

Polk County Observer

Published Semi-Weekly at Dallas, Oregon, by the OBSERVER PRINTING COMPANY Office Phones. Business office Main 19 Press room Main 19-2

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Entered as second-class matter March 1, 1907, at the postoffice at Dallas, Oregon, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Subscription Rates: One Year \$1.50 Six Months .75 Three Months .40 Strictly in advance.



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

INDEPENDENCE AND THE FAIR

We have never heard of so rotten a deal as that played and executed so successfully by the Dallas bunch on the citizens of this city when they completed the organization known as the "Polk County Fair association." From the ear marks of the organization we are led to believe that instead of its being known as the "Polk County Fair," it should have been rightfully named "The Dallas Fair" and this is what it is pure and simple, as the county connection is an inflated joke on the citizens of this community. Those Dallas fellows have that sanctimonious look about them that when a proposition is up before them they believe in juggling the "whole hog, even the squeal and all" and from the following our people can readily infer that they have again played the hog and even went so far as to display their selfishness toward this city by inscribing on the seat of our trousers the figure twenty-three—Skido. Of course they will want our friendship good will and all thrown in, and no doubt our citizens will break their necks falling over each other to attend the first "Annual Dallas Fair." Not an officer of any description got a look-in from here—think of the gall to call it "Polk County Fair." Why those fellows ought to be ashamed to look themselves in a looking glass for fear the transfiguration would resemble a "Missouri Jack-ass" yelling from the top of its voice "Hee-Haw Independence." After glancing over the following taken from the Dallas Observer of its last issue, we believe that this city was entirely shook in the distribution of officers in making up the organization if same can be truthfully called a County Fair. The following officers were chosen:

H. L. Fenton, president; John Simkins, vice president; H. H. Belt, secretary; Eugene Hayter, treasurer. And here was where we were completely left out in the cold as not one director was chosen from here. The following directors were chosen: J. F. Ulrich, Airlie; C. C. Gardner, Bridgeport; H. L. Fenton and W. A. Ayres, Dallas; C. L. Hawley, McCoy; P. O. Powell, Monmouth; John Simkins, Spring Valley; Henry Voth, Salt Creek; E. V. D. Paul, Buell—Independence—nit—skido.

The foregoing is clipped from last week's issue of the Independence Enterprise. It is the work of a recent journalistic importation and it will do no good either for Independence or its author. During the contention for the location of the county fair, the Observer has remained silent, and has not attempted to answer the arguments of the Enterprise which has weekly carried columns of reasons why Independence should have been selected. In that regard, Editor Clark was but fighting the battles of his own city, and he would have been disloyal to her interests had he failed to do so. But, when he publishes a screed like the above we feel that it is our duty to tell a few, plain truths in order that the Independence fire-eater may know exactly where he stands.

In the first place the temporary organization of the Polk County Fair association was effected in November, 1912, several months before the journalistic tripod of the Enterprise was adorned with the individual who now shines there so effulgently. Previous to that time notices were sent all over the county and prominent men, including several from Independence, were invited to meet in Dallas on a certain date and proceed to the organization of a Polk County Fair association. When the meeting was called to order there were about 20 present from different parts of the county, but not a single one from Independence. The meeting proceeded to effect a temporary organization and, it is strange that the name of no Independence man appeared on the list? Nothing further was done pending a report from the committee on bylaws and the incorporation of the association, until late in May, when the organization was completed and organized. The capital stock was fixed at \$1,000 and, in order to complete the incorporation, and secure if possible a representative body of men from all portions of the county, the Dallas Commercial club again invited prominent men to meet with them and assist in the work, and again not an Independence citizen appeared although several had been invited. Finally the work of soliciting for the sale of stock in the enterprise was undertaken. There was no limit on this. Nobody was barred. Independence money would have been welcomed as readily as any other, but none of it came. It did come however, from

all sections of the county and it is still coming, by the way. But that's another story.

Afterward, when the permanent officers were elected, the stockholders of the association which might have included Independence men, had any of them seen-fit to join, as well as men from other portions of the county, outside of Dallas, met in this city and, from their number selected the board of directors. What right has the editor of the Enterprise to howl because Independence was not represented? Whose fault was it? On three different, distinct and separate occasions Independence people had been invited to come into the association and on three different, distinct and separate occasions, the invitation had been ignored.

The Enterprise declares that the proposition is a "Dallas fair" and yet, with nine directors elected, only two of them come from Dallas. Every portion of the county is represented and every director elected was present at the meeting and is enthusiastic in support of the fair. Does this look like a Dallas institution? Independence isn't represented for the very simple reason that Independence ignored the meeting just as she ignored the fair last fall and in 1911. Dallas was represented for the simple reason that her business men have expended more than \$2500 in financing the two fairs already held, that haven't cost Independence a red cent.

But The Observer has no quarrel with Independence, neither have the people of this city. We do not believe the above newspaper article represents the true feeling of the people. The cities have no quarrel with each other, and will not have if the vapors of such nimnies as the pencil pusher of the Enterprise shall be stilled. We believe, further, that the people of Independence view the matter as stated by President Cooper, of the Independence Commercial club when he remarked to a visiting delegation from Dallas last fall: "Independence has no quarrel with Dallas. We are not worrying over what Dallas may, or may not do. We are doing our best to build a city here and secure every manufacturing enterprise and industry possible, and if we can beat you fellows of Dallas, why, we're going to do it." His sentiments were applauded to the echo, and he was right. Loyalty to one's home town is a commendable virtue, and so long as Clark confined himself to that, we had nothing to say. But he overstepped the mark when he penned the above weak and silly effusion. So far as The Observer is concerned, and we believe we voice the sentiment of every progressive citizen of Dallas, we hope that Independence will grow and prosper in all that her progressive business men undertake. We know that every new family that makes its home in Independence will add just that much to the prosperity of the entire county. Of course we will try to get them to come here but, if we are unsuccessful, we still hope that Independence, or Monmouth, or Falls City or some other community in Polk county may secure them.

Of course Dallas will expect the operation of Independence in the county fair and the members of the Polk County Fair association will expect it, just as Independence would have expected and been entitled to the co-operation and support of Dallas people had the fair gone there. But, if the counsels of Fire-eater Clark shall prevail, and Independence remains aloof and takes no part in the coming fair, in short, if she shall pursue the course she has always done, why, we'll have to worry along, somehow. But if this shall be the final outcome, it will be Independence's loss. If Independence can afford to ignore the fair it is certainly not up to any other section of the county to worry about it. Of course the fair could be made much better by the united support of people from every section, but if this is impossible why we'll have to work all the harder—that's all.

But we believe the fair-minded, intelligent people of Independence, the ones who are responsible for its progressiveness and its activity will not look at the matter from the narrow standpoint of the Enterprise editor, and that they will put their shoulders to the wheel and join with all sections of the county in building a greater and a better Polk.

MADE MATTERS WORSE. Governor West's intentions may have been of the best when he decided to take a hand in the Portland camera strike, but the fact remains that he accomplished but little. Indeed, it is doubtful that his attempts at settlement helped at all, and from this distance it appears that he muddled the atmosphere rather than clearing it, in even the smallest degree.

With his usual spectacular tactics the governor bore down upon Portland and the strikers and soon thereafter "hore away" again, and his going was followed by the most serious demonstration up to that time, by the strikers and their sympathizers, which included a large number of L. W. W. adherents. We do not believe that there was any call for the interference of the Governor. His assistance was not asked by the Portland authorities, and he did not even confer with Mayor Albee or the city's police officials before he made the trip. Naturally his interference did not appeal to the Mayor who lost no time in intimating as much. So, about the only reward that West got for his pains, was a long confab with the strikers while mounted on a tar

barrel. The strikers virtually laughed in his face and told him to "go to." His declaration that "he would run the plant" himself and his assertion that if the crowd "mixed" with him some of them "would be carried home on a stretcher" had about as much weight as though uttered by a member of the packing company. Apparently he had no plan for the settlement of the trouble other than those which had already been tried and had failed. He appeared to imagine that, because he is governor, all he had to do was to invade the city and advise the strikers what to do and that they would immediately call off the strike and go to work. Many people are of the opinion that West only aggravated the situation, rather than improving it.

Are we never to escape from the careless handling of names and the continual confounding of "Dallas" with "The Dalles" or vice versa? While there may be some excuse for a stranger to the state making the mistake, there is absolutely none for a newspaper, especially when said publication is a metropolitan daily and printed in Portland. In an editorial in Sunday's issue the Journal, in speaking of same Fourth of July celebrations refers to Dallas as "The Dalles." Great guns, don't the editorial writers on this Portland publication know that there is such a village in the state as Dallas? This isn't the first time that similar mistakes have been noticed in this publication. Brace up, boys, and please remember that "Dallas" isn't "The Dalles"—not by the matter of nearly 200 miles.

T. F. Kershaw who has for the past three years published the Newport Signal, announced in the last issue of that publication, that he has sold the property to C. V. Averill, formerly connected with the Brownsville Times, the latter taking charge last week. The new owner is said to be a competent newspaper man and his opening statement shows that he intends to use his utmost endeavor to keep the Signal up to the standard established by Mr. Kershaw.

If those Central American revolutionists do not look to their laurels,

the fighting factions in the Balkan mountains are liable to surpass them as rapid fire scrappers. They open a new "war" in the Balkans nearly every afternoon.

A Mississippi judge has ruled that a razor carried in the pocket of a negro, isn't a weapon, but a toilet article. By following out the same line of reasoning, a revolver might be regarded as an instrument for decorative purposes.

With the tables reversed, and four or five other nations chasing her troops all over the map, Bulgaria is now competent to speak on the impressions gathered by the Turks last winter.

Dallas now has its third saloon, and that place is fast becoming the Mecca of the restless population with an insatiate thirst.—Sheridan Sun.

Yes, and many of 'em hail from Sheridan.

Editor M. J. Brown, of the Oregon City Courier has been indicted by a Clackamas grand jury for criminal libel. The pages of the Courier smoked before, but they fairly sizzle now.

Canada's Forests. Canada's forest area is about 800,000,000 acres.

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