

Polk County Observer

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BY LEW CATES

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TALL WHITE CLIFFS.

Tall white cliffs, an emerald hill.
A red flag flying free;
Swift gray birds which roam at will
And brown boats on the sea.

Crimson rays on waters green
From opal skies emerge;
Foam of pearl and silver sheen
The yellow sands submerge.
—Marcia Knight.

STRUGGLE FOR EXISTENCE.

The moment a living being appears in the world a murderous army sets to work to kill it. Consider the bugs that beset the infant cucumber vine and the crawling, creeping, slimy tribes that prey upon the nascent rosebush. No sooner does the apple tree put forth its fragrant bloom than the insidious codling moth lays her destructive egg where it will blight and blast. As for the human infant, it is a wonder of wonders that he ever lives to years of discretion under the assault of his foes. If he sucks his bottle a flood of lethal germs pour down into his stomach with the milk. The air swarms with germs of tuberculosis lying in wait to lodge in his lungs. If he goes out of doors the alternation of heat and cold slays him. If he stays in the house, the even temperature weakens him. There is death for the unwary child in the luscious green apple, and the enticing carabole acid bottle. The world is bent upon his destruction. If he escapes, it is either because Providence keeps special watch and ward over his ways, or more likely because he was made so tough to start with that he is indestructible, like an old hoop skirt or an Indian rubber shoe.

Such is the struggle for existence which in our fatuity we set upon a pedestal and worship as if it was an idol made entirely of gold instead of being for the most part of clay. It is a warfare of the whole universe against each individual, unfair, cruel and wasteful. We say that it develops in men many high and noble qualities, but when we say so we speak unthinkingly; because the struggle for existence develops those qualities only which are useful in the struggle. All others it eliminates. What would happen to the lion which would show pity to the bleating kid? He would starve. The beneficent struggle for existence would swiftly make an end of him, while his wiser rival would devour the kid just the same. What would become of the man in business who would conduct his affairs according to the golden rule? The bankruptcy court yawns for such as he. The salmon and the shad lay a million eggs for every one that comes to maturity when they are left to take their chances in the struggle for existence. Nor is it the fish of the sweetest meat and the fattest which escapes its foes, but the swiftest, the most wary and toughest.

The struggle for existence is as unintelligent as it is cruel and wasteful. It knows nothing of excellence or of good or bad. It preserves the typhoid germ with the same care as the apple seed, but with no more, it treats Shakespeare and the rattlesnake precisely alike. It reaches its end by slaughter.

It never invented an intelligent device or economical method. The instant any living being comes into possession of a glimmer of intelligence he uses the glimmer to light the way out of the struggle for existence. The fundamental use of intelligence is to devise protection for its possessor, so that he may cease to struggle and begin to live for something better. Without protection no such thing as progress is possible. Nothing can happen except adaptation to circumstances and the elimination of everything that is not suited to warfare. Progress means precisely the opposite of adaption; it is a triumph over circumstances. What happens to the

apple when man ceases to protect it from the struggle for existence? It becomes a little, rough skinned berry, sour and bitter, so nauseous that it has no allurements for worms and bugs. The apple of commerce is a fruit that has been made exempt from struggle with its foes. The horticulturist has cut off the rival fruit on the same stem that would have competed for nourishment. He has sprayed it to kill its insect foes. He has cut away the bough that would have shaded it from the sun, and filled the ground that it might have air and moisture at the roots. The struggle for existence is a lovely thing in theory, but what man is there who does not try his best to protect his children from its horrors? Why do we lay up money for our sons and daughters? If it is so noble to struggle for existence, why do we build houses to shelter ourselves from it? Why not expose our bodies to its elevating rigors and grow hippopotamus hides and gorilla hair?

Our hypocrisy in this matter is admirable. All the time we are singing hymns to the struggle for existence we are using to the utmost the powers of our intelligence to rescue ourselves and our children from its evils. Which is better for a youth to have, a protected boyhood with means for an education, books, sports, home training, or to grow up under the struggle for existence in the streets? Let it be admitted once for all that good and great men have come out of the struggle with enough of their nobility of nature left to make them eminently useful; but they are exceptions to the rule. And if they had had to struggle all their lives they would not have been exceptions. Opportunity came to them before it was too late and lifted them out of the struggle. It was so with Lincoln. The American people, perceiving that he was made for something better than the ignoble vicissitudes of a country lawyer, exempted him from the struggle for existence, set him at the head of the nation and freed his energies to struggle for nobler ends. Ever since civilization began the whole race has been working to do for itself something of the same sort that the American people did for Lincoln; that is, to get beyond the mere quest for subsistence and shelter. When a man or a nation need no longer struggle for existence there is energy available for higher effort, but not before.

RESPONSIBILITY PLACED.

A St. Louis publication tells us that at a recent meeting, life insurance experts, including many physicians who serve such institutions, reached a consensus of opinion that a fat man, when over forty, is so dangerous a risk that he should be charged such rates as are charged against men in the middle fifties. There seemed to be agreement that a man fat at forty owes his failures to over indulgence in sybaritic pleasures, which, if continued, may make him, at any time, a victim of one of many organic diseases, and leave him at all times open to death from exposure or violence which other men could better withstand.

Shakespeare's "Falstaff" is responsible for the delusion that every fat man is a result of gross overfeeding. But the same master hand wrote, in another play, that fat men sleep soundly of nights, and it is impossible to find, in the record of any centenarian, that he does not attribute his longevity to eight or ten hours of unbroken slumber. The fat man would seem to be a good risk. Writers, ancient and modern, appear always to have been bent upon making the fat man a result of a perpetual appetite. The rule may hold, but doctors and experts must have found many exceptions. Fleshiness is often a matter of temperament, and there is many a lean and hungry Cassius in the world who remains so despite long and valiant service as a trencherman.

A more sinister seeming is given to this expert view of life insurance because it is claimed to be based, in large part, upon the alleged fact that the fat men, who, at forty, are able and willing to pay premiums outside of their age class, in order to get insurance, are officials of great trusts who, finding time hanging heavily on their hands, are free to indulge themselves in rich foods and rare drinks, at once enlarging their girths and foreshortening their lives. If this be true, then it may become a humane and a religious duty, more than an economic or political one, to bust the trusts. We may have to save the lives of these gentlemen, not by put-

ting them out of business, but by putting them to work in healthy ways which will keep them hard at it at least eight hours of the twenty-four. If the great trusts are giving men fatty degeneration of heart, liver, or any other vital organ, who would not volunteer in a rescue expedition to save our fellow-men put in danger of untimely death by such soulless aggregations of wealth? Even should they resist, prefer death to surrender, and appeal to the courts on technicalities, we must save the fat men from themselves, for they are mostly good fellows.

OUR NOMINEES.

The Observer, as a republican newspaper, refrained from any attempt at influencing voters in their choice of candidates for nominations in the primary, leaving the selections to individual judgment. There is just one consideration in nominating men for public offices, and that is ability and efficiency, with emphasis on the latter. This is the greatest need in government, from the most lowly to the highest office within the gift of the people.

A careful survey of the result of Friday's primary election inclines The Observer to the belief that republicans acted wisely and well in naming the candidates to carry their banner before the election next fall. And especially is this true in Polk county. The republican county ticket is strong individually and in its entirety; every nominee is competent to discharge his respective duties with satisfaction to his constituency—the people—and with credit to himself. It is a ticket selected by a majority of the qualified republican electors of the county for efficiency, and as such should have the endorsement and hearty support of every republican within the balliwick. Majority rule is a fundamental principle of American government, and while we may have differed before the primary as to selections, we should abide by the decision of the greater number, east aside individual preferences and take off our coats and elect the nominee by a convincing majority.

NAMING THE FARM.

Within the rural realm adjacent to Dallas thus far traversed by The Observer representative comparatively few farms appear to have been registered in accordance with the law which makes it possible to have exclusive use of a selected title. Naming the farm gives one a large sense of place, a feudal sense of possession. No citizen of Dallas bears the name of this city without a thrill of "difference," when the name is pronounced, which he does not feel over any other name—that is, if he really lives here. The place where one resides is still the center of the world, no matter if he be a wanderer. The name of a man's own farm has even a greater significance to him, and if he registers as suggested he could know that north and south, east and west, throughout the boundaries of this great and growing state, not another farm in Oregon could be like this, could have its call-name. The owner should seek for the name that would be most characteristic, and then he could rest in his castle, bred of the manor.

This name need not be borrowed from classic or Shakespearean mythology, or from gentle sentimentality, but may come because of the character of the farm. It means to those who named it the end of the road. Home is the end of the road every man takes, whether he tramps the long, white highways of the world, a vagabond and a stranger, or whether he travels only the simple way between market place and dwelling. This is the end of all roads; all roads lead home. The city is fascinating, though the majority of men fail to make good, but the country for serenity, contentment and genuine happiness, and the homes there should be given an individuality by naming.

THE SCHOOL MEETING.

As far as the welfare of the community is concerned there is no more important day in the year than annual "school meeting" day, when directors of our educational institutions are named for the ensuing term. If interest is lacking among the people of the district, school officers and teachers are inclined to become discouraged and, as is natural, unsatisfactory results are likely to follow. The Observer holds that every citizen should interest himself in education. To investigate conditions and to exert our influence for the election of capable and progressive officers, and

to lend assistance if necessary in planning for the future development of our institutions, is a duty we owe the rising generation. Members of the school board receive no remuneration—and too little appreciation—for services rendered.

It is incumbent upon the citizenship of Dallas to consider well the qualifications of those members to be elected in June. The Woman's Club, believing the gentler sex should be represented on the school board by a membership, will bring out a candidate for the place, and will support their choice at the election by their votes.

DEFENDING JUDAS.

There is a vein of sympathy running through the narrative of the Russian novelist, Leonid Andreyev, entitled "Judas Iscariot and Others," that may serve to soften the bitterness with which the supreme traitor has been regarded, but it can hardly alter the judicial condemnation of his crime. The novelist gives a view of the character of Judas that is not entirely new, but so sympathetically drawn as to stir the emotion and so strikingly presented as to surprise the attention. His views that Judas was really the strongest in faith of any of the apostles and the most devoted to the Master. The story of the events leading up to the crucifixion represents Judas in the garden as "outstretching himself into a hundred ringing, sobbing, strings," and rushing over to Jesus and kissing his cold cheek, "so softly, so tenderly with such pained love and sorrow, that if Jesus had been a flower upon a thin stalk it would not have shaken from this kiss and would have dropped the pearly dew from its pure petals."

Then when all the other apostles had fled from danger and one had named him after his arrest, Judas followed and watched the scourging and the execution, hoping and believing until the last nail was driven into the victim's tender flesh and until the death agonies were fully ended that Jesus would manifest his power and the world would be convinced of his divinity. When Judas realized the dismal truth that his Lord was dead he sought the other apostles and reproached them for their cowardice in not risking their lives in rescue; reproached them that they did not die with him; then declaring, "I am going to Him" Judas went and hanged himself full in their sight.

It was not for Judas to precipitate the test nor to choose the manner in which the Son of Man should manifest his power. For the temporary malfeasance of the other apostles there was forgiveness; but for the premeditated, irrevocable treason of Judas there could be none. So the ages have adjudged.

The city whose citizens have learned the lesson that there is no more profitable investment than good streets and sidewalks, parks and shade trees, green lawns and flower beds is indeed fortunate. A beautiful city is always attractive. People like to live in such a place, and it is attractive to investors. Residents of Dallas should bear this in mind. There is always room for improvement.

It is noticeable that there is an amazing loss of bull moose enthusiasm throughout the state. Those republicans who strayed from the fold are returning their affections to the G. O. P., and ere November election dawn there will be, practically speaking, a re-united party.

It really seems kinder lonesome since the primaries.

The nominations having been made, the next move on the political check-board will be for party supremacy.

A bill making it illegal to work more than six days out of seven has been prepared for passage by the next legislature.

Birthday Dinner.

At the home of Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Hall, a social family gathering was held, the occasion being the seventieth birthday of Mrs. Hall. At noon all sat down to a delightful dinner prepared by Miss Dora Hall, the children and grand children all being present, but one daughter, Mrs. Clara Stover, and family, of Weiser, Idaho. The children present were Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Herren, Mr. and Mrs. Claud Skinner, Mr. and Mrs. N. A. Wither and Miss Dora Hall. The grand children present were Harold Herren, Mrs. Ernest Riddell, Kathleen and Alice Skinner and John Wither.—Monmouth Herald.

APRIL BILLS ALLOWED

GENERAL ROAD FUND.

Material Furnished.
Chas. K. Spaulding Log. Co. \$ 12.23
Labor.
L. Damon..... 20.00
Clint Hueneccut..... 50.00

\$ 82.22
Labor.
H. G. Strayer..... 4.50
Material.
Portland Bridge & Iron Co. 240.00
Frank Vallier..... 4.87

Labor.
C. L. Lynch..... .75
Ral. Alsip..... 13.50
Material.
Polk County Itemiser..... 60.00
Hodson-Freenaught Co. 178.40

Labor.
F. J. Wagner..... 52.50
Material.
Salem Sewer Pipe Co. 315.40
Salem Sewer Pipe Co. 299.83

Labor.
W. R. Coulter..... 1.00
C. P. Brooks..... 25.00
A. L. Raines..... 12.50
C. A. Haight..... 3.00
C. E. Staats..... 9.50
K. N. Wood..... 7.50
S. E. Stewart..... 9.40
F. M. Suver..... 42.80
R. L. Peterson..... 12.00
J. W. Finn..... 125.00

Right of Way.
Joseph Edwards..... 175.00
Material.
J. D. Adams & Co. 20.50
Craven Hardware Co. 11.30
Sloper Bros. & Cockle. 26.82
Guy Bros..... 1.00
Thomas Catherwood..... 23.90
Sloper Bros. & Cockle. 15.45

Labor.
Starr Transferr Co. 84.07
Muscott & Son..... 4.33
Material.
The Beebe Co. 201.30

Labor.
Dallas Iron Works..... 1.00
Ross Pierce..... 67.25
Material.
Hodson-Freenaught Co. 1.81
Labor.
A. R. Brown..... 129.12

Material.
Howard Cooper Corp. 17.25
Beall & Co. 14.50
\$2,212.05

ROAD DISTRICT FUNDS.

District No. 1.
Material.
Howard Cooper Corp. 20.00
Gold Creek Lumber Co. 81.04
Labor.
J. H. Hulett..... 1.50
Material.
Thornton-Stevens Co. 44.05
Labor.
J. A. Tate..... 58.00
S. B. Wheeler..... 36.25
G. W. Hardy..... 60.00
Claud Harding..... 48.00
C. W. Gardner..... 27.50
John Tate..... 30.00
W. Piek..... 10.00
Andrew Smith..... 6.00
J. A. Schuerch..... 6.00
A. N. Hulett..... 7.00
J. N. Hulett..... 10.00
J. C. Patterson..... 5.00
C. V. Paul..... 14.00
Lloyd Wallace..... 4.00
Charles Ray..... 4.00
R. A. Fraudentiener..... 4.00
Fred Verth..... 6.00
Mike Gruber..... 2.00
James Foster..... 2.00
Clarence Mitchell..... 2.00
Ed. Harrington..... 2.00
Alonzo Thorp..... 22.50

\$ 510.84
District No. 2.
H. A. Dorton..... 35.75
John Harris..... 2.00
S. V. Husam..... 14.00
Warn Gould..... 1.00
Amos Koub..... 1.00
G. W. Newbill..... 10.00
A. F. Wineland..... 25.00
W. B. Azeo..... 48.00
W. A. Brooks..... 18.00
F. H. Lamm..... 16.00
Elmer Newbill..... 22.00
W. A. Yocom..... 16.00
W. J. Etherton..... 24.00
V. B. Sears..... 4.30
G. W. Haynes..... 6.35
Dallas National Bank..... 37.00
H. A. Dorton..... 45.50
W. B. Azeo..... 54.00
A. F. Wineland..... 50.00
S. V. Husam..... 42.00
F. H. Lamm..... 4.00
Elmer Newbill..... 10.00
J. A. Cooch..... 20.00
W. J. Etherton..... 24.00
John Harris..... 2.00
F. B. Gould..... 6.00

\$ 533.60
District No. 3.
G. G. Rempel..... 13.00
Cyrus Jones..... 19.00
James Jones..... 6.00
E. L. Rowland..... 16.00
Henry Gilliam..... 12.00
R. O. Williams..... 6.00
John Jolly..... 8.00
D. D. Key..... 8.75
George Boyer..... 20.00

\$ 108.75
District No. 4.
Material.
Salem Sewer Pipe Co. 8.18
Labor.
V. A. Cochran..... 32.50
V. A. Cochran..... 24.00
W. A. Chute..... 28.00
Jesse Simpkins..... 17.00
Herb White..... 17.00
E. Kirkwood..... 10.50
A. B. Matthews..... 4.00
W. S. Catton..... 36.00
L. A. Davis..... 2.00
W. D. Henry..... 5.00
W. A. Simpson..... 22.00

\$ 206.18
District No. 5.
Material.
Salem Sewer Pipe Co. 52.50
Labor.
Homer Bros..... 7.95
C. W. Armstrong..... 2.50
M. Putnam..... 11.25
S. L. Lake..... 10.00
C. A. Lake..... 4.00
C. Putnam..... 26.00

\$ 114.50
District No. 6.
Labor.
J. F. Vaughn..... 3.75
Fred Gillispie..... 9.75
F. E. Vallier..... 50.00

Ed. Vallier..... 78.00
Willie C. Palmer..... 30.00
Geo. C. Smith, Jr. 48.00
Henry White..... 40.00
R. J. Williamson..... 40.00
Harry Valliere..... 14.00
V. A. Fox..... 20.00
S. E. Hayes..... 8.00
M. B. Lucas..... 2.00
\$ 345.50

District No. 7.
Labor.
John P. Hodges..... 2.00
Chas. Durrell..... 35.00
E. J. Kirkland..... 18.00
Ernest French..... 8.00
Mack Warren..... 17.00
G. L. Durrell..... 8.00
Jim Riggle..... 6.30
H. Warren..... 4.00
Earl Nelson..... 6.00
F. C. Durrell..... 12.00
W. E. Woods..... 2.00
A. P. Kirkland..... 28.00
H. B. Brunk..... 34.00
J. M. Bridges..... 16.00
Earl South..... 20.00
W. T. House..... 42.00
E. Shafer..... 58.00
L. W. Compton..... 18.00
P. P. Bush..... 2.00
D. W. Harvie..... 34.00
D. S. Compton..... 8.00
Ernest French..... 4.00
W. I. Morrison..... 15.00
G. J. Parsons..... 24.00
F. J. McClellan..... 93.00
Geo. McClellan..... 62.00
Chas. Plessinger..... 56.00
Albert Smith..... 16.00
Ed. Moreland..... 62.00
J. L. VanLoan..... 10.00
John Walker..... 12.00
E. R. Ostrom..... 16.00
Walter Strain..... 4.00
S. A. Buchanan..... 16.00

\$ 347.00
District No. 9.
Material.
Watt Shipp Powder Co. 1.18
Neal Bevans Co. 2.38
Labor.
Ralph Cunningham..... 7.15
Material.
Strawn & Simmons..... 44.48
Labor.
Geo. W. McLaughlin..... 3.00
Material.
Watt Shipp Powder Co. 70.05
Labor.
H. M. Nash..... 33.00
Chas. Snyder..... 33.00
B. A. Snyder..... 32.00
J. H. Knighten..... 62.00
J. T. McCarty..... 64.00
W. E. Bevans..... 59.00
J. E. Wells..... 32.00
Ed. Prather..... 66.00
N. C. Anderson..... 100.00
Frank Reynolds..... 26.00
Willie Fisher..... 48.00
B. L. Hall..... 28.00
S. E. Harman..... 40.00
Harley Prather..... 28.00
M. N. Prather..... 41.25
E. G. Harris..... 24.00
Peter Seymour..... 39.00

\$ 851.49
District No. 10.
Material.
Collier & Stevenson..... 72.00
Collier & Stevenson..... 127.60
Labor.
J. J. Thurston..... 12.00
Frank Ridders..... 48.00
O. M. Allen..... 8.00
J. M. Larson..... 8.00
265.60

District No. 11.
Material.
Farmer's State Bank..... 12.19
Labor.
C. C. Calkins..... 1.00
C. C. Calkins..... .75
A. E. Cox..... 24.00
Fred Shirman..... 32.00
Fred Shirman..... 11.00
Dan Shirman..... 8.00
H. P. Whiteaker..... 3.50
H. P. Whiteaker..... 6.00
Robert Butts..... 32.00
Nathan Stow..... 2.00
Henry Butts..... 12.00
Charlie Cox..... 2.00
Otto Fleischman..... 8.00

\$ 154.44
District No. 12.
Material.
Farmer's State Bank..... 15.31
Labor.
J. D. Holman..... 16.00
C. E. McCaleb..... 4.00
D. F. Plaster..... 4.00
D. Shepherd..... 4.00
R. R. Riggs..... 15.00
C. W. Minnich..... 8.00

\$ 66.31
District No. 13.
Material.
Guy Brothers..... 8.05
Labor.
T. J. Alsip..... 21.25
V. B. Alsip..... 14.00
A. H. Alsip..... 2.00
A. Burkhalter..... 5.00
Andrew Heeb..... 6.00
P. D. Raddekopp..... 4.00

\$ 60.30
District No. 14.
Material.
Farmers State Bank..... 9.69
Guy Brothers..... 80.05
Labor.
Chas. Durrell..... 12.25
Henry Warren..... 7.00
Ed. Valliere..... 5.00
Mack Warren..... 7.00
J. A. Butterick..... 6.00
Karl Stewart..... 20.00
Harry Pickens..... 39.00
B. L. Smuck..... 12.50
W. J. Domes..... 25.00
L. Faust..... 17.00
Chas. Hazelton..... 12.00
A. F. Domes..... 12.00
S. L. Stewart..... 25.00

\$ 289.49
District No. 15.
Labor.
G. N. Parker..... .90
Walter Bird..... 54.00
Lyle Johnson..... 22.00
Charley Bird..... 6.00
Bruce Miller..... 28.00
Elmer Sellers..... 6.00
Charley Bird..... 12.00
E. E. Hewitt..... 2.00
E. C. Kirkpatrick..... 7.00
Guy Brothers..... 6.35

\$ 144.30
District No. 16.
Material.
Homer Mills..... 7.50
Chas. K. Spaulding Log. Co. 41.00
Labor.
Chas. Durrell..... 28.00

(Continued on page eight.)