

Polk County Observer

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EUGENE FOSTER, W. H. TOTTEN.

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

A LETTER AND A REPLY.

Editor Observer, Dear Sir: In a recent issue of the Observer, an editorial discussing the defeat of the initiative printing bill contains these words:

"The Observer pointed a way out of the trouble and since election Mr. Harris has issued a circular letter boldly claiming the entire proposal as his own."

If the Observer has ever suggested anything truthful or sensible in connection with any plan to correct the abuses of the state printing law now in vogue, it should not let its jealous fears of being deprived of the honors cause it to resort to such erroneous statements as the above.

While the suggestion of the Observer was not, by any means, original with the Observer, it did not originate with me and I have never made any such claim. I admitted defeat of the initiative bill and repudiation of the flat salary law. I offered to lend my assistance to any honest plan no matter whence it emanated.

You owe it to me, to yourself and to your readers to correct this maliciously false and misleading statement. Will you do it? Sincerely, R. A. HARRIS, Salem, Nov. 25, 1912.

Expert R. A. Harris, Salem, Ore. Dear Expert: Since you are much given to letter writing and have burdened Uncle Sam's mail in the state of Oregon with your various Epistles to the Ephesians and others during the last few months, it seems meet that I should answer you in kind. It appears from a careful reading of your note that you are out of patience with me. This is a matter of much regret on my part, especially for the reason that I have always made it a point to get along with all "experts" and members of the "profess," but I fear that hereafter when we meet that you are going to pass me the frozen face. Now my dear Expert, you are entirely wrong in your judgment regarding the attitude of the Observer. It isn't jealous. It is simply satisfied with itself and the part it took in the defeat of the little scheme engineered by yourself to give you a better job at the expense of the taxpayers of this grand old state of Oregon, and it appears that you are the individual consumed with the passions of the "green eyed monster." You have had much to say during your struggle for the adoption of your plan, and about the "erroneous statements" of those who opposed you, yet always you have, by telling half the truth, misled the people and sought to befog the real issues in the printing law fight. You have resorted to any subterfuge which you thought might aid you and your small coterie of cohorts, and have attacked the state printer without reason, at the same time endeavoring to pose before the people as the only true and conscientious disciple of the people. You have abused those who differed from you, and accused them of all sorts of ulterior motives. You have had much to say about the "present abuses in the state printing department," when, as a matter of fact, the greatest abuse observable at this time is the fat salary which you draw annually from the strong box of the state treasury. From the inception of many years in the printing business, I am constrained to believe that the state of Oregon needs a "printing expert" about as badly as a yearling pig needs two caudal appendages.

If the Observer ever "suggested anything" more "truthful or sensible in connection with any plan to correct the abuses of the state printing law now in vogue" than the amputation of your official neck, and the elimination of your salary, I don't know what it is. I am not interested in the state printing law only insofar as it affects the people of the state. I don't expect to gain or lose by the adoption of your plan for a printer on a flat salary, or any other plan. I only advocated the rejection of the pending law because I have had experience in other states where your plan was effective, and I have had abundant occasion to know of the graft and the "abuses" of which you so glibly pride in your many appeals to the people.

Possibly I wasn't the first to advocate a commission to revise the present printing schedule; I understand the former proprietor of this paper advanced that idea, but I do believe that the Observer was the first and only publication to advocate it during the recent campaign, and my idea was a commission composed entirely of practical printing men rather than "experts." Possibly therein lies the real reason for your recent explosion. You would probably welcome a commission that included you as one of the members, and I have no doubt that that was your motive in issuing your recent circular, a copy of which you forgot to send me, by the way, in which you advocated such a commission. I note that you are willing, and even anxious, to serve the state in the furtherance of "any honest plan" and the people of the state ought to be mightily thankful that they have at least one conscientious citizen who bravely stands at the very door of the state treasury, with one hand in the strong box and the other wielding a threatening sword warning all rascals away. It is certainly comfortable to feel that there is one man who

is true, and honest, and a paragon of virtue amidst all this corruption and vice. Oregon isn't nearly as close to bankruptcy and financial disaster as I thought. If we only possessed a few more "experts" life would indeed be one long drawl.

But what's the matter with permitting the people to handle this matter, my dear Expert. They showed themselves competent to do it when they swatted the life out of your pet measure with a majority of three-to-one. I really believe, in all frankness, that they are not asking for advice from you or from me, in this matter. You will forgive the implication that we are both "butting in" before our advice has been asked, although I honestly believe that I stand in a better position in this connection than you do, inasmuch as your most loved plan has been repudiated. Don't you think it rather presumptuous to come forward at this time, with suggestions for improvement of conditions? Why not permit those who won to suggest something? You have been licked, my dear Expert, most emphatically and forcibly sat upon, and it appears to me that you are out of it. It is evident that the people didn't fall for the stories you peddled, and it is rather imposing upon good nature for you to hoot up serenely with other plans. As mean as I am, I wouldn't think of advising our Democratic friends who won everything—nearly—in the recent election, how to conduct their affairs, and they would probably tell me to "go chase myself" even if I had the gall to do it. Take a tumble to yourself, Expert, and just go on expediting and expediting until the people grow expert themselves, and lop off your salary, in which event your valuable services may again be employed in building up a large and lucrative business for yourself.

Since we are discussing this printing business, I am going to take occasion to call your attention to the fact that, in all your valuable additions to the literature of the state, you have failed to tell the people of the great saving made in the operation of the state printing office under the management of the present state printer. This was undoubtedly an oversight on your part, as it is impossible for me to believe that any individual so conscientious as yourself, would for a single moment fail to give credit where credit is due. And don't you think you were in rather small business to make your recent grand stand play lopping off \$200 from the bill of the state printer for printing the voters' pamphlet when, as a matter of fact, you know he is entitled to it and that he made no unjust charge in the matter?

But all this contention and these allegations may be arranged by the creation of a competent commission, as suggested by The Observer, which commission shall formulate a schedule of prices fair to the state printer and fair to the people of the state and, when it shall be adopted, there will be no further opportunity for the services of an "expert" and, being so thoroughly interested in "any honest plan to correct present abuses," you will undoubtedly accept the ultimatum and pry yourself loose from your present remunerative salary.

Nice weather we're having, isn't it? Sincerely yours, EUGENE FOSTER.

PAVING IS POPULAR.

Encouraged by the street improvement recently made, the people of Willamina plan to do more paving in the near future. There is a possibility of a new street, building and another hotel to be erected. Work on the new depot is progressing satisfactorily and the new structure which is of pressed brick, will be a creditable addition to the modern buildings in the town. The probable location of the new hotel will be about five blocks from the present location of the postoffice.—McMinnville News-Reporter.

So things look promising in Willamina. Willamina, the thrifty little village in Southwestern Yamhill county with a population, according to the last government census, of 276, and with a system of paved streets. Think of it—a city with a population in 1910 of 1,748 less than Dallas, and yet with paved streets, while Dallas people founder in the mud on their streets. Came other men and other teams and wagons and hauled off the mud. In a few weeks the same thing will have to be done over. It will have to be done every few weeks until the dust on Dallas' business streets is dried up the streets and the mud turns to dust. Then the city council will have to spend another \$700 or \$800, or even more, in a system of oiling or in sprinkling with water which will cost more. Then another winter will follow and another long period of scraping the mud and hauling it off. So it goes indefinitely and interminably and it all costs money—a good deal of money, too. Isn't it remarkable that many people cannot see where they are getting off at "the small end of the horn" in this matter? We spend large sums in building our macadam streets and they are not satisfied with the result, trying to keep them in passable condition, and when someone occasionally laments the fact that hard surface paving wasn't started years ago, some ultra-conservative property owner will send up a doleful wail to the effect that "property values won't stand it." Yet, had all the money that has been expended in unsuccessful efforts to eliminate the mud and the dust on Dallas' business streets in the last six years been expended in hard surface paving it would have been sufficient to pave every street in the business district and extend the improvement long distance into the residence section.

Dallas people visit McMinnville, Newberg, Willamina, Independence, Albany, Salem, and all other towns, big and little, in the Willamette valley, and every time they do, they praise the fine streets they find in these cities. They say "these are the kind of streets to have," and when they return and behold the mud and the streets filled with water and slushy ooze, don't they feel a pride in their city—Dallas, the only community in the Willamette valley of any pretensions toward metropolitanism that is still foundering in the mud of the rural days.

The Observer is not criticizing the city council for their efforts to keep the streets presentable—they are doing the best they can—making the best of a bad bargain. But we do object to the short-sighted policy which has made such a condition possible. Practically every business man in is in

favor of permanent streets; many property owners, we believe the majority, also insist that it must come some time. This being the case, why not have the improvement at once, or as soon as possible? Why continue to spend large sums on the dirt streets which virtually amounts to scraping up and carting away the dollars of the taxpayers and the property owners? Why not get into the metropolitan class and place Dallas in the forefront of progress.

Every community, large or small, that has tried hard-surface streets has been pleased with the experiment. What is true in Willamina has also been the experience of all other cities. Once the paving is started, it immediately becomes popular and property owners clamor to have the improvement carried to their streets. Paving increases the value of their property and makes their mercantile buildings more desirable for rental purposes, hence they ask to have their holdings included in the improvement district. Some there are who will object; they always object to everything which makes for better conditions; but their horizon is bounded only by the thought of the "awful expense." Certainly paving costs money, the first expense is heavy but, in the end it has always been found far cheaper than any other method.

The Dallas Commercial club could not perform a greater service for the city and the people than to start an agitation for hard-surface paving, which would unquestionably result in giving us this much-to-be-desired improvement. Let us unite in an endeavor to get out of the mud of ruralism and on to the paved streets of progressiveness. It would be a money saving proposition in the end and even those who object now would praise the day\* which saw the first block of hard surface laid in this city.

IMPROVE THE CITY PARK.

The Observer sincerely hopes that the idea promulgated at the recent meeting of the Commercial club when it was proposed to utilize the city park as a fair ground, will prevail. The only question appears to be as to whether the deed to the property will permit its use as such. If this technicality can be satisfactorily arranged, and the fair management shall decide to make use of the park, it will then be up to the people to raise the money necessary to fund it for the purpose. Such repairs and improvements would result in changing the park from its present condition to one of beauty and comfortable surroundings. It would make it the real place of pleasure it ought to be. In proof of this, we have only to observe the results attained at McMinnville, where a city park has been made into a bower of beauty and one of the show places of the city, and where the annual Yamhill county fairs are held. During the balance of the summer months the park is available for picnics and for the use of the public generally, and it is a very popular place.

Dallas has a city park in embryo. It can be made into a beautiful tract of ground. It will require money and, under present conditions, it will probably be a number of years before the city would be justified in the expense. But, if the county fair association shall definitely decide to permanently locate the county fair at Dallas—and it will do so unquestionably if this city shall guarantee to provide exhibition grounds—there will be ample return for the money invested in improving the park. It is far and away the most available tract of land for the purpose. As has before been stated, it is a fair ground which would in nowise detract from its possibilities as a park, in fact it would result in making it even more desirable than now.

And it is but proper that Dallas should provide the county fair association with a permanent exhibition quarters. The association, for a few years, will be hampered by lack of funds. Every cent that may be secured from the county court and in other ways, must be used in financing the fairs, and in giving premiums to Polk people, for the encouragement of agriculture and stock raising; it should not be hampered by a heavy debt for grounds, at the outset. That the holding of the annual county fair will be advantageous to this city is not questioned, and it will grow still better with each succeeding year as the success of the fair becomes more fully established and as it attracts attention throughout the state.

If all other impediments are eliminated, and it shall be found that the park may be utilized for this purpose, the Observer does not believe that the people of the city will raise the money, by taxation or otherwise, to improve the park and place it in condition for the use of the fair association.

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS.

A most delightful affair was afforded by the Junior class of D. H. S., on last Saturday evening, when the members entertained a number of their friends in the high school reception hall. The room was tastefully decorated in potted plants, ferns and carnations.

Misses Elva Lucas and Louise Miles presided as hostesses of the evening. Those present were: Misses Dora Hayes, Pauline Coad, Josephine Leubach, Georgia Ellis, Carolyn Gohrke, Ruth Campbell, Marie Griffin, Ruth Littlepage, Elva Lucas, Louise Miles, and Hattie Smith; Messrs: Laird Woods, Frank Willson, Lynn Matthey, James Gurney, Jack Eakin, Elmer Halderer, Ray Boydston, Fred Gooch, Herman Hawkins and Allen Cadie.

Mr. and Mrs. W. I. Ford, Mr. E. A. Travis and Miss McDonald were guests of honor. Many amusing games were played, Laird Woods carrying off one of the prizes, Marie Griffin another.

After light refreshments the party dispersed, the guests declaring that the Juniors had the right idea for good fellowship.

Says S. P. Will Be Trolley Line Jan. 1. John M. Scott, general passenger agent, and H. A. Hinshaw, general freight agent, of the Southern Pacific lines in Oregon, stated Friday that the electrification of the west side branch of the Southern Pacific would in all probability be completed by the first of the year from Portland to McMinnville. Weather conditions may delay the putting of the road in operation by the first of the year, but this is not anticipated.—McMinnville Telephone-Register.

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N. B. The newspaper people tell us that it pays to advertise, so we are going to try the proposition for one month and will let you know the result.

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CEMENT CURBINGS AND WALKS We handle a full line of Cedar and Oak Fence Posts, Brick, Lime, Sand and Cement, Land Plaster, Drain Tile, Shingles, Fire Brick, Hair, Wall Plaster and Hop Supplies. One block south of depot Phone 1494

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purchased at this store is giving wisely and well. Our stock contains a wide assortment of solid gold and filled gold patterns. The watch movements are of a make noted for timekeeping, and low cost of upkeep—the Elgin. Complete lines of both men's and women's watches. See them early while the stock is complete.

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Don't let that old shabby looking set of harness for Thanksgiving, when you can get a new one, thoroughly well made from oak tanned stock and nicely finished and mounted at Marshall's. We are showing a superb stock of double and single harness, blankets and stable requisites of all kinds.

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