

Polk County Observer

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BY LEW CATES

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AN APPEAL.

Ah, it is women who have given the costliest hostages to fortune. Out into the battle of life they have sent their best beloved with fearful odds against them. Oh, by the dangers they have dared, by the hours of patient watching over beds where helpless children lay, by the incense of ten thousand prayers wafted from their gentle lips to heaven, I charge you give them power to protect along life's treacherous highway those whom they have so loved!—Frances E. Willard.

IN THE MIDST OF LIFE.

"In the midst of life we are in death." When the matchless phrases of the Book of Common Prayer were being molded the world was never free from the smoke of battle and the clash of swords; there was fighting to the death in the streets of every large city; all merchant ships carried guns, for piracy was part of the recognized business of the high seas; epidemic diseases were scourges that men knew not how to evade or avert; adventure sailed to unknown lands and were never heard of more. The chance of death was part of the ordinary life consciousness of every man; the songs of the very street told of men marching to the grave with banner and bugle for honor that cannot die; the great lord erected his tomb with as much care as he built his palace. And so, as a matter of course, the worshiper recognized the familiar presence of death in life.

The sword now rusts; we have tamed the world and done away with the unknown; we have learned how to drive away pestilence. And men forget death. They have ceased to sing about him. He steals on the old by degrees, but the strong and the enthusiastic give no thought of him, and still the old truth abides.

Just now it comes to us with resistless power. A magnificent floating structure, the temporary home of hundreds of strong men and women, lies at the bottom of the St. Lawrence river, and scores have found a watery grave. The Empress of Ireland, with her load of human freight, was engulfed in ninety feet of water within the short space of fifteen minutes from the time she was rammed, carrying within its seemingly impenetrable frame hundreds, who passed not by fading as the leaf, but with full hands and leaping hearts, out of the midst of life. They went to their beds after a day of rest without suspicion that their life work was done. They awoke to a few minutes of bewilderment and prayer, and then—they went out. But yesterday, as it were, they peacefully slumbered upon one of the great structures of the high seas; today they sleep where architectural beauty, except that made without hands, is unknown.

We of this advanced age, heir to all preceding ages, know many things. We have measured the flood of the great river; we know how much the skyscraper bends before the roaring gale; we have invaded the heights and the depths, but before the great mystery that lies beyond the end of life we stand as men stood at the dawn of time. We walk by faith alone. We reach out to the immeasurable things beyond the grave by the sheer strength of belief. We cannot attain to them. "The chambers of our minds are too narrow for eternal verities to turn 'round in the channels of our thought are too shallow to float the leviathan vessels of eternity."

CAN HE COME BACK?

Ex-Senator Joe Bailey of Texas is said to be planning to again become a candidate for senator from his state, to succeed Senator Culberson. The term of the latter will not expire until 1917, but Senator Bailey evidently thinks it is none too early to get into the game, especially as two

other candidates already have announced themselves. Moreover, it is generally understood that Governor Colquitt is a prospective candidate for the senatorship, and his friends are said to be quietly working in his interests.

If Mr. Bailey would cut loose from big business and special interest associations, and sincerely devote himself to advancing the general public interests and welfare, he would make a very creditable representative of Texas in the upper branch of congress. He is a man of conceded ability and unbounded energy, a fine public speaker and a shrewd parliamentarian. In his previous experience as senator, however, he allied himself with the bi-partisan Reactionary interests, which caused his popularity to wane before the advancing wave of progressiveness in politics. Possibly he thinks the progressive wave has spent its force in Texas, and it is also possible he finds encouragement in the recent success of Senator Penrose in Pennsylvania. The standpatters of both parties, in fact, are evidently looking for a political reaction that will give the representatives of special interests a better show in congress. And if this hope is verified Bailey may again become one of the "big" leaders in the United States senate.

TO BAR DECEPTION.

Ever since the enactment of the federal pure food and drug act it has been customary with practically all manufacturers and compounders, affected by this law to stamp the goods produced by them: "Guaranteed under the food and drug act." What this label really meant was simply that the manufacturer guaranteed the contents of the package to comply with the law. But what the average consumer took it to mean—and the dealers of course took no pains to change this impression—was that the government guaranteed the contents to be pure and wholesome.

The deception, of course, was obvious, and because of this fact there has been persistent protest on the part of certain public spirited citizens, who held that the government should not sanction or become a party to a petty deception of this kind. As a result of this protest the department of agriculture, which is in charge of the enforcement of this law, has finally announced a new ruling, to the effect that after May 1, 1915, the deceptive label will not be permitted. The delay in the application of this rule, it is explained, is to allow old stock bearing this label to be worked off, also to permit the manufacturers to use up the packages, bottles, etc., already supplied with the label.

As a matter of fact this rule should have gone into effect long ago. The label was distinctly misleading, and its deceptive character is capitalized by the same type of manufacturers who used to put ground cocoanut shells in pepper, and water, coloring matter and alcohol in patent medicines.

HORRORS OF WAR.

An insight into the real horrors of war is revealed in the report which has just been made by the Carnegie peace foundation concerning the atrocities which occurred in the Balkan region during the long drawn out conflict, first between the Balkan allies and the Turks, and later the allies themselves. It would appear from this report that the Balkan atrocities were about as hideous in their enormity and inhumanity as anything chronicled in history. Many of the details that darken this report are fairly unprintable, and it takes a vivid imagination to even comprehend the situation that is pictured.

Fortunately, religious war, which was the real character of the Balkan conflict at its start, has disappeared from most parts of the earth, though it still hangs over the Mohammedan fringe in North Africa and South Asia. It should have been expelled from Europe long ago, by herding the Turks across the Bosphorus to live with their own. The intrigues of European politics that have kept the Turks in their bloody foothold have almost as red a record of massacre as the Thirty Years' war.

The christian people that have lived in a Turkish shambles for five centuries have learned more than the oath of retributory vengeance. They have supped on horrors till the fever of revenge leads them to turn on each other, when Moslem victims are lacking. But the first mach of the allies through Macedonia and Thrace was hardly more stained with murder, arson and outrage than the recoil of the Greeks, Bulgars and Serbs upon

one another in their quarrel over the spoils.

These subject races have been steeped in horrors too long to be held to the strict responsibilities of civilization. The shame falls upon the powers that have by intrigue kept the Turks in Europe a century too long, egged the Balkan peoples into war with delusive hopes, and drove them at one another's throats with bitter disappointment.

The game of revenge and spoil has been played. The game of humanity, if there is any humanity in governments, is to rustle the Ottomans out of Europe and put the Balkan peoples under some sort of supervision till they learn to live together.

DALLAS REALTY.

The Dallas real estate market, the final and conclusive barometer which indicates the prosperity or decay of a community, is reported firm by local traffickers, than whom no other citizens are more zealously directing attention to the advantages of the city and the natural resources of the surrounding country. These men stimulate the confidence of capital and guide the investment of money by wise and safe discounting of the city's future. While there is no great activity in realty, transfers are constantly being made, and the number of new dwellings that naturally follow in the wake of such transactions testify to the growth of Dallas.

Within the knowledge of The Observer Dallas has never had a real estate boom and the manifestation of activities are not discredited by any of the ephemeral characteristics of an artificially stimulated movement. Booming has been persistently discouraged, and the hotbed methods of the boomer have no place here. The people of the community have been satisfied with that legitimate permanent growth that meets and supplies an actually existing need. It is a story of solidity, as will be told by the increase in assessed valuations for the present year. With this foundation of conservatism to support the sanguine predictions regarding the outlook for the future, the real estate field must necessarily command respect. The reports that there is an increasing demand for sites are harbingers of an assured progress. They forecast the future which the wise investor must anticipate to reap the full measure of possible success. They challenge the attention of all who are ready to follow the beckoning hand of opportunity.

THE JAY WALKER.

The "jay walker" is a new term that has come into use and is being employed to designate an opposite extreme of the joy rider. The latter, as everyone knows, is a term applied to reckless, careless persons who either drive or ride in automobiles, at a speed that is faster than safety and prudence warrant, and who thereby endanger themselves and others using the public highways. The "jay walker," on the other hand, is a person who carelessly and negligently courts danger and accident to himself, by disregarding the ordinary rules of safety and depending on luck, or the alertness and caution of others, to save him from mishap.

Perhaps he crosses the street in the middle of the block, instead of using the regular crossing, or suddenly steps into the street from behind or between vehicles standing near the curb. Or he may cross corners diagonally, or stand in the street paying little or no attention to vehicles which may be approaching him. Or he may deliberately attempt to cross the street, disregarding warning signals and practically defying the driver of an auto to run him down, and apparently delighting in the aggravation and inconvenience which his stubbornness causes to others. All these things are done every day, and if accident follows the "jay walker" and others are ready to loudly protest against the "carelessness" of auto drivers in general, and to insist the laws should be made more severe and the penalties more heavy.

Yet the "jay walker" is himself a menace to public welfare and safety, no less than is the joy rider, and for the public good both need to be suppressed. The "jay walker" literally forces emergency situations which are dangers to others as well as himself, and his example also has a pernicious and undesirable influence. There are plenty of "jay walkers" of both sexes, who need to take this lesson home and reform their ways. Common sense calls for reason in all things, and the "jay walker" needs to cul-

tivate a little of this very desirable quality.

HUNGER AMID PLENTY.

Nothing will better illustrate the finding of investigators that the high cost of living in this bountiful land is largely attributable to imperfect food distribution than an instance of waste from Eastern Oregon, Washington and western Idaho. In these sections the farmers are engaged in a systematic slaughter of rabbits, which have become so numerous as to endanger the crop. Prizes have been offered and great local interest is displayed in the struggle of the competitors to excel. At the last account, more than 15,000 pairs of ears had been accredited to the various accounts kept at the registration headquarters in Idaho. The carcasses are either buried or left to rot on the surface.

In the large cities of the country charitable organizations and municipal authorities are experiencing the annual difficulty of feeding the perennial brigades of men and women, who, like the grasshopper of the old fable, refuse to lay up a store for the unproductive season. Many of them go hungry, or at least not sufficiently fed. Food, especially meat in all forms, is high in price. Still, within easy reach of both Denver and San Francisco, where penny pinches, this enormous waste of edible food is going on. If the money contributed for prizes had been used to charter refrigerator cars, now idle in large numbers, this immense quantity of meat might have been conserved and shipped to points where it would have brought relief. No doubt these facts can be applied to other forms of food waste.

PLANNING A BIRD CENSUS.

According to a Washington report, Uncle Sam is planning to take a bird census of the United States. Of course, it will scarcely be possible to make an accurate count of the wild birds, but under the plan proposed it is hoped to secure a fairly reliable enumeration of the native birds in different sections, thereby providing information that will be interesting as well as valuable. To secure this information a limited number of observers will be selected, to cover practically uniform areas in different parts of the country. To each of these a tract of from forty to eighty acres is assigned and they are expected at various times during the summer months to zigzag back and forth across their assigned area, counting the birds as nearly as possible of the various species. With all the reports in and tabulated, it would be possible to get at least an approximate idea of the number of robins, wrens, bluebirds and so on which in summer time tenant different sections and latitudes.

While the actual bird population cannot by this plan be determined, the department of agriculture, which has the matter in charge, believes that by taking this record over the same area for a number of years it will be possible to ascertain whether the present state and national laws are effective, and whether native game and insectivorous birds are increasing or diminishing in number.

VOTE THE BONDS.

From what The Observer can learn concerning the situation, it appears that if Dallas would retain the county fair it must provide a permanent site for the institution. This opportunity is now offered, and the proposition should not be rejected. Independence stands ready to meet the requirements, and if we fail to vote the bonds necessary for the purchase of grounds we may lose the fair. Can we afford to sleep at the switch? The cost is comparatively small, being an additional tax of only four-fifths of a mill on the assessed valuation of the city. This expenditure will be returned many fold in the years to come.

GERMANY IN SAME FIX.

Germany seems to be in about the same fix as this county with respect to the scarcity of meat and steadily mounting prices. Nothing could be more simple than the explanation which has been offered by the German imperial authorities for the higher meat prices which are causing the Germans to complain, much as the people of this land are complaining with respect to the same matter. The German authorities, after a very careful investigation, declare that meat is scarce and high simply because the native supply has fallen far below the demand. The meat is

not being raised—that is the long and short of it.

Strangely enough, the reduction in supplies of Germany's livestock closely parallels the same experience in this country. From 1907 to 1912 the number of horned cattle fell 500,000 in Germany, and over 160,000 in Prussia alone. Keeping in mind that the rapid growth of cities necessitates an increasing proportion of bovines for milk production, the reduction in the supply of meat animals is probably greater than would be apparent from these figures. The same is true in the United States.

Germany used to be a great sheep country, also, but it is found that since 1873 the number of sheep has fallen from 25,000,000 to 5,800,000. The loss in sheep was for a long time approximately compensated by increased production of hogs; but since 1907 the number of hogs has been falling, also.

Increasing prices has not served to maintain the production of meat animals in Germany, nor here. Density of population in the older countries seems to impose demands on the land that can be met more profitably, on the whole, by raising other things than meat. So the meat output of the countries that a generation ago led the world are growing less, and the world must look to new countries for new supplies.

Down in California they have a new cause for worry. Since the women gained the ballot it is claimed the proportion of girl babies has largely increased, and the men are commencing to wonder "what is the answer." More girl babies will, of course, mean more women voters later on, but even if this is to be considered a menace the men see no easy way to stop it.

A decidedly creditable Memorial day observance that.

Horse-races, picnic, carnival, chauntanqua, carnival, county fair. O, but we're a busy people.

Dallas has modern ideas. The water wagon has been supplanted by the oil wagon, and the streets are the better for it.

Home grown garden truck will soon commence to cut down the cost of living for the man who is industrious with the hoe.

And here we go on the first week of June.

Even the lawn mowers undergo changes in style, and the man with an old-fashioned machine is always wondering when he can afford to invest in one of the new and improved patterns.

A physician says he can transplant hair and make it grow on bald heads. But we'll bet he is a grafter.

Oregon needs Dr. Withycombe at the capital. Some of the old legislative hosses are liable to be mighty sick during the next session.

DALLAS WINS AGAIN.

(Continued from page 1.)

to Campbell. Two hits. Two runs. 7. Tucker out, Rice to Boydston. Ditmar out, Myers to Boydston. Houck out, Woods to Boydston. No hits. No runs.

Cooper went to bat for Hayes and flied out to Cleve Wood. Preston flied out to Cooper. Boydston hit for two bases. Myers goes out L. Larkins to C. Larkins. One hit. No runs.

8. L. Larkins hits safely for one base. C. Woods flied out to Preston. Campbell, flied, out. to Boydston. Campbell flied out to Boydston. One hit. No runs.

Tooze hits safely for one base and steals second. Serr hits safely for one base, Tooze going to third. Serr caught between first and second, Cleve Wood to C. Larkins. Boydston strikes out. Rice hits safely, scoring Tooze. Woods flied out to Houck. Three hits. One run.

9. C. Larkins gets first and second on Preston's error. Cleve Wood flied out to Boydston. Larkins goes to third. Tucker hits fielder's choice. Larkins goes home. Serr fumbles ball, and Larkins scores. Ditmar hits safely. Houck gets first on error by Myers. L. Larkins strikes out, ending the game. One hit. One run.

The line-up follows: Hopewell—C. Wood, catcher; Campbell, shortstop; Cooper, left field; C. Larkins, first; Cleve Wood, pitcher; Tucker, right field; Ditmar, third; Houck, center field; L. Larkins, second.

Dallas—F. Boydston, second; Myers, pitcher; Tooze, center field; Serr, catcher; R. Boydston, first; Rice, third; Woods, shortstop; Hayes-Cooper, right field; Preston, left field.

Time of game, 1:50 Umpire, Williams.

Dallas will go to Sheridan next Sunday.

day by automobile, and will probably be accompanied by a number of fans. The team will have at least two new players, and the tossers are going out to win. The Sheridan team has been strengthened since appearing here two weeks ago.

IN BUSINESS CIRCLES

MANY MATTERS OF MORE THAN ORDINARY INTEREST.

Valuable Information Concerning Various Things You Wish to Know.

The proper correction of defective eye-sight is possible only through the services of a skilled specialist to scientifically examine your eyes, and a practical optician to adjust your mountings. Any service not combining these two essentials is incomplete and will cause you impaired eyesight. Drs. Lowe & Turner possess these qualifications, and in addition to this, have had years of hard practical experience. Consult them at Hotel Gail Friday and Saturday, June 5th and 6th. Scores of references.

We beg to announce that we have sold our grocery business to Messrs. Vassall & Craven, who will take charge the first of June. Parties owing the undersigned will please settle with H. A. Woods, who will also settle any bills due from the old firm. We take this opportunity of bringing to your notice our successors in business, and thank you for the liberal patronage given us and which we feel sure you will continue to give the new firm.

H. A. WOODS & CO.

White kid gloves cleaned at Phil Begin's. Ten cents per pair. 25-t.f.

Beginning next Saturday, May 30, Downey's orchestra will give a social dance at the Armory every Saturday night, dancing to commence immediately after the band concert on the street. Tickets 50 cents. 24-t.

There are four-inch tile burned at the Dallas Brick and Tile plant for all those who desire this size. 24-t. Sanford B. Taylor Civil Engineer, land surveying, room 10, National Bank building, Dallas. 23-t.

Why pay \$15 for fire insurance when the Oregon Fire Relief Association will furnish you the same amount, GILTY EDGED, for \$8.00 to \$9.50. See Al Snyder. 23-2t.

Special—We are stocking Pennsylvania Waverly auto oil—Guaranteed not to carbonize. Craven Hardware Company, agents. 21-t.

Backed by gold coin—Non-assessable Insurance. C. L. Prichard, 618 Mill street.

Dr. McNicol, Osteopathic Physician.—The greatest thing in Dallas—a meal at the Gail. 11-t.

Phone Muir & McDonald Co. for prices on mohair and wool, hides, etc. Phone 603-2, Dallas, Oregon. 11-t.

White kid gloves cleaned at Phil Begin's. Ten cents per pair. 25-t.f.

Walter L. Tooze, Jr., Lawyer, Rooms 8 and 9 National Bank Building, Dallas. 15-t.

—Many come miles to dine at the Gail.

Why dine at home Sunday, when a special treat awaits you noon and evening at the Gail. 10-t.

The Dallas Wood Company is ready to furnish you with mill wood. Good The Himes Engineering Company will do your surveying and engineering work promptly and guarantee results. Call phone 502, Dallas. 5-t.

W. M. McQueen, real estate dealer in clover, dairy, stock and grain farms; orchard and berry tracts; city property, both improved and unimproved, also all kinds of fire insurance and accident. Office one door east of Gail Hotel. Phone 544, Dallas, Ore.

Call at Hotel Gail Friday and Saturday, June 5th and 6th and let Drs. Lowe & Turner show you the new Kryptok double vision glasses which have no unsightly lines or seams to strain the eyes, catch dirt and come apart. They look like a single pair, yet answer the purpose of two, enabling you to read or do close work, and see distant objects perfectly. Free demonstration. Satisfaction guaranteed. Remember the date.

LOCAL CHURCHES

The Woman's Missionary society of the M. E. church will entertain all similar organizations of the city at the home of Mrs. Theo. Farrington of 514 Levens street on Thursday afternoon at 2:30.

The meeting of the quarterly conference of the Methodist church will be held tomorrow evening at 7:30. Dr. James Moore of Salem, district superintendent, will be present.

E. S. Gardiner of McMinville preached at the Baptist church last Sunday in place of Mr. Day.

Mr. Merle Meyers, local salesman for the A. H. Averill Machinery Co. of Portland, sold Mr. Frink and Ira Merling of Falls City a fine threshing outfit the first of the week.

Statistics are regarded in about the same light that is shed on expert testimony.

With Short Jenks business is rushing—right by his door. Short probably grumbles too much.