

Polk County Observer

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BY LEW CATES

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MARY MAGDALENE.

"Why wilt thou cast the roses from thine hair?
Nay, be thou all a rose—wreath, lips and cheek.
Nay, not this house—that banquet house we seek.
See how they kiss and enter. Come thou there.
This delicate day of love we, too, will share
Till at our love's whispering night shall speak.
What, sweet one! Hold'st thou still the foolish freak?
Nay, when I kiss thy feet they'll leave the stair."
"Oh, loose me! See'st thou not my Bridegroom's face
That draws me to him? For His feet my kiss,
My hair, my tears He craves to-day. And, oh,
What words can tell what other day and place
Shall see me clasp those blood stained feet of His?
He needs me, calls me, loves me. Let me go!"
—Dante Gabriel Rossetti.

TEN BILLION DOLLAR CROP.

When the average person reads that the commercial value of the crops raised in this country this season will amount to \$10,000,000,000, he glibly repeats "ten billions" without grasping the real significance of the sum thus stated. In fact, it is hard for anyone to fully appreciate the value thus expressed. The New York World has been trying to convey an idea of what it means by comparisons. Some of them follow:

Ten billions would buy all the real estate in New York and Chicago at assessed valuation, and leave a princely fortune over. Ten billions would pay every penny of the tremendous war debts of France and Germany. Ten billions would pay off our own national debt nearly ten times over; it would pay its interest charges 435 times. If next year's crops are four hundred millions less than this year's, the 1914 and 1915 products of the soil would buy every railroad in the country at the 1911 capitalized valuation.

"Our iron yield," says The World, "is incomparably the greatest of the nations; the industries it feeds are called basic. Yet our iron product is only about one-twenty-third part of that of the farms." This year's field products will be worth fourteen times the value of the annual coal output at the mines, seventy times the value of a year's yield of petroleum. This year's crops will be worth seventy-five times as much as the latest reported annual product of gold and silver combined. It is greater than the entire world's stock of coined gold and silver. It is more than two-thirds of all gold dug, coined and consumed in the arts in all the world since Columbus discovered America.

Do these comparisons of The World begin to give you an idea of what ten billions of dollars means? Then try some of our own, that bring it down to matters closer at home for most of us: The average wage in this country is about five hundred dollars a year. The yield of this year's crops would pay the wages of twenty millions of men. The mere annual income from this year's crop yields at five per cent would pay the wages of a million men. Ten billion dollars would build five million miles of road at two thousand dollars a mile—enough to go around the earth two hundred times. Ten billion dollars would build a million schoolhouse at ten thousand dollars each. It would build two million comfortable homes at five thousand each.

Possibly this may help you to get something of an idea of the stupendous sum represented by this season's output of farm products, which either directly or indirectly will go to enrich every citizen of this land. And in grasping this idea you also will commence to understand why the president and others are predicting an era of unprecedented prosperity for this nation, for the distribution of all

this "new wealth" scarcely could result otherwise.

AUTOS AND RURAL MAIL.

The serviceability of the auto in the delivery of rural mails is about to receive formal recognition by congress, in a way that very likely will result in autos completely supplanting horses for this work. This change has been recommended by Postmaster General Burleson, and in accordance with this suggestion the house committee on postoffices and post roads has approved and reported a bill proposing to pay rural carriers, with automobile routes of fifty miles, \$1,800 per year, the present established routes being only twenty-four miles long and the rate of pay being \$1,200.

The extra compensation of \$600 per year is intended to cover the expense of auto purchase and operation by rural carriers, and it has been carefully estimated that this sum is amply sufficient. For the government, on the other hand, the proposed change will effect a considerable saving, as the actual service of each carrier will practically be doubled, with an additional expense of only fifty per cent. Nor will this necessarily mean a reduction in the number of rural carriers employed, but rather an extension and improvement of the service already rendered. Carriers would cover twice the ground, which would enable a rearrangement of routes that would take in many country roads now neglected, and bring the mails to the doors of a much larger number of rural dwellers. This has been demonstrated in Polk county during the past season.

Nor is it to be overlooked that this plan will also mean a "boom" to the manufacturers of cheap autos. It will open up a new field for the sales of such cars and give a fresh impetus to the entire auto industry. Also it will have a very important effect on the good roads movement. For when autos are generally used in the distribution of rural mails, there will be a new reason for making the country highways "good," and keeping them in that condition through all seasons of the year.

LENGTH OF MADAM'S COAT.

After a rather heated controversy between the leading manufacturers of women's clothing at New York, regarding the proper length of coats to be worn next winter, a sort of compromise apparently has been agreed upon. At least a New York dispatch says the United Association of Cloak, Suit and Skirt Manufacturers has decided that "the woman who wears a short coat in the early winter season will be in fashion, and the woman who later on in the season puts on a longer one will also be in fashion."

This may seem to solve the difficulties of the coat makers, some of whom insisted on a thirty-two inch length, while others contended just as strongly for at least a forty-two inch cut, but it simply will add to the perplexities of the women when they come to purchase coats for the coming winter season. If the decree of the coat makers is considered authoritative, the woman of economical turn will be in doubt whether to take a chance on the short length remaining in fashion for the entire season, or run the risk of being out of fashion for the early part of the winter by wearing a long coat, although assured that later on the garment will be "in style." Those who afford two coats of course will escape this dilemma, but such cases will be the exception, rather than the rule.

However, it will appear to some that this two-coat habit is possibly the very thing which the coat makers are aiming at and trying to encourage. Every woman tries to be in fashion, and if the winter season is to be divided into two style periods, there will be considerable temptation to possess garments that will meet the double requirement. And it is rather significant that the coat makers have put the short-coat period first. If they had reversed the order it would be possible for the women to provide themselves with long coats, and when the style changed to the shorter length they could cut the garments to meet the new requirement. And probably the coat makers thought of this when they made their decision.

THE MEN WHO BUILD.

The Observer fully endorses the following recent editorial sentiment of the Portland Journal:

"What Oregon needs is not the man who comes here to make easy money or to look for a job or even to do business or a profession already well represented, but the man who will go out on the land, who will wear over-

alls, milk cows, raise hogs and become an actual producer and a developer of the country.

"If every commercial club in the state could secure from farmers lists of former neighbors who are still residing in the east or middle west and who are planning to come west the literature could be sent to those actually interested, and not to mere curiosity seekers who apply on a postal card for a booklet. The ideal descriptive booklet from the standpoint of the man who wants information about the west is an account of what some other farmer has actually accomplished in Oregon.

"Oregon has room and need for thrifty tillers of the soil. She does not need more people to come to her cities and every effort of the promotion department of the commercial clubs of the state should be centered on the development of our farming lands."

CAUSE FOR REGRET.

Considerable regret will be caused by the denial made by Andrew Carnegie, of the report that he had decided to give a fund of several million dollars to help found country libraries. The original statement of this matter brought out the fact that there are still 2,200 counties lacking any public library. It is a field needing help quite as much as the many towns which have already received Mr. Carnegie's generous assistance, among which Dallas is included. It will be hoped, however, that he may still be considering some plan of this kind. Of course in many of these 2,200 counties there are book and magazine clubs. But such informal organizations usually dispose of the volumes at second hand sale. Nothing is accumulated for future years. Moreover, such organizations are also very much hit or miss in their methods. Committees on choosing books are formed on the basis of social popularity. Their idea of literary excellence may be the book that advertises with the blackest and largest type.

The selection of books for a community reading calls for the best education and common sense. The reading club committee may look at a standard work like "Quo Vadis," and seeing the name of Nero, decide that it is history, and they don't want it. They studied all the history they needed in school. So they buy the froth of the moment, which will be valuable to the junk man a year later. The country library is a part of the machinery necessary to make rural life attractive. With wide awake books, the long evening in the farm house looks much less lonesome. The most important thing is a little permanent library home, which the Carnegie scheme of giving has always provided. As long as the book collection is kept in some one's clothes closet, or on some fly blown counter in a grocery store, its volumes reflect the transient character of its surroundings. If means can be found to erect a building, the nucleus of a library takes on the dignity of a permanent home. The people the thereby encouraged to help the enterprise along and work to make it grow.

SOME GUN, THIS.

Assuming that some foreign power may some day attack the Panama canal, the war department is engaged in fortifying it against possible future emergency. The Army and Navy Journal describes one of the guns which will throw a larger projectile than any other in the world. There is still about a year's work to do on the 16-inch gun before it is sent to the Panama fortifications, says this authority. The gun has been ordered shipped to Watervliet arsenal, where an elevating groove will be cut in the band near the breech. From Watervliet it will be sent to Watertown, and the gun will be installed in the immense carriage, which is now nearing completion. At Watertown it will have a shock test, after which the gun and the carriage will be shipped back to Sandy Hook for final test.

The progress of building the disappearing carriage is attracting the attention of ordnance experts of various countries and great interest will be taken in the firing test of the gun after it is installed in its new carriage. It will throw a larger projectile than any other gun in the world. It is estimated it will have an effective range of something like sixteen miles, which is beyond that of any other gun in the world. The final tests at Sandy Hook of two new 14-inch guns for Panama canal fortifications are about completed. The ordnance officers are highly pleased with the success of the tests, and it

is stated that a remarkable record of accuracy was made by the guns on long range firing.

HOW TEMPTING.

Have you ever noticed, dear paid-up subscriber, how really beautiful gum-chewing makes a girl appear? Take her defacto, and gazing steadily, one cannot find a more ideal picture. With a sharp click-click her teeth, very pearly and white, are clashing together as, with cowish glee, she masticates her cud. Then, too, you note her health-tinted, well-rounded cheeks as they grow a little more round, through the aid of a luscious hunk of gum. And, really, who can imagine a fairer spectacle than that of her daintily up-turned nose, as it gently rises and falls in wave-like undulations over the abyssal depths revealed at each pressure against her mass? How deliciously tempting is that rose bud mouth as the maiden fills it with a soft pliable chunk, and clamping like a festive goat revelling in the luxuries of the succulent tomato can, she greets you in tones husky with gum.

While the political campaign is still in its infancy, there is every indication that Oregon will go republican this fall by a surprisingly large majority. From all sections of the state comes the information that republicanism is in the ascendency, with bright prospects for the election of not only a United States senator and a governor, but of the lesser nominees as well. And while this condition appears to obtain as a whole, Polk county will be in line. The Observer's grapevine service brings encouraging news from nearly every precinct in the county, its correspondents asserting with no uncertainty of opinion that their respective localities are infected with the spirit of republicanism to such an extent that the contagion is absolutely beyond control by the opposition, and that the ticket will be elected from top to bottom.

Dallas should lose no opportunity for advancement, remembering that history is replete with instances of communities that rose while confronted with the hardships of development, but which, when the earlier tasks were accomplished, and the road to prosperity was reached, forgot that growth is the result of vigorous effort, and fell by the wayside.

It isn't altogether a thankless task serving the government in an official capacity. Vice-President Marshall and Speaker Clark have both been allotted \$4,500 automobiles. There are plenty of good men who would serve their country most patriotically even in the arduous position of vice president if they could be the recipients of such perquisites.

Speak well of Dallas business establishments, its professional men, its schools, its churches, and other institutions, and if there are any grumblers they will be awed by the unanimity of the sentiment for an improved city. In short, be a booster.

As compared with other lines, where a return is sought for invested funds, there is a safety and sureness about reality that appeals to the average mind and in itself serves to impart confidence, which is such an essential in all classes of investment.

The railroads again are placing large orders for cars, rails and engines. Further evidence of the anticipated return of good times, largely as the result of the bountiful crops.

From the viewpoint of the suffragets, Secretary Bryan is surely a model husband. He says he will ask no political rights for himself which he is not willing to grant to his wife.

Dallas has had a long run of "luck" with respect to the absence of serious fires, and everyone should be on the alert to keep this luck from changing.

The country not only is proud of its tremendous wheat crop, but it also is commencing to feel its oats.

The hop picking season will soon be with us again, when thousands of people from other sections of the state will come to Polk.

Real street improvements will be inaugurated in Dallas within the ensuing fortnight.

Seeking redress seems to be the only sport that appeals to some folk.

PARTY FROCKS.

Old Fashioned Designs Are Carried Out in Lingerie Materials.



GIRL'S VOILE FROCK.

Lingerie gowns in adaptations of the styles made famous by the pictures of Kate Greenaway are popular for little girls' party wear. They may be plain, embroidered or trimmed with lace, but a handsome sash is an invariable accompaniment.

Pictured here is a charming frock of hand embroidered voile. The high waist line and puffed sleeves are quaint and attractive.

A charming garment for the small girl is a little white nainsook made by hand and hand embroidered. It is cut in princess style, perfectly straight from neck to hem except that a low placed band of ribbon is run through wide loops of the material and tied in a bow in front.

Hand embroidered with scallops and dots is the neck, the ends of the short cut in one sleeves and the bottom of the little garment.

LONG TUNICS.

They Are In the Ascendant For Gowns of All Types.

The long tunic is seen on every type of costume, from the street suit to the negligee. Fluffy lingerie frocks of sheer organdie and embroidery have the staid and stately tunic, and if there must be ruffles the ruffles are put on the tunic.

Some of the long tunics worn in the street are buttoned down in front; others show buttons all the way down the back. Some of these tunics are quite simple in cut, with a slight flare at the sides and a very straight line at the



APRICOT LINEN GOWN.

back, from sash bow or edge of jacket to ankle. Others have a widely flaring cut or are set into the waistband with small plaits or even gathers.

The gown pictured here is of apricot linen with a long tunic, part of which is arranged in box plaits. The kimono blouse is cut with a low front, into which is fitted a vest and flare collar of white organdie. The gown is adorned with white bone buttons and has a girdle of patent leather.

Striped Sweaters.

For summer wear the striped sweater of silk is undoubtedly the cry of the hour. In green, lavender, blue, wheat and tango this beautiful and costly bit of sports wear with its sash is particularly effective with the white skirt or the white suit.

The Observer, \$1.50 a year.

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.

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