

The Polk County Observer

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(THE HOME PAPER)

DALLAS, POLK COUNTY, OREGON, TUESDAY, MAY 18, 1915.

(TWICE-A-WEEK)

NO. 22

QUITS PASTORATE HERE

REV. GEO. H. MITCHELL RESIGNS TO ACCEPT CALIFORNIA CALL.

Announcement Comes as Complete Surprise to Presbyterian Church. Served Two Years.

Rev. George H. Mitchell has resigned the pastorate of the Presbyterian church of Dallas, after having served that congregation faithfully and well during the past two years. The resignation came as a surprise to the church, no inkling of the pastor's intention having been given prior to the announcement Sunday morning following the regular service. The resignation will become effective June 1, immediately after which date Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell will leave Dallas for Le-moor, California, where Rev. Mitchell has accepted a call. When asked by The Observer what caused the resignation, he replied that he felt that his work had ended at this station; that his relations with the church had been perfectly harmonious throughout his pastorate, and that he was taking his leave on his own motion with the very best wishes for the future spiritual and material welfare of all his people.

During the two years Rev. Mitchell has presided as head of the local Presbyterian church it has gained some twenty-five or thirty members, and has prospered financially. Prior to his Dallas charge he had been a laborer in the vineyard of the Master for four years, having been ordained in Seattle, Washington, following graduation from the University of Pennsylvania and the Allegheny Theological Seminary at Pittsburgh. Rev. Mitchell's first regular charge was at Camas, Washington. Later he was called to Milton, Eastern Oregon, where he was married in 1913, immediately before coming to Dallas. George H. Mitchell was born in the north of Ireland of Scotch parents, and came to this country while still a babe in arms.

FANS FOR INDIGENT INVALIDS.

Oregon Power Company Makes Offer to Those Unable to Pay.

The Oregon Power company's free electric fan service to indigent invalids has been so much appreciated by the public in the cities served by it that it has decided to continue the practice in 1915. This service consists of loaning fans and in some cases running temporary services and installing wiring, in order that sick persons in adverse circumstances may receive the benefit of electric fans during hot weather. In order to obtain the free service, requests must be certified by the attending physician, who must state that the patient or his family are unable to pay for same. This service has performed much good in Dallas and elsewhere and has received commendations from physicians, city officials and citizens.

This year the company adds a new feature, namely, the addition of an electric toaster to the free invalid service. Toast well prepared is a necessary article of diet to nearly all invalids. In many cases it is difficult to prepare the toast properly and serve it in an appetizing condition with the ordinary cooking facilities.

Whenever it is desired, and so certified by the attending physician, Manager Martin is authorized to lend either an electric fan or toaster, or both, on the same conditions governing the free fan service.

MEMORIAL EXERCISES SUNDAY.

Local Grand Army Post Accepts Invitation to Visit Monmouth.

Memorial day exercises will be held in Dallas on May 30, when Rev. Tapscott, pastor of the Baptist church, will deliver the address at the armory at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The members of the Grand Army post, accompanied by relatives of the dead heroes, will visit the cemeteries in the forenoon and strew flowers upon the graves of departed comrades. On Monday the post will go to Monmouth in a body to attend the exercises to be held at that place, which will also be participated in by the Independence post. The program there will be quite elaborate, and will be held in the Normal assembly hall.

Monmouth Has Road Day.

Saturday was good roads day in Monmouth and the highways within the city limits and in five directions from the city were thoroughly worked by men with teams and scrapers. The growing number of automobile owners in that section has led to better roads. Farmers are becoming extensive users of cars and there is more interest in hard-surface processes than ever before.

Independence Shooters Win.

Independence sportsmen won from the Albany and Corvallis delegations in the social shoot held on the grounds of the Albany Gun club. Corvallis was second, only two points behind the winners. Out of a possible score of 250, Independence scored 205, Corvallis 203 and Albany 189. A bad wind interfered materially with the shooting. Johnson of Independence made the high score of the meet, 46 out of a possible 50.

MUST NOW APPLY ANEW

WIDOW'S PENSION PROVISIONS CHANGED BY LEGISLATURE.

Under New Law Old Applications for Relief Have Become Invalid. Other Changes.

Owing to several new laws going into effect on May 22, several changes in county court procedure will be noted in the June meeting and everybody should be acquainted with the conditions before they present bills or transact other business. The chief item of interest in the new methods is the widows' pension situation. When the new law goes into effect the applications under which women are now being paid such pensions by the county are invalid and new applications must be made. This should be done before the next meeting, as it will save those who are receiving pensions and also the county court trouble and delay. The county is paying out a considerable amount of money for widows' pensions, but there is no danger of any being stopped if the recipients attend to the business of making out their new applications.

Another matter which the law has changed is the necessity for having all bills sworn to. This plan, while strictly proper and better than the new way, had this drawback: People who swore to bills had to pay some notary a fee for having his or her bills acknowledged. In most counties of the state the county court allowed twenty cents for such acknowledgement. Many, however, did not become conversant with the custom and always paid their own fees. This change was made in the law through the big cost the taxpayers were burdened with on account of the acknowledgements, which amounted to a large sum at the end of a year. Bills, however, must be ok'd by parties who secure supplies.

CURIOUS DENIZENS OF THE SEA.

Mr. Clodfelter Exonerated From Misrepresentation by Coast Press.

The other day F. M. Clodfelter came into The Observer office and told the man in charge of the piscatorial department that he had seen, while angling in the La Creole below Dallas, a strange fish, the head resembling that of a human being while the body was at least two feet in length. Mr. Clodfelter's description of the fish excited some interest in the inner circle of the sporting department, the information evidently being authentic in its character, and a special correspondent was immediately dispatched to the spot with instructions to capture one of the fish and deliver the same into the presence of Izak II. After hours spent on the wooded banks of the La-Creole, alias Rickerall, the special returned with the report that only the place where the curious denizens of this picturesque waterway had once cavorted for the amusement of Mr. Clodfelter could be found. So earnest was Mr. Clodfelter in his contention that he was of sound mind, and had actually viewed the strange creatures with his own optics, that he was not discredited by the fish editor.

Now comes the Marshfield Record with a story in corroboration of the Dallas man's statements. That curious fish like unto those described by Mr. Clodfelter have been seen in the streams of that locality is vouched for by deep sea fishermen, they claiming them to be salt water eels. Other coast newspapers have reported like sights during the past few weeks. From the evidence at hand it would appear that these fish, or eels, found their way into fresh water from the ocean, and that their stay was of brief duration. The Observer's informant says the "what-ever-it-was" were beautiful in the extreme, and "as playful as kittens." He sat at the water's edge two full hours watching their pranks, now and again undertaking to induce one of them to take his bait.

Change Comes Next Saturday.

By an act of the last legislature on Saturday next Sheriff John W. Orr will become tax collector for Polk county, succeeding County Treasurer Fred Holman in that capacity. The state tax commission has notified county officials that the law does not specify any particular method to be followed in making the transfer, but suggests that the treasurer make his return to the county court, verified by a proper certificate as required by law, showing clearly the state of the tax roll on the conclusion of his duties as collector, and this plan will be followed.

Hotel Improvements.

The new management of the Imperial hotel will soon begin an important improvement to the lobby of that hostelry. The stairway will be moved about thirty feet to the rear, thus affording additional office room. Messrs. Hoyt & Quigley also have in contemplation other betterments which cannot fail to meet with the approval of patrons of the house. They are live wires and are fast making a reputation for The Imperial.

While enroute home from Salem Saturday night the gears of an automobile owned by Paul Hunter were stripped, and the machine was towed in by Mr. Selig of Falls City, who found the party stranded near Rickerall.

GORGAS TO FIGHT SERVIAN TYPHUS.



Photo copyright by American Press Association.
Surgeon General Gorgas of the United States army, who cleaned up Panama canal zone, asked to join Rockefeller foundation to save stricken Serbia.

TWO LIVES ENDANGERED

MRS. TOOZE AND MISS SCOTT HAVE CLOSE CALL FROM DEATH.

Eating Canned Shrimp While Attending Dance at Falls City Causes Potomac Poisoning.

Potomac poisoning came near causing the loss of two lives in Dallas last Saturday night, the victims being Mrs. Walter Tooze, Jr., and Miss Naida Scott, both well-known residents. Physicians labored with these patients several hours before they considered them out of danger, Mrs. Tooze being the most severely affected by the poison. In company with Attorney Tooze the ladies had attended the baseball dance at Falls City on Saturday night, and while there had partaken of canned shrimp for lunch before leaving for home, before midnight. About 1 o'clock both became ill, and each, unknown to the other, summoned physicians. Dr. Starbuck attending Mrs. Tooze and Dr. Bollman attending Miss Scott. Prompt treatment in both cases probably saved the lives of the victims, the case of Miss Scott being the most stubborn, she not being considered wholly out of danger until late Sunday afternoon.

DALLAS' MAYOR IS IMPROVING.

Mr. Kirkpatrick Will Not Have to Submit to Operation.

The condition of Mayor E. C. Kirkpatrick, who has been ill at the Imperial hotel in Portland during the past week, is greatly improved this morning, and the probabilities are that he will not have to submit to an operation to get relief from his ailment of the intestines. Yesterday forenoon it was thought that an operation would be necessary, but the patient, under skilled medical attention, has been brought through the trouble without it. Mr. Kirkpatrick will be at the Imperial some days, however, before he will be able to return to his home here.

There was much anxiety over his condition yesterday, and frequent telephone messages were received from those who are with him in the metropolis. Last evening just before the council convened word came that the chief executive was much improved, which intelligence was received with much rejoicing among his co-workers and also among those present at the meeting.

Club Meets Tomorrow Night.

The Commercial club will convene in regular semi-monthly session tomorrow evening, and a full attendance is desired, as there is a considerable amount of business to come before the club. It is probable that the question of maintaining a band during the summer months will be up for discussion.

Fire Board to Meet.

The regular monthly meeting of the Polk County Fire Patrol association will be held at the office of the secretary in this city Thursday, May 20. Several matters of importance relating to the protection of Polk county timber from forest fires will be taken up at the meeting.

Cancels Booth's Patents.

The supreme court yesterday affirmed the decision of the circuit court of appeals canceling five patents for Oregon land held by the Booth-Kelly Lumber company of Portland. It was held that the initial applications were made fraudulently.

FIRST STEP IS TAKEN

PLANS FOR NEW NORMAL BUILDING ARE AUTHORIZED.

Tuition Fee for Each Semester Reduced One-Third By Board of Regents Saturday.

At a meeting of the board of regents of the Monmouth Normal school last Saturday arrangements were made for plans and specifications for the new building authorized by the last legislature, and for the construction of which an appropriation of \$50,000 was made, when Governor Withycombe was appointed to name a committee of three to secure an architect to perform the work. The recent legislature appropriated \$50,000 for the building. The revenue of the Monmouth school for 1915 and 1916, will be approximately \$45,894, of which \$27,296 will be derived from millage tax and the remainder from tuition fees and other sources. It was decided to expend \$41,845, leaving a working surplus of \$3,358.

The board of regents, reduced the tuition fee of each semester from \$6 to \$4. Tuition for the summer school remains \$6.

Because of the board having no means of protecting the property it was decided to turn over the Normal school buildings at Ashland and Weston, which have not been used since 1909, when the legislature reduced the number of normal schools from three to one, to the local school districts for use until arrangements are made for reopening them as normal schools. The Ashland district used the normal building last year.

Polk County Students Honored.

Lamar Tooze, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Tooze of Salem and formerly of Polk county, has been paid the highest honor within the power of the student body of the University of Oregon, in his election to the presidency of that body. Leslie Tooze, his twin brother, was a candidate for the office of editor of the Emerald, the student body official publication, but was defeated by a narrow margin of twenty-nine votes by Max Sommers of Portland. Cleveland Simpkins, a graduate of the Salem high school and a resident of Polk county, was chosen senior member of the student council.

Ready for Business.

All is in readiness at the municipal quarry to commence the crushing of rock for street improvements. Geo. Stewart, the superintendent, has finished the work of installing a washer, and has about 300 cords of rock blasted. The quarry has a sufficient amount of rock uncovered to last throughout the season. As soon as subgrades can be prepared the crusher will be started and rock placed upon the streets.

Thursday Will Be Circus Day.

The Sells-Flote circus and Wild West show will exhibit at Salem next Thursday afternoon and evening, and the probabilities are that Polk county will send its full quota of children, accompanied by parents to care for them. If Col. Cody's aggregation of Indians, riders, soldiers and caqueros is to be there, as advertised, it will undoubtedly be well worth the trip.

Bicycle Thieves Operating.

One night last week some unknown person, or persons, took from the porch of the A. W. Bennett home two bicycles belonging to his sons, but one of which has since been recovered.

CONTESTS ARE BEGUN

STUDENTS AT MONMOUTH SCHOOL STUDY MARKETING.

Specialty Made of Potato Growing, but Skill in Work and Accounting Also Count in Race for Prizes.

A thorough knowledge of the elements of seed and soil, skill in planting, efficiency in marketing, and practice in accounting are the principles set by the Agricultural Department of the Oregon Normal school to govern the school garden contest among the students of the Training school in Monmouth. A tract near the campus recently was cultivated and each pupil received a plot six feet wide and nine feet long. A specialty has been made of potato growing.

Early in the year instruction was begun in the classroom concerning the preparation of seedbed, selection, cutting, dipping of seed, planting, caring, and cultivation of potatoes. When the season opened, each contestant was required to use his own judgment in everything.

A boy of ten is seeking to cut down expenses and early find a market which will mean a higher price than his competitors can secure. Simple accounting has been taught the pupils during the term and a fair share of the contest lies in the accurate keeping of books. Debits and credits are entered, and at given times the contestants must have their balances prepared. One pupil chose to economize in cultivation and cut down the expenses on his plot to 8 cents. The pupil earning the most money will be the winner.

POST OBSERVES ANNIVERSARY

Veterans of Civil War Entertained Following Business Session.

On Saturday last the members of U. S. Grant Post, G. A. R., celebrated the first anniversary of the organization of the post in a most fitting manner, being entertained for the most part by musical and literary numbers. Following a short business session, the meeting was thrown open to visitors and a number of ladies and Mr. H. M. Irvin became guests of the veterans. Mrs. Ewell, a daughter of Comrade Leiper, gave a reading felicitating the Grand Army, which was highly appreciated by the ex-soldiers. Mr. Irvin, who was present as the representative of an eastern newspaper and reported Lincoln's famous Gettysburg address, and who was also present at the first Memorial day services at Arlington, gave a number of interesting reminiscences of these historical events, his talk being full of interest to those fortunate enough to be present on this occasion. His daughter, Miss Gertrude Irvin, musical director in the Dallas high school, with Miss Dorothy Bennett at the piano, rendered a number of those grand old war songs that inspired the "boys in blue" of half a century ago on their weary marches and in camp, rounds of applause following each. The exercises closed by all singing "America."

The afternoon was one of the most pleasant in the history of the local organization, and will long be remembered by the veterans in attendance, numbering all but three of the membership. It was a patriotic gathering.

"THE OUTCOME OF THE WAR."

Noted Lecturer Will Discuss This Subject Before Bible Class.

Mr. J. P. McPherson of New York, a noted lecturer under the management of the International Bible Students' association, will speak before the Dallas class at the primary annex of the South Main street school this evening, taking for his subject "The Outcome of the War." There will be no admission fee charged, and the class invites the public to attend and listen to Mr. McPherson's address, believing that those who elect to do so will be well repaid. The lecturer will speak to the class as a class this afternoon.

Veterans Want a Flag.

The local G. A. R. post is without a flag. And this reminds one of a ship without a rudder. The primary object of the organization is to promote patriotism among the rising generation, and the absence of the starry banner upon public occasions makes the undertaking one of half doing. Will some society come forward with the necessary coin of the realm for the purchase of an American flag? The post is financially unable to supply its need.

Fords in Heavy Demand.

Vick Brothers were in Dallas on Saturday trying to borrow a few Ford cars from the Shreeve garage until he could receive a shipment. Mr. Shreeve had just unloaded a car of Fords, but notwithstanding this, he, too, was "short." After visiting Monmouth and Independence they succeeded in getting three machines in the latter place.

New Addition to Airline.

County Surveyor Canfield has this week laid out a new addition to Airline for Mr. W. E. Williams of that place. The plat contains thirty lots, and is located immediately west of the high school building. This property will be put on the market as residence sites.

NO CONTRACTS GIVEN

STREET IMPROVEMENTS WILL BE MADE BY CITY OF DALLAS.

Holmes & Grant Lowest Bidders for Construction of Curb—Oiling Bids Are Opened.

The city having received no bids for the macadamization of fourteen blocks of streets, crushing and hauling the rock, the street commissioner will be authorized at an adjourned meeting of the aldermanic body tomorrow evening to proceed with the improvements as outlined, the work to be done by the city the same as last year. This would probably have been done had bids been tendered in compliance with the advertisement, for it is the opinion of the council that the work should be given to home people. The hauling of the rock alone will provide employment for about fifteen teams. The street commissioner will inaugurate the work of getting the subgrades ready for the rock as soon as possible, and within a fortnight the improvements will be in full swing.

Bids were opened last night for the construction of approximately 8000 lineal feet of concrete curb, Holmes & Grant being the lowest bidders. The council took all bids under advisement, however, and will convene in adjourned session tomorrow night to act upon them. The bid of Barham Brothers was 31 1/4 cents per lineal foot and 2 for corners. The Himes Construction company bid 24 cents, or 29 1/2 with Independence gravel; while Holmes & Grant's tender was 30 cents and 2 for corners.

Bids for oiling approximately twenty miles of streets to lay the dust during the summer months were also opened, they being as follows: A. F. Roberts, furnishing oil and spreading, \$35.95 per mile, sixteen feet wide; the city furnishing the oil, 14-10 cents per gallon; City Transfer company, furnishing oil, \$39 per mile; city furnishing oil three-quarters of a cent for spreading. This contract will also be awarded tomorrow night.

An ordinance providing for the extension of the concrete sidewalk district was introduced by the ordinance committee and placed upon its first reading. It provides that hereafter all sidewalks laid within the following limits shall be of concrete in a manner prescribed by the ordinance: All that lying between the east side of Shelton street and the west line side of Hayter street and the north side of Academy street and the south side of Ash street. When this ordinance is placed upon its final passage the widths on the several streets will be inserted in the document, and after its adoption it will be unlawful for any person to build other than concrete walks within the district.

A communication from Scout Master Rempel requested the council to grant the Boy Scouts of Dallas the privilege of using the second story of the city hall building as headquarters, meetings to be held there twice each month. The matter was left with the fire and water committee with power to act.

Abel Uglov asked the council to grant him permission to build two chimneys less than the height prescribed by ordinance, which is four feet above the apex of any building, and the request was granted and the city attorney was instructed to change the ordinance, it being unreasonable. The introduction of the question provoked considerable discussion, the council at first holding that it could not deviate from the law as laid down by the ordinance. Mr. Uglov declared that the attitude of the governing body was all nonsense; that he purposed placing an iron roof on his buildings and that a chimney four feet above the building would be unsightly. It was then that Alderman Miller moved to grant the request and modify the ordinance. This ordinance, passed in 1901, has never been complied with, residents building chimneys to a height to suit themselves. It applies to the entire city.

There was comparatively little business transacted at the session last night, possibly because of the absence of the mayor, Alderman Barber presided.

Insubordination Is Charged.

Upon the eve of the graduation of a large class of boys and girls from the Independence schools, a condition of chaos and insubordination has grown in the high school that is to be much deplored and will to a great degree effect the harmony and concord of commencement season. Prof. Bones, an instructor, sent in his resignation to the school board as he did not wish to be further involved in the controversy. Around him seems to center the trouble.—Monitor.

Real Estate Changes Hands.

We learn that the Joe P. Johnson farm located between Independence and Monmouth, was sold this week to D. F. Chandler. In the deal Mr. Johnson acquires a house and three lots in this city.—Independence Eastern.

Promoting School Picnic.

The Business Men's club has undertaken to promote a school picnic in Amity Monday, May 31. Arrangements are being made for a good time for all who will attend.