

Polk County Observer

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

CONSISTENCY NEEDED.

Activity in Oregon along the line of the purchase and use of made in Oregon products calls to mind the advisability of impressing upon the Portland promoters the plan of employing this idea in their own operations. In this connection attention is called to the fact that the building stone used in the construction of the new Multnomah county court house is imported from New Bedford, Indiana, when huge mountains of as fine building stone as can be found anywhere on the continent exist in the mountains to the east and west of the Oregon metropolis. It appears to The Observer that the public buildings in Oregon cities should be made permanent exhibits of Oregon products, especially when there exists in this state all the materials needed for their construction. The cement, the tiling, the stone, the marble and the lumber, may all be found here and certainly at a great saving over the imported article. Then why not use them? The great building stone deposits in this state would, if developed, give employment to large numbers of men to say nothing of the investment of capital, and the consequent remunerative returns for such investment. The use of these home materials in public buildings would encourage private individuals to do likewise and the end would be beneficial in a wide measure.

Visitors to Denver who take occasion to view the magnificent state capitol building of Colorado, are proudly told by the residents of that state, that everything used in the construction of the building is a Colorado product. Those who have seen this beautiful building know that it is among the most attractive state or public buildings to be found in this country and the loyal citizens of the state take a pardonable pride in referring to it as "strictly home made."

In Medford a banking institution has just completed a magnificent new home for itself. It is an imposing structure, yet the stone used was brought from an Eastern state and that fact appears to be cause for commending the "enterprise" of the builders and the Medford newspapers proudly refer to the building as being constructed from "Eastern marble." Promoters of Oregon products do not look at the matter in that light. The owners of that building would have exhibited far more public spirit had they specified Oregon materials, and their use would undoubtedly have resulted in an imposing structure and, at the same time, helped to develop an important industry of the Beaver state.

It is a noticeable fact that government architects, in specifying stone for public buildings, invariably decide upon the product of some quarry as remote as possible from the site of the proposed building. In the construction of the public building at Bellingham, Wash., Eastern stone was specified notwithstanding that Washington stone, which had been thoroughly tested and not found wanting, was offered at more than \$4,000 less. The Observer, from a personal knowledge of government building construction in three states, finds that it is invariably the case that, no matter how close to suitable stone a proposed building is located, it is nevertheless always necessary to ship the stone from a great distance. This permits the railroads to share in the profits and is really a nice graft for the transportation companies.

There is no better building in the state of Oregon than the Polk county court house. It is the pride of Polk county people and the admiration of strangers. Yet, every stone in it was quarried in this county. It is solid and substantial, was honestly constructed and no county ever received a more substantial return for the money. It stands as a monument to Oregon enterprise and the stability of Oregon building material.

TAPT SENTIMENT GROWING.

Developments of the past week indicate that the candidacy of President Taft for re-nomination is growing stronger each day. The opposition appears to be without a leader, and further indications of the collapse of the LaFollette boom continue to multiply. The latest news of trouble for the Wisconsin aspirant comes

from Minnesota, where Hugh T. Halbert, a member of the board of directors of the "Minnesota Progressive Republican league," bolted that organization when it endorsed Senator LaFollette for the presidential nomination. Halbert is out now with his hatchet, and declares that he will secure the Minnesota Republican delegation for former President Roosevelt.

The LaFollette slump has been, in many respects, one of the most remarkable recorded in the annals of political activity. Soon after the Wisconsin man first announced his candidacy, and opened his campaign, his following grew rapidly and assumed formidable proportions, until he was recognized as President Taft's strongest opponent. LaFollette stock had no sooner reached this position, however, than the reaction began. Republicans who had been friendly to the Wisconsin man began to look at the matter squarely, and found that his record was such as to indicate that he was really too radical for the more conservative "progressives" and they began to desert his cause like rats from a sinking ship. In desperation they turned to Roosevelt as the only Moses available and, although so far as the latter was concerned, his position is no different from what it has been all along, they saw an opportunity in supporting him to escape from endorsement of LaFollette. It has been a forlorn hope from the first and this newspaper does not believe for a moment that Roosevelt will accept the nomination, even if tendered him and, in the present unsettled condition of his support it will scarcely go that far. This leaves President Taft in practical control of the field and increases his chances of success materially.

Prominent Polk county Republicans who have heretofore been supporters of LaFollette, have said to The Observer that they believed his cause was losing ground and as they have no desire to ally themselves with a lost cause they are scrambling on to the Taft bandwagon. While many of them cast eager eyes in the direction of Oyster Bay they say that the candidacy of Roosevelt is too chimerical to be taken seriously.

PUTNAM IS PEEVED.

All that is necessary to arouse the ire of that calm and dispassionate newspaper, the Medford Mail-Tribune is to mention Portland. Say "Portland" to Editor Putnam and he will immediately throw a dozen flip-flops, froth at the mouth and kick over the traces generally. In the Saturday issue of his publication, Editor Putnam devotes a column of space belittling Ben Selling of Portland and his possible candidacy for the United States senate. He starts the article with a falsehood in declaring that "Ben Selling has announced himself as a candidate for the United States senate," when, in fact, Mr. Selling had done nothing of the kind. Putnam uses the fact of Selling's chairmanship of the state Taft committee, and his announced friendliness for the Oregon system, as an argument against his candidacy. A careful perusal of the M-T's editorial indicates that the only real objection to Selling is that he is wealthy, and sells pants. On the other hand, the Medford newspaper appears to believe that Bourne should be re-elected because he "favors the government road to Crater Lake," at least that is the only instance mentioned.

The Observer is pleased indeed that somebody has at last pointed out something that Jonathan has really done for the state, even if the road to Crater Lake will prove a lasting benefit to Medford and its boomers. The article contains no real argument against Selling, or in favor of Bourne, but it serves to show the prejudice that exists in the mind of the editor against Oregon's metropolis. It is possible, however, that competent men may be found in Portland and the simple fact that they reside there should be no detriment to their political ambitions nor overshadow the ability they possess. With more than one-third of the entire population of the state, Multnomah county is entitled to some consideration, even if Jonathan is in "favor of the Crater Lake road" promoted to benefit Medford boomers.

It appears that it isn't to be smooth sailing for Senator Bourne after all. The man who is circulating his petition in Benton county declares that about "five out of every six are against Bourne. Any one but Bourne for senator. These are the reasons: 'He doesn't live here,' says one, 'What's he ever done for Oregon?' asks another, 'He's a populist, yet,' says a third, 'No Bourne for me,' says a fourth, and so on. It is not a negative, indifferent opinion, it comes out strong and lusty against Jonathan." The Observer believes that the great majority of the people of Oregon do not want Bourne. They have no faith in him nor his alleged ability to "get what is best for this state." But, in order to defeat him, it will be necessary to bring forth some man upon whom all factions and interests in the Republican party may unite otherwise, under the intricate workings of the primary law, he may receive the nomination. The Observer does not believe that such a candidate has yet announced himself.

The presidential atmosphere in the Democratic camp was clarified somewhat last week by the announcement from former Governor Folk, that he had practically withdrawn in favor of Champ Clark. This insures the

latter the united support of the Missouri delegation and greatly enhances his chances for nomination at the Baltimore convention. In the withdrawal of Folk is seen the fine hand of William J. Bryan, for Folk accepted the suggestion made by Bryan, that the Missouri situation as between Folk and Clark, be left with the delegation selected, and, in order to prevent a divided delegation, both Folk and Clark were to agree that the one who developed the most strength in the delegation was to have the united support of Missouri Democracy. In making his public statement, former Governor Folk admits that Clark's presence at Washington and the prominent place he occupies in national politics will undoubtedly result in winning the honor.

Candidates for county offices are spoken of frequently of late. One peculiar feature is that nearly all are from Dallas.—Independence Enterprise.

Well, what's the matter with the aspirants who don't live in Dallas? Go to it, nobody is barred.

THE LOAFER

Mr. G. W. Finley, a truck gardener of Poplar Bluff, Missouri, wants to come west. Life is too strenuous in that commonwealth and he longs for other climes. In a letter written to the Aberdeen, (Wash.) Chamber of Commerce, and printed in the Daily World, of that city, Col. Finley lays his troubles before the critical eyes of an unsympathetic world. He declares that "malaria, chills, fever, typhoid, pneumonia and catarrh" are so bad at Poplar Bluff that his family can "hardly live." Mr. Finley has a family of eight, but says in his letter that all are sick most of the time and that he can hardly make a living. Should he come west he declares that there are hundreds more in his immediate neighborhood who will follow him. If Col. Finley yearns for health and happiness he should forego further consideration of the climate of Grays Harbor, Wash., and turn his optics toward the beautiful Willamette valley where the skies are blue, the breezes balmy, and where men tell the truth. Polk county's the place for dissatisfied Missourians. There are many former residents of that state here now, and it would seem like home, for Finley and his family of eight. Come on out, Finley.

Mr. Finley, sir, of Poplar Bluff, In land of chills and fever, If you can come through with the stuff, Why don't you cut and leave 'er? Why stick around where countless germs Await in ev'ry corner, Through winter's cold and chilly terms; Come out here—where it's warmer. You'll shake away in Poplar Bluff Until your life is over, And then, (if you've had friends enough), They'll plant you 'neath the clover. This country yearns for garden truck, 'Twill buy a generous portion So, if you want to change your luck, You'd better get in motion.

Just round that numerous family up, The wife and all the childer And bring along the brindle pup, Come where the weather's milder. This valley blossoms like the rose, In summer's balmy zephyrs, While ev'ry hill its prune yard knows; Each valley has its heifers. Health and wealth await you here, I see their outline dimly, So, just jar loose from there, this year, And come out, Mr. Finley.

They've opened a swell new hotel in Portland. Something like two millions of dollars have been spent in the building and the furnishing of this mammoth new caravansary. The other night they had an opening dinner, the price of which set a fellow back \$2.50 per, and thousands of Portland "good feeders" come through with the mazzina and enjoyed the touch. Every modern convenience that money can buy and imagination suggest may be found in this hotel, all for a price. The rates will be high, all right, and the tips will be higher. That's the way it goes. The more you have to pay for a meal, or a bed, or anything else in that line, the more coin must be forthcoming to everybody who has anything to do with the service. In Seattle there is a magnificent new hotel, too. It costs money to stay around that hostelry. They serve a regular dinner for \$1.50 but that isn't what it costs you—oh no. First you have to slip the coon who takes your hat at the door 50 cents, that makes the bill \$2, then you have to pass over another four-bit piece to the head waiter when he seats you, and another half dollar to the waiter, for each member of your party, and if there is but one of you, you find that your dollar and a half dinner has really set you back at least \$2.00. And you've got to come through. Of course you may set back on your alleged "rights" and pose as a tightwad but, if you do, you'll have an interesting time. You'll have a row with the dark-skinned descendant of Sunny Africa who seats you, who brings your order, after you've spent a half hour waiting for it, and, when after you've had your dinner, and scrapped with the waiter over an alleged overcharge and finally, grown angry and developed an awful frown, you'll emerge

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from the dining room and spend another half hour while the coon looks for your hat. There's a sort of underground wireless working all through that big hotel and the first time you fall to come through with a good sized tip to the bell-hop, or the porter, or the coon who opens the front door, or carries in your grip from the bus that they have charged you four bits to ride up from the station in, every other bell-hop, porter, waiter, and employe knows it inside of 10 minutes and you're dubbed a tightwad and you're due for an interesting session while you stay there. This tipping scheme always works out the same way. The more you have to pay for anything the larger tips you have to pass out to get it. I guess the dollar houses will do for me, when I happen to stop in Portland and I'll continue to crook my legs around a high stool in a "bean and" joint where they don't expect tips and where I can get something to eat, with the style and the flubdubbery and the tipping eliminated.

Because a man doesn't agree with me, I hope I am still broad enough to grant him the same right that I ask for myself. If he wants to pull at the tapering end of a "two-fer" cigar I'm not going to ask for a law forbidding him to do it, just because I don't care to myself. Nor am I going to abuse those who think as he does.

Carey Hayter, the book man, says that interest in the story of "The Calling of Dan Matthews" has increased since Dan has entered the pulpits and newspapers of Dallas. Sure. Any other fellow who wants advertising may have it in the same way.

American audiences are often sadly lacking in patriotism or rather in showing it in public. The other night when a vocalist at the armory exercises, spoke the first word of that inspiration to every patriot, "The Star Spangled Banner," members of the citizen soldiery at once sprang to their feet and remained standing until the song was finished. Here and there through the big audience a scattered few arose to their feet but the great majority remained steadfastly glued to their chairs and probably wondered what "so many folks were getting up for." The same seeming oversight occurs everywhere and it isn't because we Amer-



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leans haven't the proper respect for the flag, but just because we don't think of it.

URGES INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION

Superintendent Says Schools Need New Course.

Independence, Or., Feb. 13.—At the monthly meeting of the Commercial club of this city Friday evening, State Superintendent L. R. Alderman of Salem, and County Superintendent Seymour of Dallas, were present and spoke in behalf of industrial education. Mr. Alderman said that not enough produce was raised in the state of Oregon to supply the demand of the population, and he strongly advocated that the public schools of the state take up a course of study along the line of industrial education, so as to stimulate greater production. A start has already been made in this direction when the pupils of some of the schools of the county have their little garden plots,

and are learning how to grow vegetables successfully.



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