

Polk County Observer

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

WAIT AWHILE.

Until we are assured of the outcome of the Oregon Superintendent of Public Instruction's determined stand to raise the standard of citizenship of the Oregon pupil to a higher plane, let's don't knock.

In Dallas the other day, one presumably fond father whose evident regard to the quality and quantity of literature was superior to good judgement remarked: "It's nothing but 'tommyrot'. What they used to teach me in school is good enough for my children. This new citizenship stuff will ruin our public schools."

To the contrary this particular policy when carefully examined will prove to be excellent, and many of the old studies of our fathers will be found in today's text books. They embody the same excellent style, expression and sentiment of the old style books.

It is certainly true that the average parent pays but little regard to the literature presented to his children in the school readers. That's simply why the superintendent of public instruction must choose for him.

Let us wait and see. OVERWORKED. The rural problem is overworked according to a farm journal published in Oregon. It says this: "It is an easy matter to sit in a nicely furnished office and write long articles telling how things ought to be done, but while professors, experts, editors and other impracticables are doing this the farmer is actually getting results from the hard knocks that experience and rural training have given him. It is well enough to place all of the information before him that comes from an exchange of opinion and from scientific investigation, and he will appreciate this and profit by it, but the fellow who takes the farmer for a fool has neither studied his subject nor come in touch with the vital principle involved in the discussion."

COMPULSORY SWIMMING. In making swimming a compulsory requirement the University of Oregon is following the example of many other schools and colleges in different parts of the country, says the Eugene Register. At the same time it is following the promptings of common sense. The business of every individual is likely to lead him sooner or later into a boat or into the proximity of water that is too deep to be waded, and if he does not know how to swim an unlooked for accident may mean death. It is really surprising to what an extent this particular form of education has been neglected. Children are taught at home and at school precautions to ward off disease, but are permitted to go uninstructed in a simple accomplishment that may at any time be the means of saving their lives. True the most of them learn without instruction and find unusual pleasure in doing it, but the number of people who cannot swim is always astonishing. Hardly a week passes without its drowning accident with the explanation that the victim could not swim.

Swimming just now is a popular sport. Men and women alike are taking it up because it is a fad. This is one instance—possibly an isolated one—of a fad that is really sensible. Members of the newspaper fraternity in Oregon who have followed closely the work of the Oregon City Courier in its endeavor to recall two county officials are rejoicing, many perhaps secretly, in the bold stroke of Editor Brown. The victory for the Courier was decisive and reveals again the absurdity to the modern theory that the country press has ceased to mould public opinion. Editor Brown dared and whether he be right or wrong the counting of the ballots proves his strength. Again, hats off to Editor Brown.

Street paving in Dallas, for the present at least, is complete. We have just received a taste now of what real city streets should be, and surely it has created only an appetite for more. The work is completed in a thoroughly good and businesslike manner and the city council should rest assured that Dallas residents are far from displeased.

Isn't it about time for Mr. Merchant to begin oiling up his machinery for the fall trade by snapping out his advertising?

UP TO POLK COUNTY.

Under the caption, "Goats as Human Food," the Oregonian in Sunday's issue, puts the problem squarely up to Polk County. The writer humorously says, "Up there where our littlest child knows that the goat is fit to eat, no goat is ever eaten." In the following article there is food for thought, if not "human food," and some of our celebrated goat raisers may find it worthy of comment.

The New York Sun reprints from the Congressional Record the text of a luminous discussion on the subject of Angora goats and gaily raises the question as to whether the Angora goat, or any goat, is fit to eat, or rather to be eaten. The Sun is quite unable to answer the question; but there is an answer, and it can be furnished by any resident of Polk county, Oregon, which has made the goat renowned throughout the world by providing in its gentle hills and fruitful vales the home of the happiest and most numerous Angora colony on earth.

The point of the recent goat discussion in the Senate is that the Underwood bill puts on the free list all animals "fit for human food." Upon the question as to whether the bearded capra should or should not be deadheaded, Senator Williams said: "I do not know whether the Angora goat is fit to eat or not. I have never eaten any. If the gentleman will say that he is fit for human food I would put him on the free list. I have tried to eat the common goat, but from my standpoint he is not fit to eat. I do not know about the Angora one."

There follows a further impressive example of the grave Senatorial humor: Mr. Cummins—Mr. President, I have some familiarity with the bill, and I do not think that goats of any kind are specifically mentioned in the bill or in this section. Therefore I assume that any kind of goat would come in at 10 per cent.

Mr. Walsh—I think the senator must be in error about that. I think goats are covered by section 621 as well as swine, referred to by the distinguished Senator from Minnesota (Mr. Nelson). "Swine, cattle, sheep and all other domestic live animals suitable for human food not otherwise provided for in this section."

If, however, you turn back to the paragraph in question, paragraph 191 it will be quite obvious that asses would fall under this section, if no other animals would. Mr. Cummins—Then, Mr. President, it is hard for me to conceive what the animal is that would come in under this paragraph. Mr. Walsh—I suggest to the Senator that asses would come in under that.

We assume that Senator Walsh meant quadrupeds. He comes from Montana, where they make a distinction. Yet we find no light on the inquiry as to the edibility of the goat. We'll leave Polk County to answer. Up there where your littlest child knows that the goat is fit to eat, no goat is ever eaten.

A good word for the county fair means a boost for our own pocket-book. HOG RECEIPTS LIGHT Week Closes with Slight Advance in All Livestock—Sheep Receipts Liberal. Portland Union Stock Yards, Aug. 25.—Receipts for the week have been, cattle, 835; calves, 344; hogs, 640; sheep, 8080; and horses, 1.

The receipts of cattle have been lighter than usual for the week, with bulk of offerings going readily at slightly higher prices. Both steers and cows have moved at an advance of about 15c. Choice steers sold as high as \$8.35 ranging down to 8c according to quality. Best cows and heifers easily brought 7c and some good class stuff went from \$6.50 to \$6.75. Prime veal calves \$8.75 to \$9.00. Hog arrivals have been very light. Prices advanced 25c for the midweek offerings and one load sold Friday as high as \$9.15 and one at \$9.05. Only two loads available at the week end. Liberal receipts of sheep, with prices holding a little better on good stuff. Most of the lambs received at the week end sold \$3.25 "off cars." Prime yearling wethers \$4 to \$4.35. Prime ewes \$3.50 to \$3.85.

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WOODMEN OF THE WORLD—Dallas Camp No. 269 meets in W. O. W. Hall on Tuesday evening of each week. R. E. REED, Consul Com. W. A. AYRES, Clerk.

A. F. & A. M.—Jennings Lodge, No. 9, meets second and fourth Fridays of each month, in Masonic hall on Main street. Visiting brethren welcome. E. A. HAMILTON, W. M. WALTER S. MUIR, Secretary.

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