

The Polk County Observer

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READS LIKE ROMANCE

POLK COUNTY MAN FALLS HEIR TO A FORTUNE.

Ed. A. Eaton of Hopewell Unexpectedly Finds Himself Worth About \$100,000.

To have lost all one possessed, in a material sense, through sickness and death in the family and to have knocked around making an honest living as best he could for himself and daughter for several years and then to awaken one bright spring morning to find that he had unexpectedly fallen heir to property in the east to the approximate value of \$100,000, is a state of conditions which would bring gladness and rejoicing to the heart of almost any human being and such has fallen to the lot of Ed. A. Eaton, who has been eking out a living by buying and selling all kinds of farm produce in the village of Hopewell, in Polk county, and his daughter, Mrs. Lizzie Smith, who now lives in Chicago.

Not many years ago Mr. Eaton, a man of about 50, was a prosperous citizen of Illinois, happily possessed of a little home and surrounded with all of the little blessings that make life worth while, but the happy household was stricken with disease and when the "grim spectre" finally came to reap his harvest Mr. Eaton awakened to the realization that he had lost his beloved wife and helpmate, that his little fortune had been exhausted and he was thrown out upon the world to start all over again with an aching heart and a little girl to bring up and educate in the world. He went to California, where he performed such work as he could find to do, and, two years ago, came to Salem.

Although possessed of a good education, having had good schooling in his youth as an adopted son of a well-to-do Illinois farmer, he did not stay in the city but struck out for the country where he could be close to mother nature and away from the frivolities of city life. He left his daughter in the east to finish her education. He started out to buy poultry, eggs, butter, and, in fact, all kinds of farm produce which he shipped to the city markets until he met up with W. C. Miller, an old and prosperous farmer of Hopewell, who provided him with living quarters and office and storeroom in which to carry on his commission business and with work during the cultivating and harvest seasons, and there he has made his home for nearly two years. In this way he managed to pick out an honest living for himself and an education for his daughter since the day he lost his wife and home and met up face to face with adversity.

One day recently he received a big legal looking package through the mails and when he opened it he found that he and his daughter had fallen heir to the fourth of an estate in Illinois, left by an aunt by adoption, Mrs. L. J. Eaton, and that their share would amount to about \$100,000. For his share of the fortune, which he is to divide with his daughter, he will receive an 80-acre farm near Aurora, Illinois, fully improved, including a modern two-story farm dwelling; two lots with houses in Springfield and some valuable real estate in the city of Chicago. The farm land is worth \$250 per acre on the market, besides a coal right which goes with the farm, the value of which is inestimable.

After settling up all of his affairs Mr. Eaton departed from Salem yesterday morning for California, on his way back to claim the estate and to be reunited with his daughter, who was happily married last September and who is preparing to move back to Springfield upon one of the properties of the estate. Mr. Eaton has fallen in love with Oregon and its matchless climate, however and when he gets his business straightened in the east and converts some of the property into ready cash, he will return to Hopewell where he has taken an option upon a valuable tract of farm land and where he expects to spend the balance of his life.—Salem Journal.

ARE STILL INCOMPLETE

VERD HILL ADVISES PEOPLE TO ATTEND FAIRS LATER.

Polk County Man Returns From Hawaiian Islands and Big Expositions.

The Hon. Verd Hill of Independence has returned from Honolulu, San Diego, and San Francisco, with or he was accompanied by his wife, and while at Albany the other day was interviewed by a representative of the Herald, through whom he advised all Oregonians intending to visit the expositions to wait at least two months, both being incomplete at this time. Many of the exhibits are not in place, and those of foreign countries have not been even started, in some instances.

Speaking of the country in California Mr. Hill stated that vegetation in Southern California was not any further advanced than here in the Willamette valley and at the same time remarked that the Willamette valley had not experienced the damaging rains that had infested that section of the neighbor state the past winter. Winter crops of all kinds have been completely ruined but the California people whom he characterized as "loyal to the core" refuse to allow any statements damaging their section of the country to receive any larger circulation than possible. Everybody is a booster. The frost has damaged the orange crop there this year to a considerable extent but this fact is kept quiet.

HELLO TO GRAND JURY

DALLAS MAN HELD BY UNCLE SAM FOR SWINDLE.

Federal Detectives Assert He Used Mails in Clever Scheme to Defraud.

Another clever scheme for separating the unwary from their coin crumbled under the weight of the law Saturday evening when Deputy United States Marshal Harrmann and a postal inspector arrested W. E. Fox here on Saturday on a charge of using the mails to defraud. When arraigned at Portland on Tuesday, Fox waived his preliminary hearing before Commissioner Frederick H. Drake. He told the commissioner he wanted to plead guilty and start his sentence, but owing to the federal regulations he will not be allowed to plead until a grand jury has passed on his case.

The postal authorities say that Fox advertised in the Seattle papers for mechanics, machinists, locomotive engineers and the like to go to work on the construction of a large sugar mill in Honduras. Write to the Information Sales company at Dallas, advised the advertisement, giving a record of the persons you have worked for during the last year. No fees charged, but—now comes the joker: Enclose 50 cents to pay for investigation of your record. If you prove satisfactory your transportation will be paid to Honduras and you will be guaranteed six months' employment. The postoffice authorities, it has been brought out by the government sleuths, delivered from thirty to fifty letters a day to the box of the Information Sales company, per J. T. Bennett.

Investigation followed. Saturday, when the inspector and the deputy marshal grabbed Fox, at first he pleaded ignorance. One J. T. Bennett, he said, was running the business. "Hop into our auto and we'll go get Bennett," said the inspector cheerily. "Bennett's out of town," Fox objected. "That's all right," returned the inspector. "Come on. We'll get Bennett if he's anywhere in the United States. In fact," he observed, scrutinizing Fox closely, "we've got him now."

Fox went with the officers to his home where a number of un cashed money orders were found, also an order which he had drawn to pay an advertising bill from a Seattle paper. The inspector says that Fox's method was simply to open the letters, take out the 50-cent pieces, and throw the rest in the fire. When a self-addressed inclosure bore a stamp the little red seal was torn off and saved. The writer never heard anything from the Information Sales company.

Fox was in charge of the Portland Cement company's property near Dallas, from where he prosecuted his operations. His family is now there. He is quite well known in this city, having had business dealings with a considerable number of people, some of which was not with the utmost satisfactory results.

MRS. BRIEDWELL DEAD

MEMBER OF YAMHILL PIONEER FAMILY PASSES AWAY.

Amity Woman Who Settled in Oregon in 1865 Victim of Poor Health of Several Years.

Mrs. George W. Briedwell, wife of a prominent farmer and business man of Amity, died Monday afternoon at St. Vincent's hospital, in Portland, where she underwent a serious operation last January. She was a member of a well-known pioneer family of Yamhill county and had a large number of friends in Polk county, as well as in Amity. Mrs. Briedwell, then Miss Olive L. Maddox, arrived with her parents in Yamhill county in 1865. They came from Monroe county, Missouri, where Mrs. Briedwell was born August 29, 1859. She was married November 28, 1882. She made her home continuously at Amity with the exception of four years. Mr. Briedwell served as county clerk when the family lived in Lafayette. Mrs. Briedwell during the greater part of her life had been an active member of the Christian church.

Mrs. Briedwell was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Maddox. Besides Mrs. Briedwell she is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Norris M. Stone, of Portland; two sons, Glen L. and Paul R., of Amity; two sisters, Mrs. E. W. Laneffield of Amity, and Mrs. J. R. Sawyer of Portland, and a brother, B. W. Maddox of Roseburg.

MRS. BRIEDWELL DEAD

OFFICERS ARE ELECTED

CHET. COAD OF DALLAS GETS THE SECRETARYSHIP.

Association Now Ready for Work, and More Than Half of Stock and Acreage Taken.

Mr. C. G. Coad of this city was on Tuesday elected secretary of the Oregon Hop Growers' association, succeeding Fred N. Stump of Suver, who acted temporarily and who declined to stand for the permanent position. Mr. Coad was also made a member of the executive committee, he and Mr. Stump being the Polk county men represented in the organization. The other officers are: President, M. L. Jones of Brooks; vice-president, J. L. Clark of Springfield; treasurer, Ladd & Bush; executive committee, chairman, M. L. Jones; secretary, C. G. Coad; J. L. Clark, J. R. Kirkwood, Sheridan; Fred N. Stump, Suver.

It was the unanimous opinion of the members of the board that the financial affairs of the association should be conducted through the local banks and that the loans be secured by the association. The association is now fully organized and more than half of the capital stock of \$150,000 has been subscribed. About 12,000 acres of the 20,000 devoted to hops in Oregon are represented in the association. It will sell the hops of all its members and will aid those who need financial help to

TALK BEFORE STUDENTS

MRS. GERLINGER AND PROF. BUTLER INTEREST PUPILS.

Scholarship Fund Urged By Dallas Promoter of Education—Mining Course.

Two very interesting talks were given in the high school assembly last week by Mrs. George Gerlinger of this city and Prof. G. H. Butler of O. A. C. Mrs. Gerlinger spoke in the interest of a student scholarship fund to be raised by the students, and awarded each year to some deserving student to assist him in meeting the expenses of a college course. Some of the larger schools are now raising such a fund.

Mr. Butler's talk was chiefly to interest the boys of the high school in the course in mining engineering offered by O. A. C. He presented some very alluring facts regarding this line of work, but at the same time insisted that results in this work, as in all others, could be accomplished only by diligent effort. In his general remarks before the student body Mr. Butler rather surprised his hearers by saying that he would not advise all of them to attend college, but would advise some of them not to. If they had frittered away their time in high school, as some students in all schools do, they would probably waste another four years in college. He emphasized the fact that habits formed in high school will greatly influence the future of the pupil.

PROF. TEATS TO MAKE CHANGE

Independence Secures Sheridan's Superintendent of Schools.

Prof. B. A. Teats, now superintendent of the schools at Sheridan, has accepted the superintendency of the Independence schools, and will this week sign a contract with the board of education of that place for two years. Mr. Teats formerly taught in the high school at Independence, afterward accepting a position in Dallas. He is a successful educator, and the school interests of Independence are to be congratulated upon securing his services.

Children Are Entertained.

The annual entertainment given by the Eastern Star lodge to the children of the members under 18 years of age was held in the lodge rooms in the Masonic temple on Tuesday evening. The evening was very pleasantly spent in playing games and other amusements. A short program was given. At a late hour a banquet was given at which both the children and their parents partook. About ninety guests were present.

Paraphernalia Attached.

When Barnum, the hypnotist, departed from Dallas about ten days ago he failed to liquidate his printing and advertising bill with the Observer. This account was forwarded to the Merchants' Credit Exchange of Hood River, where Barnum operated last week, and on Saturday his paraphernalia was attached before payment could be secured.

produce their crops. Similar associations are being organized in California and Washington, the ultimate purpose being co-operation on the part of the associations of the three states.

Headstones for Union Soldiers.

The Dallas Grand Army post wants the names of all Union soldiers buried in local cemeteries that they may be forthwith reported to the national government, which supplies free of charge headstones to mark their last resting place. About a year ago the post undertook to secure these names, but relatives and friends of the dead heroes failed to report, and now it is making another effort. Peter Greenwood, commander of the post, should be notified.

The first game of the season at the Christian church's tennis court was played last Saturday. The grounds have been put in excellent condition.

POLK AT THE BIG FAIR

GOOD EXHIBIT IN PALACE OF EDUCATION FROM HERE.

Many Eastern Visitors to Exposition Show Interest in Oregon and This Valley.

(By Dr. H. C. Dunsmore.)

Oregon Building, San Francisco, March 23—California has at least redeemed herself as regards her weather, as for the past two weeks it has been all that could be desired. However, it requires considerable sunshine and pleasant weather to make one forget the continuous rain and gloom throughout almost the entire month of February.

The exposition seems to become more and more attractive each day, and the continuous special events entertain and interest the crowds. Individual California counties have their special days, each evidently trying to surpass the other in their parades and programs for the entertainment of the public and their own exploitation.

Special interest connected with the early days of this week has been the visit of Vice-President Marshall as special representative of the president of the United States. The battleships anchored in the bay in front of the Oregon building, viz: The Oregon, Colorado and Maryland, along with numerous torpedo boats, cruisers and submarines, were gaily decked with flags and bunting and as his excellency passed from one ship to another, their great guns bellowed forth the presidential salute of twenty-one guns until the air was thick with the smoke of their explosions.

Of the crowds that daily pass through the Oregon building, we find many who are actually interested in Oregon and eager for information. While, of course, the great majority are simply curious sightseers, we find many who really want to know. Every day I talk with from one to half a dozen people who have come from the middle or eastern states, with the express purpose of seeking a new location. If only a small percentage of those whom we try to point the right way should eventually settle with us the money spent in advertising our county will have brought us vast returns.

I was proud and more than pleased to notice the large part Polk county has in the state exhibit in the Palace of Education. Although the entire exhibit is small, as compared to some others, yet more than one half of it relates to Polk county. I am sure we are all proud of the advance movement of our rural schools under our able and efficient county superintendent, Mr. Seymour, who has certainly established a reputation for advanced methods along these lines. And this reputation is not confined simply to Oregon, for in the current number of World's Work we find a most interesting article from the pen of Assistant Superintendent Carlton on "Polk County's Rural School System."

The efficiency of our rural schools is a strong argument in favor of Polk county and this is plainly shown in the exhibit in the Palace of Education, where Dr. Bell of Corvallis explains to visitors the workings of the system. It is a pleasure and privilege to talk and work in the interests of Oregon. One does not need to indulge in extravagant eulogy, or bombastic boasts. The plain, simple truth is sufficient, and when one has exhausted his powers of description and explanation, even then "the half has not been told," for one must see in order to appreciate the excellences and advantages of the Willamette valley in general and of Polk county in particular.

THREE OUT FOR MAYOR

MR. KIRKPATRICK LATEST TO SEEK HIGH HONOR.

W. L. Barber and George McBece Candidates For Councilman-at-Large.—The Others.

Mr. E. C. Kirkpatrick is a candidate for mayor of Dallas, and the man who defeats him will have to go some. His petition is now in circulation, and is meeting with willing signers. The throwing of his headgear into the arena, again gives the qualified electors of the ballwick three candidates, Mr. Kirkpatrick filling the gap left vacant by the withdrawal of Dr. McCallon. Those now in the running are Messrs. Mose Manston, Hugh Black and E. C. Kirkpatrick. All are well known citizens, each having his individual ideas of how the affairs of the local government should be conducted, and it will be up to the voter to choose according to his light.

Mr. W. L. Barber, now representing the second ward in the city council, is a candidate for councilman-at-large, U. S. Loughary, whose friends sought the place for him, having declined to make the race. One familiar with Mr. Barber's work in the council during his term of office can but endorse his candidacy. As chairman of important committees, notably the street committee, he has labored diligently for the good of his constituency, and his return to the aldermanic body as councilman-at-large would only be a deserving compliment, and an acknowledgement of appreciation of valuable services rendered.

Mr. Barber's candidacy is opposed by Mr. George McBece, an old resident of the community, and one in whom the people have confidence, but whose ideas concerning certain matters of government are in conflict with what is taken to be prevailing sentiment, and this attitude necessarily lessens his chances for election, though he will doubtless poll a large vote.

Mr. John Miller, the present incumbent from the third district, and who attempted to sidestep further service as a municipal legislator, has been induced by his ward neighbors to carry their banner in the approaching election, and will be returned without opposition. Mr. Miller was appointed to the aldermanic job when Alderman Sibley resigned upon accepting the appointment of county attorney, since which time he has been one of the most active members of the council. As a committeeman he has shirked no responsibility, and has depended upon his own thinking apparatus for his opinions, which have been expressed fearlessly and conscientiously. John Miller has a good aldermanic record.

Mr. Joseph M. Card would be alderman from the second ward, and up to this time has no opposition. He will probably become a "municipal dad" without a struggle, there being no disposition on the part of residents of his district to urge the candidacy of another.

In the first ward Mr. John L. Sweeney and Rev. C. C. Curtis are contenders for aldermanic honors, and these promises to be a hotly contested campaign. While the latter is making no personal effort, being in the hands of his friends, he has a considerable following, as has also his opponent, and the result of the vote would be difficult to forecast. Mr. Sweeney has the advantage of having resided in Dallas for so, these many years, and probably has a wider personal acquaintance than has the reverend gentleman whose petition was circulated by friends in his behalf. The vote will be drawn from somewhat differing elements, and the preponderant influence will likely be shown by the ballot. Both men are capable to discharge the duties devolving upon them.

Charles Gregory will continue to wear the title of auditor and police judge another term, he having no opposition for that position. Mr. Gregory is efficient in every particular, and his guidance of the council in many important matters, made possible by close application to every detail in connection with city affairs, may be considered in the light of an invaluable asset.

Free Trips to Exposition.

Two Polk county ladies will visit the Panama-Pacific exposition at the expense of The Observer. These free trips to the big show are offered in the subscription contest now barely under way, being only two of the twenty-two prizes. In addition to the free round trip ticket to the fair, the winning contestants will receive \$25 in gold for expense money, besides tickets to the exposition grounds.