

Polk County Observer

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The way to build up Dallas is to patronize Dallas people.

"Few persons have sufficient wisdom to prefer censure which to them, to praise which deceives them."

—La Rochefoucauld.

HIS HAND IS STILL.

Lovers of poetry of the kind that appeals to the heart, will be pained to know that James Whitcomb Riley will probably never again be the author of a new poem. The press dispatches on Wednesday told the world that paralysis, from which Mr. Riley has suffered for more than two years, has finally reached his right arm and that his life's work is over.

For many years the American people—millions of them—have enjoyed James Whitcomb Riley's heart-touching poems, and the knowledge that he will write no more must come as a distinct shock to those who love his rhyme haunted rhapsodies. Who has read that epic gem "The Old Swimmin' Hole" and not felt the cockles of his heart glow with memory of his boyhood days. The beautiful lines of "An Old Sweetheart of Mine" have been read by millions and have been heard from thousands of public platforms. From the largest city in the nation, to the humblest school house in the trackless wilds, the words of that beautiful story have gone forth and touched the hearts of men with a soft and a sweet caress. Hardly a school boy in the land, but is familiar with "When the Frost is on the Pumpkin" and many of their fathers, too, have thrilled with the piece.

Riley did not write alone for the grown-ups—far from it. Like Eugene Field, his muse often found food for its best endeavor in the lives and the habits, in the joys and the sorrows, of the children. His wonderful "Bear Story," "The Goblins'll Git You" and "Long Ago He Knewed Who Santa Claus Wuz" are examples of his art that have appealed to millions. "Out to Old Aunt Mary's" and the "Raggedy Man" are also among the better known of the great Hoosier Poet's works.

It isn't necessary to possess a world of learning to know and understand a poem of Riley's. He didn't write for that class. He tells the homely, every-day story of every-day life, and tells it in a way that all can understand and therein lies his greatest charm. You don't have to study a Riley poem, although the more you read it, the better it grows. His lyrics send the thrills pulsing through the veins and they sing in our hearts until they become a lasting memory. Thousands have been made better men and better women by reading Riley's poems. His was no doctrine of discontent nor gloomy pessimism. He saw only joy and laughter in life and his songs are filled with the shine of the sun, the blossom of the rose and the smiling sweetness of a Summer day. If he saw a thorn he called it a rose and the seared and wounded soul has often found solace in his buoyant preachment.

Lovers of James Whitcomb Riley and his prolific pen sincerely hope that he will be spared for many years to enjoy the fullest fruition of the name and fame he has won, and, greater than all else, the place he has made for himself in the hearts of millions of his countrymen.

It now appears that the proposed merger of the lumber mills located

on tidewater in Oregon and Washington, a scheme evolved by an ambitious Portland capitalist will fail, owing to the coolness with which Attorney-General Wickersham received the plan after it was presented to him by a representative of the proposed merger. The Attorney-General said he couldn't pass upon the legality of a corporation so long as the corporation didn't exist, and the mill men would have to go ahead with their plan without a formal opinion from him. Those interested in the merger declared that it would be, in no sense, a trust, but that the lumber interests were merely combining for mutual protection inasmuch as the same argument has been used by the tobacco trust, the sugar trust, the beef trust and all the others big and little, it would appear that the promoters should have brought forth something new in support of their plan. It requires mighty good eyesight to distinguish between a "merger" and a trust, anyway.

The Oregon Register tells the self-evident truth so clearly and forcibly in the following editorial that The Observer gives it space here:

"By a vote of 858 to 377, the city of Centralia, Washington, has adopted commission government. But it must be remembered that Centralia is located in a state that has about passed the million mark in population because it has never been afraid to take up with the progressive ideas of local self-government that have given it added population from all sections of the country from the classes of citizenship that believe in doing things. Some of the Washington cities outgrow us because they are more progressive and modern in their methods of government. Eugene will get right one of these days, when it can sidetrack the politicians who seem to have particular reasons for wanting to control affairs along the lines of the rut and groove in which the city has been run for fifty years."

Senator Poindexter, the insurgent member from Washington, has opened his LaFollette speech making campaign in North Dakota. It is noticed that the Senator has started the ball rolling outside the confines of his own state. He probably realizes that his remarks will have more weight away from home. He and Brother Jonathan appear to view the matter in very much the same light.

A Dallas preacher found a pearl in a dish of oyster stew. If the stew was of the ordinary church supper variety, this record breaking episode demands investigation. Since when have they been placing oysters in church supper offerings.

Governor Hay, of Washington, denies that he ever opposed woman suffrage. Sure. The Observer believes him. In fact we have never known that Governor Hay opposed anything.

"U'Ren explains," says the Oregon City Courier. Yes, Willum has been doing that for years and still it seems there are many things we don't understand.

Although we have no personal knowledge to that effect, we are reliably informed that Messrs. Thomas and Jerry are making their annual call on Dallas.

Members of the Polk grand jury have our sympathy. It is really unfair to call them into court so soon after the annual Thanksgiving repast.

Well, the turkey was cheap, anyway.

Church Kitchen.

The ladies' aid society of the Methodist church is having an addition added to the northeast corner of the church building to be used for a kitchen and dining room, and also for overflow Sunday school classes when necessary. The structure is to be 18 by 30 feet in size and is being built by the volunteer labor of the men of the church.

giving Day with his mother in this Dr. Christy Stafrin spent Thanksgiving.

Temporary fixtures have been installed in the old quarters of the Dallas National bank, as the ones formerly in use have been moved to the new building where they have been installed in conjunction with new ones.

WILL START HOSPITAL HERE

Dr. Starbuck to Install Modern Equipment.

In order to take care of his private practice, Dr. A. B. Starbuck has leased the residence at No. 614 Levens street, between Washington and Clay, and will equip it with modern appliances necessary in the conduct of a hospital. The place is now being furnished and will be ready to receive patients next week.

Mrs. Cleveland has been selected for the position of manager, and Miss Powers, a trained nurse of Portland, will arrive shortly to take charge of that department.

Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Kirkpatrick spent Sunday in Salem.

S. W. Blessing and family spent Thanksgiving with relatives in Salem.

The Dallas Variety Store has moved into its new quarters in the Brown block on Main street.

Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Perry, of McMinnville, spent Thanksgiving Day with Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Uglov.

Miss Frances Dempsey went to Portland to spend Thanksgiving and visit with relatives for several days.

Mr. and Mrs. D. P. Patterson spent Thanksgiving with the former's brother, Will Patterson, at Eola.

Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Brobst, of Perrydale, were in the city Thanksgiving Day attending a reunion of the Stafrin family.

Japanese Buy Sawmill.

Japanese lumber men have purchased a \$500,000 saw mill outfit in Seattle and will ship it to Formosa where it will be used in working up the immense timber. This purchase follows a system of investigations of methods in use in lumbering in European countries and on the Pacific coast, the Japs finally deciding that the Pacific coast methods were the more practical.

Legal blanks for sale at this office.

Notice to Teachers.

Those teachers who wish to write in the December examination for a Primary paper, will please note that the thesis for the primary papers will be as follows: Nature Study, Reading in Primary Grades, and Busy Work.

Dated this 27th day of November, 1911.

H. C. SEYMOUR,
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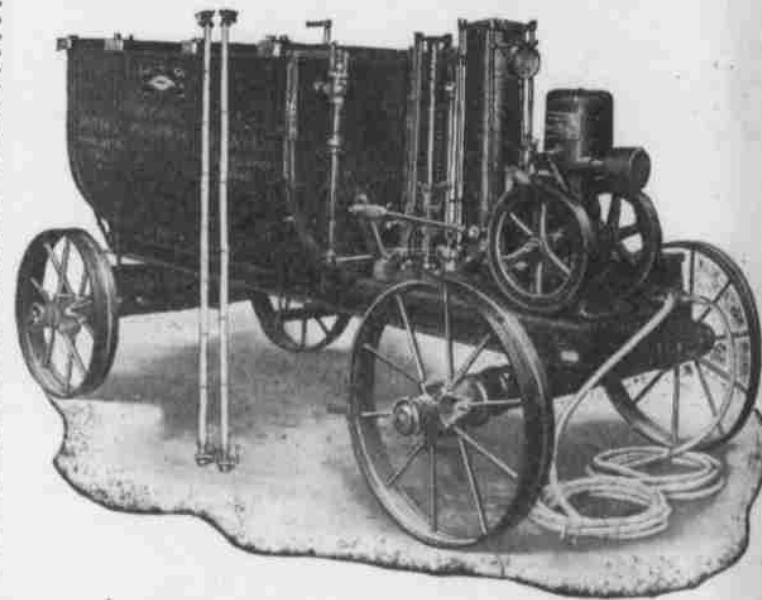
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