

Polk County Observer

Published Each Tuesday and Friday.

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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

THE ONWARD MARCH.

History teaches us that a country, city or town seldom stands still. The indicator either swings forward or backward. It may hesitate momentarily, but it soon points unerringly in the one or the other direction. Perhaps there have been towns that have grown to be great cities and become proud and prosperous in spite of themselves, but if such is a fact, there have been fortunate combinations unusual of location, immigration and other conditions which were aiding all efforts that were put forth in the going forward. On the other hand, towns with apparently no great future have overcome seemingly unsurmountable obstacles and grown to be great cities by reason of the helpfulness of the people. There is often such little difference between success and failure, just a little on one side or the other, that may throw the scales. The combined weight of the people can determine the course that a town, city or community is going to take. If they are on the side of progress, the place will progress. If some pull one way and some the other the work of the progressives is nullified. Combined efforts and harmony on the part of all is essential and necessary to bring results.

No prophet's vision or Solomon-like wisdom is necessary to say, or determine, that Dallas and Polk county stands upon the threshold of great advancement; the parting of ways is here. A failure to recognize the opportunities or beckon their approach, would mean at least a long delay in their arrival. We are located in one of the richest valleys in the most delightful land the world has given; peopled by intelligent and industrious men and women who are patriotic to all that is good, true and noble; favored by all, the advantages of climate, soil and water, surrounded by every charm of mountain grandeur. Nature has left nothing lacking that would add to its preeminence as an abiding place. It remains for those who live here to let the world know of the opportunities of this great valley and country.

Dallas has a live commercial organization that is doing effective work, but its activities are confined too closely to local affairs instead of undertaking to exploit the wonderful resources of this wonderful locality. Descriptive literature for circulation in the Middle Western states, from which a large proportion of the Pacific Northwest's new population is derived, appears to the writer to be a necessity. There are in Oregon something like one hundred and fifty commercial organizations, each one of which is sending broadcast large amounts of publicity matter pertaining to its respective locality, and unless Polk county becomes more active in this direction it is likely to be relegated to the background while other less pretentious sections with more progressiveness are reaping the golden harvest. While we are talking further development of our natural resources in order to enhance population for our consequent commercial benefit, we are doing nothing effective to that end. With the approach of the great San Francisco exposition, thousands of people from all sections of the eastern country will pay their respects to this valley, many with a view to locating permanently, and Dallas should place before as many of these as possible an invitation to visit this city. It should make this invitation so strong that it could not be resisted by contemplating settlers. It can be done. It is not a question of affording the necessary expenditure, it is a question of not affording it.

The fact that here and there is an individual who does not want the town and county to grow should not hinder the efforts of the progressive ones. There are plenty of backwoods places and villages without pride, ancestry or hope of future prosperity, to which they may go if they so elect. Personal and selfish consideration should

not block the progress of the community. Indifference to the advantages and needs of Dallas and Polk county must not prevent the achievement of the prosperity the future holds, and to the fulfillment of which capital and industry offer to open the roads to development.

Now is the time for action. Let us meet this emergency. Let us look at the larger questions involved in the name of all we hope to be, in the name of our children, in the name of the duty and the debt every man owes his home, his community.

SWEET CLOVER.

Farmers in various parts of this country are commencing to become interested in the possibilities of sweet clover as a forage crop. Until recently sweet clover has been held in little esteem, it being regarded, in fact, as nothing but a weed and comparatively worthless. It has been demonstrated, however, that sweet clover possesses qualities that really are valuable to the stock grower. For one thing it resists drought conditions in a remarkable manner, and while cattle do not readily take to it at first, it is claimed they acquire a taste for it and thereafter eat it with avidity. Moreover the crop grows so luxuriantly that it is claimed it will furnish more feed, to the acre, than any other forage crop grown, not even excepting alfalfa.

In Illinois the state college of agriculture authorities are making some interesting experiments with sweet clover. Also in that state there is a sweet clover enthusiast, a farmer named Graham, located near Rochelle, who has successfully used this crop for pasturage for beef raising on a somewhat extensive scale. Recently a party of about 100 prominent farmers from other parts of that state gathered at the Graham farm to investigate his sweet clover crop and methods. They found that under cultivation sweet clover grew so rank that the cattle turned out to graze on it could not keep it down, although the herd was large enough to have overstocked any other class of grasses or clover. It actually had to be cut to keep it in condition for grazing, although any other kind of forage crop would have been obliterated.

Like alfalfa and red clover, sweet clover is a soil builder. As a crop to plow under for the reviving of the soil it is claimed to have no equal. It has in fact been adopted in many instances expressly for that purpose. It also has the merit of inoculating the land for sowing to alfalfa, as it develops the same bacteria. Its advantages as a forage crop have been overlooked until recently. Here we have one of the pests of the country which promises to be among the most valuable of the possessions for solving the difficulty of the national meat supply, as well as for other purposes of food production and recuperation of worn lands.

APPROPRIATIONS BY CONGRESS.

The total appropriations made by congress for the last fiscal year amounted to \$1,098,686,788, and for the present fiscal year, if congress passes the pending river and harbor bill, the total appropriations will reach a total of \$1,121,700,000. For the full biennial term of the present congress, therefore, a simple process in addition shows that the grand total of appropriations will amount to very nearly two and one-quarter billions of dollars, a sum never before equaled in the past expenses and expenditures of the government for a like period.

It was only some twenty years back that Speaker Tom Reed offered the suggestion that this was "a billion dollar country," which was intended as a defense of the republican congress and administration of that day, when the criticism was made that government appropriations were becoming excessive. Naturally the expenses of the government have grown since that time, and annual appropriations of a billion dollars for government expenses no longer excite any great amount of comment. But the present democratic congress, despite democratic protestations in favor of retrenchment and economy, has given a boost to appropriations which cannot fail to attract attention. And as the democrats are in full control of all branches of the government they must assume the responsibility, and defend themselves against any criticisms that may be made.

Just the same it is intimated that some of the democratic leaders do not entirely relish the prospect, and they fear it is going to work to the injury of their party when the people ap-

preciate how strong the present democratic congress is going in the matter of appropriations. And they probably have considerable cause for worry on this score, for certainly the government's expenses have shown a rather surprising expansion under democratic management and direction.

RAILROADS AND EMPLOYEES.

The statements issued by railroad officials showing how the outlay for labor has increased, have become common-place. To the reader of the daily press who does not stop to consider the matter, they create the impression, as those who issue them wish to create, that a large part of the financial woes of the transportation companies at the present time is due to the demands of railroad employees for higher rates of pay. A few moments' examination of the facts, however, soon shows how unwarranted these statements are. An analysis of the operating performance of the carriers at once discloses the fact that the railroads by using larger engines, heavier equipment and by adding to train loads have developed a remarkable increase in efficiency of employees, and while adding to the labor of the wage-earner have reduced to a striking degree the labor cost of conducting transportation. An examination of the annual reports of 53 western railroads to the interstate commerce commission shows, that for 1,000 traffic units handled in 1890 the cost of engineers and firemen was 86 cents as contrasted with only 59 cents in 1913. In other words, these representative western roads were enabled to transport 1,000 passenger and ton miles 27 cents cheaper last year than in 1890, or, to reduce their engineer and fireman cost of handling traffic 31 per cent. In the light of these facts, the sham of the claim of the railroads that increased operating costs have been due to added outlays for engineers and firemen is apparent.

NAIL DOWN THE LID.

Some interest has been created in connection with the United States Senatorial campaign in Oregon by threats to "lift the lid from some old chests containing stories of other days," but so far as The Observer is concerned, without reference to this particular case, or any other, it believes that the lids of these old chests, instead of being opened at all, should be nailed down the tighter and the chests themselves with millstones about their middles east into the midst of the sea; or minus the millstones into the fiery furnace, from neither of which limboes would there be any chance of their coming back to fass the earth. Everybody knows the timber game throughout the land used to be played with soiled and marked cards, and that evil money changed hands, but let us forget it as soon as we can.

No person possessing the ordinary intelligence of mankind can read Mr. Booth's statement of principles without believing that he is sincere in his declarations, and that he would be efficient as any man could be in crystallizing them into actual governmental accomplishments. And these declarations are such that any republican can honestly subscribe to. Anyhow, they furnish a candid platform that no man need be ashamed to stand upon in appealing to his fellows for opportunity to serve them in public capacity. In these low tariff days his opinions as to the virtue of adequate protection to American industries and American workmen are likely to gain applause, while his position on other important questions are equally sound and unmistakably expressed. He puts the welfare of American producers and American laboring men above the welfare of the producers and the laborers of foreign countries. He believes that our problem is to look after ourselves, letting foreigners look after their own interests. He does not believe in reducing the profits of Oregon farmers and the wages of Oregon laboring men in order to open up new markets and make better times for New Zealand and China and Argentina and Canada. On the other hand, Mr. Chamberlain, the democratic candidate, believes in unrestricted competition with all nations of the earth, in free Chinese eggs, free New Zealand butter, and free Canadian lumber.

Mr. Booth's private and business life are an open book, known to practically every citizen of this commonwealth, and who can say that it has not been upright and honest?

Kentucky has a new eugenic law.

That's the state where, the tongue twister said, the horses are so beautiful and the women are so fast.

HENRY DISAPPOINTS DAD.

An interesting story is related of Henry Ford, the Michigan auto manufacturer, whose remarkable success in business reads like a fairy tale. When Ford was a boy on his father's farm near Dearborn, Mich., he is said to have given little promise of genius or ability in any particular line. Once when his father was called on to pay a debt that young Ford had contracted and was unable to meet, the disgusted parent remarked to the creditor: "I am afraid that Henry never will amount to anything. I guess he will end up in the poor house."

The sequel has proved how mistaken the elder Ford was in his pessimistic view of his son's future. Today Henry Ford is the head of one of the largest manufacturing concerns in the whole world, with an income "beyond the dreams of avarice," as the story-book writers are fond of putting it. He owns about 7,000 acres in the vicinity of his old farm home and is negotiating for the purchase of 3,000 acres additional. The improvements which have been placed on this model country estate are said to be simply wonderful, and they include a residence which alone will cost about \$1,800,000.

Of course not every boy of little early promise turns out so well, but often it does happen that the boy who fails in school work, or seems incapable of early grasping the problems of life, later rises to the pinnacle of success in some particular vocation or profession for which he is peculiarly adapted. History is replete with such instances, just the same as experience shows that the "bright and promising" boy often fails to come up to the early expectations of parents and friends. Henry Ford had it in him to achieve a wonderful success in business when the right opportunity came and he got the right start. And so may many other boys succeed, even though they give little evidence in early life of exceptional qualifications and abilities. Give the boys a chance—you never can tell.

CROKER AND TAMMANY.

New York reports a revival of the ever-interesting rumor that Richard Croker is planning to come back from his Irish exile, for the purpose of fighting Boss Murphy and deposing the latter as leader of Tammany. The same tale has been dragged forth every time a bit of hard luck befell Tammany under the Murphy management. In fact, Croker has actually come back on two occasions, each of which was heralded as the beginning of the end of the Murphy regime. Whether the ex-chief really intended to fight or not, he refrained on each occasion from trying conclusions with Murphy.

Now, however, it is alleged that Croker has a lot of "the goods" on Murphy, and is going after him, hammer and tongs. Perhaps there is enough of disgust among the hungry and way-worn Tammany rank and file to provide Croker with an assaulting force for a successful attack on the citadel of the hall. That will remain to be seen, if Croker really intends to come back and make trouble, which will continue to be doubted until he really starts the fireworks.

The really most interesting thing about the stories of Croker's contemplated return is the assumption that the old boss would come back to "reform" things and get Tammany in line with public sentiment. A political organization so far out of tune with the times that Croker could improve its orchestration is certainly in a bad way. It is hard to believe even Murphy has succeeded in handling Tammany so badly as that would indicate.

TRIAL OF MME. CAILLAUX.

The French people dearly love the salacious and sensational in the public trial of criminal cases, and they sure had this taste gratified to an unusual extent in the recent trial of Mme. Caillaux, wife of the former minister of justice, who was charged with the murder of Gaston Calmette, editor of The Figaro, a leading and influential paper published at the French capital. The fatal shooting of Calmette was not denied by the woman, who, however, sought to condone her act on the ground that she had justifiable provocation, through the repeated and vicious attacks on her husband in published articles in The Figaro, and the knowledge that the editor of the latter was about to publish certain letters that would reveal a

scandal in their private lives, in the shape of an intimacy carried on while both were married to other mates, from whom they subsequently were divorced in order to wed each other. All this was told in a highly dramatic manner by the accused woman when placed on trial for her life, who further admitted deep regret for her act, at the same time insisting she did not visit The Figaro editor for the purpose of slaying him, but was carried away by a sudden surge of resentment and anger.

The French conception of personal honor is rather mystifying and baffling to outsiders, and especially is this true of the French idea of a woman's honor. Where the defense of such honor is set up as justification of the crime of murder, however, public sentiment in France, and even the courts, always are usually ready to accept the excuse as good and sufficient, provided it can be shown the murderous act really was committed to protect personal honor. Mme. Caillaux, therefore, adopted a course in her defense that promised well and brought her acquittal. Moreover, she is described as young and beautiful, qualities for which the French have a peculiar susceptibility, although under similar conditions the same influences not infrequently divert the application of strict justice in other lands.

Report says a great diamond-producing trust has been formed, controlling ninety-eight per cent of the world's supply. Misery may love company; but people who cannot afford to buy meat will not feel like weeping on the necks of the millionaire ultimate consumers of sunbursts.

Many people in the Willamette Valley do not know they are living in a paradise. They are just beginning to learn it from people who visit them from the East.

President Wilson also has a pet crop which he is cultivating, in hope that it will yield bumper returns. And this, of course, is the peace crop.

Perhaps the politicians think it is quite useless to try to start something so long as the farmers are so busy with their crops.

Can it be that the old phrase is to be revised so that in future it will read, "When Ireland was two nations?"

Colonel Roosevelt's rest cure seems to be working all right. He has made arrangements to deliver several more addresses a little later on.

There are plenty of people in this world who always are ready to acknowledge the applause that is meant for others.

With the amount of competition most men have now, running for office is almost as hard as working for a living.

For Sale.
Good house and 2 lots in City View Addition for \$900.00. Will take team of work horses, or good second hand automobile as part payment. Inquire this office. 42-2t.

Forest Craven had the misfortune to have a finger punctured with a wire while baling hay at Ballston, and was laid up several days in consequence.

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