

The Polk County Observer

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(THE HOME PAPER)

DALLAS, POLK COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY, MAY, 1st, 1914.

(TWICE-A-WEEK)

NO. 18

MAIN LINE FOR US

Better Railway Facilities Promised for Dallas.

ELECTRIC TRAINS PROBABLE

Mr. Walter Tooze Interviews Railroad People as Representative of the Commercial Club.

Walter L. Tooze, Jr., returned from Portland yesterday afternoon, where he had gone on behalf of the Commercial club to interview Robt. E. Strahorn, president of the P. E. & E. railway lines in Oregon, with reference to the early electrification of the lines south of Whiteson. The Commercial club is making a strong effort to secure the main line of the new electrified road through Dallas, and is asking that the line from Smithfield to Dallas be straightened out. Several days ago, Mr. Fuller, president of the Dallas Commercial club, and Mr. S. B. Taylor, local civil engineer, went out to Smithfield and looked over the ground with a view to relocating the railroad, and putting the proposition up to the railroad powers that be. Mr. Taylor, who for several years, acted as chief engineer for the Salem, Falls City & Western Railway Company, building the line from Dallas to Salem, Salem to Silverton, and the railroad bridge at Salem, went from Smithfield to Dallas over a proposed route with Mr. Fuller, and they found what they believed would be a most desirable location for a change in route. Mr. Taylor estimated the cost of the change to be in the neighborhood of \$60,000. If the railroad company accepts the recommendations of these men and acts upon the same, the distance between Dallas and Portland will be lessened by about one mile, and the maximum grade cut from 2 1/2 per cent to 1 per cent and the maximum curvature from 16 degrees to 6 degrees. Mr. Taylor accompanied Mr. Tooze to Portland yesterday to put the matter up to Mr. Strahorn.

What the result of the effort being made by the Commercial club will be, no one at this time can foretell. The railroads are doing nothing in the line of improvement now owing to a lack of finances, but the coming summer will see many changes made throughout the State. All material on hand to electrify the Salem, Falls City & Western Railway line from Falls City to Salem, also the Southern Pacific line from Whiteson to Eugene. Mr. Tooze reports that the president of the P. E. & E. Railway Company informed him and Mr. Taylor that probably during the coming summer, the electrification will be completed into Dallas, and that Dallas will have at least two trains each way between Dallas and Portland, without any change at Gerlinger. According to the present plans of the P. E. & E. Railway Company, and the Southern Pacific, a new line will soon be constructed from Salem to Portland along the present site of the main trunk line of the Southern Pacific, giving in effect a double track system between Salem and Portland. The new line will be electrified. Trains between Dallas and Portland, will then run by way of Salem, Woodburn, and Oregon City. It is believed that this will be the ultimate solution of the "main line for Dallas" problem. With this service, Dallas would be able to claim as fine railroad service as any city its size in the state, with the possible exception of a few towns along the main lines of the Southern Pacific and Oregon Electric.

Mr. Tooze was assured that the railroad officials realized fully the rather poor service Dallas citizens were receiving at this time from the standpoint of passenger accommodations, and that the arrangements at present were to be considered but temporary. That they also realize the importance of Dallas as a big shipping center is a well known fact, and from what he learned in Portland yesterday, Mr. Tooze is confident that within the next year the railroad service into and out of Dallas will be so improved that Dallas citizens will have but little cause of complaint. The railroad officials seemed to appreciate deeply the friendly interest shown by the Dallas Commercial club in their proposed development, and seem inclined to favor Dallas as much as is possible.

NOW SHEARING MANY SHEEP.

Mr. Vandevort Is Largest Wool Grower in the Valley.

Statesman: "H. H. Vandevort, of this city, who has a sheep ranch about three miles out, on the Polk county side, was in Salem last night, and said that he had a bunch of 800 of the wool-bearing animals at Independence

where the coating was being removed with the aid of several men and two machines. He stated that the wool had a fine appearance, and that task of shearing would be accomplished in a few days. Mr. Vandevort has, altogether, a band of over 3000 sheep, counting the lambs, his bunch of over 2200 being the largest in the Willamette Valley. The band being sheared at Independence is the largest he has ever had sheared during his career of twenty years in the sheep business in this section."

Target Practice Begins.

Thursday afternoon a squad of men from Company L went out to the company's target range to prepare the targets and get them in readiness for the commencement of practice, which begins tomorrow. For the best ten men from any company in the third battalion, third regiment, Major Abrams of Salem has offered a battalion trophy. In view of the fact that the men of the local company have always been well to the front in the regimental shoots, held annually at Clackamas, they are hoping for the trophy to fall to them, as did the one last year.

Ex-Governor Geer Here.

Ex-Governor T. T. Geer spent last night in Dallas, and while here met a number of old cronies. Mr. Geer is campaigning in the interest of his candidacy for governor. He has an ambition to right several things in state government that he considers wrong.

FEW ERRORS ARE MADE

EXPERT ACCOUNTANT REPORTS ON COUNTY FINANCES.

Barring Clerical Errors Books of Clerk, Treasurer and Sheriff Are Found to Be Correct.

At the instance of State Insurance Commissioner Ferguson the firm of Crandall & Roberts, certified public accountants of Portland, was recently employed to audit the books of the Polk county officers, and their report was submitted to the county court on Tuesday last. The report covers all transactions in the offices of the county clerk, county treasurer and sheriff from January 1, 1913, to December 31, 1913, inclusive.

In addressing the court, Mr. Max Crandall, who performed the work, informs that body that other than a few clerical errors the financial transactions of these officers have been correct. In auditing the bills for expenditures of the county for the year, it was discovered that in several instances bills had been presented twice and allowed. The report furnishes the names of parties to whom double payment was made, and recommends that attention of the parties be called to the condition in the hope of recovering the money so erroneously expended. The auditor finds no authority for the payment of thirty cents for the transit officer serving notices, nor for the charge of ten cents for each letter. The statute prescribes the compensation for the transit officer at \$3 per diem, with traveling expenses, and the accountant holds that it is his duty to perform this service for this charge.

Mr. Crandall suggests that the sheriff issue certificates of delinquency to the county for taxes yet uncollected on real estate on rolls of 1908, 1909, 1910, and 1911, and that the district attorney's attention be called to them that they may be foreclosed before they become void, as they are after six years under the act commonly known as the new tax law enacted by the legislature of 1912-13.

CANNERY DEAL IS OFF.

Investigating Committee Reports Adversely on Matter.

After making a thorough investigation of the propositions by a Portlander to establish a cannery in Dallas, the two representatives of the Commercial club sent to the Oregon metropolis for the purpose have reported negatively. Messrs. Miles and Craven, while in Portland, visited a considerable number of prominent wholesalers and from this source gained the information that goods produced by the party with whom negotiations were pending were not up to standard, and this, in the language of the famous rough rider, closed the incident. The proposition as presented to the Commercial club was that, if this city would provide a site and the necessary buildings the cannery would move his factory to Dallas, provided he could finance it for the season.

Council Meets Monday.

The municipal council will convene in regular monthly session next Monday evening, when the recently-elected aldermen will take office and organization for the year will be perfected. Mayor Van Orsdel may have a message to the council. The new aldermen are Messrs. Knight, Young and Westover; holdovers, Messrs. Barber, Sibley, Gorky and Dr. Hay-

NOW FOR BIG FAIR

Each Community Should Prepare Exhibits.

DIRECTORS WANT ALL TO HELP.

Friendly Rivalry Among Various Communities of County Would Result in Much Good.

The fourth annual Polk County Fair promises to eclipse all previous undertakings by the association. Encouraged by the success of the past officers and members of the organization are now busily engaged in perfecting plans for the coming event, each enthusiastic over the prospects of a truly representative exhibit of Polk's industrial, horticultural and agricultural products. To the end that every part of the county may become still more interested and a county-wide display prepared the directors at a recent meeting planned to district the county and appoint two public-spirited persons from each district to co-operate with the directors in arousing local interest and rendering help in securing exhibits from their respective localities. This list of appointees has already been published in The Observer, and the members thereof, or at least a large number of them, are now endeavoring to create a bigger and better show this fall. Each community should unite with its neighbors in presenting its best stock and products to the end that a magnificent display, the best ever, be shown.

The fair directors are deeply mindful of the important part the school children of the county have played in past years in making the county fair successful, and as an appreciation of the good work of the boys and girls, have set aside the handsome sum of \$550 to be expended in collecting and displaying a school exhibit and for prizes that will stimulate the children to put forth their very best effort for the success of this most important department of the fair.

The benefits received by the county from these annual displays are beyond computation, and it goes without saying that the greatest benefit is derived by those communities which prepare the most attractive and comprehensive exhibits of their resources and products. Let us hope, therefore, that this spirit of friendly rivalry will be greater this year than ever before and that each citizen will loyally perform his part in helping Polk county retain its proud title, "The Blue Ribbon County of Oregon."

The fair this year will be held Thursday, Friday, Saturday, September 17, 18, and 19.

DALLAS COLLEGE MAY MOVE.

Plan Being Worked Out to Consolidate With Philomath.

Although not definitely determined upon, there is a strong probability that Dallas College will be removed to Philomath next fall. It is proposed that this institution of learning be united with that of the Evangelical Association at Philomath, the United Evangelical church, which denomination maintains the local college, together with the United Brethren, joining in making a larger and better school. The conferences of the three denominations will be held during the ensuing two months and decision concerning the consolidation will be arrived at at these gatherings.

Under existing conditions, the move is deemed advisable by all interested, and it appears to be their intent and purpose to consummate the plan as here outlined. The Dallas college would add very materially to the Philomath institution, and with the three denominations contributing the consolidated school, it is thought, could easily be made to take higher rank than it is now possible for either to attain.

BUNKERS BEING BUILT.

Installs Modern Method of Handling Sand and Gravel.

Mr. Lloyd Soehren, of the Soehren warehouse, is erecting gravel bunkers of 200 yards capacity in his yards, and will enjoy the distinction of having the only bunkers of this character in the Willamette Valley. A machine will unload gravel and sand from the car, carrying it into the bunkers from which wagons will be loaded through chutes by gravity. On account of the large amount of building now under way in Dallas, this trade is brisk, several carloads having been received and delivered to builders this week. The gravel comes from Independence, and the sand from the Columbia river.

Change of Ownership.

A. W. Bennett has purchased the O. K. barber shop from Johnson & Harris, and will take possession tomorrow night.

NEARLY ESCAPES

Sheriff Grant's Timely Appearance Prevents Delivery.

MARTIN PREPARED TO LEAVE.

Forge Breaks Iron Bars and Forces Hole Through Brick Wall While Town Clock Strikes.

L. G. Martin, who is incarcerated in the county jail on the charge of having attempted to defraud the Dallas City Bank out of a considerable sum of money on forged drafts, came near breaking jail early Wednesday morning by severing the iron bars of his cell and tunneling a hole through the south wall with an axe. In some unaccountable way Martin got hold of a mop Tuesday and taking the rope from it fished out through the bars of his window for an axe which happened to be lying on the ground nearby, at last succeeding in securing it. While the town clock directly opposite the jail was striking the hours he worked for freedom, the sound of the axe being deadened somewhat by the huge timepiece. By breaking two bars in his cell door he gained the corridor, at the end of which he tunneled a hole in the brick wall. Each time the clock pealed forth the hour he would hasten the work, until about 1 o'clock Wednesday morning he was in position to deliver himself from the custody of Sheriff Grant.

The night watchman, however, had heard the unaccustomed sound, and notified the sheriff that all was not well, and the latter hastened to the place and concealed himself in the shadow of the wall. There were lights in the jail and the sheriff could see where they shone through the hole in the wall made by the prisoner and illuminated the wall of the building across the street. Soon after Sheriff Grant had taken his position the lights in the jail were turned off and a large bundle came through the hole and dropped to the ground. The officer fired three times at the bundle with a revolver, but there was no move from it. On investigation it was found to be a bundle of clothes which the sheriff had put three holes with his gun. When Martin heard the shots, however, he retreated back to his cell. He was immediately made safe with handcuffs and a ball and chain.

Martin came to Dallas some time ago and deposited in the Dallas City bank \$17,500 in drafts made by a Kansas City bank on the Hanover National bank of New York. He also deposited in drafts of the same character \$15,000 in the Dallas National bank. These drafts were later found to be forgeries and Martin was arrested in the Bush bank at Salem when attempting to get money on his deposit of drafts in the Dallas banks.

MANY NEW RECRUITS.

Call For Guardsmen Meets With Ready Response.

Capt. Stafrin of the local militia reports that of the 108 men required, 83 have signed up. The captain says he will recruit a few more than that number, as doubtless some of the guardsmen, in case of being called into active service, could not pass the physical examination. Those who recruited since the call are Paul H. Smith, Rickreall; Raymond M. Scott, Dallas; Harry C. Thomason, Rickreall; Thomas Thomason, Dallas; Chas. A. Woods, Dallas; Lester D. Butler, Independence; Virgil M. Kellow, Rickreall; Russell W. E. Kellow, Rickreall; Thos. E. Campbell, Dallas; Henry H. McSherry, Falls City; Chas. E. Wilkinson, Dallas; Albert W. Wilkinson, Dallas; Arthur D. Benton, Falls City; Wm. H. Ferguson, Falls City; Linton K. Grey, Albany; Benj. F. Hill, Rickreall; John P. Hodges, Rickreall; Dewey James, Falls City; Chas. C. Lee, Dallas; Geo. W. Morton, Dallas; Forrest J. Neal, Dallas.

INVESTIGATES WATER SYSTEM.

Railroad Commission Will Give Rates Early Attention.

The State Railroad Commission, or rather Messrs. Campbell and Miller thereof, accompanied by Engineer Green, were in Dallas on Wednesday gathering data and investigating conditions in connection with water rates. A thorough examination of the system was made, an inventory taken and other necessary things done, preparatory to regulating rates, complaint about present rates having been registered. The commission gives assurance that the question will be given its early attention.

Sale of Stock at Amity.

About 500 people attended the sale of high-bred cattle at the Hill Crest dairy farm near Amity, on Wednesday, when H. W. Jones, sold his entire herd of dairy cows, for the purpose of replacing them with register-

ed stock. The six cows bringing highest prices were: Queen, \$190; Grace, \$160; Jet, \$185; Dinah and Rosana, \$135 each; Dekol, \$150. About forty-five cows and heifers were disposed of and the sum paid ranged from the above figures down as low as \$45. Lucille, 6 years old, with test of 7.2 pounds butter fat, was sold for \$92, while many of less capacity and lower test brought more money.

FAIR DATES ARE FIXED.

Neighborhood Exhibits to be Pulled Off Before Salem Event.

A list of county fairs to be held in this section has been compiled by the Secretary of State, showing the dates and places for the several fairs, and the names and addresses of the secretary in each case. All of these fairs will be held before the opening of the Oregon State Fair at Salem.

Polk County Fair, at Dallas; Edgerton Miles, Dallas, September 17 to 19. Benton County Fair, at Corvallis, September 17 to 19; Mrs. Mary H. Whitty, Corvallis.

Lincoln County Fair, at Toledo, September 22 to 25; Joseph Swearingen, Toledo.

Tillamook County Fair at Tillamook, September 15 to 18; Will Spalding, Tillamook.

Washington County Fair, at Forest Grove, September 23 to 25; Webster Hughes, Forest Grove.

Yamhill County Fair, at McMinnville, September 23 to 26; Mrs. Martin Miller, McMinnville.

UPJOHN QUITS HIS JOB

HE IS SUCCEEDED BY ATTORNEY J. E. SIBLEY OF DALLAS.

Former Will Engage in the Newspaper Business at the State Capital in Near Future.

Donald H. Upjohn on Tuesday tendered his resignation as county attorney for Polk county to Governor West, and is succeeded in office by Mr. J. E. Sibley, whose appointment came from the governor the following day. Mr. Upjohn, it is said, will go to Salem, where he has accepted a position with a weekly newspaper. He was appointed to the place by Governor West when the new county attorney bill went into effect in 1913. Mr. Sibley, prior to the appointment of Upjohn, had been deputy prosecutor for more than fifteen years, and is not unacquainted with the duties of the office, which are so numerous that he declined an appointment when the recent law went into effect. The office pays \$900 per year.

OPERATIONS TO RESUME SOON.

Axe-Handle Factory Sold to Eastern Oregon Man.

The axe-handle factory will probably resume operations in the near future. While in Portland early in the week Messrs. Miles and Craven saw Mr. Meyers, one of the owners of the defunct manufacturing institution, and from him learned that an Eastern Oregon man had purchased the plant and was now perfecting arrangements to thoroughly repair the buildings and put the equipment in first-class condition with a view to resuming the making of axe-handles. Mr. Meyers had, for the moment, forgotten the name of the individual who had made the purchase, but felt confident that something would be done soon.

New Lockers for Armory.

Company L, Oregon National Guard, has this week received thirty new steel lockers to replace the wooden ones formerly used at the Armory. Capt. Stafrin had been expecting the lockers for some time past. A consignment of wearing apparel for the soldiers is soon expected.

Marriage Licenses.

The following marriage licenses have been issued by County Clerk Robinson this week: Arthur N. Herington and Pearl M. Wooden, Falls City; Ashman John and Flora Broughton, Tillamook; Charles A. Plowman and Jennie M. Burkhardt, Falls City.

Births of the Week.

Mr. and Mrs. John Uglov are the proud parents of a daughter, born April 28th.

Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Parrish have a new daughter, born April 28th.

Born, to Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Parrish, on Sunday last, a daughter.

Stars Give Banquet.

The order of the Eastern Star initiated three candidates and gave a fine banquet on Tuesday evening, at which a large crowd was present, all enjoying the splendid hospitality of the Stars.

Higher Court to Decide.

Oregon's minimum wage act, which has been upheld twice by Circuit Judge Cleaton of Multnomah and the Oregon Supreme Court, will be taken to the Supreme Court of the United States at once.

HOSPITAL GOING UP

Ten Thousand Dollar Structure in Process of Erection

BUILDING WILL BE MODERN.

Local Association Changed Site, Purchasing Property at East End of Miller Avenue.

Ground was broken on Wednesday for another building, the cost of which will be approximately \$10,000. The Observer refers to the Dallas hospital, promoted by a local association of which Mr. F. J. Coad is president, Dr. B. H. McCallon, vice-president, and Miss Edith Starbuck, secretary and treasurer, and in which enterprise Dr. A. B. Starbuck, Dr. L. C. Bollman, Dr. W. S. Cary, Dr. V. C. Staats and Mr. Oscar Hayter are also interested.

At a recent session of the board of directors property 94 x 103 feet at the east end of Miller Avenue, on Uglov Avenue, was purchased for the purpose, paying Mr. F. H. Morrison \$550 therefore, and a well appointed hospital building 38 x 61 feet and two stories high, with basement is now under process of construction on the site. The property on Eleventh street, between Oak and Academy, heretofore purchased, was taken over by Mr. Coad.

The plans for the building were prepared by Morrison & McConnell, from whom The Observer has secured the following data: The first floor will have four commodious rooms and a reception hall, being cut off from the men's ward, kitchen, baths and toilets in the rear by a wide and well ventilated corridor. On the second floor will be a convalescent ward, anesthetizing room, sterilizing room, operating room and two receiving rooms, back of which is another corridor, and three additional rooms, dieting kitchen, baths and toilets. There will be a wide balcony in front. The basement, which has an excavation of five feet, provides for furnace and fuel room, laundry, kitchen, pantry and dining room.

The architectural design of the building is modern in every respect, while the interior arrangement reflects credit upon the gentlemen who prepared the plans. The equipment will be of the highest and most approved order. The institution will be operated as a general hospital.

Death of Nelson Chapin.

Nelson Chapin, twenty years a resident of Falls City, died at his home there last Saturday, aged 78 years. He leaves a widow and seven children—Frank and Fred Chapin of this city; Orpha Englund of Washington, Mrs. Eva Raines and Miss Leone Chapin of Falls City, and V. Chapin of the regular army—to mourn his death.

Deceased was a native of Michigan, coming to McMinnville and later to Falls City. The funeral was held on Tuesday, and the remains were followed to their last resting place by a large concourse of old friends and neighbors.

Dallas a Distributing Point.

The Standard Oil Company will make this city a distributing point for Polk County, and to that end is erecting large tanks near the railroad. The company recently bought two acres of land from Albert S. Hiesy, paying \$650 therefor; and has two cylindrical tanks, each 10 x 30 feet, on the ground ready for erection when the concrete foundation shall have been completed. One tank will contain gasoline and the other kerosene.

Warehouse Is Robbed.

Unknown parties forcibly entered a warehouse at Buena Vista a few nights ago, and carried away a quantity of goods belonging to Neal & Bevens and W. S. McCain. There is no clue to the perpetrators of the deed.

Armory Site is Costly.

Nineteen thousand dollars is the price agreed upon by the general staff of the Oregon National Guard for a site selected in Eugene for what the members of the staff say will be the finest armory building in Oregon.

REGISTRATION BOOKS
CLOSE AT 5 O'CLOCK.

The registration books will close at 5 o'clock this evening. If you have not registered do so at once, otherwise you will have to swear in your vote on May 15. The registration in Polk county up to noon today exceeded the total registration of 1912 by 453, there being 4250 names enrolled in 1914 as against 3797 in 1912, the increase being largely due to the women registering.
