

Polk County Observer

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BY LEW CATES

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WHY SO MANY CREEDS?

Such undenominational ministerial conferences as that held at Eugene should be the fore-runner of a movement to ultimately consolidate some of the too numerous denominations. Although the purposes of the gathering is in another direction, The Observer is inclined to believe that conventions of this character might eventually be made an agency through which church union could be wrought. While for five hundred years Christians have been endeavoring to get together and failed, there is still hope that a time, now not very remote, will come when all creeds that believe in the Messiah will wheel into line and in solid phalanx, under one standard, take up that march of conquest designed to emancipate all mankind from the darkness of sin, and lift up before them the gates which open into the realms of everlasting light.

To the simple reasoning of the average sinner there can be no real need of so many creeds. How out of a formula such as the New Testament outlines men can build up a hundred creeds, and each in his own zeal grow to believe he is right and every one else is in error, and pursue their established faith to war and carnage in the name of the Prince of Peace, is beyond comprehension. Where is the authority for it to be found in the scriptures? At least, where in the teachings of the Master?

Nations frequently revise their civil and criminal codes to make sure that in their practice, or in the decisions of learned judges, which have grown to be accepted as correct legal interpretations, wrongs have not crept in, which are working injuries to the state or to individuals. Ought not all to follow similar practice? If they look about them they see the world constantly progressing, every year taking on new lights, but looking backward they discover that the original simple statement of the Christian faith does not change, that it does not need to change, that it not only keeps up with all progress, but rather the more the progress the plainer in the increasing light that code reads, and when they advance far enough they discover that the sermon on the mount has become a classic, and that when their brightest and most gifted ones try to improve upon it they stand baffled, and perhaps for the first time realize the difference between the workings of divine and merely human thought. What would they answer should the Master come and ask them how out of the simple definition He gave of religion, and the simple directions which He gave of how to manifest that religion to the understanding of men, they had built up the varied structures which they called creeds?

When the Master was here He declared His code, and selected to present it to a waiting world some simple unlearned fishermen. There was not one scholar or orator in the company. Was not that a hint that the mystery of salvation was not to be found in the schools; that it was open to the unlearned as well as to those wise in worldly wisdom? Was not the widow's mite more acceptable than the offering of the rich because it went with a contrite heart? Whose door would the Master enter were He to return to earth?

VOCATIONAL WORK.

In view of the agitation of vocational schools for young men and women, which are recommended by the foremost educationalists, it may be interesting to consider for a moment what the work of these institutions means in the sum total of German industrial efficiency and social progress. Prof. Schaffer, of the University of Oregon, on every possible occasion advocates vocational education, and this theme has frequently been discussed by Superintendent Seymour and others, but, in the opinion of The Observer, the German continuation school system is the

last word. Germany does not allow her boys or girls to enter "blind alley" employment if she can help it. The German continuation school system takes hold of the boy of fourteen or fifteen as soon as he finishes the elementary school and prepares him for some particular trade or business. They are assisted by the school authorities in securing desirable situations, and are required to attend the continuation schools while employed. There are classes for bakers, butchers, barbers, waiters, painters, decorators, blacksmiths, tailors, lace-making, machine-tool making, art forging, plumbing, electric installation, furniture and weaving-loom making, house carpentry, shoemaking, saddlery, upholstery, cabinet makers, and in fact for any other occupation in which it is practicable for a boy to engage. Even if the boy does not aspire to be a skilled workman, but is content to become a street cleaner, house servant, messenger, or to engage in any other form of unskilled labor, he is nevertheless required to spend three years in the continuation school.

Instruction in these continuation schools is by no means confined to technical branches. Besides definite vocational training, the pupils receive instruction in certain branches designed to aid them as citizens—civil affairs, trade history and community welfare—in addition to composition and arithmetic based chiefly on the vocational work.

A SOCIAL ORGANISM.

The simple barbarism of primitive man made each individual almost wholly independent of his fellows, except as they might have to unite for defense against attack from a common enemy. Modern society represents an entirely different condition. Independence has been succeeded by dependence. The complex conditions of modern life make the individual more and more dependent on his fellow man. This increases the necessity for clearer recognition of the benefits that each derives from all. The things without which life in the country in these enlightened days would be a dreary existence—roads, schools, churches, libraries, telephones, and everything that combines to make up the social life—especially in the smaller cities, towns and villages within reach of farm homes, cannot be enjoyed unless the community co-operates to create and maintain them. Hence the community as a whole, insofar as its relations to all these things are necessary for enjoyment as a community is concerned, must be treated as one entire and individual social organism. Anything that increases its strength and wealth and the number of people composing it, increases in like degree its powers to serve the wants and needs of all as a community. Consequently everything that can be done by members of the community to promote its general growth and improvement should be done from a purely selfish standpoint, if from no other. Each member of necessity participates in the increasing prosperity and values, and general wealth, and increased social and educational advantages. This is true of the dwellers in the adjacent country, on the farms, just as much as of those living in the midst of the town that is the center of social activity for the entire section.

The spirit of co-operation and mutual helpfulness for the common benefit should include the farmers as well as the town-dwellers. The isolation and deadly monotony of the old farm life has driven countless thousands of young men and women away from home to failure and a life of unhappiness and disappointment in the cities. These terrible drawbacks to farm life have been done away with in modern rural communities by uniting the farms and town into one loyal whole as a community co-operating for the welfare of all. The telephone, the consolidated school, good roads and good neighbors and the entire social life of the town where the farmer should trade are the new influences to make farm life the happiest life in the world. But to enjoy these benefits the farmer must be one of the community, and in exact proportion that all co-operate to make it stronger and weld it together more closely and keep its accumulated capital and its trade at home just to that extent will each enjoy the increased benefits resulting from such a policy of loyalty to the home community. All should work together for increased improvements, the establishment of new industries and increased prosperity of those already established, and everything that human activity can do to make a better environment for a

fully rounded out, complete and happy life.

FOREIGN COMPETITION.

The sensational advance in the price of wool, dating virtually from the inauguration of free wool, has been a powerful factor in jacking up goods prices to a level permitting of active competition from foreign manufacturers. There has been a strong 20 per cent rise in all grades of wool, both foreign and American clips, during the past seven months, which has necessitated an increase in the price of goods, commensurate with the increase in the cost of production. The result has been the influx of competing foreign fabrics, the menace from which is likely to increase rather than decrease as the foreigners grow more conversant with American markets.

The abrupt rise in wool has not been due to tariff influences but simply to world-wide shortage accentuated by the loss of some 100,000,000 pounds in Australia through drought two years ago. If it were not for free wool, moreover, prices on this side of the water would be materially higher. Importation of wool cloth and of dress goods is nearly four times as heavy in volume as under the old law. By changing from specific to ad valorem duties the government has made it possible to import vast quantities of shoddy goods that never could enter the country before. As prices of cloth are higher this shoddy stuff is coming in at figures that keep the total price per pound just at the previous year's level.

In 1912 there was not enough woolen cloth imported to make one suit of clothes for more than one out of a hundred of the population. More than that they were wearing imported cloth. This year most persons who think they are wearing imported cloth are really doing so but much of it is shoddy. The result is that the American shoddy cloth men are suffering. It is only the manufacturers of medium-priced cloth that escape injury. While the foreign shoddy is hurting the cheap home cloth, the high-grade worsted is being injured by the tariff in quite another way. Raw wool is now free. The old tariff was eleven cents a pound and woolen cloth was 55 per cent advantage plus four times the tariff on raw wool, or forty-four cents a yard. This was based on the theory that it took four pounds of wool to make a yard of cloth. So it did of carded wool, but combed wool from which high-grade worsted is made got a yard out of two pounds. The worsted manufacturer had thus an unfair advantage over the carded wool makers. Now the latter have the advantage, for the specific duty of four times the duty of raw wool is removed, and the ad valorem is reduced from 55 per cent to 35 per cent.

SINS AND VIRTUES.

The apparent attack upon the memory of the pilgrims, made by John D. Long, an ex-secretary of the treasury, some years ago, cannot be forgotten by the Massachusetts press. That trite adage that time cures all ills does not seem to apply in this particular instance. It will doubtless be remembered by many readers of The Observer that, standing near the famous rock where the pilgrims landed, the assertion was made that "there were grafters among these fathers of the republic;" that within a decade social vices infested the community and drunkenness, licentiousness and even worse crimes were common, from which statement the conclusion was drawn that "no village in New England need fear a comparison with the early pilgrim colony."

While these words burn deeply into the pride of those who still hover under the shadow of that distinguished rock, Long doubtless told the truth, and the sooner the press of Massachusetts becomes reconciled to it or forgets the unpleasantness of the statement the better. All of that brave company were not saints. The pilgrims were made of common clay. As in all other communities, the people were good, bad and indifferent. Everybody knows that when the farmers were weak in numbers they treated the Indians fairly. When they became more strong they visited vengeance upon the tribes, a vengeance that spared neither the aged, helpless warrior nor the innocent spouse. Later on they hanged the witches and drove Roger Williams into the wilderness. There were superstitious, fanatical and intolerant.

The average American citizen of

today is a better man than was the average pilgrim. And he ought to be. Yet the virtues of these fathers of the republic must not be overlooked. If they were superstitious, and fanatical and intolerant all these vices were the vices of their day. They wore long hair, and talked through their noses, but they were guided by a watchword that the nation needs to learn—the watchword of duty. They had the courage of strong convictions and their ideals were high. We have only to look around us to see their monuments. It is easy to pick flaws in the very greatest characters. It is not so easy to emulate their virtues. The pilgrim fathers were made of common clay, but the mold in which they were cast is the mold that nature uses for heroes and martyrs.

STREET IMPROVEMENTS.

Undaunted by some slight opposition the municipal administration is forging forward in the matter of public improvements, believing that each recurring year should witness additional betterments. In the matter of street improvements this applies with more force than to any other class of improvements. Earlier in the season the councilmen declared their intention to macadamize a considerable number of the most frequented thoroughfares of the city, but the proposition was remonstrated against with sufficient strength to slay the measure, not, we believe, because of the fact that the property owners affected by the proposed betterment did not appreciate the need of better streets, but because of the character of the improvement proposed. The council dropped its plans in this direction, and immediately set about formulating others that might be carried to successful consummation, with the result that some eight blocks of street improvements, including concrete curbs and spacious parking grounds, will soon be under way.

Ordinarily, when the declaration that improvements were to be taboed by those who pay the freight, an administration would have crawled back into its cave, but the Dallas council was insistent that something toward advancement should be accomplished, and it gained its point. And these improvements, while not of the highest order, are going to be a credit to the city as a whole. Good thoroughfares are one of the very best assets any city can have.

COLOMBIAN TREATY CAMPAIGN.

Notwithstanding the repeated assurances by the State Department that the proposed Colombian treaty, already ratified by the Colombian congress, contains no apology for our recognition of the Panama Republic so soon after it was organized, the campaign being conducted by the friends of the treaty appears to have as its sole basis the contention that we at least owe an apology. Seizing on a rather boastful declaration of former President Roosevelt about how he took Panama without waiting for congress to debate the matter, the New York World now publishes the evidence it gathered to use in defense of a libel suit, the purpose of which was to show that the Panama revolution was not a spontaneous uprising, but was engineered by interested persons and received official aid and comfort from the United States. It should be borne in mind that this evidence was never used and was not subjected to attack or even unfriendly examination. It glosses over Colombia's behavior preceding the revolution. The former president of Colombia, Senor Reyes, has addressed a public letter to President Wilson in which he declares our attitude toward Colombia and Panama put a stain on our flag. To argue, in the face of this, that we are not apologizing is obvious quibbling.

The Hay-Herian treaty we entered into at urgent solicitation of Colombia could have been justly criticized only on the score of our liberality. We gave everything to Colombia, yielding every point raised by it. Then the treaty was rejected unanimously. That fact stands boldly out and can not be explained without ascribing perfidy to Colombia. The government did not try to get it ratified. Our very generosity had built up a false hope that we would submit to a hold-up. A commission having unanimously recommended the Panama route over the Nicaraguan, Colombia decided that it was imperative that we use it. There was a possibility that we could proceed with the building of a canal under an old treaty and this was being seriously considered when the Panama revolu-

tion offered another way. This was the fifty-third disturbance on the isthmus in fifty-seven years. But for exercise of police power by the United States in Colombia's interest in 1856, 1860, 1873, 1885 and 1901 the isthmus might have been severed from Colombia.

Who started the revolution is a matter of dispute. A former Colombian minister declares that he conceived it and began its execution. That the people most concerned, the residents, gave it their hearty support, can not be denied. They saw their very salvation slipping from them as a result of the overreaching greed of Colombia. The United States was not foolish enough to again use its power to save the isthmus for Colombia. The new republic was promptly recognized and we made with it a very generous treaty, under which the canal was built, instead of being postponed for another eighty years. John Hay, who was familiar with all the details, voluntarily declared that our conduct in the transaction was without reproach and he had a keen sense of honor. It will take more than ex parte evidence gathered by a defendant in a libel suit to convince the country to the contrary.

T. Roosevelt intends to get the republican nomination for the presidency in 1916 if he can. That is the significance of his declaration that if the demand of the Pinchot brothers, William Allen White of Kansas, and other radical "progressives" that George W. Perkins be excluded from the party, shall be complied with, he will go, too. No doubt his knowledge of the fact that Perkins has given more money than any other man to help organize the third party has something to do with his decision to stick by the International Harvester organizer.

Prohibition forces lost their battle for the insertion of a plank favoring the re-submission of the prohibition question to a vote of the people at the republican state convention in Iowa. The convention did adopt a plank indorsing the present liquor laws and commending their enforcement.

The initiative in Oklahoma, like in Oregon, is filling that commonwealth with half-baked laws, and there is general demand for a halt.

Polk county will have a fair this fall that will be a credit to the men and women who made it.

Bull Moosers have combined with the democrats of Utah to side track Reed Smoot.

OTHERS' OPINIONS.

Editor Observer: In the last issue of your paper we noticed an article entitled, "Enforce or Repeal the Law," and signed Resident.

There is an ordinance fixing the rate of speed within the fire-limits, to not exceed 12 miles per hour, and on other streets and highways, not to exceed 15 miles per hour. There is also an ordinance requiring cutouts to be kept closed. It is our aim and intention to enforce these ordinances to the best of our abilities, but as it is a physical impossibility for us to cover all parts of the city at the same time, we will in many cases have to depend upon the good citizenship of those who witness the infraction of the law to report to us, giving name of driver or number of machine. If "Resident" will come forward and give the names of those parties who were racing on Washington street, "one night last week" we will make the proper arrests at once.

OLIVER P. CHASE,
City Marshal.
A. P. STARR,
Special Police.

PYTHIAN KNIGHTS INSTALL.

Polk and Marion County Lodges Ask for District Convention.

Marmion Lodge No. 96, Knights of Pythias, has installed the following officers: P. C. C. Wayne Greenwood; C. C. Walter L. Toole, Jr.; V. C. John R. Sibley; prelate, William Himes; M. W. Lief Finseth; K. R. and S. John T. Ford; M. F. John T. Ford; M. E. "Doc" P. Patterson; M. A. Thomas E. Campbell; L. G. John R. Allgood; O. G. Sanford B. Taylor.

Resolutions were adopted directing Verd Hill, deputy district grand chancellor, of Independence, to call a district convention in Dallas.

The Prune Crop.

The prune crop throughout the United States, with the exception of but very few localities, appears to be materially short. The commercial output, as compared to last year, undoubtedly will be light. In Western

Oregon the crop was badly damaged early in the season. While it will be short, it is not the failure that was anticipated some time ago. As a whole, the Oregon crop is estimated at about one-fifth of a full crop. In Western Washington the crop is spotted and somewhat short and in many orchards there will be none. Around Dallas the crop will probably be better than first indicated, and will give about one-third of a crop.

NOTICE —TO— ICE CONSUMERS

Those persons desiring ice in the residence districts are requested to display their "Ice Wanted" card the first thing in the morning, as only forenoon delivery is made in this territory.

Those customers not having cards are requested to call at the plant and get one, leaving their street and number.

DALLAS ICE CO.

YOU CAN OF COURSE?

And consequently you must be interested in fresh fruits. We can supply the housewife's wants in any quantity at JUST THE RIGHT TIME, and at lowest market prices. See us about it, or telephone for quotations. It will be to our mutual advantage.

Loughary Grocery
DALLAS, OREGON

NEW PLUMBING SHOP

512 Main Street.
After having been with Guy Bros. for six years I have opened a shop at the above number and solicit your patronage.

H. H. RICH

I am in Business for Your Health.
Phone 452.



When We Hand
You Our Estimates

of the cost of the lumber you require you can depend upon it that the figures will be as low as first-class, well seasoned lumber can be sold for honestly. If you pay more you pay too much. If you pay less you get less either quality or quantity.

Willamette Valley
Lumber Co.

6% FARM AND CITY LOANS.
May be obtained to repay mortgages, remove encumbrances, purchase or improve real estate, from one to ten years' time. Special privileges; correspondence invited. A. C. General Agency, 767 Gas & Electric Bldg., Denver, Colo., or 440 Phelan Bldg., San Francisco, Calif.