

Polk County Observer

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BY LEW CATES

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WILL IT BRING PEACE?

Although announcement has been made that the three South American mediators in the Mexican trouble will meet at Niagara Falls, Canada, on May 18, to receive representatives of the parties to the controversy, the belief is not strong that the conference will bring peace. It is not believed possible that any satisfactory pact can be reached which will satisfy the ambitions of Huerta, Villa, Carranza and the other warring factions and at the same time satisfy Washington. Nevertheless no criticism is visited upon the president for accepting the good offices of our South American neighbors. It is felt, however, that the period devoted to mediation should not be long drawn out, and that a resumption of hostilities, if mediation fails, should be vigorous and crushing.

It is felt that the loss of life will be much smaller if an overwhelming force is sent to Mexico and the war fought quickly than it will be if we attack the problem with a small force in a reluctant and less effectual way. At Washington the hope of all, except some of the immediate advisers of the president, is that, in case mediation fails, a sufficient force to clean up Mexico and establish an American protectorate be sent there at once. Secretary Bryan's apparent desire that we join hands with Villa does not meet with the approval of those who know the situation in a general way. It is not thought that this is the way to permanent tranquility and eventual civilization in Mexico.

STATESMEN OF TODAY.

One of The Observer's contemporaries relates how a minister of its community deplors the lack of honesty and stability of character in the statesmen of the present day. He took members of the United States senate to task, which is quite a popular fad these days, and declared that they were a dishonest assemblage from start to finish. There has been so much criticism of public men in the past few years, and such a determined effort to discredit everybody of prominence in public life, that the observations of the good preacher, were accepted as a matter of course. It is easy to destroy confidence in public men. While nearly every speaker who appears on the platform takes exception to the "American house of lords," and newspapers galore are constantly carping and finding fault, it is not to be wondered at that there is a sentiment abroad in the land that would delight in seeing the members of the senate severely chastised. Of course a whole lot of people would not like to hurl stones themselves, but they would hold the garments of those less timid and relish the castigation greatly.

It is well that history is kept straight. It is wrong to bear false witness against men in high places as well as against one's neighbor. The good minister to whom we refer could make some comparisons between the men now actively in the public service with those who dominated affairs in Biblical times, and the members of the senate and others in public life would not suffer any when the test was applied. Without discrediting religion, because the Almighty had to make use of some very weak vessels in an early day, as He does even yet, but it is a fact that King David could not have been elected to office in the United States. The newspapers would have pointed out the Uriah incident, so that no political party would have dared nominate him for any office. Solomon, with all of his wisdom, would have made poor headway for a seat in the United States senate. Jacob, who, by fraud and deception, swindled his hungry brother out of his birthright, if running for office in this country would have to face that crime at every cross roads when he attempted to make a speech. We are not attempt-

ing to show that these men were not afterwards forgiven by high heaven for their moral lapses, but men are not so generous when candidates come up for office. If there is a weak place in a man's armor it is shot full of holes. England, as great and powerful as she is, has had but few rulers that could have been elected to a high office in this country. While this general onslaught is on and men in high places are targets for all manner of criticism, if not actual slander, it is well to consider these things.

ROAD TAXATION.

It has long been recognized that the improvements of public highways is one of the most important and necessary objects of taxation. When road funds are wisely and economically spent, their contributions to the general welfare is probably greater than that made by any expenditure of public money. The close relation between good rural highways and the general prosperity of country and city alike is clear in the public mind. It is not in question and needs no setting forth. But do the people of this country desire to increase the burden of indirect taxation which they are now carrying through Federal aid for the construction of roads? And would there be an equitable division of such a fund? While it may appear to be a simple mathematical problem, can it be successfully solved?

State, city and county taxes are direct. You pay the cash to the collector. You see and feel this taxation. Federal taxes are indirect. They are laid not on houses, lands and goods but on the sale of tobacco and liquors, on the importation of foreign goods into the country and on the incomes of corporations and individuals. Consequently, they get to the average citizen in unseen ways, in higher prices for goods bought and services rendered. A considerable infolowed by the eye nor directly felt and accepted or resented by the taxpayers. But indirect taxation is not followed by the eye nor directly felt by the pocketbook. For that reason it is possible to increase it greatly, with little popular complaint. Federal taxation is a load we carry without realizing it—but it is a load none the less. We are apt to feel that taxes on imports and on corporate incomes are none of the concern of the most of us. But we pay them—a few cents here, a few cents there.

Speaking generally, the more direct taxation is the more surely does the public expenditure adjust itself to what the people can afford. Many public works must be carried on by indirect taxation, because in their nature they must be charges against the Federal government. But here is a great field of public effort—the maintenance of roads—which may be financed either by State or Federal taxation. Which is best?

THE MALE NIGHT SHIRT.

Evidently seeking relief from the effects of cussing and discussing the candidates' campaign the editor of a valued exchange finds fault with the male night shirt. The gentleman sees no affinity between elegance and the night-shirt. He enters complaint that it makes an exhibit of a man's pedal extremities and flaps when he walks. But suppose it does. If there is any place on this globular wad where a man has a perfect right to expose his legs, it is in the sanctity of his own bedchamber. So long as one does not use the night-gown for society purposes what if it does hoist up a bit when a man sits on his downy couch, or flaps when he hops across the room in an endeavor to disengage his off hind leg from his trousers? Of course if a man is given to inebriety, nightmare or somnambulism, and is not content to promenade under his own vine and fig tree, then we say, for the peace of the community, he should don pajamas. It is a mighty mean sleepwalker that will break the rest of his neighbors by promiscuously strolling the thoroughfares in an abbreviated robe de chambre that hunches indecently

above hirsute legs and flutters in the breeze like a kite fastened to a telegraph pole. In cases of this character The Observer agrees with mind-wanderings of the esthetic editor, but otherwise, no.

THE NEW BIRTH.

Springtime, with its wonderful awakening and revivification of nature, is the most interesting season of the year. The awakening of the flowers and trees, the return of the birds, and the departure of winter, mark an era in the life of the world each year, far more distinctly than does the arbitrary dates of the calendar. Every man and woman, boy and girl, is interested in the unfolding and rejuvenation of nature's handiwork, and the opening of the buds and the uplifting of the grasses and the songs of the happy birds, at this resurrection from the winter's tomb, is of importance to all.

The mystery of life, its meaning and value, may never be fully understood by man, and yet he may study nature and learn something of the grandeur of creation and learn to love the all-guiding, all-powerful hand that has provided so wonderfully for each generation of mankind, by insuring annual seed-time and harvest, sun and rain, spring and fall, summer and winter, all having a work and place and each necessary in the general plan. The tiny seed, seemingly dead during the long winter, breaks open when the sun shines in refulgent springtime glory and heat, and from it comes forth a miracle of loveliness and worth, and soon the old world that was practically bare becomes enclothed with verdure more beautiful and diversified than man has been able to weave by the aid of his brain and material powers, and humanity is blessed by fruits and grains for its life and comforts and luxury. Skeptics of a future life fail to answer or solve the problem enacted each recurring year, and mankind rises to the nobler idea of eternal promise and acquisition in a world just over the boundary marked by material death and seeming decay.

PAYS HIGH COMPLIMENT.

The most distinguished compliment that has yet been paid to a newspaper was paid when the Colorado Fuel and Iron Co. sued the Rocky Mountain News and the Denver Times for five hundred thousand dollars damages. These papers had been printing with truthful detail the tragic story at Ludlow where women and children have been killed in the mining trouble, where flesh and blood have been held to be cheaper than business gain. John C. Shaffer, new proprietor of the Rocky Mountain News and Denver Times, takes the position that this suit is a fight against the freedom of the press.

The story of Colorado mining troubles has been a tragic and sordid story and an effort has been made by a special committee of the Chamber of Commerce of Denver to doctor the news so as to minimize the horror of the situation. Mr. Shaffer has courageously refused to do this and he must now stand a libel suit probably before a jury that will be deeply prejudiced in favor of doctoring news. The other publishers of the country will watch the case closely.

It touches the right of the public to know the facts and the right and obligation of the newspapers to publish the facts. News is a straight-out commodity to be sold upon its merits as news under modern regulations. It should not be doctored any more than food should be doctored. Mr. Shaffer will win his fight in the court of public opinion. In the forum of conscience he will be victorious and he will receive the encouragement of all the credible members of his profession in the world.

MOTHER'S DAY.

The thought of setting aside a day like next Sunday to be called "Mother's Day" was a most happy one, for on the mother depends the character of a people, on the mother depends the status of the home. Since the birth of the Savior motherhood has been still more exalted, though from the first, the reverence and love drawn around the mothers have been in great part the world's anchor. Millions of men sorely tempted, have been saved by the thought: "Were I to do what I am contemplating now, what would my mother's spirit think, if now she is looking down from heaven upon me?" The sanctity of the home centers on the mother, and the man who through his passion or his bigotry would cast a

reproach upon that sanctity and dignity, never himself had a glorified mother, nor knew the grace of full enlightenment. Our country at first was settled by a primitive, God-fearing people; the part which the mother bore while the forests were being cleared between the eastern sea and the prairies, if properly portrayed, would make the most fascinating book ever written. But it would require the pen of an angel to write it. We suspect that it has been written, but that when it was finished, it was declared to be too sacred to be entrusted to worldly keeping, and hence was filed in the immortal record of the ages.

In this world it has had a partial portrayal only. It has shone out in five great wars, on the dauntless heroism of their sons, it has given them strength to storm the wilderness and to build from sea to sea, temples to justice, to mercy, to industry, to learning, to religion and to freedom. And in homes where the freest and most generous race that the world ever saw are the inhabitants.

Hail then Mother's Day! Let it continue with music and flowers and smiles and welcomes, that the devoted ones may feel that more than a home and local interest attaches to them, but rather, that a nation's arms are around them in affection and reverence, and that the splendors of the Great Republic are but a reflection of the yearnings that filled their hearts, when they took upon themselves their share and more, of the burdens of creating a nation, which nation, if the mothers of the future shall be like those of the past, will eclipse in grandeur and in power, all the nations that have held rule since the beginning of time.

The Polk County Fair should become one of the large institutions of the county, and can easily be made such by the co-operation of the people. No other single agency can accomplish more good in the way of advertising the county. It is still in its infancy, but with a united shoulder to the wheel may reasonably be expected to cast off its swaddling garments. In the middle west the county fair is almost as much a part of the people's lives as the sowing and reaping of crops, and it should become so in the west.

One who perused the council proceedings in Tuesday's Observer may have imagined that when Mayor Van Orsdel called the aldermanic body to order he was about to perform a geological experiment, or test the "sand" of his co-workers. Not so. The proof reader simply overlooked "gravel" for "gavel." Typographical errors are a greater pest to the newspaper man than coddling moth is to the orchardist. It is possible to eliminate the latter.

It certainly cannot be questioned that fruit pooled in capable hands has more healthy effect upon the market at large than when uncertainty is injected by disorganization and the menace of large volume in the hands of irresponsible commission merchants and hence the proposed organization of a branch of the North Pacific Fruit Distributors in Polk county should be encouraged.

Ralph E. Williams, "a Polk county product," should have the hearty endorsement and the vote of every republican within this balliwick for Republican National Committeeman. He is worthy of our support; let us give him a rousing majority in his home county, where he is largely identified with our material well-being.

Did you ever suffer a certain whimsy little pang over the promptness with which your normally forgetful wife reminds you to pay your life insurance dues when the time comes 'round?

It now appears that Villa is not a Mexican, but a deserter from the American army. It may eventually develop that he was a supporter of Williams Jennings in 1906.

While there will likely be a lot of "moose hunting" in the United States in season, yet the four-legged kind up in Alaska have been covered by an order of the federal government restricting killing until April 1, 1916.

The sweet girl-graduate season is almost upon us.

Chautauqua week is less than two months distant. It promises to be of such importance and interest that we should all boast it at every oppor-

MONROE DOCTRINE.

We owe it to candor and to the amicable relations existing between the United States and the allied powers to declare that we should consider any attempt on the part to extend their system to any portion of this hemisphere as dangerous to our peace and safety. With the existing colonies and dependencies of any European power we have not interfered and shall not interfere, but with the governments which have declared their independence and maintained it and whose independence we have, on great consideration and just principles, acknowledged we could not view an interposition for oppressing them or controlling in any other manner their destiny by any European power in any other light than as a manifestation of an unfriendly disposition toward the United States. * * * The American continents should no longer be subjects for any new European colonial settlement.—Message of James Monroe to Congress in 1823.

tunity. The chautauqua movement is fast growing in favor throughout the country, for it is demonstrating that a community can be bettered by giving the people thoughts and ideas that uplift and broaden them, and at the same time benefit in a business way.

That is a splendid endorsement of the candidacy of Harry H. Belt for the circuit judgeship given in another column of The Observer today by representative citizens of this judicial district. This is an unsolicited open letter to the voters of Polk, Yamhill and Tillamook counties, and consequently carries with it more than usual weight. While Mr. Belt is young in years, he is old in experience, his training having been under the immediate direction of his uncle, Judge George H. Burnett, a member of the Supreme Court of Oregon.

A congressional denial is different from other kinds—it is final.

BASEBALL

(By R. W. Finseth.)

Next Sunday afternoon, upon the home grounds, the Dallas team will cross bats with the fast Lang & Co. team of Giants of Portland. A fast game is promised, as the "Giants" comprise one of the best and fastest teams coming out of the metropolis. They have won all games they have played this year, and come to Dallas with a clean slate. Manager Sibley promises to hand the visitors a lemon in Dallas, and send them back to Portland a sadder, but wiser bunch of ball-players than they were when they left Portland to journey to the Prune City of Oregon. Manager Sibley says his "Prune City Bunch" are some going kids when it comes to playing the national game, and that they are getting better all the time.

The Dallas people should take an interest in the games played upon the local diamond. The baseball management must depend entirely upon the admissions in order to pay the expenses. The management is doing its best to furnish good games, and though there may occasionally be a team brought here that is hardly up to standard, still in baseball, all this must be expected, and the fans should remain loyal. Unless those interested in baseball faithfully patronize each game, it will be impossible to maintain a team here this summer. Therefore come out and give the boys a lift; root for them, and don't hit his "Bumps" too hard. Next Sunday the famous "Williams," just released from the Federal League, will play as the tenth man on the Dallas team; that is to say, he will handle the indicator, and call "them thar" balls and strikes. Game called at 2:30 sharp, rain or shine.

A Barbed Wire Cut, Collar or Saddle Gail not properly healed leaves a disfiguring scar.

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If the wound is cleansed and the liniment applied promptly, the healing process begins at once and the wound heals from the inside outwardly, thus performing a perfect cure that leaves no scar. If the wound heals on the outside too quickly, pus forms under the surface and breaks out into a running sore that is hard to cure and inevitably leaves a bad scar.

Owners of blooded stock prefer this liniment to all others for that reason, and they use it not only on fine animals, but on human flesh, as it does its work quickly and thoroughly.

Price 25c, 50c and \$1.00. James F. Ballard, Prop., St. Louis, Mo. Stephens Eye Salve is a healing ointment for sore eyes.

Conrad Stafrin.

BULLETIN

WANTED—An old mare in good condition, apply to L. G. Miller, phone, Black 1551. 19-4t.

WANTED—To buy some goats. Wes. M. Elliott 17-2t-x

WANTED—Girl for general housework, \$5.00 a week, no washing. Phone M. Selig, Falls City. 17-2t.

FOR SALE—Property on south-east corner of Uglow and Miller Avenues. Might trade. Barton Z. Riggs. 17-tf.

FOR RENT—Furnished house, 808 Jefferson street. Vacant June 1. 20-4t.

FOR SALE—Cheat hay, baled. U. S. Grant, Dallas, Oregon. 18-tf.

FOR SALE—Re-cleaned red clover seed 10½ cents per pound. No. 1 grey oats. Telephone 24155. C. S. Calkins, Airline, Oregon. 18-tf.

JUST RECEIVED—A car of cedar fence posts. Sohren Warehouse. 18-4t.

LOST—Purse containing \$15.00 gold. Return to this office and receive reward. 18-2t.

FOR SALE—One fresh cow. C. A. McVay, Oakdale. 19-2t-x

FOR SALE—All the lumber from a 30 x 30 barn, taken down and piled; \$15 takes the pile. Must be sold not later than Saturday night. J. S. Macomber. Phone Black 25.

LOST—White mare-pony. Any one knowing whereabouts of same, please notify A. N. Halleck, Monmouth. 18-tf.

FOR RENT—Why pay out your cash for rent when you know that you will never get a cent of it back. Mr. renter, why not live in the house and pay a small rental every month and in a very short time your monthly payments will cease and the home is yours, no more rent. Also vacant lots, same plan, build a home to suit your own ideas. Phone 544. 16-tf W. M. McQueen

FOR SALE—Land plaster at the L. A. Westcott Warehouse, Rickreall. Phone Lucas & Price. 9-tf.

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Having purchased a Standard Well-drilling machine I am prepared to contract for this class of work, at

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