

Polk County Observer

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The way to build up Dallas is to put
more Dallas people.

THE SAME OLD CRY.

In criticizing a recent Observer editorial regarding the death penalty for murderers, the Oregonian uses these words in referring to the term, "mawkish sentimentalism": "What else is it that tempts one to look upon murderers as persecuted innocents and upon law enforcers as murderers?" Here the Oregonian makes the identical error that nearly all exponents of the death penalty commit in referring to those who do not agree with them. It is not true that those who oppose capital punishment "look upon murderers as persecuted innocents." They demand punishment for the murderer, but their method of punishment radically differs from that advanced by those who oppose them. They have a complete abhorrence for the despicable wretch who stains his hand with the blood of his fellow man, as have the legal murder defenders, but they believe that there are other forms of punishment which in the end, will be more severe than the mere legal killing of the condemned, and at the same time, not present the brutal aspects of the noose. They believe, primarily, that the law has no right to take away that which it cannot give, and in this contention they have undisputed authority. They contend that the condemned murderer should cease to exist as an atom of social life. They insist that he should be confined to a narrow cell for the balance of his days, beyond all power of pardon, unless subsequent events shall conclusively prove his innocence. What punishment could be more severe, as we have said many times before, than to make the condemned man know that, when the doors of the penitentiary close behind him, they close forever. Such things are possible.

It is "mawkish sentimentalism" to insist that the man who has taken the life of his fellow be compelled to spend the span of his years in close confinement, alone with his conscience and the spectre of his murdered victim? It is "mawkish sentimentalism" to believe that the criminal so confined will suffer untold agonies during every moment of his waking hours? And who shall say what horrible phantoms trail their ghastly garments through his troubled dreams as, night after night, he tosses on his prison cot crying in vain for the peace that will not be his? Will never be his while his vital spark shall last. Alone in a cell, behind walls of stone and bars of steel, forever separated from the free life outside, cut off from all communication with friends and relatives, doomed to exist with no hope of pardon or of escape, until the final act of death shall step in and send his accursed soul to meet its Maker. Is such punishment as this looking upon murderers as "persecuted innocents"? We hardly think so, and that is why the Observer objects to the use of the term, "mawkish sentimentalism."

But the pardon power must be restricted before the capital punishment law is abolished. The Observer did not support the bill proposed by initiative in the November election, for the reason that it left the pardoning power with the widest latitude at the discretion of the authorities. This should not be. Murder should not be a pardonable crime under any circumstances except the establishment of the complete innocence of the accused and, although unfavorable to capital punishment, the Observer will oppose, with all the arguments at its command, any law aimed at the present practice, that does not, at the same time, very radically restrict the power of pardon.

So far as the Humphreys are concerned, our position is already sufficiently understood. We believe that there is grave doubt of their guilt—others also believe it. At the best their mentality was of so low an order that it is doubtful whether they would have the cunning to commit so heinous a crime and to cover their trail so completely. Possibly the truth will be known some time. In the final analysis it may be discovered that they were guilty, but reparation will be impossible. The law has done its work well. It cannot call them back to life.

The proponents of capital punishment can at least afford to be fair in their criticism.

SATISFACTORY SERVICE.

Among the public institutions of Dallas, there is none more entitled to commendation than the telephone system. It is well managed, and the service given is praiseworthy and satisfactory to a degree. The writer has had considerable experience with telephone service in several cities in which he has resided during the past 20 years, and we say here and now, without any mental reservation whatever, that the Dallas telephone system and its unparalleled service, is the best with which we have had any experience.

Recently we had occasion to talk to a party in Salem. We called "central" and asked for "long distance." When our wants had been made known we hung up the receiver and waited. We didn't wait long. The receiver had hardly touched the hook before the bell rang and our party was on the line. The whole proceeding, from the first call to "central" until the party called for was on the line, occupied no more than two minutes—and that certainly is "some service." This isn't an isolated incident—they happen every day. Very prompt and satisfactory service may be secured at all times, unless some unforeseen incident, not the fault of the local exchange, exists.

Occasionally we hear an individual criticizing the local exchange, although he is said to the general credit of the Dallas public, such complaints are few and far between. But when such "kicks" are heard one can't help remarking that people who make them, don't know what they are getting. They should try the service offered and called "good" by other systems where the charges are higher than in Dallas. They should be required to pay \$1.75 per month on a six party line and keep their ears attuned to their own call, and be able to distinguish it from five others. They should also enjoy the long waits with a receiver glued to their ear until answered by "central" and they should revel in the delight of getting the wrong number more often than the right one. They should glory in the pleasant frame of mind engendered by putting in a long distance call and waiting three, four, and even five and six hours before they secure their party and even then be obliged to call up "long distance" a dozen times and suggest that they have a call that needs attention.

All of these things happen and happen with painful regularity on some of the big, high-priced systems of the cities, and to say those who complain occasionally of the service in Dallas, do not appreciate what they are getting. Better service could not be secured anywhere at any price. While we are about it, we feel that the story of the telephone service would not be half written without a word of commendation for the prompt, polite and generally accommodating service rendered by the Dallas telephone operators themselves. Though people are supposed to call by number, and many exchanges will refuse to make connection unless the number is given, the local operators, who are supposed to know everybody and have all telephone numbers fresh in their minds all the time, do not complain, and you get your number, even if the only direction you have given "central" is "gimme the deppo." Of course she is supposed to know what "deppo" you want, and the best of it is, she usually does. Ask for information—you get it; both the operators by foolish and nonsensical queries—you find them patient and painstaking and willing to do what they can to assist.

Dallas people are fortunate in their telephone system. Fortunate that its operators are competent, that the management is satisfactory and the rental rates are reasonable and average lower than in most other cities.

Here is one public utility that is entitled to credit all the time. President Wilson has rudely shattered another precedent. He appeared before the joint session of congress on Tuesday and in person read his first message. He said, in prefacing the reading, that he believed that a president was a man, not a fixture, who should not hold himself aloof and communicate with the congress only by the medium of a messenger. In short, he evidently believes in doing the people's business in the people's way, and doing the best he may, as he sees it. His message was short, and from the standpoint of the tariff revisionists, it was extremely satisfying. He elings to his promises and the platform upon which he was elected, and if he has his way, there is no doubt regarding the final action of this special session. But it remains to be seen whether the new occupant of the White House is strong enough to overcome the troublesome times ahead and the dissensions sure to arise between the protection Democrats and those who demand the elimination of tariff schedules.

"The Movies Drive Out the Barnstormers" reads a headline. Yes, they have accomplished that mission all right—now the "barnstormers" find lucrative jobs posing for the "movies." So everybody is satisfied.

His enthusiastic supporters declare that Bryan is "too big" for the job. He may not loom so extensively after his present session with Japan.

The Rainwater family is being sued in a Salem equity court. Cloudy days for that bunch.

Editorials of the People.

Signed communications will be printed under this head from responsible parties but their publication does not necessarily imply that they express the sentiments of the editor.

HE SEES MUCH FAULT IN IT

Eola School, Critic Decries Modern School Methods.

Editor Observer: In the heading of my article about schools, published in The Observer of March 7, you used the following words: "Eola critic sees no good in advanced school ideas." Now, such heading is misleading, and misconstrues my contentions. If you had inserted the word "some" between the words "in" and "advanced," you would have truthfully stated my position.

In your editorial you state that "Mitty's contention that advanced thought along educational lines is irrational and unsound, is really ludicrous, and not borne out by facts." Now, when prominent educators have strong, diametrically opposing ideas upon school problems, how are you going to choose between them? Do you accept them in ignorance, upon blind faith in a few previously chosen educational leaders? Did you not accept and have approved the home-credit plan in that way? If you desire to form your educational ideas in that way, that is your right and privilege; but I prefer to hear the contention of both sides, and decide for myself.

In the "Good Housekeeping" magazine of last October, I find a school article, from the pen of A. E. Winship, editor of the "Journal of Education," of Boston, Mass. That educator, who I understand invited L. R. Alderman to visit Boston and give a lecture upon the home-credit plan, and that noted educational writer, in the opening sentence of his article, uses the following language: "The modern tendency to make the schools a place of experimentation by experts, to make it contribute to industrial, commercial and agricultural thrift of the individual and the community, will utterly fail if it does not put the sign of common-sense above the expert." Such strong language gives rise to the question: For what purpose are our schools established and maintained? Are they maintained for the education of the children? or for the self-education of the instructors, through experimentation with the children? Should educators be paid a higher salary, transferred from state to state, and given absolute dominion and control over both the children and school-movements, for such experimental purpose of self-education? How about a school district not far away where educators upon the public payroll have domineering control, yet district attendance is a minus number? Is not that the reign of the expert above common-sense? If not, why is it not?

Frederic Burke, president of the San Francisco State Normal School, in an article published in the February number of the "Ladies' Home Journal," in writing about vocational training, uses the following language: "Hitherto, with pitiful few exceptions, vocational teaching within the schools has been of an admittedly amateur character. But why should it ever have been expected that school masters, could teach the other fellow's vocation? Sailors do not teach farming, nor farmers teach sailing. Why should it ever have been dreamed that we school masters, trained to no trade, are qualified to teach any trade?" I will add: Who dreamed and assumed such teaching, but a lot of irrational, educational theorists, possessing impractical, visionary ideas? And if we accept such doctrine and teaching, from vocationally incompetent educational leadership, are we not putting the reign of the expert (in erratism) above common sense?

Farmers do not attempt to teach banking, nor perform the academic duties of school teachers. Why should the teachers and bankers of Oregon combine to teach farming, when by training they are unqualified to instruct, and incompetent to judge, the vocational needs of the children of the farming class? And are delusively wandering outside of their sphere of professional work? To the extent that they attempt to assume the leadership, in judging the personal vocational needs, and giving instruction to those engaged in vocational pursuits, not of their professional line, and of which they are ignorant, because of the lack of experience, to that extent they are irrational, erratic theorists; even though it is teaching agriculture to the children of ignorant farmers, in their delusive imagination. How long are the farmers going to be blind, with vain pride in their children's vocational skill, to the fact that they are so judged and treated?

You also state, in that editorial, "that the attempt to prove that because pupils were wholly interested in some one branch of school work, they have failed in others, is the rankest kind of fallacy." Well! who is trying to prove it? I certainly did not say that there was too much concentration upon any subject that should be taught within the school room. I contended, and still contend, that far much thought, time and attention is being diverted away from school room work, toward the barn-fort, pig pen, chicken yard, garden patch, and various other matters, too numerous to mention; and that the more numerous the subjects introduced in elementary school work, the more superficial will be the instruction given in all subjects. To argue otherwise would be upon a par with claiming that the more you spread the surface of a pond or stream, the deeper would be the pond or stream.

Of course, the more you spread the channel of a stream, let it be thought or water, the more surface show it will make; and the swifter it moves from one place to another, and the more subjective rocks over which it rolls, the more it will splutter, sparkle and bubble; yet the less power it will develop.

It is educational power, gained

through concentration, and not superficial knowledge of a splutter, splutter type, that the children need, and should have.

Judge Ben Lindsey, in an article published in the "Denver Weekly Post," writes as follows: "In my judgment, there are 100,000 children dependent and delinquent, coming to courts of this country every year; and that means 1,600,000 coming to the courts of this nation in every generation of childhood." Also, "But finally, any work for children of the city or country, must bring us face to face with many of the social, economic, industrial and political conditions that concern us as a people. We cannot do our duty toward the children of this nation without attacking the conditions that deform the lives of the children."

It is certainly a deplorable existing condition, when 100,000 children appear annually before the courts of this nation. Where do these children come from? Most of them have been, or are, pupils from our public schools; and I will venture to say, that the greater per cent of them come from the city schools; those schools that have the most supervision, and are classed as the best. But why are they the best, when moral results shown there are the worst? Educators are thinking to much about commercial industrialism, and not enough about moral, character elevating intellectualism. Intellectual thoughts, about the moral-character needs of children, should dominate over, but not eliminate thoughts of their physical needs.

The people should realize that national hot-air fame, among theorists lacking stability in thoughts, does not educate the minds, or properly develop the characters of children, in Oregon, or anywhere else. It is time the people were doing their own thinking upon educational problems, and not let others do all the thinking for them. Yours truly,

GEO. C. MITTY.
Eola, Ore., April, 1913.

The Observer gives space to the above communication, not because of any real merit that it contains, but simply for the reason that we took occasion to criticize a former letter of Mr. Mitty's, in which he attacked modern school methods. In an appendix to his letter to The Observer, Mitty intimates that we won't publish this latest effusion of his because we are protecting certain school interests. We want to assure the Eola mail carrier on the sub list of the Salem postoffice, that we have no fear regarding the effect of any effusion of his upon the school system of this or any other county. The gentleman is taking himself altogether too seriously. He really isn't worth the space, but one must, sometimes, mustn't one?

"TAXPAYER" ASKS QUESTIONS

Ballston Man Would Pry Into Official Secrets; Why Is a Non-Partisan? Dear Mister Editor I live aout heer in the country where i cant cum in contact with curant events mutch and haf to get my informashun from the observer and the oregonian which are good papers to read fer the noose. there are a fue things which i have red of late which i doant understand, now there is our Gawge Chamberlain who is a nonpartisan while he is gettin voats in oregon but i see by the oregonian that him and Hairy Lane aint goin to giv away any offices to euybuddy but demakrats and strait demakrats at that who aint never registered as republicans. doant that take Gawge aout of the nonpartisan class. aint that a rotten way for Gawge (i doant look fer anything better frum Lane) to treat his meny demakratie friends whoo registered republicans to nominate Hairy Kake so Gawge and beet him and aint it a littal rottin fer him to due things like that when if it want fer sound republicans like me Gawge and his Ozzie-west woodden never get any offices.

another qwestin i want to ask is whoo is Parkimsun that feller whoo youses the telefoam directries for nisbiativ petishuns to stop appropriashuns fer the univarsity of oregon. whoo furnishes him the munny, there is a lot of us farmers whoo look like to send our boys and gurls thare but whats the youse thay may go a yeer and thay may not cause these Parkimsun petishuns may shut the schule off any place. aint Parkimsun what Tedy wood call a undezerable sitisen? he seems like a Nocker to me whoo gets his munny aout of nooken the best inistitushens we got. why didnt the friends of the univarsity by him furst.

then i see Jawn Teel is dissentin aoutt something in the cort it seems too me frum reedin the paper that Jawn wants to giv the farmers whoose rudes are mudholes as mutch county munny as the farmers giv aout of thare own poekits. well aint that rite, and i see that Jawn is aint byin a lot of mashinery when the cort doant no wheather they need them or not.

why doant the cort no how mutch mashinery thay got in eech deestrick befor thay by moar.

what has became of Gawge mitty whoo writes aoutt the schule sistem. Gawge aut to get a job with Parkimsun he is the offshul nocker of the schule sistem.

well Mister Editor if yule awser these qwestins i will let my nayburs reed yure letter or i will cum in and see "ou about A. thank you.

a taxpaying reublikaan.

Ballston, Oregon, April 6, 1913.

BUELL SCHOOL NOW STANDARD

Total List in Polk County Reaches 22 Out of 70.

Twenty-two of the 70 schools of Polk county have now become standard, Buell making the twentieth one the past week, and the prospects are considered good by the school officers for a large addition to the number during the coming summer months.

The directors at the Buell school are E. C. Walker, T. J. Morris and Joseph Sidgway. E. D. V. Paul is clerk, and Miss Hilda Knight teacher.

MEDAL CONTEST ON TUESDAY

Proceeds to Be Used to Swell Fountain Fund.

Falls City, April 10.—Another silver medal contest will be held in the M. E. church of Falls City Tuesday night, April 15. There will be no admission charge, but an offering will be taken. The program will be followed by a box supper. Boxes will be sold for 25 cents. The entire proceeds of the supper will be used to swell the drinking fountain fund. Ladies of all sizes and ages, we ask you to come and enjoy the program, and bring a box packed with lunch for two.

Men and boys, we ask you to come and enjoy the program and buy a box packed with lunch for two. Coffee served free.

Card of Thanks.
We, the undersigned, take this means of sincerely thanking all the friends and neighbors for their many acts of kindness and assistance so freely and graciously given us during our recent bereavement. We assure them that they will always be gratefully remembered.

JAMES OTIE FOSTER.
MR. AND MRS. J. H. FOSTER,
DANIEL FOSTER,
ERIN FOSTER,
MR. AND MRS. HOMER FOSTER.
LORRAINE FOSTER.

Advertised Letters.
List of letters remaining unclaimed for in the postoffice at Dallas, Oregon, April 7, 1913:
Austin, Ruth.
Chambers, Mrs. T. J.
Dune, Charley.
Lembe, Fred.
Miller, M. A.
Noffel, Trongerco.
Pfunder, Nick.

C. G. COAD, Postmaster.
—Tresspass notices, weather proof, for sale at Observer Job office.
Legal blanks for sale at this office.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

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LODGE DIRECTORY
UNITED ARTISANS—Dallas Assembly, No. 46, meets on first and third Mondays of each month at Woodman hall. Visiting members made welcome.

MILLIE M. STAFFIN, M. A.
WILLIS SIMONTON, Secretary.

REBEKAHS—Almira Lodge No. 26 meets first and third Wednesday of each month at Odd Fellows' Hall. NOLA COAD, Noble Grand. ORA COSPER, Secretary.

WOODMEN OF THE WORLD—Dallas Camp No. 209 meets in W. O. W. Hall on Tuesday evening of each week.
K. E. REED, Consul Com.
W. A. AYRES, Clerk.

A. F. & A. M.—Jennings Lodge, No. 3, meets second and fourth Fridays of each month, in Masonic Hall on Main street. Visiting brethren welcome.

E. A. HAMILTON, W. M.
WALTER E. MUIR, Secretary.

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