

Polk County Observer

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BY LEW GATES

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SPIRIT OF LIBERTY.

The spirit of liberty is indeed a bold and fearless spirit, but it is also a sharp sighted spirit. It is a cautious, sagacious, discriminating, farseeing intelligence. It is jealous of encroachment, jealous of power, jealous of man. It demands checks, it seeks for guards, it insists on securities, it trenches itself behind strong defenses and fortifies itself with all possible care against the assaults of ambition and passion. It does not trust the amiable weaknesses of human nature, and therefore it will not permit power to overstep its prescribed limits, though benevolence, good intent and patriotic purpose come along with it. Neither does it satisfy itself with flashy and temporary resistance to illegal authority. Far otherwise. It seeks for duration and permanence. It looks before and after, and, building on the experience of ages which are past, it labors diligently for the benefit of ages to come.—Daniel Webster.

HONOR THE DEAD.

Tomorrow memorial exercises will be held throughout the length and breadth of the land. The Grand Army of the Republic, although more than four and a half decades of time have flitted by, has not forgotten the fallen comrades, and in commemorating their love of country this gradually thinning organization will have the assistance of patriotic hands in perpetuating the lesson taught by the day. As time rolls into eternity and the mounds of the ex-soldiers rapidly multiply interest in Memorial day increases. As the heroes of that bloody strife approach nearer and nearer the last roll call, the graves of the departed comrades seem more sacred, and the memory of their deeds more precious.

It is a generous sentiment that prompts the living to hold in sacred remembrance the dead. Our lives are linked with the recollections that cluster around those whose earthly pilgrimages were fruitful in the inspiration of a tender feeling for companions, friends and kindred, summoned to the mansions of an eternal world. We cherish their memories, we mourn with the bereaved, we tender to the sorrowing our heartfelt sympathy. But life is a mere span, a dream, and they have obeyed the mandates of that inexorable law which ordains that "dust thou art, to dust thou shalt return."

When, however, a people in their majesty rise in unison to render a tribute to the memory of their patriotic dead, who in obedience to the call of their country in the honor of its peril rushed to its defense, a lofty illustration of the self-sacrificing spirit that animated our heroes is presented and a chord of humanity is touched that ennobles and elevates mankind. They did not live in vain, for they live in the recollection of peerless achievements; they live enshrined in the heart of a grateful posterity.

The conflict, which for four long years called into play the energies of a people actuated by an unalloyed love of country, by a firm resolve to maintain the right which under the covenant of the organic law were pledged to them, was born of conditions that necessitated an appeal to the arbitrament of the sword. The Federal government did not court a rupture of relations with the people of the Southern states; it did not seek a collision, that in its disastrous results would imperil the fortunes and lives and destinies of a people who claimed the right to determine for themselves the course they should adopt. It had grievances to redress, but it sought not that redress through war. It asked that the Union be preserved, and that the Confederacy be dissolved, and that the sunny southland henceforth continue its political and social relations under one flag. Resistance on the part of the less powerful and resourceful people resulted in failure,

after their armies had been decimated, and the spectre of gaunt famine had left its impress upon its wasted acres. With resignation it was forced to accept the result of the conflict, and today its indomitable sons and daughters join in treasuring the memory of the heroic dead. Yet, the Southern heart, palpitating with its affection for the brave men who gave their lives, still beats with belief in the immortality of their cause, while with the Northerner all is forgiven, though not forgotten.

The Union is preserved, though not without awful cost, and tomorrow a patriotic, country-loving citizenship will express its appreciation, love and reverence for those dead heroes to whom it owes a debt of gratitude, not alone in speech and song, but by the beautiful custom of strewing the choicest bloom of springtime and by floating the stars and stripes they loved so well on the silent and placid bosom of the tomb. Let us of Dallas perform the sacred duty of the hour. Let us certify to present and to coming generations that we, as a people, have not forgotten the cost of a free and undivided republic. Hoary veterans, with uncovered heads and tear dimmed eyes, will tomorrow gather around the sacred remains of their comrades in arms and garland the passionless mounds with fragrant flowers, realizing that ere many years the solemn and sacred duty must devolve upon others. They have promised that the supreme sacrifices of their comrades shall never be forgotten; that their memory shall be kept alive, and this pledge they will keep.

SPRING FEVER.

About this time of the year a good many persons fall victims to that old complaint which commonly is termed "spring fever." Of course there is no real fever about it, but it "gets" a person just the same. It is a feeling of combined languor, lassitude and restlessness, which comes with the first warm days of spring and makes one want to drop the routine of daily work and get out in the open to commune with nature and enjoy a season of rest and peaceful quiet. The call of the wild birds, the nodding flowers and swaying foliage, every ripple of the waters and even the sweet fragrance of each passing breeze adds a fresh invitation to yield to this impulse. And if these signs of spring are visible only in fancy and imagination the effect is the same, for everyone intuitively knows this "call," which has gone to the hearts of men from time immemorial.

Years ago, when business and industry was less highly organized and specialized, men listened to the springtime call of outdoor life more freely. The spirit of the season would seize hold of a merchant and his clerks, or a room full of mechanics. They would lock up and go fishing or picnicking for a day. Probably their product at the end of the year was just as large as if they had stayed in and yawned the afternoon away. Modern life is more intricate and more exacting. Not every one—in fact but, few—can yield to the call of the woods and streams for a holiday of idleness. With many their daily task is fitted and dovetailed to that of their neighbors. For one to quit is to cause confusion and perhaps check the smooth-running of the entire system.

We are told that this habit of regular labor, in the face of all counter attractions, has disciplinary value. It creates an industrial machine whose product surpasses the old-time records and steadily grows larger. But it excludes many natural enjoyments and wholesome primitive sports, which constitute the only "sure cure" for a genuine case of spring fever.

THE SMALL TRACT.

Permanent success in the Willamette valley is to be attained in fullest measure when fruitgrowing is apportioned among small land owners. Large orchards have been made to pay big profit in California, and also in the Northwest, but their management is fraught with constant difficulties. Small tracts owned by individual families, on which the members perform all, or nearly all, of the labor, meet every requirement except in picking and packing times, and adjacent towns and farms are able to spare enough of the class of labor required for this service to carry through the annual emergency.

The time will come when Oregon families will be living on ten and earning excursion on a far greater scale than hopping new war-rants. Thus, orchard labor could be made a domestic consideration, with great local profit, certainty of service

twenty acre tracts. For two or three weeks of the harvest season, fair remuneration in orchard work would draw out thousands of men, women, boys and girls, for combined outing and improved results in handling fruit.

We of Polk county would enhance our prospects by conducting organized effort of the most strenuous kind to get families onto small tracts, not only for the prosecution of fruit growing, but for other branches of farm work.

SEPTIC TANK SITE.

When the municipal administrators convene next Monday evening the question of a site for the proposed septic tank, for which the qualified electors of Dallas are asked to give sanction by voting \$7500 to the purpose on June 10, will probably be taken up and discussed with a view to definitely determining upon a location. If the council expects the people to authorize this greatly needed improvement to Dallas' present sanitary conditions it should afford every opportunity to the voter to act intelligently in casting his ballot, and the first thing demanded is the location of the tank and the cost of site. The further outlay has been made clear.

While, as has been stated by one who speaks with knowledge, it is possible for the city to delay the construction of a sewage disposal tank temporarily, public health demands it immediately, and we should not pull our purse-strings too tightly when health is at stake. The State Board of Health seems to think that depositing sewage into the Rieckreall river is a menace to the well-being of people other than our own community family, and this being the case a continuation of our present mode of procedure is unwarranted. At any rate, the aldermanic body should put the issue squarely before the voters, and it may reasonably be expected that it will do so at its session Monday night.

DANGER AT MEXICO CITY.

There is a widespread difference of opinion as to the probable success of the mediation conference at Niagara Falls, convened for the avowed purpose of adjusting the dispute between this nation and Mexico and to find some solution of the problems which beset the latter country. Both in this country and in Mexico it is sincerely hoped this effort will be successful, but it is conceded that enormous difficulties will have to be overcome. If it is true, as reported, that Huerta has agreed to submit to his own retirement, if the mediators decide this step is necessary in the interests of peace, it measurably will help to simplify the task of the mediators. But regardless of this, as well as of many other points that are being brought up, it is conceded that at Mexico City there exists a condition of pressing danger which at any time is likely to completely overturn the peace plans and bring on a crisis that will engage the attention of the civilized world.

At Mexico City, in other words, there is a real and recognized danger that a riot of bloodshed, ravage and rapine may occur almost any day, and that the several hundred thousand people of that city are living in constant menace of a disaster that would shock the entire world. Zapata, with a considerable force of vicious and ruthless bandits, is almost within rifle shot of the capital, and should he make a successful attack and capture the city it is practically certain there would follow a horrible orgy of loot and lust and blood. From the north, also, Villa is pressing forward with a larger and better organized force, but with many outlaws and bandits no less dangerous than are those who are with Zapata. And even in Mexico City itself there is a large element of irresponsible and savage men, who would jump at the chance to commit pillage and atrocities on their own account, or might join with any other force in work of this kind.

That this peril at the Mexican capital is real, is the opinion of many who thoroughly understand the situation, and that there is genuine cause for apprehension is seriously and strongly urged. And if such a storm should break at Mexico City it would put this nation to the immediate test of intervention in the cause of humanity, the very step that is being so persistently resisted by leaders of the Washington administration.

Grand Army men in various parts of the country are renewing their protest against turning Memorial day into a day of sports and pleasures.

There is a tendency in this direction in some places, it is true, although general sentiment is strongly in favor of sanctioning no program that will interfere in any manner with the customary Memorial exercises.

OUR MEAT SUPPLY.

Uncle Sam is evidently determined to do his part to help increase the meat supply of this nation. The encouraging news is being spread broadcast that the federal government is permitting public lands, and especially the public forests, to be used in such a way as will increase the number of food animals. The decrease in the number of animals available for food in recent years, while the meat-eating population has been steadily growing, has been largely responsible for the constant higher trend of meat prices. No other single increase in the cost of living has been the source of so much complaint.

Figures showing the number of live stock for which the secretary of agriculture has authorized grazing permits, for the ranges on the 160 national forests, during the year 1914, have just been made public. Nearly 11,000,000 animals can be grazed, including nearly 2,000,000 head of cattle and horses, 9,000,000 head of sheep and goats, and about 65,000 hogs. This means an increase for the current year of about 38,000 cattle and horses, and 347,000 sheep and goats, although the gross area of the national forest at the beginning of 1914 was almost 1,000,000 acres less than at the beginning of 1913. During 1913, according to reports recently compiled, more than 27,000 stockmen paid the government for grazing permits on the national domain.

By this system of encouraging grazing on public lands there it little question an efficient aid will be given to stockmen and others directly interested in producing and marketing animals raised for meat purposes. Moreover, the present offer of range feed on public lands is apparently opportune, for not only is there a tendency to increase native stock, in view of present high prices, but the unsettled conditions in Mexico are causing large numbers of cattle to be sent from that country to the United States, a movement that finds further encouragement in the fact that the tariff on such importations has been removed. This combination of circumstances should operate to speedily increase the number of meat animals in this country, and thereby bring the supply back to a point where there will be less concern over a possible shortage. And the government is to be commended for using its influence to bring this about.

BEDE SHOULDN'T WORRY.

Editor Bede of the Cottage Grove Sentinel, defeated by his home town for the republican nomination as a state legislator, should have remembered before shying his castor into the political arena that under any ordinary circumstances men and women are trampled to death on election morning in their frantic effort to cast their ballot against the candidacy of a newspaperman and at night otherwise perfectly good citizens risk a jail sentence to get at least ten votes against him as repeaters. And all because of the convictions he is compelled to exploit, if he is honest in his profession. He may be the light of his community from divers and sundry viewpoints, dealing out complimentary notices by the yard and exploiting the resources of his respective locality by the rod, but, generally he speaking, he is everlastingly and pre-eminently N. G. as timber for high office. He is chock full of knots, warts, woodpecker holes and decayed spots. Editor Bede shouldn't worry. There are others.

The death of Bishop Charles Scadden removes from Oregon one of its most highly respected and most beloved citizens. He was a man of deeds rather than words, and consequently was known by his works. Regardless of religious affiliations he was prized as a faithful and conscientious laborer in the vineyard of the Master, and the vacancy caused by his untimely taking away cannot be very easily filled. The lamented churchman had many friends in Dallas and throughout Polk county who are deeply sorrowed.

Every citizen of Dallas should realize that boosting is an investment—and a good one.

Animated by a burning ambition to do good and make his countrymen happy, a distinguished investigator

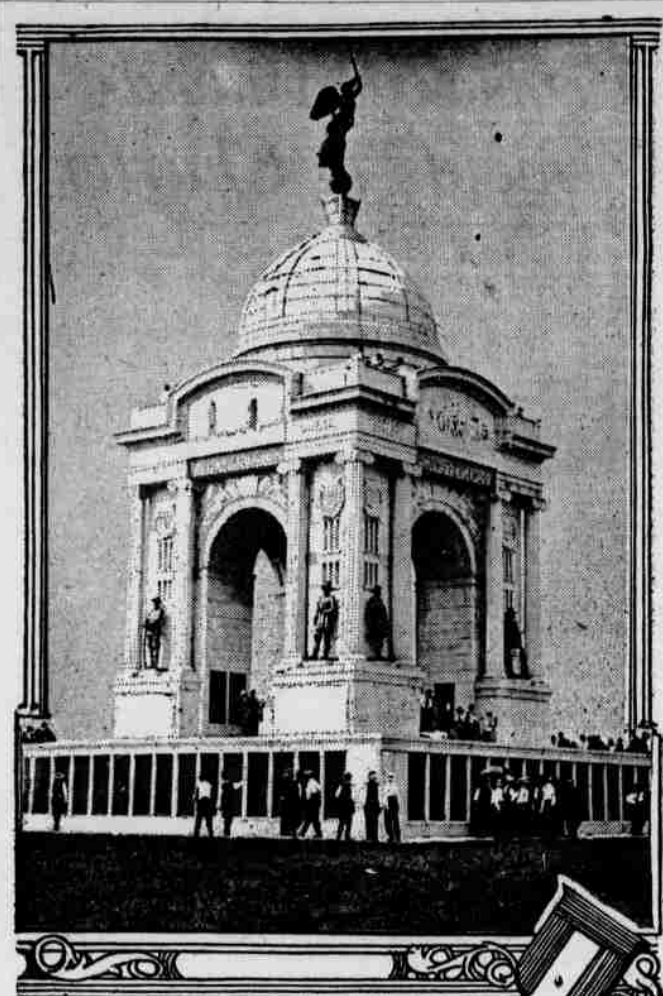


Photo by American Press Association.

PENNSYLVANIA MONUMENT AT GETTYSBURG.

hastens to assure everybody that the prices of things were just as high in 1837 as they are now, if not a little higher.

The "funny man" of the present administration seems to be Vice President Marshall. He now says he will quit the Democratic party and join the Socialists when the latter march under the Stars and Stripes and follow the teachings of the christian religion.

Notwithstanding the fact that he is very much disliked by the Spanish people because of the part he played in "the late unpleasantness," Roosevelt will attend the wedding of his son Kermit at Madrid, leaving for Spain next Saturday.

Some of the things revealed by Mr. Mellen concerning the affairs of the New Haven road give a new touch of color to the complaint of the railroads that they need more money in order to make ends meet.

Someone has started a campaign to eliminate the masculine starched collar during the summer period. Of course, however, the laundrymen are not enthusiastic boosters in this movement.

Mr. Rockefeller is constantly providing additional employment. Besides hiring more guards for his home in New York he is now completing a modern oil distributing plant in Dallas.

The ways of women are past finding out. The divorced husband of an Ohio woman broke his leg and his wife came back and remarried him out of sympathy.

"I crave not gold in yellow heaps," says one of the bards. Perhaps he is too busy yearning for a pound or two of bacon to have time for the lust of gold.

Dallas should convince Independence that it believes in reciprocity by attending the race meet in goodly numbers.

Father shouldn't complain about the trials of toil down town if he gets the best seat on the porch at night.

If in 1000 years from now it will be possible to live 120 years it is to be hoped that it will be worth while.

Energy in bottled form doesn't accomplish much unless you count destruction as accomplishment.

The world is being flooded with gold, says a Yale professor. Perfectly dry out here, prof.

There is one thing that has not advanced in price. Talk is as cheap as ever.

When a man's wife also talks in her sleep—well, that's the limit.

Float Old Glory to the breeze at half mast tomorrow.

DRAFTING FREAK LAW.

A bill is being drafted for the initiative in the alleged interest of Sabbath keeping, which will add enormously to the expense of hotels, restaurants, and all business that must be operated seven days in the week. The bill is in charge of a committee of the federal council of churches and the Federation of labor, and the text of the bill is as follows:

Section 1. It is declared to be the public policy of the state of Oregon that each and every person of either sex employed for wages as herein-after specified, shall be allowed a period of rest of at least one day of 24 consecutive hours, in each and every calendar week, to permit said person to improve his or her, physical, mental, and moral condition, to the end that the general welfare may be promoted and the general health, intelligence, uprightness and usefulness of citizens increased.

Section 2. Every employer of persons of either sex for wages, whether such employer be an individual, partnership or corporation, engaged in carrying on in this state manufacturing, mercantile, or public utility business, or any other business conducted for profit shall allow each person, except those exempted in section 3 hereof, employed in such manufacturing, mercantile, or public utility business or any other business conducted for profit, at least one day consisting of 24 consecutive hours of rest in each and every calendar week.

Section 3. This act shall not apply to janitors, watchmen, or employees whose duties include no work in excess of two consecutive hours of labor on the day allotted for their rest period.

The proposed bill goes on to state that the employer shall keep a time book, with the names of every employee in it and the hours worked, for the inspection of the labor commissioner, and provides a penalty for the violation of the act.

The Wool Market.

Commenting on the wool situation the Commercial Bulletin says: "There has been a fair amount of business put through in the local market during the week and some mills have shown a disposition to take on more wool even at the high prices, but the few new wools do not seem to be moving from the lefts quite so quickly as they have done up to the present writing. Possibly this is due to slightly heavier receipts, but whatever the cause the wool is moving with less alacrity. Prices here have been firmly maintained on the new high level, however, and there has been no anxiety shown to sell wool, so that the market can be characterized as nothing short of "strong." "Prices in the country have shown a tendency this week to exceed even the basis of the market quotations here and it is not too much to say that there will have to be further advance in the consuming centers before a profit can be seen on today's buying basis in some sections."

NOTICE!

To whom it may concern: I wish to thank the party or parties who took such great interest in my affairs on the Hallock place and put themselves out to do so much work as to pack all the brush that has been slashed on top of the fence to keep stock off my grain, and pack it across the road. Thanking them for their kindness, and wishing to know them in person later on so I can thank them better. I am your humble servant,

AUSTELL V. MC CARTER.