

Polk County Observer

Published Each Tuesday and Friday.

BY LEW CATES

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

WAR AND GRAFT.

In time of war it is almost inevitable that more or less graft should creep into the business of supplying troops with food and clothing, and the present great European war promises to be no exception to this rule. Already there are ugly rumors of cheap and inferior shoes being purchased for the use of soldiers now fighting on the snow covered fields of Europe, and doubtless this is only one of many similar scandals, if the truth were known.

Speaking of this scandal in the purchase of shoes for military purposes, The Shoe and Leather Reporter, organ of the shoe trade in this country, charges that an outrageous fraud is being perpetrated by some of the contractors in this line of supplies. It says: "Leather held on shelves for years has been cleaned out at a modest profit to the tanners, but billed by the buyers at rates based on the present quotations for fresh, merchantable stock. It is even charged that men's dancing pumps were taken for export, the assumption being that the purchasers were delivering them in consignments of army shoes. It appears certain that quantities of leather and shoes only suitable for job lot sales of confessedly damaged or rejected goods have been delivered to the European armies at rates that would be high for the best grade products."

"Of course," says The Reporter, "these transactions are only made possible by the venality of officials. The poor quality of the leather and shoes must be obvious to the inspectors in Europe, who doubtless are in collusion with the men who do the buying in the United States."

Nor is it to be supposed that these infamous practices are confined to shoes. The Reporter has heard of buyers of canned meats for export "proposing that a certain number of cases be shipped empty, the charge for the goods not delivered to be the basis of the remuneration for the persons placing the order. To the credit of the packing firm approached, this despicable proposal was rejected."

The Reporter states, and we are glad to believe, that none of the guilt of this wretched business is attached to Americans. Yet nothing can be clearer than when Europe discovers what has been done, these criminal traitors will immediately throw the blame upon America, and will charge that American greed took advantage of the necessities of the buyers. As America has a reputation in Europe for sordid commercialism, doubtless these stories will be believed.

A shocking business, of course. Nothing more shameful could be imagined. Men are brought out to fight and suffer and die for their countries; and are then exposed to winter conditions in dancing pumps and rotten shoes, all that a few unscrupulously contemptible agents and officials may fatten their purses.

Yet it is a usual concomitant of war—part and parcel of it—seemingly an inevitable development of the war spirit.

SAN DIEGO'S EXPOSITION.

The San Diego Panama exposition opened with the tick of the clock heralding the first minute of January 1, 1915. The southern California exposition is not so large as the San Francisco exposition, of course, but no one should get the impression it is nothing but a side-show affair. On the contrary, it has been planned and built on an estimated expenditure of \$30,000,000, occupies a 1,400-acre park which adjoins the business and residence sections of San Diego, and includes ten large buildings covering about 400 acres, besides innumerable smaller buildings which will be devoted to various uses, all for the pleasure and convenience of visitors and sight-seers. The general arrangement and general effect are said to be the most perfect of any large exposition ever held, and by some competent judges it is even declared that the San Diego show is more beautiful and attractive, in its entirety, than the San Francisco exposition, whose formal opening will occur several weeks later.

To have planned and carried out this vast undertaking with such signal

success is a mark of high credit and distinction for the southern California city, and a really remarkable thing about it is the fact that it has all been done without appeals for help from outsiders, other than the usual invitations to foreign governments and leading industries. There has been, however, a general and gratifying response to these invitations to formally join in promoting the San Diego exposition, and the latter is therefore to be classed as a "big" exposition, and well worth a long journey to see its beauties and attractions. With two big expositions in progress at the same time in California, in fact, one can readily believe that state will be the Mecca of American travel during the coming year. And the San Diego show will surely get its share of patronage, for not only is it a great attraction in itself, but the western spirit of push and hustle is behind its management.

EVIDENTLY NEEDED.

No person familiar with existing conditions questions the Normal school's need of another building for training purposes, and The Observer is in nowise opposed to the appropriation sought by the regents. This publication's suggestion simply tended toward postponement of such an appropriation until financial conditions improved, believing that were it possible to successfully continue the good work with present accommodations it would be better for all concerned. Later information on the subject from an authentic source reveals the fact that, practically speaking, certain departments of the school are without a home, in some instance the corridors being brought into use for class work. This necessarily hampers efficiency. Then, too, this state institution is obliged to occupy a portion of the \$21,000 building erected by Monmouth for high school purposes, which condition should not be allowed to obtain by the taxpayers of Oregon. The Normal, according to The Observer's view, is the commonwealth's most valuable educational institution, for here it is that the foundation of our common schools, in which 95 per cent of our citizens receive their only education, is laid through the preparation of qualified teachers, and if another building is needed as badly as represented by our informant the legislature should lose no time in granting the regents' request for an appropriation of \$60,000.

SAWDUST MADE USEFUL.

Flour from sawdust is another step in the movement for the conservation of forest resources, and an industry which might be easily and inexpensively carried into effect by mills along the Dallas river. The United States consul at Christiania, Norway, has sent to this government a suggestion along this line which may be of value to American lumbermen who are wrestling with the problem of sawdust waste. The flour in question is not the kind which goes into the making of light, fluffy biscuits, and the other kind which are not light or flaky pastry, but it is an ingredient of dynamite, linoleum, xylyte, which for the information of the man on the street is a kind of artificial flooring; and other things. It is not put forward as a new discovery for it has been in use for several years in Europe, and to a small extent in this country.

The wood flour is ground in a cheap mill, very similar to those which grind corn and rye. Pine and spruce sawdust is used in Europe, and after passing through the stones and the bolting chest, it is sacked or baled for shipment. It is then worth twelve or thirteen dollars a ton. The flour has a number of uses, one of which is the making of dynamite. It is the absorbent for the nitroglycerine which is the explosive ingredient. Wood flour dynamite is inferior to that made with infusorial earth as the absorbent; but it serves many purposes, and is cheaper. But dynamite is one of the smallest prospective uses for the product. Linoleum makers mix it with linseed oil and give body to their floor coverings. It is not considered quite equal to ground cork for this purpose, as it is less elastic, but it is cheaper and meets requirements for medium grades.

The flour fills an important place in the manufacture of xylyte, a kind of artificial flooring, resembling wood in weight, and stone in other respects. It is used for kitchen floors, and in halls, corridors, cafes, restaurants and public rooms. It is impervious to water, and is practically fire proof. It is floor material in some of the German war vessels. It is so used because it is not liable to take fire or splinter if struck by shells. Many additional uses for wood flour will probably be found. The amount of sawdust to be had in this country is practically unlimited and millmen will welcome any plan that will lessen the waste at the sawdust dump. Norway exports thou-

sands of tons of this sawdust flour yearly and the United States takes some of it. Germany is a large manufacturer also, and has been for years. England is an extensive buyer and much goes to France.

FUTURE'S ROSY HUE.

While it must be admitted that complaints of inactivity are general in Oregon, as well as throughout the entire country, Dallas and Polk county appear to be more than holding their own. There are, comparatively speaking, few idle men in this locality, and reductions in wages have been slight. Businessmen, as a whole, report trade fairly good, with collections up to the average. It is true that the lumber industry is at low ebb at this time, but mills are operating, and see in the not very distant future an improved demand and a better market. Logging operations are curtailed to some extent, but this has not appreciatively affected business. The splendid agricultural resources of the territory surrounding Dallas have a bolstering effect. While lumbering operations add very materially to its prosperity, it is not wholly dependent upon the industry. Dairying and stock raising add in no inconsiderable measure in bringing in coin of the realm with which to keep things moving. The former of these industries is fast gaining a strong hold in the county.

The demand for ranch property is looking up to some extent, inquiries being more numerous than for many months past. And while transfers are not frequent the fact that inquiries are being made gives the future an encouraging outlook from a real estate viewpoint. The war has caused many Americans to return to the states from Canada, and that the Pacific coast country is attracting their attention is evidenced by the number of communications received from there by Secretary Soehren of the Dallas Commercial club. The greater demand appears to be for small tracts at reasonable prices.

Through the efforts of this organization others from middle western states have an eye on Polk county, and we may reasonably expect a considerable number of new-comers during the ensuing twelvemonth. When the plain, unvarnished facts concerning the resources, advantages and possibilities of this section of the country are presented for comparison with other localities on the Pacific coast we may confidently hope to get the lion's share of those seeking homes for pleasure and profit.

Another indication of the substantiality and prosperity of this section is the bank deposits of the local financial institutions, they showing practically no decrease over one year ago. Money for speculative purposes is not plentiful—and never should be—but for legitimate enterprises of a stable character there can be found funds.

A thoughtful survey of the situation, based upon personal observations and interviews with those who should be in position to know conditions as they really exist, gives color to the outlook for the future. But, while our natural advantages and resources may be unrivaled; while our geographical position may be most favorable; while our climate makes us the envy of multitudes of less fortunate ones, the rich endowments of nature alone cannot bring Polk county to the highest possibilities of development. Man must develop these natural gifts and it must be accomplished through individual and concerted action, with unanimity of purpose. And here is where the commercial organization needs the support and co-operation of all—capitalist, merchant, mechanic, professional man, laborer, farmer—all.

Popular sentiment will be with the administration in its effort to economize by cutting down the salaries of the heads of the larger postoffices. It will provide a means of effecting a large saving and will fall where it will be felt the least. Present salaries of postmasters are ample enough to permit the reduction without sending them to the almshouse or making them hunt up the poor commissioner.

Why is it we slip a dime to the fellow in a summer suit who, trembling, tells us he's out of work and lend \$5 to the well-dressed fellow who laughs as he tells you the boss fired him for being stewed?

By the recent defeat of Mr. Booth for United States senator The Observer has one thing to be thankful for. It has no agricultural department garden seeds to distribute among the farmers.

War or no war, one thing that Polk county urgently needs is more advertising of its resources.

No doubt that it pays well to be virtuous. One of the former parts of the Standard Oil trust, this time the

Ohio Oil company, declared an extra dividend of 13 per cent the other day. No such profits as these were enjoyed by the stockholders when the rapacious parent octopus was doing business at the old stand.

Rumors are again afloat that Secretary Bryan will retire from the cabinet shortly, and the source of the information seems to be of sufficient credibility to give the report considerable foundation of authenticity.

Thus far the war has cost Russia more than a billion dollars, and the other combatants proportionate amounts. But the conflict is young yet. Wait until this time next year and we shall have some figures worth looking at.

Reports from all over the country indicate that the Christmas trade has been generally satisfactory? And this will help to speed up the prosperity movement after the holiday lull.

According to Goethals the Panama canal cost something like \$353,000,000, including \$1,000,000 for fortifications.

THIS COW A MONEY MAKER.

It Is the Guernsey and Here Are Some Facts to Prove It.

The question is often asked, "Is the Guernsey a money-maker?" The answer to that depends entirely upon the line of dairying to be followed. If a dairyman sends his milk to a milk depot, and receives three or four cents in winter and three cents in summer for it, then the Guernsey should never predominate in his herd. On the other hand, if he has a milk route where he is able to get eight or ten cents for his milk, and sixty to eighty cents for his cream, the Guernsey breed may be safely recommended to him as a money-maker. The latter is also true, if he contemplates making butter for the market.

The Guernsey, in addition to possessing characteristics common to all the dairy breeds, has also distinctive points especially marking the breed, namely, a strong, vigorous frame, much nervous energy, with every indication of great vitality and capacity, besides a certain yellow pigment of the skin which indicates a rich golden color in the milk, which is much desired by the top-price customer. This yellow color is very pronounced in the Guernsey, and is held by them under all conditions of stabling and feed. In weight they average 1,000 pounds for cows, and 1,600 pounds for bulls.

That the Guernseys are becoming very popular, and giving an excellent account of themselves, is attested to by the fact that from a scarce dozen of 10,000 to 12,000-pound milkers the yield has been carried to over 18,000 pounds in a year. While it is certain, of course, that but few cows may be expected to do as well as the famous Dolly Dimple, in her official year's record as a three-and-one-half-year-old, when she produced 18,548.8 pounds of milk, and at the same time made the high butterfat record for the breed (906.89 pounds), still there are hundreds of splendid Guernseys whose yearly milk records exceed 10,000 pounds. Allowing a pint to the pound, for the sake of illustration, it is easy to figure \$400 a year gross profit on such a cow; and, allowing \$145 as the cost of keep, prosperity would seem to await the man who has sufficient foresight to start a herd of such cattle.

But to possess 10,000-pound cows requires careful selection, intelligent breeding, and good care. The bull should be selected with particular regard to ancestry, and will cost from \$150 to \$200, but for that sum the animal should meet all requirements of the most fastidious buyer.—Edward MacDonald.

GRANGES MAY CONSOLIDATE.

Buena Vista and Lewisville Contemplate Merging With Monmouth.

That the granges of Buena Vista and Lewisville, in south Polk county, soon will merge with the Monmouth grange, is the declaration of representative members of each body who are attempting to form one organization with strong centralized powers. Plans for the merging of the Buena Vista and Monmouth granges came as the result of the death of A. D. Cook, master of the Buena Vista grange, who was accidentally killed last month while carrying dynamite at his store near Parker.

Road Improvement Sought.

A delegation of taxpayers residing in what is known as Skunk hollow, tributary to Sheridan, appeared before Judge Teal the other day and asked for an appropriation to plank 300 feet of roadway there. The delegation was accompanied by Postmaster Eaton of Sheridan and E. Brown, a rural carrier. Ira Yocum and Thomas Merriek, who live in the hollow, were also present. This short

Some Trite Facts About Dallas In a Nut-Shell

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 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 has an electric light and power plant which represents an investment of over \$100,000, and furnishes day and night service to Dallas, Independence and Monmouth.

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

Dallas is the home of the Polk county fair.

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

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

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

stretch of road is said to be almost impassable during the rainy season, and Roadmaster Finn recommends the improvement.

WHO KNOWS OF A CRIPPLE?

Women's Clubs of State Giving Aid to Most Worthy Cause.

County Superintendent Seymour has received an appeal from the Oregon State Federation of Women's clubs, asking him to tell their hospital committee about any crippled children in Polk county who could be aided by a state-wide organization to furnish free medical treatment of the most modern scientific kind in all cases where the family income is not sufficient for expensive consultation with specialists.

The federation, which includes a hundred women's clubs in all parts of the state, asks anyone who knows of a little victim of an accident, of spinal meningitis, of infantile paralysis, of tuberculosis in the bones or joints, or any other crippling cause, to write the details of the case to Mrs. Millie R. Trumbull, secretary Child Welfare commission, 250 1/2 Third street, Portland.

The club women maintain that these little cripples, besides being the most pitiful of all cases of helplessness, and besides being entirely without organized assistance in contrast with the great institutions which care for the deaf, the blind, the feeble-minded and even the delinquent, are also the most curable if treated in time, and the most able when so treated to make good, strong, useful citizens instead of charges on public charity all their lives.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR THAT HOLIDAY GIFT

A few suggestive presents can be had:

A Bicycle, Football Basketball, Punching Bag, Boxing Gloves, Or any Athletic Supplies for the Boy.

And yet a Pocket Knife or Flashlight or Motorcycle Sundries should have consideration at

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