

Polk County Observer

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BY LEW GATES

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THE ROBIN.

When first the willow catkins show
And water elms put on a veil
Of golden glory and the flow
Of maple sap in trough or pail
With merry drip and tinkle makes
The pulses leap, the fauces throng.

IT IS CONTAGIOUS.

According to statistics which have been gathered by the American Highway association, the present year will be a record breaker in the matter of good roads work in this country.

A good many people have the idea that New York leads in highway appropriations but as a matter of fact so far as this year is concerned it will have to take second place.

The south, of course, has fewer modern highways than any other part of the country, yet the people below the Mason and Dixon line evidently are waking up.

The time is coming when this country will be as celebrated for its fine highways as is France.

this spent should constitute a good investment, with ample and adequate returns.

THE FAIR BONDS.

While The Observer may not be thoroughly familiar with conditions surrounding the proposition to issue bonds for the purchase of grounds on which to permanently locate the county fair, generally speaking it heartily endorses the measure, believing Dallas to be the logical place for the annual exhibit and that it should provide ample accommodations therefor.

Those public-spirited citizens who advanced the money to hold the proposed site until such time as Dallas felt financially able to take it over, are, in our opinion, deserving of commendation. They profit nothing by the transaction, except in the same measure that every other citizen profits.

It is feared that unless the opportunity now offered to secure a site is taken advantage of the fair may go elsewhere, and such a possible calamity should be averted. There recently came under the personal observation of the writer a case similar to the one now confronting Dallas.

It is a rather uphill business to try to denature the sex. Individuals may be, paradoxically speaking, denatured by nature, but the norms predominate. It will always be so.

PANAMA CANAL IN USE.

The Panama canal is already in actual operation, according to reports, although not yet formally dedicated and opened. As a result of the Mexican war and the closing of the Tehuantepec railroad, a large quantity of freight has been diverted to the Panama route and the Panama railroad has been literally swamped by the offering of shipments.

It is stated that in case of a pinch it would be possible to send even the largest boats through the canal, although dredging operations are still in progress, and this work would be interfered with if the canal should now be opened to all commerce.

Some learned geographers of London have greeted the announcement of Col. Roosevelt's discovery of a

Brazilian river with skepticism, mingled with a suspicious amount of ridicule. There is evident malice in some of their comment, compelling the inference that they recall the colonel's severity on alleged nature fakers.

In proof of their contentions they point to maps which have long been accepted as authoritative. Being expert geographers they resent an invasion of their domain by the great specialist on things in general, things past, things present and things to come.

EVERYBODY SHOULD HELP.

Every good citizen should do his share toward keeping the streets of Dallas free from unsightly litter, and he also should pass the word along to his careless neighbor when the latter shows symptoms of forgetfulness.

Disorderly and littered streets and parks give the impression that a place has no community spirit. This affects the minds of all who pass through, and makes a place look unattractive to people who might settle here.

The summer is a time when peculiar care is necessary. Refreshment stands and candy and fruit stores are running full blast and many people cast the debris into the gutters.

A MILLION BUSHELS.

A billion bushel wheat crop for this country this year is a prediction being ventured by some of the optimists. Of course, this is something like counting your chickens before they are hatched, but it cannot be denied that the prospects at the present time are favorable to the verification of this prophecy.

A billion bushels of wheat would give this nation a large surplus of this important cereal for export purposes. The average annual consumption of wheat by the people of this country is about seven bushels per person, which would indicate that about 700,000,000 bushels would amply supply the home needs.

THE PROHIBITION ISSUE.

A poll of the members of the house of representatives is said to reveal the fact that the Hobson bill calling for national prohibition is certain to be defeated when it comes to a vote. It is regarded as probable, however, that the friends of the measure will be able to force a show-down vote, and a good many of the members, representing both sides, are said to

LAWS GOVERNING SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Most readers of newspapers are not familiar with the laws governing subscriptions. Here are the decisions of the United States Court on the subject.

"Subscribers who do not give express notice to the contrary are considered as wishing to renew their subscriptions.

"If the subscribers order a discontinuance of their publication the publisher may continue to send them until all dues are paid.

"If the subscriber refuses to take periodicals from the post office to which they are directed he is responsible until he has settled his bill and ordered the paper discontinued.

"If subscribers move to other places without informing the publisher and the papers are sent to the former address, the subscriber is held responsible.

"The courts have held that refusing to take periodicals from the postoffice or removing and leaving them uncollected is prima facie evidence of intention to defraud.

"If subscribers pay in advance, they are bound to give notice at the end of the time if they do not wish to continue taking it, otherwise the subscriber is responsible until express notice with payment of all arrearage is sent to the publisher."

relish the prospect not a little bit. They know it is going to make trouble for them, whichever way they vote, and they also appreciate the fact that with not a few members it is going to be difficult to smooth out the resentment of their constituents who are not satisfied with the stand taken by their particular representative.

The democratic leaders of the house of course understand this fully, but they evidently have grown tired of the use of the prohibition issue as a bludgeon, and they therefore propose to take the plunge and have the question disposed of. The terror grows no less with those members who have been on both sides of the question, for they at last have reached a point where they must show their real colors.

Abolition of all fish and game laws was emphatically recommended and a desire expressed that all hatcheries be discontinued. Abolishing all useless boards and commissions was recommended.

ATTRACTIONS ARE NUMEROUS.

Carnival Company Will Precede Chautauqua By a Week. The announcement that the Pollow & McClalland Carnival company had booked into Dallas for the week of June 16 created some little stir among Commercial club members and the Dallas band on Wednesday, these organizations believing that this amusement would injure attractions to appear under their respective auspices at later dates.

GIRLS AND DOLLS.

Mrs. Charlotte Perkins Gilman, who manages to provoke comment, and may perhaps aim at that as much as at anything else, is quoted as follows:

"Little girls should not be allowed to play with dolls and call them their babies. Whether it is done instinctively or in imitation of their own mothers, they should not play house and put their 'children' to bed, nor harbor any of the emotions or duties of a mother. It is not childish; it is abnormal. That love of little girls to 'mother' things is just another proof that with a woman her sex predominates.

Evidently the storm is fast gathering about the devoted head of Dictator Huerta. And it would cause no great surprise at any time to hear that he has decided to join that other illustrious exile, Porfirio Diaz, in 'gay Paree.'

The farmers are busy with their crops these days, but of course this does not prevent them from keeping up with politics and the latest 'war' news.

And still more street improvements, says the council.

Albany must be recovering. It announces a Rose carnival for June 3. Albany evidently believes that an occasional taste of extreme joy is all right, but as a regular diet it loses its flavor.

Through the democratic proposal to repeal the free tolls clause of the Panama canal act, the West faces practical certainty of losing a large

part of the benefit it had expected to derive from the completion of this great enterprise.

Someone remarks that Colonel Roosevelt has never yet jumped from the Brooklyn bridge or gone over Niagara falls in a barrel. It is not exactly fair, however, to tempt him by calling his attention to such over-sights.

Here's one more thing Polk county should be thankful for: This is the open season for picnics.

STATE GRANGE SESSION

(Continued from Page 1)

C. E. Spence, of Oregon City, was re-elected master of the State Grange at the annual election here today. There was a keen interest throughout the election, with several candidates for the principal positions. H. Hirschberg, of Independence, was chosen as treasurer. Mary S. Howard, of Mulino, was re-elected secretary. The other officers are: Lecturer, Mrs. E. A. Burd; overseer, J. Huffman, New Era; steward, M. P. Young, Clatskanie; assistant steward, Charles Hayes; chaplain, Cyrus H. Walker, Forest Grove; gatekeeper, C. C. Boreland; Ceres, Mrs. M. Reed; Pomona, Mrs. Ruth Mihills, Grants Pass; Flora, Mrs. G. A. Sargent, Wasco; L. A. S., Mrs. E. R. Allen, of Josephine county.

E. E. Blanchard was called upon to discuss the new tax law. On this Mr. Blanchard said:

"Suppose that A, B and C represent the three methods of payment and that each was based upon \$100. On this basis A saves 3 per cent rebate, or \$3. C, not being able to pay anything, loses 12 per cent interest on \$100 for six months, or \$6. Had B been paying the same interest as C he, too, would have paid out \$3, but not being called to do so, B saved \$3. It will thus be seen that A gives \$3, B gains \$3, and C lost \$6. It is evident, then, that it requires C's loss to balance A's and B's gains. To him that hath shall be given, but to him that hath not shall be taken away that which he hath."

The Grange went on record as opposed to any bonding issue for roads, declaring money for all road-building purposes should be paid at the time of the building. Federal, state and county aid was favored—Federal aid to the state, state aid to the county and county aid to the district.

Semi-annual payment of taxes was favored, with a rebate except on delinquencies. A constitutional amendment for county commission government was favored.

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The following officers were chosen by the Rebekahs at their closing session: President, Mrs. Kate Lando, of Marshfield; vice-president, Mrs. Rose Palmer, Baker City; warden, Mrs. Nellie Wattenberg, of Klamath; secretary, Mrs. Ora Cosper, of Dallas; treasurer, Mrs. Eda Jacobs, Portland; trustee of the home, Mrs. William Howell, of Oregon City, re-elected; trustees of the assembly, Mrs. Jessie Peters, Eugene; Mrs. Nicklin, McMinnville; Mrs. Mary Donnelly, Condon.

BETTER BALL PROMISED.

Sheridan is coming Sunday, reinforced by several of McMinnville's special artists, and Manager Sibley is confident of a more interesting game of ball than has recently been played on the home grounds. The Sheridan manipulators are said to be strong, but for this occasion they have drafted additional strength from their county seat town. "If Manager Sibley is giving it to the fans wrong trouble is bound to follow," says one of the most enthusiastic enthusiasts.

MOUNTAIN VIEW.

Mr. J. Stewart has bought a new Ford car.

The Popcorn and Mountain View schools close Friday, May 22.

Mr. and Mrs. Stearns entertained guests from Salem several days last week.

Mr. Fry is building a house on his place.

Mrs. Miller of Greenwood has been visiting her daughter, Mrs. Koehn. The Parent-Teachers' club will meet for the last time Friday evening. Officers will be elected for another year.

The Ladies Thimble and Reading club will hold their annual picnic Saturday in the Kubin Grove.

People are busy taking care of their strawberries.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Hayter were Salem visitors last Saturday.

KILL OR SELL ROOSTERS

EXPERT SAYS THEY COST COUNTRY \$15,000,000 A YEAR.

Government Employee Warns All Poultry Men to Curb Mating in Summer.

An appeal to poultry raisers to kill, sell or confine roosters after May 23, in the interest of the infertile egg, has been issued by W. H. Rieckey of Lexington, state agent in poultry club work of the United States Department of Agriculture.

"Because roosters are allowed to run with laying hens during warm weather," he says in a circular letter, "\$15,000,000 worth of eggs are lost to the farmers throughout the United States each year; and most of this loss occurs during June, July and August. For this reason raisers of poultry are earnestly asked and urged to kill or sell all matured males or confine them in pens away from the laying hens during the summer. Eggs that are laid by hens not mated are sterile or infertile, and do not decay. The fertilized eggs spoil very quickly when subjected to the influence of heat and if they are left too long in the nests or under broody hens or are left in any very warm place the germ cells begin to develop, the chicks begin to grow. These growing cells may die at any stage of development due to unfavorable conditions.

"Whether the embryo dies or not, the eggs are useless as food and unfit for market. If the wives of the farmers would once realize how much money they practically lose by allowing the roosters to run with the layers, they would immediately stop the practice. Not one egg more is produced with a male running with a flock of hens than without one, and unless the roosters are valuable as breeders, it is far better to dispose of them at the end of the breeding season and replace them with the younger stock the following spring. If we follow this plan we can always have good, strong, vigorous cockerels (young roosters) for breeders, and at the same time get rid of the care of nonproducers. Let us at least make the most of what we possess.

"In order to have concerted action in this matter, the Poultry Department of the United States Government has designated the 23rd day of May, to be known among poultry raisers as 'Rooster Day.' Then kill, sell or confine the 'rooster.'

HONOR DALLAS WOMAN

AGAIN CHOSEN STATE SECRETARY OF REBEKAHS.

Judge Galloway Chosen Head of State Oddfellows Body at McMinnville Meeting.

The four-day convention of the state grand lodge of Oddfellows ended yesterday at McMinnville. The grand lodge officers were elected and installed in their new offices. Circuit Judge William Galloway, of Salem, formerly of that place, was chosen grand master; John F. Hall, deputy grand master; E. E. Sharon, grand secretary, and O. D. Doane, grand treasurer. The following officers were appointed: J. S. Fine, grand marshal; Robert Miller, grand conductor; A. J. Howell, grand guardian; A. Arbuckle, grand herald; D. S. Young, grand chaplain, and Henry Taylor, grand representative.

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BAND CONCERT TOMORROW.

First Street Entertainment of Summer Promises Well.

The first band concert of the summer season will be held in the public square next Saturday evening under the directorship of B. A. Downey. A splendid program has been prepared for the occasion, and the promoters of this entertainment are desirous that the band boys, who are ever generous with the public, should be given a cordial reception from a numerical standpoint. That appreciation will follow is conceded. The program follows: March, "The Iron King," by F. J. St. Clair; one step, "Tango Tokio and Sailing Down the Chesapeake Bay," by Wells & Botsford; fantasia, "On My Old Kentucky Home," by C. W. Dalbey; grotesque march, "Two Thomas Cats," by L. C. Smith; concert waltz, "Enchanted Nights," by Neil Moret; march "Bombasto," by O. A. Farrar; medley overture, "Bits of Renicks Hits," by J. B. Lampe; march, "Fidelity," by F. H. Losey.