

Polk County Observer

Published Each Tuesday and Friday.

BY LEW OATES

Subscription Rates.

One Year.....\$1.50
Six Months......75
Three Months......40
No subscription taken unless paid for in advance. This is imperative.

Entered as second-class matter in the Postoffice at Dallas, Oregon.

Office.....517-519 Court Street
Telephone.....Main 19

TO PRAY.

Oh, sweeter than the marriage feast,
'Tis sweeter far to me
To walk together to the kirk
With a goodly company!

To walk together to the kirk
And all together pray,
While each to his great Father bends,
Old men and babes and loving friends
And youths and maidens gay!

Farewell, farewell; but this I tell
To thee, thou wedding guest—
He prayeth well who loveth well
Both man and bird and beast.

He prayeth best who loveth best
All things, both great and small,
For the dear God who loveth us
He made and loveth all.
—Samuel Taylor Coleridge in
"The Rime of the Ancient Mariner."

THE WOODEN LEG.

One of the greatest walking advertisements is the man with the wooden leg. Subconsciously you glance at him, and in that glance the question is formed in your mind as to how he lost the member, and concurrently you look him over to ascertain if perchance the loss has worked a hardship on him in any form. Be his attire seedy or showing lack of means, a wave of pity seems to flow voluntarily to him; or, if his attire betoken average success and prosperity, still the average person feels a sense of pity for the unfortunate, and there is coupled with this the feeling of curiosity as to the nature of the accident which has deprived him in some way of a portion of his anatomy. You have taken notice not that a one-legged man is unusual, not that you know that there must be many one-legged men in the world, but that you have seen this one-legged man today—tomorrow you may see another one, and more next week.

Be this as it may, it is probably true that each one-legged man you see will have the same subconscious effect on you. You took notice because of the individuality of the one-legged man. In the crowd of the street he was mingled with droves of two-legged men, but all of them unmarked in any way from his fellow man. You are an individual in the business world, be you alone in business or doing business as a firm, a corporation or even a trust. It is up to you to stand out from the mass, to advertise, if you please, a "something different" from the other fellow.

It is a mistake to think that the man with the wooden leg must "loom up" or be noticeably taller than the crowd, but he must have "his sign out" to attract attention. The moral of this epilogue, dear brother, you will see at a glance; don't tread the old beaten paths; show your wooden leg.

MUST ARBITRATE.

According to a Denver dispatch, the mine owners of that state have been given the alternative of either accepting the offices of the federal board of arbitration, in an effort to secure a settlement with the mine strikers, or having their plants shut down by federal authority. They have been allowed until June 20 to make their decision, and if they still persist in their refusal to submit the differences with their employees to a board of arbitration, an order will be issued by the president to have the mines closed until some arrangement is made which will permit a resumption of mining under peaceful conditions, and without the necessity of troops remaining on guard.

Apparently the president is entirely warranted in adopting this plan, arbitrary as it may seem to be. The state authorities of Colorado have proved themselves quite incapable of handling the strike situation, and they confessed as much when the appeal was issued to the federal au-

thorities to step in and take charge. But the general government cannot go on forever using its troops to act as policemen for the mine owners, nor can it withdraw its soldiers while there is a prospect of renewed troubles and further atrocities. The only solution, apparently, is the one now proposed to the mine owners—that they arbitrate or shut down. And when they face this dilemma they may discover that, after all, there are reasons why they should consent to arbitrate.

SOME SHOULD HEED.

Some thought, and more heed, should be given the order recently promulgated by the common council relative to connecting with sewers. There appears to be lack of interest in the public health. If, as alleged, there is failure on the part of property owners to connect with sewers, to the detriment of the general health of the community, proper means should be employed to compel such action. No individual or set of individuals should be permitted to jeopardize the health of their neighbors, as is unquestionably the case under existing conditions. The city authorities should not only resolve, but demand that an improved state of affairs be speedily brought about. Resolutions and orders are decidedly weak affairs unless their provisions are enforced. There has been expended a large sum on money for the express purpose of bettering sanitation, and sanitation should be bettered.

IS CHRISTIANITY DECLINING?

Clergymen occasionally bewail the lack of popular influence which they realize affects the modern church. Seofers forsee the day when churches will be swallowed up in great economic movements. Both seofers and clergy are partly right and partly wrong. The church does lack influence, but the right kind of clergymen are beginning to see why, and the day is not far distant when the church, instead of remaining reactionary, will cast in its lot with the progress of civilization and wage its share of the battle.

Economic movement will not swallow up the church because church leaders will make the church more practical and less theoretical, its administration more business and less blundering, and its aims as earnestly to improve conditions on earth as to insure happiness in heaven. The American people are giving just about \$1,000,000 a day to christian churches. In a nation where the church receives \$1,000,000,000 more than all the expenditures of its States, christianity is not waning and the church is not declining.

A DENTAL CLINIC.

If the school children of Dallas were residents of Freiburg, Germany, not many of them would grow to manhood and womanhood with a mouth full of neglected teeth. In that city a municipal school of dental clinic (schulzahnklinik) has been opened, and dentists examine all the children in the city, both in their homes and in the public educational institutions. A report on such examinations is sent to the parents, who are asked to send the children to the dental clinic for free treatment. Those children having ten or more poor teeth are the first treated, an exception being made in the higher classes, where those with only slight defects are to be treated, so they will leave the public schools with sound teeth. After these worst cases have been attended to, all other children with defective teeth are to be treated, the younger ones being given preference. The treatment of the teeth includes extraction, filling, crowning, etc. There is no actual instruction in dental hygiene, but at the opening of the dental clinic the teachers explain its objects and workings to the children. The "zahnkarte" (teeth report card) contains on the reverse side instructions as to the care of the teeth.

THE SMALL FARM.

While Oregon is putting forth strong claims about the productiveness of its soil and its enormous and well-paying crops, it is possible that a pointer may be had from staid old Nebraska, in the case of a man named Martin. Martin is not a big farmer, but he has mastered the problem of making the little farm pay, and pay handsomely. He came from Switzerland about fifteen years ago and worked as a farm hand until he had saved enough money to secure a twenty-acre tract of his own. He has paid for this and now has a good sized bank account, and although he could

easily buy a larger farm he refuses to be tempted, declaring his twenty-acre farm provides all the work he can attend to, and that he can make as much money off it as he could from a larger farm.

Last year, in addition to what he received from the sale of his produce, Martin won prizes for exhibits at county fairs amounting altogether to \$1,350. This year he expects to clear \$150 from every acre of his little farm, which will represent an income as large as will be received by many farmers who own "forties," "eighties," or even a full quarter-section. The secret of his success is intensive farming, and he cultivates every available rod of land, and makes it pay. He never has had a crop failure, and although some seasons turn out better than others, he is always assured of good crops and good returns.

What this farmer has done every intelligent farmer can do, if he learns how and tries. It sometimes is said that many farmers are prevented from achieving real success, simply because they have more land than they can profitably handle. And the marked success of this Nebraska farmer seems to indicate successful farming is not so much a question of owning a big farm, as it is in intelligently working a smaller tract.

THE KNOCKER.

In a lengthy unsigned communication addressed to The Polk County Observer, exception is taken to this publication's attitude toward improved highways, the writer declaring that city folks should keep their nose out of the farmers' affairs; that "the country feller" is capable of attending to his own business. He wants no better roads—no improvements to highways. He has resided in Polk county upwards of a quarter century, has made money under more crude conditions than exist today, and is contented and happy.

If the individual who is responsible for the statesmanlike document will favor this great moral educator and family journal with his cognomen, accompanied by a tintype of his physiognomy, we shall take unlimited pleasure in presenting the communication in full, bad grammar, incorrect spelling and all, with top of column next to reading matter position. We might even go further and delve into the sacred archives of history and glean therefrom the possibly wonderful things accomplished by this citizen for the public good, and then inaugurate a movement to honor him with some exalted position in the management of county affairs. This would undoubtedly be a monument to The Observer. Under existing circumstances, however, such procedure is impossible, for we know not the choreography upon the foolscap. This citizen, like the coward who stabs in the back, hides behind an anonymous communication.

Pessimism and hard knocking are too much in evidence, and the proper spirit of co-operation and of confidence in each other is lacking in some quarters. The Observer is suspicious that this citizen is High Priest of the Knockers, who must be relegated to oblivion before we can attain those things which we should have. There is a marked disposition toward indifference on the part of some of our people, who, while reasonably prosperous, remain largely satisfied with the result of their individual efforts in private pursuits, and are inclined to avoid tribute to the public welfare by acts of their own movements for the common weal. All matters of public concern are subject to discussion by an untrammelled press, regardless of what this citizen may think about it.

The Observer contends that criticism made justly, honestly and with proper motive, can be made to serve a splendid purpose, and while it has heretofore indulged in no such criticism it does not hold that criticism has not been merited. We are, oftentimes, too apt to throw boquets at ourselves because some degree of success has been attained. A community divided against itself, or failing to realize that it is nothing more or less than a family, is pursuing dangerous tactics when by a too passive policy it rests satisfied with the laurels it has gained, unthinking that with advancing age and increasing population more and modern things must come.

This writer should brush away the cobwebs and live in the present. We have reached a stage in our career when we need to bend every energy to the furtherance of our needs. We must not take up public matters with lukewarmness; we must develop, and development means improvement.

The community as a whole, The Observer believes, craves advancement, and the will of the majority should be paramount.

AS TO PENSIONS.

While it costs Polk county taxpayers a pretty penny to support its dependent poor, something over \$500 per month, the system is commended as heading off direct and open charity by recognizing the right of every honest person to such help as may be needed without actually forcing them into the pauper class and compelling him, or her, to become a mendicant, or take the alternative of crime. After about a year of experimenting with pensions for dependent widows and children it has been demonstrated that recipients of pensions use the money on the whole economically and effectively for themselves, without breaking down the independence, self-respect and capabilities of those who receive the favor.

To permit an unfortunate mother to keep her family together, to keep it in her own charge and under her own immediate care, is found to be the most satisfactory way to spread money over the needs of the case. Far from injuring the economic capability of the beneficiaries to take care of themselves, this plan seems to be better for them than any other form of charity. It probably will not be many years before the pension for the dependent widow, and for the aged and incapacitated worker will be recognized as part of the general obligation of society to itself in every state in the Union. The essence of this principle is already being accepted by thinkers and leaders in this and other modern nations, and the actual application of the plan is spreading everywhere. So-called mothers' pensions are already established in a number of states besides Oregon, also in several of the larger cities, and pensions for incapacitated workers are now the policy of almost all intelligently organized employing interests of large size. Several classes of public employees are also provided for in the same manner, such as teachers, firemen and policemen, and persistent efforts are being made to induce the national government to adopt a system of pensions for all civil service employees, while the ambition of some is to establish a general old age pension system.

The more extreme of these plans will scarcely be accomplished in years, if ever, but clearly there is a marked trend in the direction of supplanting plain charity with some form of private pensions, adapted to the particular needs and merits of different classes of indigent citizens.

It is, indeed, gratifying to know that the councilmen are insistent upon public improvements. And in their efforts for advancement along the line of municipal betterments they should have the hearty support of the community. The reverse is too often the case.

If there is anybody in Dallas who doesn't believe in miracles, all he has to do is to note the growth of vegetation for the last three days. Miraculous is the only word that describes it.

"Honor thy father and thy mother," but not the stranger's cheek.

Just as was to have been expected, many of the old-time democrats of Eastern Oregon have declared for Dr. Withycombe for governor in preference to Dr. Smith.

A blooded calf sold for \$20,000 at Chicago last week. That is the kind that more of the farmers of this state should be raising.

It seems a little strange that some one hasn't proposed a monument to the memory of J. Pierpont Morgan.

Appeals are being made to President Wilson, from various sections of the country, to give aid in the democratic campaign. It appears to be a case of grasping at straws. Even Woodrow couldn't save Oregon this fall.

Dallas should put on gala attire for the chauntanqua. And, by the way, cut the grass.

The fellow who has been out in the back yard climbing trees every morning, is not in need of mental treatment, but is simply in training for the greased pole contest on July 4.

It is the fashion of some writers to make the high school and college graduate the butt of jokes and the ob-

ject of ridicule, but the graduates continue to come and go and most of them to make good. Then why not give them a lift by commending them on sticking to their jobs thus far and thus laying the foundation for higher efficiency when they begin to wrestle with the problems of real life.

The removal of duty on sugar imports has already lost to the government about \$50,000,000 in revenue, while the cost of living remains practically the same. The rapidly mounting deficit under the democratic administration is becoming alarming, the treasury being approximately \$40,000,000 behind, and something must be done. It is the same old story of incompetency, so comprehensively told by John Sharp Williams, democratic senator from Mississippi, and former

leader, in a recent speech on the floor.

Every forest fire is caused by the carelessness of some one. A little precaution will save losses of thousands of dollars, and very likely lives.

Having sprinkled your lawn turn off the water. Aqua puri costs money.

Give the Chauntanqua a boost.

Big Jewelry Sale.

Shepherd's Jewelry Store, one of the most foremost institutions of its kind in Polk county, has inaugurated a special sale, which will continue until the stock is reduced to normal proportions. Everything in the store is marked down in plain figures, and there are some genuine bargains in every department. If you would get the best of the offerings you will attend early. 31-11.

NINTH

ANNUAL CHERRY FAIR

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