

Polk County Observer

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BY LEW CATES

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WORDS OF WISDOM.

Every vice makes its guilt the more conspicuous in proportion to the rank of the offender.—Juvenal.

If it were in my power I would be wiser, but a newly felt power carries me off in spite of myself. Love leads me one way, my understanding another. I see and approve the right and yet pursue the wrong.—Ovid.

Everything that thou reprovost in another thou must most carefully avoid in thyself.—Cicero.

No government is safe unless it be fortified by good will.—Nepos.

He preferred to be good rather than to seem so.—Sallust.

CHEAP ELECTRIC CARS.

Where the present automobile craze will end is beyond anything but pure speculation, but that it will continue to grow and spread for some time to come seems to be the safest kind of a prediction. The limit has not yet been reached in the simplification and cheapening of the gas propelled machines, and now comes a celebrated expert, the consulting engineer for the General Electric company, who assures us that in ten years electric cars will be in general use on the streets of every American city, and that they will be so cheap, both in original cost and for operation, that practically everybody can afford them.

This rather remarkable prophecy was made before the annual convention of the National Electric Light association, the speaker being Mr. C. P. Steinmetz, recognized as one of the foremost authorities on electrical apparatus and appliances. His audience was composed of men of highly technical training, and it therefore is safe to say the speaker gave no undue liberties to his imagination, but confined himself closely to the truth and cold facts, as befitted the occasion. If this prediction is verified, however, it is easy to see it necessarily will mean a practical reorganization of the transportation problem of cities, and especially of the larger cities. Conditions at present are bad enough. In large cities constant efforts are required to keep the streams of automobiles moving. The difficulties of this situation are numerous and are trying alike to operators of motor cars and to pedestrians. What will happen when the price of a serviceable electric car is reduced to \$500 or less is problematical. Yet there must always be some provision for those who travel on foot, for the majority must continue to walk, on down town streets.

Mr. Steinmetz says that electric motor cars will not only be so cheap that they will be in universal use, but he believes the electric lighting companies will be able to charge these machines and keep them in repair and presentable condition at the very low rate of \$10 a month. A vista of attractive possibilities opens before the mind in contemplating the fulfillment of this prophecy. For example, cheap machines will develop suburban districts and permit workmen to live in attractive and healthful surroundings, thus doing away very largely with tenement problems and housing perplexities. It would be hazardous to question Mr. Steinmetz's authority in this matter. In the realm of science everything is possible. And it seems reasonable to suppose that with men of learning all over the world devoting themselves to such things it is only a question of time when automobiles will be a household necessity and so cheap that only the poorest families will be without them.

"HELLO, BILL."

"Hello, Bill," called out a countryman to an acquaintance Saturday night at the carnival, and the two baskies grasped hands in friendly greeting, which suggests that there is something of a real hearty good nature in the expression. It is the expression of comradery, not only of

that great benevolent and fraternal organization—the Elks—that has made this greeting famous the world over, but by all who possess a jovial manner. If there is a convention, or any gathering which brings people from different sections together, this greeting will be heard on all sides, whether they are old friends and acquaintances or perfect strangers. We do not know how the expression originated; why every stranger should be Bill to every other stranger, rather than John or Amos, Tom, Dick or Harry. Perhaps it had its beginning in the Harvard class song of the quaint American humorist, Oliver Wendell Holmes, entitled, "Bill and Joe." It begins:

"Come, dear old comrade, you and I will steal an hour from days gone by. The shining days when life was new, And all was bright with morning dew, The lusty days of long ago, When you were Bill and I was Joe."

Probably Bill has survived as the synonym of comradery because it is more euphonious in conjunction with hello. Hello, Bill, runs trippingly from the tongue, as most of the other familiar names would not. It is resounding, melodious and carries far when uttered with unctious.

Hello, Bill, is distinctly American. It is open sesame to hospitality. It savors of the welcome of the long lost brother. It is one of the outgrowths of the homogeneous spirit of citizenship that pervades this land from one end to the other. State pride and local pride are not wanting, but when Americans get together from vast distances they are at heart like members of one great family, and Hello, Bill, is the noisy and merry hailing-sign of their brotherhood.

BETTER RESIDENCES.

The past two years have witnessed the erection of better residences in Dallas than formerly. There was a time when homes were built merely for shelter, but that day is past. The construction of handsome homes adds much to the city beautiful. But there are many homes less costly that plainly show that Dallas is to rank high among cities for its beautiful and comfortable homes. Look around you, please, at the houses built during the past few years and you will see that no matter how little is spent in construction of a residence, some effort is made to have it as artistic as possible. The working people who are erecting homes have as great a desire that their homes shall be artistic as have the wealthier people. While they have not as much money to spend on the construction of the home, that doesn't keep them from having a snug little cottage that is just as much a work of art as the big costly house, and compares as favorably with them as does the miniature painting with the huge mural work. It is true that to have an artistic home costs a little more, but it is such a trifle when the satisfaction of seeing it day after day and knowing that it is something to be proud of is considered.

THE FARMING INDUSTRY.

The Observer has previously expressed its want of sympathy with the fashionable railing at the farmers of the country for their inefficient and unprogressive methods. We have believed that this industry is as well conducted and has made as much progress as most other industries that had to be developed in a comparatively new country.

This view is confirmed by statistics lately collected by the bureau of statistics to show the ratio of agricultural production to population in a series of decades, beginning after the civil war. In almost every case, the production per capita shows a large decrease, and in every case the value shows an increase. It is to be remembered that the ratio is taken to the whole population, though a much smaller proportion of the whole is engaged in farming than forty years ago. The purpose of the compilation is to show that agriculture is keeping up the supply of food for the whole population. The exhibit favorable to the farmers is only identical. For that reason it is far more valuable.

Going into details, cereals have increased about 25 per cent, cotton has doubled and hay, a very variable crop, exceeds 25 per cent. increase on the average since the first decade. Animals show little increase, except horses, in spite of bicycles and motor cars, and even decrease in some cases, but the explanation is obvious. The statistics are given by numbers, and improvement in all cattle but horses is shown by increase of weight and yield of milk and wool rather than

in numbers. By this standard, production of animals would show a large increase. The only decrease in cereals is susceptible of a like explanation. Rye has fallen off slightly but barley has more than doubled. Here has been a transfer of industry. In all there has been such improvement of methods and application of intelligent industry to agriculture that the farmers alone probably produce twice as much per capita as they did immediately after the civil war.

WHAT THE WORLD OWES.

There are comparatively few people in Dallas who think the world owes them a living, and that it matters little how maintenance comes. Every community, of course, has its drones, and the fellow who becomes disgruntled because the world does not take him at his own estimate, but in this locality activity is the general rule and the loafer is the exception. The world owes that man a living who makes an effort to collect the debt, and it takes a man for his real worth who at the market place of human endeavor exhibits a degree of worthiness that will attract those looking for the very best that can be offered. Many a man is rusting out because he fails to get a move on him. The fellow who sits down and waits for something to turn up fails miserably when people are making estimates as to real worth. The business man who seeks a reliable accountant does not go among loafers when he is looking for the right kind of material. Those who are accomplishing things in these busy days are the ones who are busy. The fellow who is employed, no matter how menial the service, if he does his work well, will attract the attention of some one who has a promotion in sight. The successful men in this world today are those who began at the bottom. The trouble in these days is that too many young men want to be Rockefellers, but they want to start where Rockefeller is now rather than where he started years ago.

TO FORM COLONY.

A problem that has received considerable attention is concerning what will become of the large number of white employees who have been engaged in various capacities in connection with the construction of the Panama canal, when their task is completed and the employees are "let out." Several thousand men, many of them with families, will thus be thrown out of employment, and nearly all of them will come back to the United States. The question thus raised has been carefully considered by the employees themselves, of course, and it is claimed that some of them have hit on a plan which they think will prove satisfactory.

One set of nearly a hundred employees, for instance, has decided to take up farming as the best occupation for them, and they will have the hearty cooperation of the Southern Settlement and Development organization, which is negotiating with the prospective farmers through one of its representatives, R. S. Person, for several years an employee of the government at Washington. Mr. Person went to Panama and interviewed the employees who wish to carry out the "back-to-the-soil" idea, and a committee of them came back with him to inspect several tracts of land in the southern states.

As most of the employees who want to take up farming, originally came from the farm, it will be no special hardship for them to go back to it. Most of them have received a salary of about \$2,000 or more, and they have saved money. Thus, they are enabled to choose some suitable tract of land, establish a colony there, and continue to live together and carry out more or less the cooperative idea in farming.

This is certainly an ideal way of solving the problem of those who will soon be without steady employment, and wish to find a profitable occupation.

HOW THE TARIFF WORKS.

The revised tariff has been in force for more than seven months. The figures available show that since the beginning of last October to the end of last month exports decreased \$113,012,555, in comparison with the corresponding period in the previous year. At the same time imports increased \$23,625,493. As a result the trade balance for the seven months ended in April was less favorable by \$136,638,048 than for the same months in the previous year.

This is a very large shift, but its significance is made more impressive

when it is noted that last month alone the alteration in the relation of imports and exports compared with the April figures a year ago converted an export balance of \$53,890,849 to an import balance of \$10,271,872, a total change of \$64,162,721 adverse to the United States.—New York Sun.

PLAN IS INEFFECTIVE.

The organization and re-organization of associations with a view to inducing patronage for Oregon manufacturing industries can amount to comparatively little under the present mode of procedure of these societies, extensive in scope though their work may be, for the reason that they do not reach the consumer, the individual member of the community upon whom the producer depends for support. Just now a federation of all the organizations in Portland that have heretofore put themselves on record in support of state institutions has been effected. The consolidated societies are composed chiefly of men who are engaged in some manner with the production of commodities, and others who are not solely philanthropists. The purpose is to inaugurate a statewide campaign to make Oregon made goods second nature to the Oregon consumer, and to this end hot-air merchants will be distributed over the commonwealth to attend various conventions and meetings, where nine-tenths of those attending such gatherings are already preachers but not practitioners of the same doctrine, as is the case with the ineffective Made-in-Oregon banquets, which are so extensively given at individual expense for the benefit of the manufacturer.

The key to success is legitimate publicity of Made-in-Oregon goods by the men who make them. Eastern manufacturers expend thousands upon thousands of dollars annually in Oregon to bring their goods to the every-day attention of the purchasing public, while the home manufacturer draws more tightly together his purse-strings and watchfully waits for the community booster to develop his business by means of a home-expansion campaign in his behalf. There can be but one way in which the desired end may be speedily and effectively accomplished and that is—as egotistical as our opinion may appear to be—honest straightforward, legitimate advertising in the country press, the only medium of publicity extant that successfully appeals to the consumer at the fireside.

No great gift of business sagacity is necessary to solve the problem which is now perplexing the Oregon manufacturer. He need only follow in the well-beaten path of thousands of others to gain the goal. The money annually expended for cheap oratory in an endeavor to persuade consumption of state products is practically thrown to the winds. The sooner the penny promoters realize the true condition of affairs the sooner all Oregon will be benefited.

The booster who confines his arguments alone to boosters, as in the case at hand, for none except those directly interested are reached, is like unto the horse that diligently and laboriously travels the treadmill—it gets nowhere. The manufacturer should remember the scriptural injunction, "the Lord helps those who help themselves."

SERMONS AND SLEEP.

The French scientists are the most consoling people in the world. They are always working out some explanation that affords consolation. Here comes one with a theory about sleeping in churches that will be a relief to both pastor and sleeper.

According to this French psychologist's theory, persons are inclined to "doze" in church because of the devout attention they pay to the services. In endeavoring to fix every word in their minds they put themselves into a sort of trance. It is about the same as what is called self-hypnotism, and the more closely one follows the minister the more likely he is to find himself unable to remain awake.

For a good many years the pert paragraders have had a great deal to say about church sleepers, and usually the preacher has gotten the worst of the argument. All manner of devices have been suggested by the humorists as aids to lengthy sermons, even to the placing of electric needles in the cushions to awaken the sleepers at the pressure of a button by the minister. But now that the inclination to slumber in church has been accounted for upon purely scientific grounds, the remedy for the evil will probably be abated in a practical way—perhaps by encouraging the employment of

pastors who are incapable of holding one's attention at all.

A GOOD MOTTO.

A Dallas business man has, conspicuously displayed over his desk, this helpful placard: "Smile a Little; Help a Little; Push a Little." Stop momentarily and consider what a whole treatise on success this motto is. If you wear the smile that won't come off you turn away wrath and disarm your enemy. People smile back and conclude that you are a good fellow; the sun shines brighter and the birds sing sweeter, and fragrant flowers bloom in your pathway. Help a little and you carry sunshine across the threshold where gaunt hunger is gnawing; you clothe tender limbs shivering under moans and suffering to childish shouts of glee. Push a little and you make the desert bloom as a rose; you will aid in municipal advancement, build new residences and ornament unsightly places, add factories and make a hive of industry where formerly the sluggard slept. Smile a little, help a little and push a little and you shall wear a crown—and the metal shall not be of tin nor the jewels of colored glass.

When we read in the dispatches that six thousand persons floundered and beat their arms and legs in a surf area of less than ten miles at Atlantic City we arrive at the conclusion that our own little bath tub has a certain superiority to watering resorts on the sea-beat shore.

The valuable man to a community is he who does the most efficient work for the community and not the one who merely strives for his own success.

Believing that if the republicans would win in the approaching campaign it must be through an organized force, the party managers are busy laying plans for more thorough organization in every quarter. Mere talk and denunciations are ineffective, and unnecessary. The cold, hard facts, honestly presented, should be sufficient to win a victory.

LOCAL NEWS.

Misses Hazel Jewett and Rose Parrott, who spent the week-end with Mrs. Bot. Casey, left Sunday evening, Miss Parrott going to Monmouth and Miss Jewett to Roseburg.

Miss Loretta O'Connell, who has been in Dallas for the last week, left yesterday for Corvallis, where she will attend summer school at O. A. C.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bennett, Dr. Carey, Dorothy and Stuart Bennett motored to Oregon City on Saturday, returning home Sunday.

Monmouth will have quite a number of the Dallas young people during the next six weeks. The following will attend summer school: Alice Grant, Claudia Brown, Lilia McDaniels, Dora Hayes, Georgia Ellis, Carolyn Gohrke, Ruth Campbell, Beulah Baldersee, and Arlene Bennett.

Mrs. W. Clark and Mrs. T. J. Narren of McMinnville visited their parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. V. R. Snyder, on Sunday.

Miss Elva Lucas is visiting Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Stone at the Stone ranch near Pedee.

Professor Metzger left Monday for Cahasset Beach, Washington, where he will teach a bible class at the Y. W. C. A. summer conference.

T. J. Hayter attended the annual reunion of the pioneers of Oregon and the Indian war veterans at Portland last week.

Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Bennett went to Oregon City by auto on Saturday, made a pleasant visit and returned Sunday.

Mrs. Belle Blake and Miss Maude Byerley have come hither from Portland to make their home with their father, A. Byerley.

Mr. C. V. Johnson of Airline, one of the boosters for Polk county, was in Dallas on Saturday, and took occasion to pull The Observer's latch-string. Mr. Johnson is a former mayor of Corvallis, and was later appraised for the Port of Portland. He is in business at Airline, and is enthusiastic concerning the possibilities of that particular section of the country.

Mrs. L. E. Viers and daughters of Chicago arrived in Dallas yesterday on a visit to E. R. Viers, who has a fruit ranch west of Dallas.

Dr. Fink and son Arthur, who are running mates, went to Portland on Sunday with a view to purchasing an automobile.

J. W. Vague, a Portland confectioner, was here on Saturday with an automobile party.

Counterfeit half dollars are in circulation in the Willamette Valley. Three of them will buy The Observer for a year.

Among those farmers to improve their buildings this year is D. A. Wright, about five miles southwest of Dallas, who has the lumber on the ground for rebuilding his house.

SPECIAL SALE OF POSTCARD ALBUMS

I have just made a purchase of 100 Postcard Albums at unheard-of low prices, and am going to share these bargains with my customers.

The regular prices of these albums ranged from 25 cents to \$2.00. I am going to sell them at 10 and 25 cents.

You cannot afford to let your postcards lie scattered around, when you can get an album for a dime or a quarter. These cards will be more highly treasured by you as time goes on, and some day you will be glad you kept them.

Watch for the display in our show window.

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