

Polk County Observer

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BY LEW CATES

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LAWYERS AND LAWS.

The old question of whether the lawyers are largely responsible for the adoption of ill-advised laws has been revived by a recent suggestion to this effect concerning the work of congress, this suggestion coming from a man who himself is a prominent attorney, whose theory runs something like: Attorneys make bad laws; three-fifths of the members of congress are lawyers; therefore the laws of congress are bad because the lawmakers are lawyers.

This is really an old argument, yet it is far from convincing and it would seem that an astute lawyer would be the first to see the superficiality of the conclusion reached. It would be just as logical to base such a conclusion upon the religion of the members, or upon their nationality, or on the color of their eyes or hair. It is the merest coincidence that unwise laws are enacted by a body containing a preponderance of lawyers. The same result would follow if the majority were farmers or blacksmiths or doctors—if the motives which actuate the members of congress still obtained.

Unwise, unjust and vicious laws are enacted by a national or state legislature or by a city council, not because this or that vocation of profession predominates in the membership, but because the members themselves act upon what they conceive to be the wishes of their constituents. Any lawmaker dependent for his office upon the good will of a majority of the voters of his immediate community, district or state, loses in great part his professional status. He ceases to be a lawyer, a teacher, a physician or a business man. He becomes the exponent of what he believes to be his constituents' desires—occasionally modified, it is true, by self-interest. But that self-interest is perhaps least controlling in the case of the lawyer. The business man or farmer would be most likely to vote for his pocketbook, when called upon to legislate on industrial and economic subjects. But business men are among the least numerous members of legislative bodies.

The law has always given the lawyer an advantage over his competitor for public favor, for obvious reasons. He acquires a faculty of leadership, a faculty in dealing with men, a breadth of experience, a gift of persuasion and impression through his readiness in speaking and training in argument. But it is an affront to one of the greatest of the learned professions to argue that the logical result of sending lawyers to lawmaking bodies is bad laws.

GERMAN RESOURCEFULNESS.

It is of interest to note the successful efforts of Germany in providing substitutes for various commodities which have been cut off by the war, and in making her own supplies more serviceable and lasting through the practice of economies and the elimination of waste. With open routes of commerce in control of her enemies, Germany has been forced to apply her best skill and ingenuity to the solution of this problem, and in several important particulars she has succeeded to an extent that is really remarkable. It is fortunate, of course, that this effort has been brought about by the necessities of war and for the direct purpose of prolonging the strife, but even this does not detract from the credit that is due to German skill and science as applied to this problem. Moreover, the world in general may ultimately profit through the additional knowledge gained through this effort, long after the present war has ended.

One of the things which is of prime importance to Germany in connection with military operations is gasoline. Under normal conditions Germany secures gasoline from American sources, from Russia, Galicia, the Dutch East Indies and Roumania. All of these are now cut off. The German chemists have replaced these sources with benzol, a side product in making tar, to the extent of more than half the need in ordinary times. The war requires such quantities, however, that ordinary commercial and private demands have to go without. Gasoline cannot be had for ordinary uses any more. Alcohol is employed in part for these demands, the supply of which is usually not limited, as it can be made from

potatoes, of which a coarse quality is grown for this purpose. Now, however, the making of alcohol is much curtailed.

Germany also has large requirements in rubber, the outside supply of which is gone. Scrap rubber is extensively employed, and there is plenty of this waste to be reconverted. Germany consumes about 800,000 tons of nitrogen from Chile every year. At present this is cut off, at a time when the demands for this article in the manufacture of explosives are enormous. Most of the ordinary supply is used in agriculture. This need must be left unsupplied. These are part of the commodities for which British war vessels are searching ships arriving at continental ports, to determine that they shall not enter Germany, to be used for war supplies. This condition underlies some of the questions affecting American shipping.

COURSE ON HEALTH.

While the rudiments of health are taught in the public schools generally, it has remained for a Pacific coast institution, the California university, to provide a straight college course to include this branch of education. As arranged by the authorities of that university there are to be two years of preparation study in physics, chemistry, zoology and modern languages, and four years of special training in the study of pure water supply for towns, profitable management of a sewage farm, suppression of flies, mosquitoes, fleas and other pests, what people ought to eat, and regarding the proper heating and ventilation of schools, churches and other public buildings, etc. Apparently ventilation of dwellings is not included.

From the suggestion above on the list of studies, attention to diet and nutrition apparently is not given the degree of attention its importance merits, especially if we accept the dictum that a large part of the disease from which the world suffers is due to improper diet and habits of eating. The proportions of food, the balanced ration, the harm done by over-doing any of the necessary elements in the diet, the impairment of functions and vitality from excess in eating, are some of the points made emphatic by the study of nutrition and food assimilation and the bodily requirements the past few years. Possibly all are covered without having been properly noted in the information given out for publication, but if so the informant did not give us the correct idea of the new courses at the university of California. However, it is something to have made so pretentious a start in this direction. Modifications can be made as further study of the subjects permits.

The fact that ventilation of public buildings is included is of some moment. It seems surprising that after forty years of mature conclusions on this subject architects are still building structures for public use with little or no provision for fresh air, and that this generation has all but forgotten the lessons learned by long and costly experience on that subject.

WHEAT PRICES.

Spokane Review: "At Portland, on Puget sound and throughout the Pacific northwest, wheat commands the highest prices paid since cargoes started out of the country for distant markets. It is questioned if such prices were ever paid before since Dr. McLaughlin, 84 years ago, blasted out a millrace and built a flour mill at the falls of the Willamette. Or, to take yet an earlier date, since the Hudson's Bay people built their little mill at the falls of the Colville river some 90 years ago. As surely as the melting snows swell the rivers in springtime, just as surely will these high prices for the products of the farm and the stock ranch bring prosperity to the towns and cities of the inland empire.

"Wheat at \$1.12 in the farming country around Spokane must fill with joy the hearts of those farmers who were in the country 20 years ago when the price dropped to zero—when the bulk of the crop was ruined or injured by rains and even choice milling wheat sold as low as 25 cents a bushel. Many have forgotten the cheer that came when wheat went up a few years later and sales were reported in The Spokesman-Review at 50 cents a bushel. When it climbed to 60 cents the farmer thought himself again on Easy street.

"While The Spokesman-Review can not undertake to forecast the future it is beyond the bounds of prudence to say that many authorities in the grain business look forward to as good or better prices throughout 1915. And the live stock industry seems assured a long period of good or fancy prices. Officials of the United States department say that short of 10 years it will be a physical and industrial impossibility to build up American herds to their numbers of a few years ago. In other words, we may prepare for a decade of high meat prices.

"Never in the agricultural history

of the country has there been a time when stock growers could go forward with such prospects of immediate and continuing reward. Commercial and industrial timidity can not long withstand these reassuring influences. The frost of impaired confidence is nearing a thaw."

THE SECRETARY.

The appointment of a secretary to the Commercial club is of vital importance to that organization and to the entire community, and consequently the matter should have careful consideration. Upon this official devolves the work of disseminating information regarding the resources, advantages and possibilities of this section to the hundreds of inquiries from all parts of the country, and not only must he be conversant with these things, but must necessarily be in touch with every activity within the hall, and moreover be capable of presenting them in concise and comprehensive fashion.

The principal object of a commercial organization of this character, supported wholly by the subscriptions of public-spirited citizens, is to induce homeseekers to settle upon and develop the new lands that are now giving no returns, and to increase the length of the tin-pail brigade through the securing of manufacturing industries. Other than to harmonize the community for the general welfare of all along publicity lines, and to serve as a target for the chronic knocker, there is comparatively little that can be accomplished by Mr. Secretary locally, for expenditures of money in exploitation work that gets no farther than the city's gates may truly be termed hiding our light under a bushel. In order to make efforts of the club worth while the unrivaled resources of Polk county, together with the many opportunities that here await the homeseeker or manufacturer, must be heralded abroad throughout the length and breadth of the land in logical and forceful style, yet devoid of flowery embellishments, and this is incumbent upon the secretary, who in reality is the community's publicity manager.

There are a number of applicants for the secretaryship, some of whom are seeking the place for the salary it carries rather than with a thought of qualification, or the good they may accomplish in return for that remuneration. These latter should not be considered. Others there are who, although practically inexperienced in the art of publicity, are the best timber available, and from these a selection must be made with a view to qualification rather than good fellowship. Community development during the coming twelvemonth of returning prosperity, when thousands upon thousands of people will have an eye upon the Pacific coast country, will depend largely upon the man who is appointed secretary tonight.

In connection herewith it might incidentally be urged that the community as a whole recognize this organization as one essential to their permanent prosperity, and adopt it. As individuals of Dallas we should show that public spirit and that unity of purpose which prompts us to find more satisfaction in promoting the general good, in which we share, than we do in our own personal gain and our own personal achievement which leaves the general good out of account. There is much tending toward the material advancement of Dallas that may be accomplished through united effort and concerted action, and every property holder should not only contribute of his money to this end but should personally put a shoulder to the wheel.

NURSES NEEDED.

Apparently there is pressing need of more competent nurses to care for the ever increasing number of wounded soldiers in Europe. Complaints are coming in from various quarters in the war zone that sick and wounded soldiers in the hospitals of the allies are suffering for lack of expert nursing, and efforts are being made by medical authorities to secure trained women to take the places of the incompetents. In Germany there does not appear to be so much trouble of this kind, because in that country the same care, even to the minutest detail of hospital work, was exercised in getting this branch of the service to the highest possible standard as was evidenced in other war preparations. Germany trained her nurses just as she trained her soldiers, and when the call came for actual hospital work the machine operated without a jar.

When the great war broke out thousands of women and girls besieged the French and British authorities for places in the hospitals. While many of these applicants were trained nurses and were therefore fully competent for the service, the majority of them were merely emotional and romantic women, moved by the prevalent spirit of patriotic fervor and excitement. Others were actresses, opera singers, moving picture workers and society leaders with ambitions to gain notoriety by this sort of thing. Many of the latter class are now coming to this country to reap the harvest of their sowing. They have grown tired of attempting to nurse wounded soldiers. The novelty of the thing has worn off and they did not find it nearly as romantic as they thought. One reads of the arrival from Europe of actresses and society women who have deserted their posts and are anxious to be interviewed upon their experiences. Many of these women pose for the photographers in their nurses' uniforms, which are usually natty and becoming.

If the great war lasts much longer there is sure to be a call for every available trained nurse who is willing to engage in the work of caring for wounded and sick soldiers. And it will be fortunate for the soldiers when all the incompetent women volunteers are supplanted by professionals. There will be less romance but more effective dressing of wounds, closer attention to the instructions of surgeons and physicians and greater skill in soothing the pains of the sufferers. For there is nothing quite so comforting to a sick man as the quiet presence of a thoroughly trained woman nurse. It is not so much that the average man wants to be coddled, although he does, of course. But he wants to feel perfect confidence in those who minister to him.

The taxpayer is with the council in its determination to keep expenditures during the current year within the budget appropriations. It will doubtless require some special effort in financing, but the old adage that "where there's a will there's a way" applies.

"We are living in an age of the greatest fraternal spirit," Prof. William Howard Taft so far forgot himself as to say to a class at Yale the other day. Evidently the ex-president hadn't heard from the precincts across the water.

If a nation that is prepared for war is sure to get into war, as Mr. Bryan says, and a nation that is unprepared for war is sure to have a fight on its hands, as Congressman Gardner asserts, isn't it about time for us all to take to the woods?

The dairy cow is destined to be a large factor in Polk county development.

About time for the prosperity guns to commence to boom in broadsides.

After all, the new year does not seem much different from the old.

The new year has started out "big with promise," to say the least.

OTHERS' OPINIONS

Our Political Vermiform Appendix.

The capitalist social system is bad enough at best, but when the thing is put in charge of the democratic party the misery becomes something fierce. It's like putting salt on a raw spot. The democratic party is one of those mysterious circumstances that afflict mankind, and for what purpose nobody on earth can tell. Like the vermiform appendix that grows in our insides, its only function is to give us the gripes. Its principles consist of anything that will pass the lunacy commission and board of health. All it professes to know about political economy is to hate a nigger. Its history embraces chattel slavery, Delaware whipping posts, a civil war, a dozen panics, and several thousand lynchings. Outside of operating the Tammany troughs, this is about all it has ever been known to do for the country.

The capitalist system is a big gambling game. It takes brains to even successfully run a gambling game. Brains and bourgeoisism don't thrive in the same head. Monkeying with the tariff and doctoring the currency are the choice performances of the democratic party. When it gets through with the job the country looks like a china shop in charge of a Texas steer. When the democratic party has rocked the boat until everybody is floundering in deep water then it piously informs us that the damage done is entirely psychological. We are told to pray to God for some peace and prosperity. Elder Bryan is even suggesting prohibition of the liquor traffic as a cure for our miseries. If everybody only had a policeman to keep them sober he thinks the people would soon be all right.

The democratic party is like the orthodox christian creeds. It possesses a nerve of solid brass. Nothing can shake it, not even one of its own stark naked panics. It has the monumental gall to claim Thomas Jefferson as its professed guide and exemplar. The principles laid down by Thomas Jefferson and the bourgeoisism of the democratic party of today, are as far apart as the humbugs of the orthodox christian creeds, and the revolutionary gospel of Jesus Christ. Jefferson and Jesus were splendid souls.

The democratic party, and the orthodox creeds are soulless snakes.

The democratic party is mongrel bred and born. It is produced by crossing a cockroach capitalist with a feeble minded proletariat. This abnormal production only gets in the way of the fight between the intelligent proletariat and the real capitalist. The struggle as to who shall own the earth, the workers or the exploiters, is thus badly handicapped. The existence of this mongrel nuisance only prolongs, and when in power intensifies the agony. If the democratic party was dead, embalmed, cremated and buried, the present would be vastly improved, and the future infinitely brighter.

To vote a democratic ticket shows neither intelligence or purpose. It simply discloses that the voter has completely lost his bearings, and is aimlessly wandering down the road to yesterday. If you want capitalism vote the capitalist ticket—vote for the republicans to run the game. They at least know how to shuffle the cards so that all the players don't go broke at once. If you want to revolutionize society, if your heart yearns for a world of equality in the means of life, vote the socialist ticket. The only real political fight is between socialism and capitalism. The democratic party represents nothing under the sun but more trouble than you already have. If the moss was torn off its hide it would die of fright. It could no more stand the light of the twentieth century than an owl could endure staring at the sun. What sort of a mental microbe it is that afflicts the democratic party the doctors have been unable to discover. Maybe they are phantom bugs from the story of the plagues sent on Egypt. If Jehovah had loaded the democratic party on old Egypt Pharaoh would have come across in a hurry.

The next time you feel yourself getting foolish, and a hankering to vote a democratic ticket—creep up your system beat it to the tall timber and bust your head against a tree. Keep on buttin' till you come out of it. Or else eat some worms, it won't make you any sicker, and you'll get over it sooner. Do any ridiculous thing you can think of, except to vote a democratic ticket. Sign a pledge today, in the presence of your hungry wife and babies, that you will break yourself of the ornerly habit of voting a democratic ticket, or die a tryin'. Jerk yourself loose from the crowd that's going backwards. Look in front of you, and not behind you, and see the real struggle—the struggle between the workers and the exploiters. Join yourself where you belong in this

struggle. Don't fool away any more of your precious time with a political outfit that is musty with the odor of the seventeenth century. Remember this—the republican party represents the exploiters, the socialist party represents the workers and the democratic party represents the ghost of your great-grandfather's times. Get this firmly fixed in your head, and act accordingly.

And be quick about it, there are others suffering on account of your d—d foolishness.—The Melting Pot.
A. H. DENNETT.

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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.

Dallas is picturesquely situated on the LaCreole river, and has a happy and contented population of about 3,000, 90 per cent American.

Dallas is the county seat of Polk county, and here is a handsome \$40,000 court-house of Oregon stone.

Dallas has a \$50,000 High school building, and two modern ward school buildings.

Dallas has hard-surface streets throughout the business district, and many miles of concrete sidewalks.

Dallas has a gravity water system—pure mountain water from the hills miles away.

Dallas has a packing plant, handling upwards of 3,500,000 pounds of prunes annually.

Dallas' manufacturing institutions distribute approximately \$200,000 annually among its 300 employees.

Dallas is free from malaria, ague or dangerous epidemics. Death finds its victims principally in old age.

Dallas has a Southern Pacific machine shop, where about 50 persons are employed.

Dallas has a modern and thoroughly equipped hospital.

Dallas has a \$10,000 public library and reading room.

Dallas has a creamery that takes every available ounce of cream at top prices.

Dallas has some knockers; but, thank the Lord, they are in the minority.

Dallas' public schools are on the accredited list with all state universities.

Dallas has a men's social club occupying well appointed rooms, and this is but one of several similar organizations.

Dallas' section is rapidly developing the dairy industry. There are several registered herds, and more coming.

Dallas has a sportsmen's organization, the Nesmith Rod and Gun club.

Dallas is supported by people who are making money, and consequently have money to spend. One cannot distinguish the city chap from his country cousin.

Dallas has tributary bottom lands as productive as any in the world, with the exception of those along the Nile.