Polk County Observer

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FAVORS PROGRESSION.

Suver, Or., March 9, 1913.—Dear Editor:—I want to express my sincere appreciation for what you have done in my behalf, and I feel indebted to you and trust that some time in the future I may be able to return the favor. It seems that there will always be those who try to deter and retard every effort made for the betterment of humanity and the upbuilding of our institutions in general. The home credit work is past the experimental stage, and is declared by practically all the schools using the same, a blessing in bringing the school and home together. Sincerely yours, R. G. DYKSTRA.

UNSELFISH PATRIOTS.

The second annual banquet of the Dallas Commercial club last Tuesday night was an enjoyable affair, and highly pleasing to those who attended, and while there was a good attendance, it was far short of what it might have been. There is no reason why any citizen of Dallas should not make it a point to be present on occasions of this kind, and there is no just excuse which should keep him away unless it be some unavoidable circumstance. But there is more behind this lack of attendance than appears on the surface, we fear; and it is not creditable to those who are responsible for it. The committee that had charge of the affair exerted themselevs to dispose of the tickets. They generally were met by prompt responses, but there were those whom they interviewed who appeared to have a sort of repugnance for the club and refused to patronize the banquet. This banquet was entirely an individual affair so far as the club was concerned. Neither the club, nor a single member, made a cent, or expected to make a cent out of the affair, and when the committee gave their time and their energies to dispose of the tickets they did so merely because they wanted to see the affair a success—that's all.

It is said that some individuals who were asked to purchase tickets, refused point blank and referred to the club as "a hot air organization," and they would have nothing to do with it. The authors of that charge demonstrated their narrow-mindedness and utter lack of public spirit when they made it. The Dallas Commercial club may not be all that some people would wish; in fact, it may not encompass all the virtues that its members desire, yet the fault, if fault there be, must be charged rather to the brains than to the hearts of its membership. The time has long since passed when the commercial club is looked upon as an experiment. In this day of progress every live and progressive community has a commercial organization of some kind, and it is a fact that the more wide-awake and active the club, the more progressive is the community which it represents. It is easy for people to find fault with any organization and try to belittle its efforts and ascribe to the members, unjust motives. Yet when they take this course, refusing to affiliate with it because of some fancied personal grievance against some of the members, or for any other personal reason, they are doing vastly more to hinder the growth of the community than the open knocker.

The primary object of a commercial organization is to promote the growth of the community. To induce new people and new enterprises to make their homes among us and thereby increase the value of every dollar's worth of property. Could any organization have a more lofty or more unselfish ambition? The active members of the organization spend much of their time in work for the organization for which they do not receive or expect remuneration. They are giving unselfishly of their time to better the condition of every citizen, and the result is that every fellow who does his best to hinder the efforts of the club by openly refusing to affiliate with it, and by secretly conspiring against it, is the first to feel the effect of any improvement in the condition or growth of his town.

That the Dallas Commercial club has been of value to the city is a statement that cannot be successfully contradicted. For shame on those who may try to make it appear otherwise. It is a fact that the men of Dallas who do things, and who are the first to go down in their pockets to help along in the promotion of any worthy object, are live members of the club, and by their activity and financial aid they have helped to keep the organization alive and prosperous. If we had to depend upon those who pose as the critics of the good that other men do, we would find ourselves in a sorry plight when matters of public interest and of public welfare were to be undertaken. Such critics are always the last to initiate any improvement although the first to find fault with what others attempt, or accomplish.

The primary idea of the annual banquet of the commercial club is to cultivate a more congenial feeling between the members. Those who have stood sponsors for the idea have believed that on occasions of this kind where the men and women of the city might assemble and spend a social hour in feast and merriment, followed by inspiring addresses, much good might be accomplsshed for the benefit of the city. Surely no motive could be more unselfish, or builded upon a more liberal policy. Those who insist upon taking an opposite view of it, are untrue to themselves and to the city in which they make their home and do their business. As was said in the outset, the club may make mistakes, it probably has made several of them, but if you think so, it is your duty, as a citizen, and a progressive one, to affiliate with the organization and thus give it the benefit of your riper judgment and prevent a repetition of the errors. That would be the broad and open course, rather than to do your best to cast odium upon its every act by slurring remarks and sarcastic flings.

Happily, however, there are but few people in Dallas who pose as the avowed enemies of the Commercial club. The organization is now on a firmer footing than ever before in its existence, and is growing stronger day by day. It has an enviable reputation for progressiveness and its fame is known far outside the limits of the city and county. Secretary C. C. Chapman, of the Oregon Development league, in his speech at the banquet, uttered a well-known and generally accepted truth when he stated that it has only been during the last two years that Dallas has awakened and took on new life and begun to advance. Other live towns in the Willamette valley have first felt the impetus, but Dallas has been quick to take advantage of the splendid opportunities and advantages which are here and, through the efforts of her live and progressive commercial organization, the city and county has been advertised as never before. Dallas has awakened from the slumber of years and is now on the high road to prosperity and a rapid and substantial growth, and all this has been largely accomplished through the work of the commercial club and the live and energetic boosters who compose its membership.

They are the unselfish patriots who are giving of their time and their money to make here a bigger and a better community, and their work in this line will endure and remain a pleasant memory long after the fruitless knocking of those who oppose them will have been forgotten.

Call for Warrants.

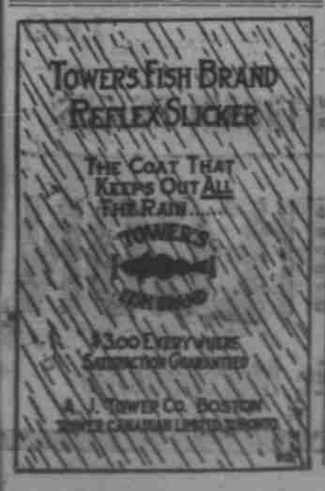
Notice is hereby given that all Polk County Warrants presented and endorsed "Not paid for want of funds" previous to November 29, 1912, will be paid upon presentation at my office. No interest will be allowed after date of this notice.

Dated at the office of the County Treasurer, in Dallas, Oregon, this 13th day of March, 1913.

TRACY STAATS,
County Treasurer.
3-14 21-28

The finest sword fern that the writer has ever seen is growing in the window of a bank in the town in which he lives. It has literally hundreds of fronds, many of which are five and six feet long. Just now the plant is contained in a copper pot eighteen inches across and two and a half feet deep. The fern is watered regularly and is fertilized at intervals with prepared plant foods. The plant is a marvelously thrifty one and would grace any greenhouse or conservatory in the land.

If a sow has acquired the habit of eating her little pigs the best thing to do is to fatten her and send her to market. In this as in many other cases an ounce of prevention is worth nine pounds of cure. The way to prevent sows from eating their pigs is to give them half a pound of tankage with a bran and shorts slop a week or more before farrowing time. In fact, the protein ration should be paramount during the period of gestation. If a little oilmeal is added to the ration just prior to farrowing it will produce a laxative condition of the bowels that will be beneficial.



DENVER'S MASSIVE MINT.

It Would Take a Burglar Fifty Years to Break Into It.

If a man twenty-five years old started to rob the Denver mint he would be seventy-five before he finished his task of tunneling and drilling, if he ever reached the vault. When he did reach the massive cage he could never get at the money without detection.

He would have to bring his diving suit along, as there is water several feet deep under the foundation of the mint. He would first have to go through a wall four and a half feet thick of brick and portland cement. The boilers and coal bins are far underground. They are on the Evans street side and more strongly protected than a man-of-war. They are at least twenty feet below the surface and surrounded on the top, side and floor with a concrete wall four feet thick.

Supposing our young boring friend got through that wall, when he emerged he would find another just as thick and just as strong. The lower portions of the mint building are divided into compartments. They are separated, each compartment with its own defense.

The thief or thieves would find a real problem to get into the storage vault. He would first have to break through a steel door weighing seven tons. He would then face what is known as the outer vault. The safe in this is 60 by 20 feet and is ten feet high. There are millions of dollars in it.

This safe is girt on every side with a lining of chrome steel. In the corridor within the great vault there are four doors leading into the subvaults. The cells where are located these vaults are barred and netted with steel. There are no less than sixty doors in the storage vault. Each of the eleven minor storage vaults is in a steel girt cage, which has two massive steel gates. One is above, the other below.

The Diebold safe is secured by time locks. On the inner side of an eight inch thick door is a clock, which can be set at night to be opened at any selected time. Until that time arrives not even government employees can get in the ponderous door. Two officials with keys must aid when the clock is ready to let them in.

The guards will visit the storage vaults every few minutes and turn on a flood of lights. Inspectors go about day and night and visit all of the treasure rooms of the building, upstairs and down. Special attention is given to the vaults, but no portion of the building is neglected. Every thirty minutes "All's well!" is heard over the private telephone.

All over the building are hidden high power magazine rifles. They are oiled and inspected regularly. It is said that there are at least a hundred of these guns always ready for use. Three years ago $5,000 was spent in the construction of massive gates leading to the rooms where the money and bullion are stored.

The alarm system is connected with police headquarters. It is said that the Denver mint is the best protected in the world, and no big building has anything better in the way of defense, with the exception perhaps of the National City bank of New York. This bank has an elaborate system of steam pipes around its vaults for use against raids. If these valves were released it would roast every one in the basement of the bank alive.—Denver Post.

Found Her Unmailed Letters.

Gibbs—My wife explored my pockets last night. Dibbs—How did she come out? Gibbs—As all explorers should. She acquired enough material for a lecture.—Boston Transcript.

Two or three soaking rains, falling just before the final early winter freezeup, put the ground in good condition for the winter and render far less likely damage to meadows, fruit vines, canes and shrubbery of various kinds.

Those cottontails or jack rabbits that may be ranging about the farm or ranch will prove an ideal source of animal food for the flock of laying hens. Have the boys trap or shoot them and thus rid the orchard of their depredations.

A well known health authority and food specialist states that the average family might well double its consumption of milk and be the better for it and yet have the bill of fare month by month cost no more than before. This simply means that milk is good food and is worth all it costs.

The season of bloom of the bulbs which have been buried in earth in the cellar may be spread over a much longer season if two or three of the pots are brought to the light and heat at intervals of a week or ten days. The writer aims to follow this plan and expects to get a good deal of satisfaction out of it.

The value of American farm lands is now put at $41,000,000,000, which is an increase of $21,000,000,000 in the last twenty years. There are 6,000,000 farms in the country, with a total area of 900,000,000 acres. It is estimated that of the total number of farms more than 5,000,000 are worked by the men who own them.

From the way a good many voters gazed blankly over the big blanket sheet ballots at the last election it would seem clear that the town and rural schoolma'ams might well teach their youngsters how to vote a ballot properly, along with a number of other useful things that are not contained in the school textbooks.

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