

Polk County Observer

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BY LEW CATES

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A TRIBUTE.

John A. Logan is past all flattery. Shall we call him brave? Others have worn that crimson badge. Great men become types. The people single them out with the ready common sense which belongs to no man, but to all men. Logan is our great volunteer. So they have named him, and so will be known when we are forgotten. Whatever is heroic they can make classic. In calling him the great volunteer we have unwittingly done injustice to Logan. Ask those who served with him and they will answer, "Men whom Logan led never turned back." Only a comprehensive mind can take events as they come and mold them to its will as if they had been ordered in advance. * * * It was he who gave us the sweet observance of Memorial day. Only a poet could have thought of it; only a poet could have made it come true. It is, above all others, our best loved holiday, our festival of memory, love and beauty.—George R. Peck.

MORE WORRY FOR KANSAS.

The farmers of Kansas are having a good deal of worry these days over the old problem of securing enough help to harvest their abundant crops. The wheat harvest will begin in less than a week, and as the grain is in prime condition the farmers will want to garner it fast as they can after it is ready for the reapers. Urgent calls have been sent out for more harvest hands, but while there has been some response there is still, it is claimed, a serious shortage of help. Apparently, moreover, this is not to be the end of the worries of the Kansas farmers this year. A prominent grain man of that state declares that, considering the earliness of the harvest, there is a fine opportunity this season to grow and gather a second wheat crop, and he says that some of the Kansas farmers already are planning to do this. Such an opportunity of course offers a big temptation to try the plan, for if a second crop can be grown and harvested before autumn frosts it will largely increase the profits of the farmers.

A double crop, with double profits, however, will necessarily double the worries of the Sunflower state farmers, for it will mean double work in preparing the soil and seeding, and, later, in harvesting the second crop. The latter work, also, will come at a time when the more northern fields will be demanding the attention of the harvesters, which might cause a good deal of rivalry and competition in the effort to secure harvest hands. Big crops alone cause a good deal of worry to the farmers when harvest time arrives, but if Kansas sets out to raise a second crop of wheat the worry is going to be multiplied to a degree.

ARROGANCE OF EXPERIENCE.

The great Presbyterian Assembly which has just adopted resolutions opposing instruction in sex education and differentiation in the public schools has done something practical, and in the line of common-sense experience, to offset the claim of vaporing and theorizing with which church activities are too often met. No experienced or prudent person in the world can take issue with their conclusions. They are irrefragably right.

This being as true as it is, and even as obvious as it is, a question naturally arises of why should it be necessary for a convocation of a great religious body to take such action. The answer is that agitation of anything has become so easy and cheap, in a day of cheap print and yellow journalism, that men and women with a smattering of letters can gain wide audiences with all sorts of revolutionary and bizarre opinions; the more revolutionary and bizarre they may be, in fact, the more likely are they to find reflection in prints dedicated to the work of giving people a new thrill every hour of the day.

The subject is not one lending itself easily to the purposes of a public discussion, and the Presbyterians, so far as we are able to gather from the reports, did not discuss it unduly, if at all. They just condemned the ignorance of life which expresses itself in the demand for such education, as being unfit to lead human society. They spoke out of that world knowledge which some one has very aptly called "the arrogance of experience." That is the quality needed to deal with many of the half baked, or wholly raw, people who are now so much exploiting themselves and being exploited by publishers in constant search of the nimble penny. We congratulate the brethren upon their "arrogance of experience."—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS.

There seems to be a disposition on the part of the municipal authorities to more stringently enforce laws as laid down by city ordinances, and in this determination they should not only have the commendation of the community, but its hearty co-operation and support. The Observer believes that all righteous laws should be enforced at what ever cost. Our laws are the highest standard in matters involved. They are the commandments of the sovereign will of the people given out of the best light and under the clearest convictions of right. They are absolutely supreme until changed, and should be enforced.

No executive or administrative officer may choose to neglect or partially enforce our laws. He has no choice. He is sworn to execute laws, not to make them; not to arbitrate cases of infraction, but to apply the law. The law is the accepted order of things by which we all agree to act, and any departure therefrom causes confusion—confusion first in business relations of life, and next in the mind and heart as of principles of action. When law is enforced no man is at a loss to know what his fellowmen will be compelled to do, and likewise as to what men ought to do. A law national, state or municipal, not enforced, destroys teachings. The teacher says it is wholesome and must be rigidly observed, but practice breaks it and the mind is confused until no conviction can be fixed.

To execute and obey law is the path of human progress. The authorities of Dallas are of the many marshals of the day stationed through the land to assist the procession of human affairs by insuring the compliance with the law, and we would be unworthy subjects did we not lend them our aid and support. An executed law put a rebel outside of Eden and maintained peace and virtue within; an executed law excluded Satan from heaven and insured the angels in their rights and preserved a home of purity and delight for the souls of men. Nature's laws have no escaped criminals and no department of arbitration or mercy. The great first cause applies the laws of science with jealous care. The least atom of matter, the lowest form of life, the mightiest force and most ponderous system must give strictest account. And shall man be the only outlaw on earth. Take away law, and disorder, and wreck, and ruin prevails in any community. Uphold and execute good laws and the people are happy, prosperous and content.

The Observer commends the fermenting out of violations, whether it be in high or low places. But let the municipal legislators make plain what they would have us do, for no man is conversant with local laws promulgated and hidden away from the public gaze. Dallas does not make public its ordinances through publication in the local press, and while ignorance of the law is no excuse for offenses it is well that the people know what is expected of them in any instance. There should be no absence of knowledge of what Dallas ordinances prohibit, as is the condition which obtains today. Let the people know what they are to do, and what they are not to do.

DEFENDING THE CIGARETTE.

Those who find joy in the cigarette are not going to rest silent under Dr. Thomas A. Edison's implication that their intellects are not in as good working order as those of individuals who only chew tobacco, let us say, or smoke it in pipes and cigars. Heretofore, the cigarette smokers have usually gone their way, ignoring the animadversions of the disapproving, which is the customary course of all who seek disputed diversions or pleasures.

In the cigarette controversy, how-

ever, we begin to find defenders against the onset of the foe. One writes that "public spirit demands that I should dull the intolerable brilliance of my own brain with a little cigarette smoke anyhow, but those who wish to protect the folds of their brains from paper poison would be glad if Mr. Edison would invent a new cigarette paper, instead of attacking one more of this life's great pleasures."

He continues, "Three-quarters of the world's best work is done by earnest cigarette smokers. Mr. Edison is one of the eccentric exceptions which make the rule conspicuous. It is sad that we are foolish and sinful, but think of what life would be if all were virtuous! No; sin and cigarettes are good enough for me."

It will be seen that without an in-born and ingrained yearning toward perfection in some souls, perhaps many, the uplifters have a long hard thoroughfare to travel toward the millennium. Not every one desires to perch upon the cold, bleak pinnacles of an ideal faultlessness. Even the very thought slides down that seeks to clamber there, to quote Carlyle.

THE LITTLE BUNCH.

Although all may be deeply interested in the enhancement of community interests, and stand ready to encourage legitimate movements tending toward greater development of resources, it is an indisputable fact that the crowd seldom gets in and drills. Experience teaches that it is invariably the efforts of a little bunch of progressive men who see and feel the need of doing things that counts. This is true of every community, and it is true of Dallas. A few resolute men—the little bunch, if you please—who have the confidence of their neighbors can accomplish much for the upbuilding of not only their home town but the surrounding territory as well. One ideal and mutual confidence in one another operate most successfully together.

Nowhere does this find better illustration than in the consummation of several enterprises for this community in past years, and likewise in present day promotion work. It is doubtless due to a little bunch of men—and women—who, working untiringly together through many years, that Dallas enjoys the enviable reputation of being one of the very best towns in the Willamette Valley, or in the great commonwealth of Oregon. And through a continuation of these commendable efforts on the part of these public spirited citizens Dallas must reap still greater benefits in the future, for an enduring foundation has been laid. Loyalty, enthusiasm and keeping everlastingly at it brings success. Staying by a purpose, following an ideal, has resulted in a crowning glory for many a little bunch of men.

SERVICE TO EMPLOYEES.

The Methodist Book concern, which is the official printing and publishing department of the general organization of the Methodist church, recently took out a group insurance policy on the lives of its 1,000 employees. No employee is insured for more than \$2,400, but with this reservation every employee is insured for the amount of one year's salary, the policy being payable to legal claimants, or at the direction of the insured. The concern of course pays the premium, the idea being to utilize some of the profits of the business to safeguard the dependents of each employee against immediate want, in case of the employee's death and the termination of his regular earnings.

This plan well illustrates the larger consideration that many private employees throughout this country are now giving to the social welfare of their employees. There is a widespread tendency among the larger employers to look after the personal interests of their employees, beyond the mere payment of wages or salaries. With some this paternal oversight takes the form of profit sharing, or inducement to employees to invest their savings in the business under very favorable terms, thereby giving them a direct interest in the business and a chance to share in its rewards. Others employ the plan of sick benefits, old age and service pensions, life insurance, and in the case of one leading auto concern a plan has been adopted for a very generous distribution wage bonuses, which allows a minimum wage of \$5 a day to every active worker, from watchman and sweepers up.

The ultimate object of all this is, of course, to serve and promote the personal interests of employees, and

the movement therefore is one of entire worthiness. Whether the benefits are small or large, the consideration thus given to the welfare of employees is founded on the basic principle of human brotherhood and mutual dependence, and this relationship is confirmed and strengthened every time a humane minded employer puts into practice any of the various forms of protecting and advancing the interests of his employees as a class. Moreover, this movement is growing and spreading, and eventually is bound to have a far reaching effect in the industrial world. It offers, perhaps the most effective safeguard against labor discontentment and so-called labor wars, and therefore is a good thing for society as a whole. Nor can it be doubted that it also brings benefits to each business which adopts this system. For in the establishment of mutual confidence, good will and harmonious cooperation between employers and employees, there is a factor of advantage that is absolutely essential to the success of any business enterprise or undertaking.

RESULT IS GRATIFYING.

Dallas did the right thing at the right time when on Wednesday it approved the proposed amendments to the municipal charter authorizing and empowering the council to issue bonds in the sum of \$12,500 to provide a permanent home for the county fair and for the construction of a septic tank for the disposal of sewage. The large majorities by which these measures carried is conclusive evidence that Dallas is progressive, that its people are not unappreciative of the fact that in order to keep pace with their neighbors public improvements for the betterment of conditions must go forward, and that encouragement must be given to public enterprises of a legitimate character. The purchase of land for fair purpose is particularly gratifying to The Observer, because of the educational value of the institution. The rejection of the proposition making the improvement of street intersections now covered, or that may hereafter be covered, by sidewalks and curbs, chargeable to abutting property, was not unexpected, for the reason that it was misunderstood by many, they believing it referred to intersections as a whole.

BUCKING THE FARMER.

Results of the democratic tariff are giving the farmers of the country great concern, especially so as regards the importation of corn and meat from Argentina to compete with the products of the American farmer. These things are threatening the farming industry, but they have not lessened the cost of living. Another phase of the situation is that the tariff is helping the trusts that have acquired control of foreign products that are being shipped into this country in competition with the farmer. During the last two months of 1912, under a republican tariff, only 41,000 bushels of potatoes were imported into the United States. In the last two months of last year, under a democratic tariff, nearly 3,000,000 bushels of potatoes were brought into this country. This means that more than a million dollars were sent to foreign growers. It is reported that the foreign acreage of potatoes is to be doubled and hereafter increased year by year.

NOT EASILY ADJUSTED.

It is generally conceded that the land problem is at the bottom of the troubles of Mexico, and one of the things expected of the mediation conference now in session at Niagara Falls is to at least put this problem in shape for solution. It may prove much easier, however, to formulate a plan, than it will be to carry it out. In the first place it is practically certain there will be strong resistance to any plan involving confiscation of Mexican estates and probably even to forced purchase. And even if this difficulty can be obviated or overcome, and there is put into operation some plan for the more equitable distribution of land in Mexico, how can it be assured that the people to whom these lands are given will keep them and use them?

Nor is this the only pitfall that lies in the path of a fair and satisfactory solution of the so-called Mexican problem—the problem of pacifying that country, restoring conditions of peace and order, and giving it a fresh start as a self governing nation. It is the aim of the Washington administration to give Mexico a government that will be more pure and efficient even than the standards the American people set for themselves. This government still refuses the rights of citi-

zenship to about 300,000 Indians, who for generations have been under its tutelage and who today are the wards of the national government, even as to property rights. Yet it is proposed to extend full suffrage endowment and insist on full political freedom for 13,000,000 Indians in Mexico, the great majority of whom are no more competent or intelligent than a majority of the Indians of this nation.

The future of Mexico is bound to be more or less of an experiment, at best, and aside from protecting its own interests this nation should have as little to do with the problem as possible. We have enough problems of our own to attend to, and aside from making Mexico behave as a good neighbor should, we can well afford to let the people of that land work out their own future and their own salvation.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

To the Editor.—One of the principal reasons assigned for the adoption of the direct primary law in this state was that the procedure under this law would do away with the alleged fraud that existed in the old conventions in the nomination of candidates. To review the history of the operation of the direct primary in this state almost convinces us that the direct primary has failed to accomplish the end sought. We are told repeatedly by defeated candidates in the primaries that they were defeated because of fraud perpetrated by their successful opponents. Think of it! Fraud existing under the direct primary law.

In Multnomah county the would-be savior of our country, the Honorable Abraham Walter Lafferty, though registered as a Progressive in the halls of Congress, entered the Republican primaries against C. N. McArthur for the Republican nomination for Congress. The good people of Multnomah county decided most decisively that they had had enough of the said Walter and returned a majority in favor of McArthur. Almost before the vote had been counted, and just as soon as the said A. Walter learned with certainty that he had been defeated, we find him entering the lists again as an independent candidate, making the claim that he was defeated by fraud, by misrepresentations upon the part of opponents. Think of it! Using the word "fraud" in the same breath with the magic words "direct primary." Will the intelligent voters of Multnomah county be hoodwinked by this buncombe? Will they listen to this "whining" on the part of a poor loser? Is the rule of the demagogue to be continued? I predict that these questions will be answered in the negative by the voters of Multnomah county in November when they roll up a great majority for McArthur. If they do not, we can well ask, "What is our county coming to?"

The direct primary law is here to stay. It has many good features, but there is no doubt but that it needs "fixin." When a man enters the primaries and is defeated, he should step down and out. He should not be permitted to have his name again printed upon the ballot as an independent candidate. If a man desires to run for an office as an independent, he should have that privilege, but he should not be permitted to run both in the primaries and then as an independent in the general election. To permit a man to do this is to defeat the very purpose of the direct primary. The object of the direct primary is to afford a fair means of selecting nominees for the various offices by the respective political organizations. Each man who enters the primary

spends considerable money and much more time in seeking the nomination. If nominated, he should be protected in his rights against the poor loser.

Lafferty claims he was defeated because he was misrepresented. This is an insult to the intelligence of the voters of Multnomah county. It must be borne in mind that Lafferty went before a Republican primary. He is not a Republican in any sense of the word. When it comes to a question of political belief, he is anything and everything that will tend to the advantage of A. Walter Lafferty. He was opposed by a Republican who has clearly demonstrated to the people of this state he is what he claims to be—a Republican, in all that the word means; a direct descendant of Colonel Nesmith, who helped to make Republican history in this state.

Does Lafferty think the Republicans were fooled in him or about him? Each individual cast his own vote and in private. It is just another case of a man going into a game that he has no business to engage in; ready to grasp and hold the fruits of victory, unwilling to accept the verdict of defeat. Just like a certain specie of man engaging in a poker game. If he wins and someone happens to owe him, he will wound him to death for payment. If he loses, he will turn his cheek down at the bank. The spirit of fair play prevalent in the soul of every true American will be the means of sending Lafferty back to the oblivion from which in the first place he never had a right to emerge.

WALTER L. TOOZE, JR.

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 uncalled for 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."

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