

Polk County Observer

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BY LEW CATES

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AN APPEAL.

In its effort to make The Observer a newspaper in the true meaning of the word, and one that will reflect still greater credit upon Dallas and Polk county, its publisher seeks the co-operation of its constituency. It is a difficult proposition, in fact a physical impossibility, to completely cover the field with its necessarily limited reportorial corps, and the only way known to us to get "all the news all the while" is through the co-operation of the people. Since The Observer has been under the present management it has faithfully endeavored to "cover" the news, but it appreciates the insufficiency from week to week. Many matters that should have more than passing mention continually escape its notice, due in part to the fact that our acquaintance is still limited. We have not as yet got in touch with every feature of activity in the community, our residence here covering a period reckoned only by weeks.

We want to urge every subscriber in Dallas and Polk county to join in making The Observer a community publication—the big home paper—by sending it news items of whatsoever character. The mail will bring it to us; use the telephone, or still better, come in person. The latchstring is always out. Do not be backward, but do it now, remembering that a good newspaper is a community's greatest asset.

HIGHWAYS, GOOD AND BAD.

The greatest drawback to farm life is bad roads. Fortunately these are obstacles possible of being overcome. Most questions have two sides, but there is only one side to the need and value of good roads. Good roads, like good streets, are noticeable at once to the most indifferent observer. The difference between good rural highways and poor ones is practically the difference between profit and loss to those who have to use roads. A good highway is a universal public benefactor. There is not a single member of the community who does not receive advantage and pleasure from it. It is the most democratic of all public institutions. A courthouse is for litigants, an asylum is for the infirm, a jail for criminals, a theater for entertainments, a park for recreation, a school for instruction, a church for worshippers, a hotel for way farers, but a good road is for everybody—saint and sinner, man, woman and child, maid and matron, young and old, rich and poor, healthy and sick, the lame, the halt, and the blind—all get a share of benefit from it.

To construct a good road involves the expenditure of money, but it is money well spent, as it becomes a substantial improvement in the community enjoying it and is worth every dollar it costs.

VALUABLE INVENTION.

The invention of an anti-snoring device, warranted to check in mid career even the most pestiferous, ebullient and besotted snorer now extant, will be hailed with rising and hopeful anticipation by the multitudes of innocent but helpless souls who have looked upon the confirmed snorer as a visitation of Providence, against whose assaults and incursions it was equally impious and futile to protest. Careful tabulation of the statistics of both ancient and modern criminology discloses that more mysterious abductions, batteries, murders and sudden deaths have emanated from the unrestrained and defiant habit of public and private snoring than from any other four causes known to the records. Whatever other grounds of action may be alleged in the pleadings, experienced members of the bench and bar are fully aware that four-fifths of the actions brought for divorce arise in the fact that the defendant is an unconscionable and unconquerable snorer.

If, therefore, the prolific ingenuity

of some suffering citizen has devised a certain remedy for this crime against society, let us chorus our all hail and rejoice together. The coming into general use of this new found boon to humanity not only will afford a relief to millions, but will nip in its inception the rising movement to list public snoring among capital crimes. For one thing, if a friendly suggestion made in sincere good faith will not be taken amiss, the underwriters of the anti-snorer manufacturing company will do well at once to increase its stock issue and offer it at public vendure. The Pullman company alone, which has suffered deep commercial pangs because of business losses induced by the great army of snorers, doubtless would instantly subscribe for a round half of the allotment at par. We believe that even a national subscription, beginning with dime collections in the schools, could easily be procured for the flotation of the first mortgage bonds.

The whole question of the ultimate triumphant and universal suppression of snoring so intimately touches the finer fibres of our being as a free people that it is difficult at this time to suppress expressions of popular exultation.

FORWARD THE WATCHWORD.

Until we learn to think in billions we cannot measure the meaning of the material development of the United States during the last quarter of a century; much less can we mentally grasp the potentialities which the coming years have in store for us. Our progress, however, has only been the pioneering work of clearing the wilderness, of plowing and planting amid the stumps which mark the new land of the settler. Not yet have we had time to pull the stumps and drain the swamps. What we have been doing is like sowing by hand and gathering our harvest with the old sickle as compared with what we are now preparing to do. In our pioneering work we have had to disregard the permanency to meet the immediate needs of the hour. We have had to make haste even though it meant some waste. However, like the pioneer who built his rude log hut and tilled the stump ridden sod until increasing gains made possible the building of a better home and the clearing of his land in order to utilize labor-saving implements, we had to pursue similar methods in our national development until now, when we have entered upon a period where scientific farming will take the place of soil-destroying farming and where scientific skill in manufacturing will mean changes as radical as those which mark the difference in farming methods.

All we have done in this work of material building has been the perfectly logical working out of conditions which have surrounded us, conditions which in no wise need give us any concern for a moment nor be considered as pessimistic in their tendency.

In studying the advancement one is amazed at the marvelous progress of the last quarter of a century. Even ten years ago the brain of man could never have conceived the magnitude of the development of today. But looking at this in the light of the world-wide revolution in business now in progress, considering our unique geographical position and the vastness of resources, beyond the power of man to describe and bearing in mind the forces which today are making for the intensest human activities ever known, it will be realized that the achievements of the past, compared with what the future has in store for us, are but as the gentle shower of an April day in comparison with the downpour of the winter rain.

JAPAN WANTS ANSWER.

The Japanese government, through its ambassador at Washington, is again pressing for an answer to its note of last August concerning the California anti-alien land law. This matter has lapsed into comparative obscurity during the long delay in diplomatic exchanges between the two nations, but a year ago it was very prominent in public attention, to an extent, in fact, that the issue involved was regarded as bordering on the critical. The general understanding is that Japan allowed the matter temporarily to be dropped, largely on account of so-called Mexican question intervening and demanding the attention of this government. This action on the part of Japan was regarded as one of friendly courtesy, and certainly it served to save the Washington administration from facing an embarrassing situation, and to give

its undivided attention to the Mexican crisis.

But Japan is entitled to her answer. The discrimination imposed by the California anti-alien land law was strongly resented by the people and the officials of the Japanese nation, and the resulting exchange of notes was based on the Japanese claim that this nation was disregarding treaty obligations. This is the point to be settled by the negotiation now about to be resumed, and it is to be hoped the matter will be amicably and satisfactorily adjusted, in a manner that will leave no resentment or hard feelings on either side. The delay of ten months, moreover, should materially aid in such conclusion of the matter, for this interval has been sufficient to allow both sides to "cool off" and think it over.

INTERESTS ARE IDENTICAL.

There is a unity of interest between the farmer and the merchant. The reciprocity begets a social relation that adds greatly to the strength of both. The tiller of the soil lays the foundation for prosperity and business thrift. Without the products of the soil the commercial interests would dwindle into nothingness. On the other hand the merchant anticipates the wants of the trade, and from all parts of the continent secures every needful thing that goes to supply, enrich and beautify the rural home, where the rancher is monarch of all he surveys.

Few there are of these sturdy tillers of the soil who, through friendly intercourse with the business man, but have had emphatic evidence of the appreciation of their patronage. And why should not this be the case? Their interests being mutual their appreciation becomes reciprocal. The rancher as fully appreciates the accommodating merchant as the merchant does the patronage bestowed by the rancher. We cannot agree that this appreciative sense in either is a social one. For The Observer feels sure that it voices the sentiments of the average merchant of Dallas when it says this sense of appreciation of farm trade is not based on the mere matter of dollars, nor yet altogether for the friendships formed, but also on account of the fact that in his dealings with the farmers he is brought nearer to the producer, which conserves to a more intelligent planning of his own business.

This section of the country, although settled long years, is still largely undeveloped. Yet its harvests are bountiful, and the merchant watches the growing crops and the prosperity of the ruraler with more interest than in times past. Ignorance and superstition have given way to light and knowledge. The rural districts have practically the same facilities for keeping abreast of the times that the towns possess. The farmer is in close touch with every activity. No class of business men value this more than the wide-awake merchant. And as a rule he stands ready and willing to offer every inducement to satisfy the farmers that he is worthy of their patronage and also their confidence. The astute ruraler is alive to every inducement thus offered. He is encouraged to trade at home if the home merchant shows his appreciation of the patronage.

IT PAYS TO BE GOOD.

That tragedy in an adjoining state in which a respected citizen of the community was shot by a man whose home he had basely dishonored, is a conspicuous instance of the frightful penalty people sometimes have to pay for the gratification of unholy lust. It is a warning to all men and all women who, feeling secure of the good will and good opinion of their families and friends, give way to their passions, trample upon the obligations of marriage, and single themselves in the miserable and perfidious meshes of a kind of intimacy that breeds bullets and sudden death. Nothing is so interesting to men and women as the deeds of men and women, and when either sex shows an inclination to stray from the straight and narrow path an entire community sits up and takes notice. Of course the persons who are slipping into sin do not appreciate this. It is the case in the entire range of social offenses, minor and capital. The participants always imagine themselves clever enough to deceive their families and the public, but there is always somebody who is not to be duped. From the silly and seemingly harmless indiscretions and thoughtless improprieties, on to the final plunge into dishonor, it is practically certain

that almost every act and deed is talked about.

Many a man who has vast pride in his reputation, and who thinks himself skilled and smooth in his attempts to hide unbecoming conduct, would turn sick at heart if he dreamed how thoroughly known his transgressions are, and many a woman who imagines she has the respect of her community would shrivel with chagrin and hide herself from her neighbors if aware how completely her delinquencies are understood. In the great majority of these cases no sign comes to the guilty of this outside knowledge. They were tolerated and treated with apparent respect, because of a great kindness which the public always has for innocent persons who would otherwise suffer and because of the conviction that punishment awaits them anyhow. For as Kipling says: "The sins that ye do by two and by two, ye must answer for one by one."

One sobering and deterrent truth every man and woman should know. It is this: Indiscretions, improprieties, clandestine adventures, secret sins cannot be hidden. They will crop out, the world is not big enough to cover them. No matter where you go, how far from home, or how close to home, even in the sanctuary of home itself, there is always somebody to detect and whisper the news of a lapse in the conduct of a lady or gentleman. And the whisper is always heard by the multitude and never forgotten.

Only under the canopy of integrity, honor, virtue and prudence is there safety. Any deviation from either is sure to be noted. No precaution can entirely hide it; no cunning can cloak it, whether it be a mere indiscretion, an impropriety, a risky adventure, a deliberately planned and safeguarded excursion into imprudence, or a most carefully arranged descent into downright wickedness. None are so secure in reputation that they can escape.

Is it not better to be good and to be safe, to be worthy of respect and clean of conscience, than to experience any or all of the searing pleasures which begin with imprudence and indiscretion, and end in torments? Study the faces of these men and women who seek the pleasures of clandestine adventures, and you will find answer there. It pays to be good. Propriety, prudence and purity yields such dividends of happiness, honor and sweetness of character, that those misguided mortals, who in their weakness have suffered themselves to be robbed of them, long for them to their dying day. We are aware that matters of this kind are seldom discussed in newspapers, and that the subject is abhorrent to many. But it is our judgment that it is well enough occasionally to emphasize the fact that the wages of sin are always terrible finally, and that of all forms of misconduct at any stage of human life those which involve the social relations of themselves are the most dangerous to peace of mind.

PENSIONS FOR OLD AGE.

The trend of the civilized world is to extend more and more mercies to the poor. England's old age pensions are an example. There are a host of rich men in England, there is a vast accumulation of wealth there. But there is at the same time a mighty aggregation of the dependent poor. Where there are so many destitute, some unable to find employment and some physically unable to work if they had the opportunity, in the scramble for food and shelter the old are liable to be overwhelmed. This situation has been before the eyes of Englishmen for years, when suddenly the thought was born that special provision should be made for such people, and out of it grew the "old age pension law." It is proving a sovereign remedy.

In this country, some years ago a railroad company decided to place old and faithful employees on a pension roll, when they had reached a certain number of years of service, or when, in the line of their duty, they became disabled. Whether the motive behind it was purely humane, or whether the belief was that through such a course better service would be secured, or whether it was a blending of the two ideas, does not matter. It was a great mercy, and is extending to more of the great corporations in the treatment of employees.

The general government can only establish such rules for its own employees but the government can, with the revenue it draws from the whole people, do very much for the poor of the country in an indirect way—not a fraternal government, to find work

Some Trite Facts About Dallas In a Nut-Shell

Dallas is the county seat of Polk county, and here is a handsome \$40,000 court-house of Oregon stone.

Dallas has a \$50,000 High school building, and two modern ward school buildings.

Dallas has hard-surface streets throughout the business district, and many miles of concrete sidewalks.

Dallas has a gravity water system—pure mountain water from the hills miles away.

Dallas has a packing plant, handling upwards of 3,500,000 pounds of prunes annually.

Dallas' manufacturing institutions distribute approximately \$200,000 annually among its 300 employees.

Dallas is free from malaria, ague or dangerous epidemics. Death finds its victims principally in old age.

Dallas is the home of the Polk county fair.

Dallas has a Southern Pacific machine shop, where about 50 persons are employed.

Dallas has a modern and thoroughly equipped hospital.

Dallas has a \$10,000 public library and reading room.

Dallas has a creamery that takes every available ounce of cream at top prices.

Dallas' rainfall averages 45 inches per annum. No zero weather.

Dallas' public schools are on the accredited list with all state universities.

Dallas has a men's social club occupying well appointed rooms, and this is but one of several similar organizations.

Dallas' section is rapidly developing the dairy industry. There are several registered herds, and more coming.

Dallas has a sportsmen's organization, the Nesmith Rod and Gun club.

Dallas has nearly all the fraternal orders extant; few are lacking.

Dallas is supported by people who are making money, and consequently have money to spend. One cannot distinguish the city chap from his country cousin.

Dallas has tributary bottom lands as productive as any in the world, with the exception of those along the Nile.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT DALLAS, OR POLK COUNTY, ADDRESS SECRETARY COMMERCIAL CLUB, DALLAS, OREGON.

for men, but to remove obstructions from their paths. We see one example in the reclamation law. There the government expends a great amount of the public money upon its arid lands, but by that expenditure it makes what was practically of no value very valuable, and draws the money back by the sales of the land. But in the meantime thousands of poor men obtain something which they can earn a living from, and which at last becomes an inheritance for their children.

For a year after he assumed the reins of government, Mr. Wilson unquestionably was very popular with the rank and file of the people in all sections of the country. They liked the tone of his utterances and the way he went about the business of the presidency. Now, however, even democrats in official circles are beginning to admit that the tide of popularity on which President Wilson had been riding serenely has begun to recede.

As a result of the recent "fly swat" contest, it is estimated that several million of the pestiferous insects were put out of the way by Dallas enthusiasts. And according to all the rules this should cause a material improvement in public health and comfort during the remainder of the summer season.

Political candidates are commencing to scurry around to find which way the political wind is blowing. And usually it is the same old story—each candidate is sure he is the favored one and will win in a walk.

Polk county has reason to congratulate itself because of the refusal of Mr. Seymour to accept the principalship of one of the Portland schools. He is an indefatigable and effective educational worker, and is needed here.

Dr. Wiley says American women are the worst cooks in the world. Have you never been in England, doc?

If lectures on the blessedness of peace covered all, wars would have ceased long ago.

About this time the Martian astronomers are probably discovering the canals on earth.

It's a poor rule that won't work both ways, and a poorer one that won't work our way.

Dallas has a \$15,000 armory, large and well equipped.

Dallas has a sawmill cutting over 15,000,000 feet per annum, and furnishing steady employment to 175 workmen.

Dallas is a ready market at good prices for everything raised on the farm. The local demand is greater than the supply.

Dallas has a volunteer fire department that fights the destroying element like old-timers.

Dallas probably handles more mohair than any other town in the state. Angora goats make money for their owners.

Dallas has two substantial financial institutions, occupying modern brick blocks.

Dallas has two planing mills and wood working factories, also an iron works and machine shop.

Dallas is a trade center for a vast surrounding territory.

Dallas has nine religious organizations, with seven edifices of worship.

Dallas has a modern sewer system, touching all sections of the city.

Dallas has many beautiful and costly homes. And the number is on the increase.

Dallas has an active Commercial club and a Woman's club constantly working for the material interests of the community.

Dallas is the starting point for the hunting and fishing grounds. Deer, grouse, pheasants and quail are here, while an occasional cougar or wildcat is found. Speckled beauties abound in the streams.

Dallas enjoys the reputation of being a clean town, with a good moral atmosphere.

Dallas has large tracts of standing timber tributary to it, dotted here and there with sawmills of the smaller class.

Dallas is picturesquely situated on the LaCreole river, and has a happy and contented population of about 3,000, 90 per cent American.

Dallas has some knockers; but, thank the Lord, they are in the minority.

Dallas has good transportation facilities, both passenger and freight.

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