

Polk County Observer

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

SCHOOL JOURNALISM.

While The Observer has been an enthusiastic supporter of higher education, and has been doing all that was possible in aiding the state university in its fight against its foes, there is one branch of learning taught at that institution which we do not believe will attain the object sought. We refer to the much heralded and widely advertised chair of "journalism." Primarily, we do not believe that a "journalist" can be successfully tutored in any educational institution. However, it may be possible to manufacture "journalists" but when it comes to "newspaper men" they must secure their education in the practical school of experience, at least so far as those who manage and edit the country newspapers are concerned.

Real journalism cannot be learned from books. Books may tell you how to construct sentences and the proper use of the language, but they cannot give you the "nose for news" that every successful newspaper man must possess. Books cannot give you that sense of being "there" when things happen, that ever-present something that guides the trained and experienced reporter in gathering the news and reporting it correctly.

The college or the university may be ideal in the construction of "journalists" but newspaper men work up from the bottom in the harness.

That "reformed" minister who told the Willamette valley editors recently that he had saved \$8,000 in six years in a town of 500 people, is entitled to a place of honor at the right hand of the Most Monstrous Prevaricator of the Aninias club. He related to those gaping editorial humans, that he didn't know a thing about the printing business, he took the paper when it was run down and had a circulation of only 117, and in the six years he has built it up in subscribers and outfit until today he has a typesetting machine, improved presses, doesn't owe a cent and has \$8,000 in the bank! And he made it all out of his newspaper in his little country town of 500 people! He's a "journalist."

WATER YOUR LAWN.

One of the most important adjuncts to the city beautiful is green and well kept lawns. Sad to relate, however, this matter is overlooked to a great extent in this city, and only comparatively few of the grass plots surrounding the dwellings are kept in a good state of preservation during the dry months. In this connection many people declare that the water rates are too high to permit of the liberal use of water on the lawns and that, therefore, they cannot afford to keep them in good condition during the very dry weather. The fact is that, unless a yard is large, the average family could keep their lawn in good condition without the expenditure of an additional cent to the water company. The minimum amount of water which a patron may use is now placed at a point where it is practically impossible for the average family to use their full quota during a month and many could still water their lawn sufficiently to keep it fresh and green and still remain within their limit.

Accompanied by a body guard of state militiamen Governor West invaded the city of The Dalles on Sunday and made a spectacular raid on the red light district, and in his usual boastful manner pulled off a very satisfactory stunt, from his standpoint, at least. No objection can be urged against the results sought to be accomplished by these sensational raids on the part of the governor, and if they were carried on with the sole idea of enforcing the laws, no one could bring forth criticism of them. But the trouble is that the governor cannot do a job of this kind without making himself the central figure, and posing as the only individual in the entire state with moral stamina sufficient to enforce the law. Probably the officials of The Dalles might have been derelict in their duty; possibly conditions there might have been improved, but a letter from the chief executive to the proper parties would undoubtedly have reached the same result that the Governor and his militia men accomplished. But, in that event, the press notices would not have been forthcoming and the advertising feature would have been overlooked.

Why all this talk about abolishing prize fighting because one of the prizefighters was killed by an accidental blow at Calgary recently? There has been evidence for many years that prize fighting has had its share of deaths, but so has base ball, football and many other sports. This isn't a defense of prize fighting, for, so far as we are concerned, we would manage to worry along even if the prize ring was abolished, but the point is, why single out prize fighting as a mark for protestation—football has been far more fatal. Is it because the latter sport is fathered by the rich men's sons in the exclusive Eastern universities?

Legislation by a certain church society against ministers who follow side lines, calls to mind the story of one who worked at preaching and undertaking. The combination seems an ideal one, but completeness seems to demand that he should have been elected coroner.

Now that it is all over we can't help thinking that if that Michigan editor had been brought up amongst the Bourbon influences in the Sunny South, he would never have violated the amenities of good society by inquiring into a gentleman's bibacity.

There is one point about Bryan's gape juice proclivities that has been overlooked—it will never fall to his lot to be obliged to vindicate his sobriety in court. The mint bed in President Wilson's back yard has no attractions for him.

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.

DISPOSAL OF CITY GARBAGE

Sanitation One of the Principal Questions Facing Dallas Editor Observer: If we are to continue a city of health, something should be done by the city council in the way of sanitation; how to dispose of our garbage and rubbish so as to have a clean city is the problem. It is unsightly as well as unhealthy to dump it in the alleys or pile it up one corner of our lot. We should have an incinerator, or at least a dumping ground outside of the city, and a garbage wagon either owned by the city, or a private one authorized by the city to haul the stuff away at the expense of those who want the rubbish hauled away. It seems to me that this matter should receive immediate attention. IRA WAKEFIELD.

Dallas, June 5.

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