several features of interest not only in the light they throw upon the school conditions of the county, but also in the basis they give for computing the growth of the county as a whole.

The new census gives Polk 4113 persons of school age, as compared with a total of 3949 found in the census of last year. Of this 4113, 1994 are boys and 2119 girls, a rather peculiar reversal of the conditions as found in last year's count in which the boys outnumbered the girls by 2039 to 1910.

Although a number of the districts have fallen behind their record of last year, the general tendency in the majority of the districts of Polk county is forward. The most noticeable gains are in Bethel, which shows a gain of 60, Dallas, 50, Falls City, 30, and North Dallas, 20, while a large portion of the smaller and more sparsely inhabited districts of the county show gains in school population ranging from 2 to 16. Independence fell 51 behind her record of last year, Monmouth 10, Concord 13, Upper Salt Creek 13, and Buena Vista 11. In the other districts that fell behind their previous records the loss averaged only about 5 in each district.

Especially noteworthy and indicative of the general tendency of the schools of Polk county during the past year to endeavor to improve their conditions, is the list of those districts that have voted special taxes for the purpose of building new schoolhouses, enlarging their buildings or purchasing additional equipment. This list is by far larger than in any previous year, and contains the following names: Dallas, Red Prairie, Bridgeport, Lewisville, Ballston, Parker, Monmouth, Airie, Oak Grove, Perrydale, Fairview, Gooseneck, Cochrane, Butler, Rickreall, Oak Point, Independence, Buena Vista, Spring Valley, Popcorn, Harmony, North Dallas, Enterprise, Suver, Willamina, Etna, McMinnville Valley, Fir Grove, Sunnyslope, Oakdale, Lone Star, McCoy, Falls City, Pioneer, Mountain View, Highland, Grande Ronde and Mistletoe.

Mrs. C. V. Teats went to Monmouth, Saturday, for a short visit.

SOME RAMBLING THOUGHTS

Notes By the Way From the Former Editor of the Polk County Observer.

SAN BERNARDINO, Cal., Jan. 4.—(Special Correspondence.)—Southern California is a man-made country. We often hear it said that "God made the country and man made the town." Down here, man has done more—he has made both. And the unprejudiced observer will cheerfully admit that he has done a good job. For Southern California is a land of incomparable beauty, wonderful fertility, and marvelous wealth. It is one of the delightful garden spots of the world. Only a little while ago, as time is measured, it was a desert, and that portion of it where water is not available for irrigation purposes is a desert still. It is only in a few favored localities lying along the coast line that any attempt is made to raise crops without the aid of artificial irrigation, and even in these localities the products of the soil are limited to a few varieties of fruits and vegetables. But out in the valleys and along the foothills, where water from the mountain streams is available for irrigation purposes, there is no richer or more fertile country under the sun. Here, growing side by side and reaching a perfect development, are found nearly all of the varieties of fruits and vegetables known to the temperate and tropic zones. Warmed by everlasting sunshine and moistened by a never-failing water supply, the soil of Southern California has no equal in productive-ness in the United States, save possibly in some of the richer portions of Florida.

Owing to this evenness of climate and perpetual water supply, many varieties of fruits and berries are in abundant bearing every month in the year. Among such products are oranges, lemons, limes, strawberries and tomatoes. The kitchen-garden vegetables, such as lettuce, radishes, peas and onions are also in season at all times. Peaches are in season from June until Christmas; apricots from June to September; figs, raspberries and watermelons from June to January; olives in December and January; prunes from June to September; persimmons in November and December, and pomegranates in September and October. In a few especially favored localities, the seasons for some of these products are even longer, but the foregoing state-

ment is a fair average. It is hardly necessary to say that in these long seasons of bearing is found the chief source of the California farmers' prosperity.

I have long believed that the time will come when every farmer living within reach of the streams of the Willamette Valley will resort to irrigation for the purpose of increasing his yield of small fruits, berries and vegetables. He will not water his orchards; for Oregon apples, pears and prunes need no irrigation farther than that which comes from overhead. I think it is universally admitted that the deciduous fruits reach the highest degree of perfection in those countries where irrigation is unnecessary, and therein is found the reason why Oregon apples lead the world in form, flavor and keeping quality. The Willamette Valley farmer will not resort to irrigation for his vegetables and berries because of any lack of perfection in growth or abundance of yield; he will irrigate because, by so doing, he can prolong the bearing season and thereby materially increase his annual profits from the production of these staples. Mrs. J. W. Crider, for many years a resident of Dallas, and a loyal friend to Oregon, expressed it well when she said to the writer a few days ago: "Isn't it a pity that the people of the Willamette Valley have to wait a whole year for their delicious berries, only to get to enjoy them for a brief season of two or three weeks?" It is a pity; and with the remedy for existing conditions so conveniently at hand, the writer believes that the time is not far distant when the farmers will avail themselves of it.

While Southern California produces practically all of the varieties of fruit found listed in the nurseryman's catalogue, yet it is essentially the home of the orange and lemon. In fact, the production of these fruits far exceeds in value the output of all other fruits combined. The value of the orange crop alone last year reached the enormous total of \$11,000,000, and it promises to reach a still higher figure this year. It is estimated that 20,000 carloads of oranges will be shipped from the towns of Riverside, Redlands, Colton and Ontario this year. Riverside Valley, the home of the Washington navel, is now the largest orange-growing district in the world, and it is claimed that Riverside is the richest city in the United States in proportion

to population. This orange growing, by the way, is a "rich man's" game. While it is a highly profitable game, it is one which the man of limited means does well to let strictly alone. The cost of orange land in the first place is high, and the expense of cultivation, payment of water tax, and other incidentals will eat up a poor man's capital long before the end of the seven or eight years he is obliged to wait for his first crop. Good bearing orchards range in price from \$850 to \$1350 an acre, and it is not unusual for a buyer to pay as high as \$1500 an acre. Even at these high figures, however, a good orchard is an immensely profitable investment.

An orange packing house, at the height of the shipping season, presents a scene of great activity. Few men are employed, the greater part of the work being done by women and boys. The machinery for grading the fruit is simple and inexpensive. The wrapping and packing is all done by hand, and at this work the women become very expert. They receive pay at the rate of three cents a box. Over in Redlands the other day, in company with a party of friends, I was permitted to visit one of the large packing houses and see how the fruit is prepared for the market. There we saw one young woman packing 20 boxes a day and receiving wages to the amount of 60 cents, while at the next bin her neighbor was packing 100 boxes a day and making \$18 a week. One was a beginner; the other, an expert. The foreman informed us that he had girls in his employ who were earning as high as \$3.75 a day. After having seen the young woman working at the rate of 100 boxes a day, we were prepared to believe him. And to convince one's self that these girls are really earning the liberal wages that are paid them, one has only to do a little rapid-fire calculating. The standard orange box, such as you see at your grocer's, contains from 80 to 150 oranges, according to grade. One hundred is probably a fair average. The young woman who was packing 100 boxes was handling 10,000 oranges a day, or over 1000 an hour. When it is remembered that every orange must be taken from the bin, wrapped, and placed in the box according to certain fixed rules adopted by the packing house, a fair idea can be obtained of the speed at which the work is done. Seventeen oranges a minute, every minute of the working day—it requires nimble fingers and a busy brain to keep up a speed like that, and no one

(Continued on Page 4)

ANNUAL JANUARY CLEARANCE SALE

This sale means a mercantile event that borders on the marvelous. A regular price cutting outrage. A sweeping reduction throughout this entire store. Reduced prices that will undoubtedly create a sensation. All broken lines and odds and ends go at a mere fraction of their former value. Prices have been cut as never before. We are going to make this sale a record breaker in the history of this house. The only original and genuine clearance sale is now on at THE BEE HIVE STORE

Mammoth Reduction Sale on Men's Winter Suits

This gigantic clearance sale which started here Saturday morning, January 2nd, carries an important message to every man woman and child in this community.

Clearance Sale of Men's Shirts Men's Golf Shirts, broken line, Values from 50c to \$1.00. Sale 35c "Monarch" Shirts \$1. to \$1.25. Sale 75c	Clearance Sale Suspenders Heavy Web Suspenders, 25c and 35c values 19c	Clearance Sale of Comforters Special lot, full size White Cotton. Sale \$1.45	Clearance Sale Embroidery. One lot 8 and 10c values at 5c yd	Clearance Sale Boys Caps All 50c caps, all styles. Sale 35c
Clearance Sale Underwear Men's Cotton Ribbed Underwear, regular 50c grade 37 1-2c. Men's Wool Ribbed \$1.00 grade 75c	Clearance Sale Shoes One lot Children's Shoes, values up to 1.25. Sale 60c	Clearance Sale of Linen 66-inch Table Damask, 75c grade, at 59c	Clearance Sale Petticoats Sateen and Heatherbloom. Sale from \$1.65 to \$3.45	Clearance Sale Bed Spreads A large, heavy Marseilles spread, 1.25 value. Sale 93c
Clearance Sale Men's Pants A line of Fancy Worsted Pants, values to 3.50. Sale \$2.40.	Clearance Sale Ladies' Shoes One lot Ladies' 3.00 and 3.50 shoes, all good makes. Sale \$2.50.	Clearance Sale of Towels Our large 25c Linen Towels, white and fancy border. Sale 18c.	Clearance Sale Blankets All wool Blankets, white and colors, values to 7.50. Sale \$4.95.	Clearance Sale Boys Caps Lot 1—Boys Knee Pants Suits, 3.00 to 3.50 values. Sale \$1.98.
Clearance Sale Hosiery One lot Children's Black Hosiery, regular value 25c. Sale 12 1-2c.	Clearance Sale Underwear Children's and Misses Union Suits, values to one dollar. One lot. Sale 48c	Clearance Sale of Outing Best quality Outing, fancy and plain colors. Sale 8c	Clearance Sale of Muslin Heavy Brown Muslin. Sale 6c "Lonsdale" Bleach Muslin. Sale 9c	Clearance Sale Boys Caps Lot 2—Boys Knee Pants Suits, regular 4.00 to 4.50 values. Sale \$2.79 Lot 3—Boys 5.00 to 6.50 Knee Pants Suits, all late cuts. Sale \$4.39 Lot 4—A broken line of Men's Suits, regular 8.00 and 10.00 values. Sale \$4.75 Lot 5—Men's Navy Blue Serge, Fancy Worsted and mixed effects, regular 12.50 to 15.00 Sale \$9.85 Lot 6—Men's Hand Tailored Suits, values from 16.50 to 20. Sale \$13.85

There will be no reductions on the following lines: W. L. Douglas Shoes, Queen Quality shoes, Gordon Hats, Butterick Patterns
Prices on these goods are controlled by the manufacturer and must be sold regularly.

This Sale Positively Closes Saturday, January 30th, 1909

Dallas **The Bee Hive Store** Oregon