

Polk County Observer

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BY LEW CATES

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Office.....517-519 Court Street
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GREEN'S THEORY FAULTY.

With the eloquence of that masterful address so recently made in Dallas by Dr. Thomas E. Green still ringing pleasantly in its ears this community may well hesitate sufficiently long to ponder this dream of universal peace, which is by no manner of means new to the world, for seven centuries before the birth of the Savior the prophet Micah predicted a time when "they shall beat their swords into plowshares; nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." From that time to the present day, poets, philosophers and statesmen have continuously raised their voice against war and carnage, their logic being equal to those classic remarks by the learned chautauqua speaker who carried us away with his theories. Benjamin Franklin declared that there had never been a good war or a bad peace, somewhat ugly phraseology, but a truism that must live. General Grant, one of the greatest captains of modern history, hoped to be remembered longest by his activity in the treaty of Washington, characterized by him as an epochal stride toward universal peace. "Let us have peace," it will be remembered, was one of General Grant's most striking utterances during the Civil war. The United States has never had a president, with possibly a singly exception, who did not shun war both in theory and in practice.

England and the United States have been especially active in the cause of international peace through arbitration. For ninety-nine years their numerous disputes have been settled amicably. The first half of the nineteenth century only thirty international difficulties were settled by arbitration, most of these being between England and the United States. This success impressed other countries, and before the century closed there had been twenty such cases. During the last decade of the century there were six cases a year. The remarkable fact is that, while these questions covered a multitude of issues of a character that had plunged nations into armed conflict in the past, not a single award of a board of arbitration was rejected. By the century's close twenty-six powers had become parties to the Permanent International Court of Arbitration at The Hague. The Hague court now sits in the Palace of Peace, a courthouse of its own, dedicated last year. At last reports its docket contained 300 cases of more or less importance, affecting many nations.

With the wars now raging in Europe we may well look upon universal peace as an empty dream. The work of Dr. Green, "The Burden of the Nations," and those of other apostles of peace are evidently in vain. It is difficult to check the war spirit when the passions of the people are inflamed by wrongs, or imaginary wrongs, and wars will come even as some law-abiding citizens will engage in fistie combats. But we seem to be far from the fulfillment of Charles Sumner's prediction to the time when the bugles should "sound the true of God to the whole world forever." As gloomy and distressing as the present war situation must be to advocates of international peace through arbitration, they may congratulate themselves on previous achievements, for the world has escaped wars through their activity.

THE NEW HAVEN.

It may take five years to decide the New Haven suit of dissolution. This will give the road a chance to sell some of its properties at higher prices than now prevail, for the depression will not last that long. Even if the road will eventually have to sell all its outside assets, as the government is trying to make it, this step will be postponed for a number of years. The case will probably start next fall with hearings before a master.

er. These may drag on a year or two before the matter gets into court at all. Regardless of what the decision of the lower court is in the case, an appeal will be taken to the United States supreme court. An idea of the time which may very well elapse before the final decision is handed down may be had from an examination of the progress of the government's suit against the steel corporation. This suit was filed in the fall of 1911, nearly three years ago, and the matter has not yet gone into the hands of the lower court even. Given a period, therefore, of from three to five years before it will have to sell its stock in the Boston & Maine and other companies, the New Haven is in a very much better condition than it would have been had it accepted the proposition of the government and agreed to rid itself of its Boston & Maine in two and one-half years. Five years is a long while, and it is by no means inconceivable that before this time elapses we will have another big boom in business which would give the various New Haven subsidiaries increased earnings, and a decidedly higher market valuation than they could command now. Finally, it is by no means certain that the government will win its case against the New Haven.

WEAKNESS OF DEMOCRACY.

The weakness of the democracy as a national party is a corollary of that party's lack of faith in nationalization. Harassed and hampered by a fallacy that one hundred years of adverse experience has failed to shake, the democratic party in national places must ever be pressed by necessity and must ever struggle against it. The gravamen of democratic national belief is that a national government shall not be strong. Ergo, it must be weak. It must be a slithering, shuffling pretext for national command and control. Centralization is something to be avoided and abhorred—with nearly as much empiric and superstitious fear as is the "poisonous night air" held in dread by the unintelligence of the old world. The democratic party as a party is committed to the theory that the nation is, or ought to be a loosely cemented union of states—something like the Chinese so-called republic is today. This vital feature of the political diagnosis affords the unerring conclusion—that the democracy is in very principle unfitted for national leadership, particularly when the trend of events is toward the extension of federal control. Unable to fuse the survival of its basic, banal theory with the robust evolution of the period, the course of the national democratic party is ever one of unhealthy compromise, of costly makeshift and of weak evasion. There are and there have been times when the national democracy appears to be moved toward national greatness and with rapidity precipitate. But, when political leadership lacks conviction, it is not working out political problems honestly or wisely. The weight of the south, also, will ever prove a drag on the national democracy. The south has given us brilliant public men, but they have all been more or less restrained by the dogmatism of state's rights. Thus it is that, with the national democracy principle and policy are ever being bridged by inconsistency. And national progress is out of question when democratic theory constantly strives to prevent the country from taking the direction in which necessity is driving it and in which ultimately it must go, if it shall survive among the modern family of nations. It is an incisive commentary upon the general policy and principle of the democratic party that, if its leaders were consistent adherents of its confession of faith, it would be more pathetically weak than history discloses it. Were it not that a Cleveland or a Wilson now and then sets a sharp and oppressive heel on the traditions and teachings of the democracy, the history of that organization would be a pauper page indeed. Today, Mr. Wilson is virtually occupying that status which his party professes most to fear—a dictator at the head of the government. By reason of his "encroachments," Mr. Wilson has had extraordinary success in forcing through his program of legislation. To the democratic congress, there was many an unpalatable morsel on the Wilson menu, but down it went from "soup to nuts." It is because of this development that whatever of national achievement has been accomplished by the Wilson administration is being credited not to the democratic party as an organization, but to President

Wilson as a personal and aggressive force. There can be no national vitality to a national party that is strong only when it is inconsistent—nor to a national party that is obsessed by a fear of national greatness.

LOANS ON POLICIES.

Loans on life insurance policies by life insurance companies have increased five hundred per cent in the last twenty-five years.

The paragraph appears simple and unoffending. Yet it predicates a condition that strikes at the very philosophy and existence of life insurance and impairs, if not nullifies, the protective principle of one of the most kindly and beneficent systems that modern economy and philanthropy have been able to devise.

The borrowing feature of life insurance policies was developed by actuaries as an incident to the great plan of assisting the individual of worthy intent, but of small financial experience. It was not foreseen that it would prove a pest. "As regards the individual policy-holder," writes Wendell M. Strong of the American Actuarial society, "the evil is that, when a policy is once borrowed on, there is a probability that the loan will never be paid off, and that, finally, the policy itself will be allowed to lapse in settlement of the loan. As regards the company, the evil is the large amount of insurance which goes out of force because it has been borrowed on; this results in the necessity of spending money in commissions to agents and other expense to replace the insurance thus lost."

Briefly digested, loans on life insurance policies are seldom paid back. The reports of companies appear to show that a loan on a life insurance policy means virtually its death. Life insurance is taken out primarily for the protection of one's dependents. It is not an emergency account to be drawn on for the indulgence of whims or extravagances. It is not a contingent fund to be dipped into whenever other sources fail to provide money for the gratification of the desire to buy this or that luxury or convenience. Any practice which operates to lessen its breadth of effect or its general efficiency is foe of the moral and economic welfare of the community and nation. Thrift is fundamental. Prosperity and contentment rest upon it as a cornerstone and first course. Borrowing on life insurance policies appears to be the savage and unscrupulous foe of the three. In fact, so may be characterized any process which soaps the way for the borrower, save in business life and by business method.

THE PORTLAND HOG.

The Coquille Herald has arrived at the conclusion that the Portland free-advertising graft is going beyond the limit of endurance with the country press, but nevertheless Editor Levar spreads some ink in giving the Buyers' Week campaign publicity in the following sarcastic article, which is reproduced with the same intent and purpose for which it was written. It follows:

"The Herald is in receipt of a lot of dope from the jobbers and manufacturers of Portland, Oregon, advertising Buyers' Week which is set for a future date, with the assurance that 'any space or other co-operation that you can give this event will be greatly appreciated.' Sure, we take great pleasure in giving free advertising to the jobbers and manufacturers of Portland and their scheme to attract trade. These gentlemen are so liberal with the country press of the state in the matter of advertising—the free variety—that every paper ought to give unlimited space to boosting their business.

"When our neighboring town of Myrtle Point has a Fourth of July celebration, which is a public function and which we might be expected to boost free of charge, they insert an ad. in the Herald and pay for it. When these Portland cheap skates get up a 'buyers' week,' for the purpose of corraling a lot of trade from the merchants of the state, they expect the country press to advertise it free of charge. Well, that's what we are doing."

DEMON TEMPTATION.

The investigations recently instituted in Polk county appear to confirm the statement once made by Dorothy Dix that, "lurking in the shadow behind every young girl, so close that it can almost touch her, is a demon of temptation that is forever whispering in her ear." And this condition obtains not alone in this particular locality but throughout the land. Each young and thoughtless maiden is promised her heart's desire if she will only listen and meander down the primrose path. Pretty clothes that will make a fitting frame for her

youthful beauty; automobiles that go like the wind; gay suppers with sparkles in the glass; the love of romance where all is given without counting the cost; momentary merrymaking, and their like are the thrills that lure. Temptation comes in innumerable disguises, and therefore is difficult to combat. The only safe way, when the still small voice of temptation is heard whispering in the ear of the youthful maiden, is for her to fly to the arms of mother. The mother, the true mother, has a charm to exercise witchcraft.

OUR REPUBLICANISM.

Mr. Walter L. Tooze, Junior, republican state committeeman from Polk county, addresses a communication to The Observer, in common with other newspapers within his political jurisdiction, in which he seeks to ascertain the attitude of this publication as regards the republican ticket this fall, and especially as regards the candidates for United States senator, governor and congressman. As a committeeman Mr. Tooze is pursuing a course that will probably rebound to the benefit of the party, and therefore The Observer hastens to furnish the desired information as to its political position.

While The Observer is affiliated with the republican party, it emphasizes the fact that it reserves the right to be independent in all things, and especially of the party lash, to the interest of the public good. The writer has never knowingly given support to any unworthy man or measure simply because of his belief in the fundamental principles of republicanism. The Observer does not subscribe to all things that are done by the party; to all laws enacted, because many laws are ephemeral, but in those things framed to preserve the liberties of the people, and to establish a government as solid and enduring as the eternal rock it will be found true to the core.

Measures and not men are the consideration, and did it not believe that Robert Booth and Dr. Withycombe would untiringly labor for the best interests of their constituency The Observer would have no compunctions in hauling down their cognomens from beneath its masthead. (For further information see the advertising manager.)

THE WORLD IS SMALL.

No man liveth to himself, we are assured on the best authority. Nor is any nation independent of the world any more. Even the most isolated spots find that some ramification of the European situation affects it to some extent. America, following the advice of its first president in his farewell address, has kept free from entangling alliances, but many of its residents are being called to Europe to fight and its commercial relations are so intimate with the world that its stock exchanges had to close for protection of members. Already cries of distress are coming from American citizens who happen to be in the trouble zone. Many American pleasure seekers are embarrassed by the passenger embargo.

Some of the interrelations are artificial. Japan, for instance, half way round the globe, may become actively involved in the European clash solely because of its obligation to its ally. The Triple Entente and the Triple Alliance are artificial associations. The troubles of little Serbia, growing out of the plots of revolutionists or anarchists, have suddenly become the concern of the entire world. Texas, which has prospered in spite of battles along the Mexican borders, faces an immense loss on its cotton crop solely because of trouble in Europe. It is feared that America must absorb the entire crop, owing to the derangement of mills in Europe. On the other hand, the Kansas wheat owner has lively expectations of profit as a result of the demand for provisions for vast armies.

Not only has development of means for transportation and communication turned the world into a small neighborhood as to things of practical interest, but it has brought the world into sentimental touch. If the present difficulty had taken place fifty years ago nobody in the United States would have known about it for several weeks. A ship would have brought the belated news to New York and there would have been an agony of suspense until other ships came. It will be recalled that the battle of New Orleans was fought long after the treaty of peace had been signed. Now, thanks to the cable and telegraph and modern newspaper methods, we are kept advised of every step taken

by the kaiser and the czar and the comments of the newspapers of France and England thereon several hours before it happens, according to the almanic. In vain do the censors use their smudge on the dispatches of the resourceful correspondents. They keep us advised hour by hour as to the most important developments. It has become a small world and we have become exceedingly interested in the doings of our near neighbors. And it is to the interest of us all to try to keep our little neighborhood as pacific as possible.

APPRECIATED WORDS.

The appreciation of The Observer by people outside of Polk county is made evident by the numerous complimentary letters we are receiving from various sources. Last week Mr. W. Wynn Johnson, business manager of The Tacoma Ledger, told us that "The Observer would be a credit to a much larger town than Dallas," and now comes a communication from L. Samuel, general manager of Oregon Life, in which that gentleman says: "I want to congratulate you on the splendid appearance of your paper. It is really one of the cleanest looking up-state papers that I have seen in a long time. I am an ex-newspaper man and know when I see a good looking paper."

These kindly words of appreciation give the publisher new gimp to get into the harness.

ALL EUROPE AT WAR.

Europe has been an armed camp from time immemorial. It may now be graphically described as a huge war. Virtually the entire continent is in battle array. While there still remain some who nourish the hope that the magnitude of the conflict, as outlined on paper, and the immensity of the interests involved may yet operate to cut off short the preparations and halt that measured martial tread to which all of Europe is swaying and reverberating just now, it must be conceded that the events of the last twenty-four hours are of a nature inevitably tending to discouragement.

The Woodburn Independent has seen the error of its way, and installed a modern typesetting machine. The paper has also been enlarged to meet the demand of the machine for "copy."

At least the American people ought to have apples to eat this year. The latest and best estimates of the crop indicate that we will have some sixty million barrels at our disposal this year as compared with twenty-six millions last year and thirty-five millions in 1912. But when it comes to a startling announcement of a bumper crop like this, your ubiquitous middleman proves a perfectly good little shock absorber.

Some of the democratic congressmen who have failed to land their man resent keenly the charge that they are eating out of the hand of the president. They haven't even seen the president's hand. He keeps it behind his back.

George Washington's admonition against entangling alliances grows emphatically more prophetic as the decades are kicked into eternity.

It requires no ability to become embroiled with one's neighbors, individual or national. Keeping peace is the real proof of greatness.

It is now certain that war is hell.

The State Fair management is moving forward for the success of this annual event, which promises to excel all previous efforts. Secretary Frank Meredith, who, by the way, is the right man in the right place, is giving the fair a greater amount of publicity than heretofore.

Piano Tuning.

W. H. White of Reed & French Piano company, Portland, Oregon, will be in town during the week beginning August 17. All work guaranteed. Leave orders at New Scott Hotel.

Correspondents Wanted.
The Observer wants a correspondent in every community in Polk county not now represented, and is desirous of getting in touch with some person in each locality who will send in the news of that locality. Write this office for particulars. Do it now.

Semi-Weekly Observer \$1.50 a year.

NO DIFFERENCE.

The Proof Is Here the Same As Everywhere.

For those who seek relief from kidney backache, weak kidneys, bladder relief and the proof is here in Dallas the same as everywhere. Dallas people have used Doan's, the kidney remedy used in America for fifty years. Why suffer? Why run the risk of dangerous kidney ills—fatal Bright's disease. Here's a Dallas proof. Investigate it.

E. L. Sperry, carpenter, 318 Maple street, Dallas, Oregon, says: "My back and kidneys bothered me for quite awhile and I was advised to try Doan's Kidney Pills for relief. A short use of the pills rid me of the trouble and not a sign of it had ever returned. It is several years since I took Doan's Kidney Pills, but I haven't forgotten how greatly they helped me."

Price 50c. at all dealers. Don't simply ask for a kidney remedy—get Doan's Kidney Pills—the same that Mr. Sperry had. Foster-Milburn Co., Props., Buffalo, N. Y.

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



**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.**