

WEDGE GIVES LESSON

CHAUTAUQUA LECTURER HAS A TRAIN EXPERIENCE.

The Fighting Parson Protects Lady Passenger From Hoggishness in Wyoming.

That a prize fighter's prowess can be put to good use, and that "the bravest are the tenderest" was demonstrated a few months ago to the delight of a car full of passengers near Cheyenne, Wyoming, when Frederick R. Wedge, "the fighting parson" who is to lecture on our Chautauqua this summer, protected an old lady from the hoggishness of one of those tough characters that are so often met with in traveling. By the time Wedge had completed his lesson in decency, the tough was thoroughly tamed. The story was told by the train conductor, and has resulted in a number of papers throughout the country suggesting that the public would appreciate having railroads employ a Fred Wedge to ride all trains.

The train was crowded when the old lady got on. Coming down the aisle she stopped at the only place that seemed to offer any chance of a seat. This was where a big, shaggy-browed fellow was sprawled out over two seats. She stopped, and after looking around uncertainly for a moment, timidly inquired if she might have room to sit down. There was a sort of grunting response, but the fellow edged over slightly. But the conductor had scarcely taken up her ticket and passed on until the rough began leaning against the old lady and making himself generally obnoxious. Wedge was sitting father back in the car and was observing the proceedings. He saw the woman shrinking from her tormentor, and could see her speaking to him as if in a protest. Finally the old lady got up and left the seat and stood in the aisle. Instantly Wedge was on his feet and beckoning to her. He led her back to his seat and then walked up to where she had been sitting.

The fellow who was sprawled in the seat looked up as Wedge in a not down beside him. In a few minutes too gentle manner pushed in and sat the tough began the same crowding tactics, lolling his big frame against Wedge, who gave every inch that could be given, but still, the outrageous conduct of the seat hog continued. Finally Wedge straightened up and seized him by the collar.

"Now straighten up and behave!" he exclaimed. The tough glared at him savagely. "Why, you shrimp, I'll—". But he didn't. As he was raising his arm to strike, something happened to him. With a roar, he sprang to his feet, but the same something happened again, and he sat down with a confused picture of a square-jawed man looking him in the eyes and giving him lessons in politeness.

The conductor was called, and after hearing the story thanked Wedge, ordered the tough to behave and admonished him to remember his lesson. Then Wedge smiled and sat down, happy.

And this is the man who will lecture at our chautauqua and tell the story of his prize-fighting days and how he was inspired to better things, became a University graduate, and a worker for humanity.

CHERRY-EATING BIRDS.

Professor Sykes Makes An Interesting Statement.

Only two kinds of birds destroy cherry blossoms so far as observed by Professor George Sykes, of the Agricultural College, during a seven-day investigation. These are the California purple-finch and the English sparrow.

"For seven days," says Professor Sykes, "every bird that was seen in a cherry tree was put under inspection. In only two cases was there any room for suspicion. To confirm this evidence some of the birds were shot and their stomachs examined. The birds killed and the contents of their stomachs were as follows:

Seven California purple-finch, cherry blossoms 100 per cent; one of the same, 4 legs of Carabid.

One English sparrow, cherry blossoms 100 per cent.

One pine siskin, 36 rag weed seeds, 8 conifer seeds, and grit 20 per cent. One blue bird, beetle fragments 100 per cent.

One flicker, wood boring termites, 50 per cent, black ants.

One Oregon towhee, beetles, 50 per cent, one clover seed, trash, grit.

"It is thus seen that several birds have been wrongly accused. Robins, bluebirds, goldfinches, pine siskins and other extremely beneficial birds have been shot. It seems almost proverbial that man never knows his own luck."

Feed and Flavor of Milk.

All sorts of notions have been exploited by dairymen as to the effect of different kinds of feed upon the flavor of the milk. It has been the general opinion that the feeding of corn and bran improves the flavor of milk. The department of agriculture

has been making an investigation and of fifty opinions expressed regarding the flavors of the samples, one-half preferred the milk from cows fed corn and bran, sixteen favored the milk from cows fed oats, and nine expressed no choice.

The department is of the opinion that there is no great superiority in the bran and corn feed, and believes that the relative prices of the different feeds will determine in most cases which will be preferred in making up a ration for cows; that oats, corn, alfalfa hay, cottonseed meal, linseed meal, bran, gluten and other good feeds for dairy cows, when properly fed in reasonable amounts produce a fine-flavored milk.

LAST OF A SERIES.

Concluding Concert By Band Is Highly Appreciated.

Last evening wound up the series of the Dallas Band concerts that have been so very entertaining the past winter. The Observer questions if there ever was as much given for the money as in these concerts. The program each time has been different, and not only local but outside talent has been hired by the band boys at great expense. The concert Wednesday evening was well attended, and it was with a feeling of regret to the large audience present that this was the end of the season's concerts. As suggested in a recent issue of The Observer, it would be a wise thing to give the band a benefit, and we trust that some step will be taken to show that the efforts of the home band is appreciated. The following was the excellent program given:

March, composed, arranged and dedicated to Dallas band by James A. Hall; selection, band; piano solo, Miss Stella Johnson; selection, band; encore, Anvil Polka with electrical effects; baritone solo, "Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep," Mr. Will Boydston; encore, "Sunshine and Roses," selection, "Doekstader Minstrel Medley," Dallas Band Orchestra; encore, "Where's That Dog-gone, Dog-gone Dog of Mine?" "The Battle of San Juan Hill," band; encore, "Frenstone's Fighting Twentieth," march, "The Ghost of the Violin," band.

Director Downey, on behalf of the Dallas band, expressed his appreciation of the assistance given at the concert Wednesday evening by Miss Johnson. Her number certainly added much to the entertainment.

NEW HATCHING DEVICE.

Hot Water Bottle, Doctor and Woman Saves Setting.

Mrs. W. H. Cross of Salem proved that necessity is not only the mother of invention, but that it may be the mother of chickens, says a correspondent to the Oregonian. She had a setting of eggs from a fine variety of chickens. So happy was she in their possession, that she all but counted the chicks before they were hatched. She was equally downcast, naturally, when the hen, after 12 days of careful "setting", deserted the nest.

Mrs. Cross found the eggs before they became chilled and breathlessly placed them in a box behind the stove in her living-room. Then she pondered, quickly, for she was determined not to lose the chickens, and the problem was solved. The hot-water bottle was requisitioned as a substitute for the recalcitrant hen. It was filled with tepid water and placed over the eggs.

Then Mrs. Cross conferred with her family physician, Dr. J. O. Van Winkle, regarding the temperature at which the water should be kept. She followed instructions to the letter, with the result that six chickens were hatched today from the original setting of thirteen. Dr. Van Winkle is almost as proud of the brood of chickens as the owner, happy in the thought that he added in the discovery of another of the multifarious uses to which the esteemed water bottle may be put.

Thank Their Friends.

Ira Stubblefield and family desire through The Observer to thank their friends who rendered such valuable assistance following the fire, which completely destroyed their home and contents. Several merchants of Dallas "came to the rescue" while neighbors gave every possible help. Mr. Stubblefield has rented the Henry Berry dwelling, and his family is quite comfortably domiciled there. The loss of clothing and household effects is greatly felt, but the Stubblefields are energetic, and will recuperate rapidly.

Doing a Grand Work.

Envoy O. Gundersen, representing the Salvation Army Rescue Home of Portland, was in Dallas on Wednesday soliciting funds for that institution, and told The Observer that the people of this community responded liberally. This home, which provides for the unfortunate, not only affords protection, shelter and care to girls and women, but teaches them to help themselves as well. It is an institution that recommends itself. During the past year 5589 girls have been cared for in these homes.

Improving The Cemetery.

Messrs. Fuller, Coad and McCallion, trustees of the local Oddfellows' lodge, visited the cemetery Wednesday morning and arranged for a number of improvements, the most important of which is the construction of a roadway so that rigs may drive in on one side and come out on the other.

DRIVES AWAY MONEY

PRESENT MORTGAGE TAX RE-TARDS OREGON PROGRESS.

Commercial Organizations of State Now Considering Its Repeal Next Wednesday.

The commercial organizations of Oregon have been requested by the Commercial club of Eugene to express their opinion on the present tax laws, the latter having decided to lead a movement to secure at the next session of the legislature the repeal of the present law under which mortgages, rates, land contracts and similar evidences of credit are taxed. There is little doubt, it is thought, that it will pass, as it is generally realized that the present tax laws result in driving a great deal of money out of Oregon.

The way the tax on mortgages, notes, contracts and other evidences of credit works out is illustrated by a transaction that took place some years ago near Eugene, and told by The Register. Two men, newcomers from the East, bought a farm not far from here. The deal amounted in all to about \$10,000, and they had \$5,000 to pay down. The seller was willing to let the remaining \$5,000 run at five and one-half per cent if he did not have to pay taxes on it, but refused to accept a mortgage because he knew that mortgages were taxed. It was finally compromised by the buyers taking a contract for a deed and agreeing to pay the taxes if the contract were ever assessed.

This instance shows quite clearly how the tax on mortgages and other evidences of credit works out. In every case it is the borrower who pays the tax, either directly by agreement or in the form of increased interest rates. In this case the lender was satisfied with five and one-half per cent net for his money, and would have been willing to take a mortgage at that rate if mortgages had been exempt from taxation. The land contract was merely a dodge to escape taxation, as contracts at that time were not generally assessed. They are now, however, and if the contract is still in force the borrowers will be compelled under their agreement to pay the taxes on it, which will bring their interest rate up materially. In the meantime they have been paying taxes anyway on the full value of the land. Taxing mortgages and contracts is double taxation.

ONLY A FEW HOURS LEFT.

Registration Books for Primaries Will Close Today.

Registration for the May primaries will close tonight. Many citizens of Dallas have not yet registered, but they still have an opportunity to sign the books if they act promptly. Those who do not register cannot vote in the primaries without swearing in their votes at the polls, which is not only inconvenient, but an uncertain procedure. Naturalized citizens should take their papers with them, as they must be shown at the registration office.

Smith Now in Tillamook.

E. M. Smith, former county clerk of Polk county, and acknowledged to be one of the most efficient expert accountants in the state, is now at Tillamook, auditing the county's books for State Insurance Commissioner Ferguson. Mr. Smith, whom Secretary of State Ben Olcott paid a high compliment by saying that under his administration the clerk's books in Polk county were the best kept of any in the state, is a candidate for reelection to the clerkship.

Complain of Speeding.

Considerable complaint is being registered by residents of Washington Avenue about speeding by automobiles and motorcycles. On Wednesday, so says an eye witness, a motorcyclist narrowly averted running into a child crossing the street. The Observer's informant asserts that the rider was driving his machine at the rate of forty miles an hour.

Crawford Visits Dallas.

Attorney General A. M. Crawford was a Dallas visitor on Tuesday, coming hither in the interest of his candidacy for governor. Mr. Crawford has many friends in Polk. He is making his campaign on "lower taxes, home protection and better living conditions."

Soldiers to Meet Tomorrow.

Veterans of the Civil war will meet at the court house tomorrow afternoon for the purpose of organizing a post of the Grand Army of the Republic. Application has been made for a charter, and all ex-soldiers are invited to be present at the meeting.

Many Cases Pending.

Sixty-two cases involving the valuation of the properties of public utilities are now pending before the State Railroad Commission, among them being H. O. Gates of this city, water rates.

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