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DALLAS, OREGON

70 BUSY STORES

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We want to announce, also, that in a few more days our stock will be complete, with all of the new spring goods. Spring Suits, Dresses, Skirts, Waists and Dress Goods; both Wool and Silk. WATCH FOR OUR SPRING BILL LATER

THE GOLDEN RULE STORE

Polk County Observer

THE HOME PAPER

Gerald Volk, Editor.

Entered as second-class matter in the Postoffice at Dallas, Oregon.

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Six Months.....	.75
Three Months.....	.40

IT IS NEWS TO US

It does not surprise us to have would-be newspaper men show ignorance between an editorial and a communication but we were surprised to read from the pen of neighbor Clark of the Independent Enterprise that this paper was opposed to good roads, and for several issues opposed them. We have never opposed good road building. We are heartily in favor of good roads but we are opposed to Polk County bonding itself for a large amount to build hard surface roads. Let us try the present system with a county road overseer and see what results he obtains. He has under him a large and well selected corps of supervisors and they mingle with the taxpayers every day. Let these gentlemen report what the farmers want, and do not let men who do not even own the homes they live in become the mouthpiece of the county in such a serious matter as voting bonds. The writer has known cases where men have been employed to agitate bonds and were paid so much a head for securing signatures to sidewalk and paving petitions. We believe that good roads in the future will be more common than in the past, and where money has been wasted in the past the experience of practical road builders in the future will greatly do away with the mistakes made by inexperienced men.

PANAMA CANAL AND THE MONROE DOCTRINE

The canal treaty between England and the United States provides, among other agreements, that the United States shall construct the canal, and have the exclusive rights to regulate and manage its operation.

In its regulation and management of the canal the United States proposes to admit our coastwise shipping to free use of the canal. This is certainly the right and prerogative of the United States. It is not necessary that this government seek or receive the advice or consent of any foreign

power as to the policy or administration of its internal affairs. The admittance of our coastwise shipping to the free use of the canal is a part of the policy of this government in the regulations of corporations, and the administration of our internal business affairs. We deny that any foreign power has any right to interfere, much less to dictate to us by treaty or otherwise, in this matter of our policy.

The canal treaty was not designed to give Great Britain that right. If it be construed to give that right to England, or any other foreign power, it is high time the treaty be abrogated. If it gives that right, then it is clear our diplomats have bartered away our sovereign right to regulate our corporations and internal affairs. It must be abrogated.

The use of the canal by all nations on equal terms is a totally different matter. The regulation of our corporations and internal affairs has nothing to do with that question. But if England insists that it is vitally involved in it, then let the treaty be abrogated forthwith, and a new treaty, shorn of ambiguities and humiliating blunders be negotiated.

The policy of the United States on the question of foreign control or occupation of American territory is known as the Monroe doctrine. We do not accept interference of England in regulating the affairs of Cuba. We would not tolerate intervention in Mexico by a foreign power, yet we are told by England and President Wilson that we must bow to the dictate of England in our own use of our own canal at Panama.

President Wilson's interpretation of this treaty is a blow to the Monroe doctrine. The canal treaty must therefore be abrogated, or the Monroe doctrine stands abolished, so far as the canal is concerned. It will then be but a short step to the demise of the time-honored Monroe doctrine. The president should stand for our sovereign rights and for the Monroe doctrine.

WE THANK YOU

The editor would like to write personally to the different citizens of Polk County who have written us such words of encouragement in regard to the stand this paper has taken in reference to Bonding Polk County. It is appreciated and takes away and acts as an antidote to the sting of the opposition.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

FAIR PLAY

Dallas, Oregon, March 2, 1914.

To the Editor:

May I use the people's column of your publication for a few words about churches in general, and the remarks of Rev. C. P. Gates, delivered upon the past two Sunday evenings in particular?

Rev. Gates states that to be a Christian Scientist is to be "An Unthinking Non-entity"; he ridicules the grammar used by Mary Baker Eddy in her various works along the line of Christian Science; he says that one who is a Christian Scientist is bound for the pit; he makes the broad assertion that Mrs. Eddy's book on Science and Health is a lie from start to finish; he claims that her teachings were opposed to marriage and that she advocated free love; he stated many other equally as foolish and narrow propositions.

I am not a Christian scientist, and know but little about it; but know much more now than I did, for Mr. Gates' remarks were such as would incline one to investigate. I have taken occasion to secure and read to quite an extent Mrs. Eddy's book on "Science and Health." My investigation has fully demonstrated to me that Christian Science teaches the very apex of Christianity. From my investigation, I find that to be a Christian Scientist every reliance must be placed upon the infinite power of our Creator. Its followers are taught to follow the teachings of the bible; they are taught to imitate as nearly as possible for man to imitate the life of Christ. They are taught to be Christians as described by the bible, and are not taught that affiliation with a church, and a strict adherence to church rules and regulations, made by man, and subject to change at man's will, is essential to salvation. This is the impression I secured from a brief investigation.

I find that Mary Baker Eddy uses the following words with reference to marriage as opposed to free love: "Marriage is the legal and moral provision for generation among human kind. Marriage will continue subject to such moral regulations as will secure increasing virtue. Infidelity to the marriage covenant is the social scourge of all races, the condemnation, 'Thou shalt not commit

adultery' is no less imperative than the one 'Thou shalt not kill.'" (Page 56 Science and Health.)

As for the grammar used by Mrs. Eddy, it seems to me that it is very un-charitable for anyone to twist her or her followers upon that. Anyway, I do not believe that she was teaching grammar, and even at that, I doubt the competency of Rev. Gates to criticize it. But even if he does qualify as a critic, and proves the grammar to be defective, I doubt very much if such proof will prove the death knell of this cause. The bible does not teach that heavenly rewards will be meted out accordingly as the applicant is possessed of a knowledge of grammar. Grammatical perfection, the boiled shirt, white collar, and swallow tail are not really necessary to salvation.

As far as a Christian Scientist being an unthinking non-entity is concerned, it is a well-known fact (and one which Mr. Gates knows) that many of the brightest men in public life today are Christian Scientists. Many of our United States Senators, so it is said, are unthinking enough to seek salvation through the method taught by Mrs. Eddy. It is probable, however, that a Christian Scientist would pay but little heed to such remarks in the way of resentment, but on the contrary, would sympathize with Him who gives them utterance on account of the total lack of plain common sense and Christian spirit displayed. It is a well-known fact that Christian Scientists do not spend their time in denouncing other beliefs; they have their time fully occupied with elevating themselves and others whom they can in a spiritual manner.

As for the book written by Mrs. Eddy being a lie from start to finish, I have my doubts of that, and I believe that Mr. Gates knows better. I would not do him the injustice to take him seriously in so broad an assertion as this.

To be a Christian Scientist, according to Rev. Gates, is to be on the direct road to the pit. If this is true, there will certainly be thousands of Christian people there when the time or reckoning arrives. The general tendency of modern times among churches is to work together for the elevation of mankind, and is opposed to the denunciation of other churches and beliefs. In olden times, denunciation of other beliefs was in style. I am sorry to learn that Rev. Gates is

not in sympathy with this spirit of progress; that he has reverted to a condition that existed once, but which has well been nearly forgotten. He has gone back to the age where the great controversy was Church-anity against Christianity. If we are to revert to that condition of affairs, there certainly will be lots of people upon the wrong track. As a matter of fact, all persons endeavoring to live a Christian life will be bound for the unknown depths, for it will be difficult to ascertain which church is right. If such a condition is to exist, what will a poor sinner, desiring to become a Christian, with hopes of future reward in heaven, do? What church will he become connected with? If he joins one, he will be wrong according to another and so on. Surely, this cannot be the aim of true Christianity. Surely the Church is not above Christ.

As stated before, I am not a Christian Scientist; as a matter of fact I do not consider myself good enough to be a Christian. But I do love fair play. I believe in Justice. I believe in "doing unto others as I would others should do unto me." I do not believe that one should bear false witness against another. I love the world of meaning contained in the first few words of Christ's sermon on the mount: "Judge not that ye be not judged." I believe in living, and letting my neighbor live.

I have always thought that Church organizations were instituted for the purposes of elevating mankind, and through organization, to carry on their work more effectively, and I do know that most churches do carry out to the best of their ability the purposes of their existence. It should not be within the province of any church or minister of the gospel to denounce the teachings and beliefs of any other church, followed by those who are endeavoring to lead a Christian life as they see it. I would like to call Rev. Gates' attention to the words of the immortal Burns:

'O Wad the Po'er the Giftie Gie us,
To see ourselves as Ithers see us,
It wad frae monie a blunder free us,
And foolish notion.

Respectfully, Fair Play.

While we are willing to let our readers have free use of this column to express their opinions, we request that no religious matter be discussed. We will therefore cut it out, but if you want to pay for it as advertisers do, we will give you space.—Ed.

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