

# The Polk County Observer

The Twice a Week Home Paper

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## CLERGYMEN'S PAY.

The pay of clergymen, like the question of the pay of school teachers, is a never ending subject of discussion. And recently there has been a revival of interest in this matter, due in part to a special campaign conducted by the Methodist Episcopal church, for the purpose of procuring reasonable pensions for aged or disabled clergymen and their families. Of course there are some who make light of the financial troubles of the poorly paid minister of the gospel. They even sometimes intimate that clergymen should think only of spiritual things and not worry about material things, and especially about money, which is the root of all evil—a sentiment, by the way, which is not in the bible, as many imagine it is.

There is, however, one biblical saying that has a pertinent application to this question, this being the reminder of the master himself that "the laborer is worthy of his hire." And when it is recalled that the average pay of the clergymen in this country is only about \$550, it is pretty easy to believe that comparatively few of them live in luxury, while still fewer are able to put away money for the days when they no longer can continue in active service, or for their families after their death. It probably is not true that clergymen as a class are the most poorly paid wage earners of all, from the point of view of the sum paid them only. But when one takes into account the money spent on their education for the ministry, the cost of living, of moving, of buying books and magazines, of supporting a family in respectability, and of the many calls made on them for financial contributions for really worthy causes, one ceases to wonder that the rich, or even well-to-do clergymen is indeed a rare specimen.

Nor can one forget that no matter how much the clergyman may have to say about heaven, he must board on earth. He must wear human clothes and his family is entitled to clothing, food, education and other necessities of life. There are many, too many people who talk very piously about religion and duty, and then jam their pocketbooks still further down into their jeans. If it be true that God loves a cheerful giver, imagine what He thinks of this kind. Giving may not be the whole of religion, but it is an indispensable evidence and factor in all sincere, religious life.

The denominations that are now endeavoring to provide for their aged or disabled clergymen and for the widows and orphans of deceased ministers, should be strongly supported in their efforts to pay a legitimate debt to those old servants of the people.

## "TOE IN."

A movement has started in the east which promises to become a fashionable fad based on an order to "toe in, not out." It is claimed this reversal of the widely customary practice of toeing out is calculated to greatly benefit, perhaps even cure such common troubles as flat-foot, fallen arches and other pedal ailments. It has the endorsement of such authorities as Major General Wood, of the United States army, Dr. Henry Frauenthal, chief surgeon of the New York Deformity hospital, and other eminent experts and specialists. It is a rule that already has been applied to the New York police force, while the Boy Scouts, the Camp Fire Girls and some other organization are inclined to adopt the plan, at least as an experiment. But the biggest boost of all will be given to this innovation if members of so-called "fashionable society" decide to take it up, and it is claimed a start already has been made in this direction.

From time immemorial, it would seem, the rule has been "heels together and toes out," and almost every adult has been trained along this line. Even today the children in the public schools are taught to stand so their feet will "make a piece of pie," and a certain amount of odium attaches to the person, either youth or adult, who is pigeon-toed. Yet the experts now tell us this is not desirable—that in fact it is responsible for many of the modern foot troubles, and that the better way is to stand and walk "Indian fashion," with the toes pointed straight ahead. The Indians have no trouble with feet and fallen arches, and for this there is said to be a scientific reason. And we are reminded that if the white people will follow the same plan, they also can get rid of many of their pedal troubles.

All of which may be so, although even if it is so it will not be an easy matter to change a custom so general and so well established as is embodied in the well-known rule to "toe out." At the same time when a thing becomes fashionable it spreads rapidly, and if "fashion" should decree pigeon-toes as the proper thing it will not be long before everybody will be doing it. But with the present abbreviated skirts of the women it will look funny enough should they start it. In fact, it might lead to an alteration of skirt styles themselves and furnish an excuse for the return of skirts that will not make women's feet quite so conspicuous as they are at present.

## GREAT MORAL ISSUE INVOLVED.

It is not alone the sinking of the Lusitania and the loss of American lives which appeals to us, nor yet the question of securing suitable and satisfactory amends in the shape of apologies and reparation. It is the larger and far more important question of doing something that will measurably minimize the horrors of war and force on the attention of all belligerents, both now and in future, the desirability of at least affording reasonable and humane protection for non-combatants—those who take no part in war and who, from their very defenselessness are entitled to humane, if not chivalrous, treatment.

This embodies a principle which was pretty well established previous to the present war, and although often ignored it nevertheless was recognized by all civilized and enlightened nations. If the troops or other armed forces of such a nation disregarded the commonly accepted rules of international law calling for humane and considerate treatment of non-combatants, it brought odium and disgrace to that nation and aroused the righteous wrath and indignation of civilized peoples all over the world. To gain and hold the respect and good will of neighbor nations, therefore, scrupulous regard was given to this principle of humane treatment of non-combatants, and zealous effort made to give no offense along this line. In fact, it was a common delusion that warfare itself had been modernized to a point where, brutal and terrible as it might be for those actually engaged, neutrals and non-combatants were reasonably immune from acts of

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atrocities and barbarism which characterized the early days of armed strife.

## SUBSTITUTE FOR SALOONS.

The Florida legislature last week passed what is known as the Davis package bill, which Governor Trammell is expected to sign. The act is a stringent measure designed to do away with the saloon without shutting off the sale of liquor in communities that do not favor prohibition. It provides that no liquor may be sold except in sealed packages. That does away with draught beer and other liquors sold by the drink. Provision also is made that clubs and hotels cannot sell except under the same regulations as those governing saloons.

The Florida idea has points that will commend it to many who do not favor going to the limit of making a city or town dry and at the same time are not unmindful of some bad features of the saloon as it is conducted at present. In substance, the Florida law would provide places at which those wishing liquor may go and purchase it and carry it away as they would groceries. The place of sale would not be a lounging room in which customers might congregate and drink to excess. It certainly should prove less objectionable than have some saloons in Florida and elsewhere.

But even the Florida law may be converted into a farce unless great care has been exercised to make sure the state will get the kind of liquor regulation on which it is figuring. South Dakota, 25 years ago, had an original package law somewhat similar to that enacted last week in Florida. Nothing was sold in the licensed rooms except liquor in original packages. But every dealer maintained another place apart where the purchaser could find glasses and corkscrews. That feature probably will be guarded against in Florida, as it easily could and should be.

American tourists abroad have been spending over 350,000,000 good American dollars a year. Of this sum, little Switzerland alone has pocketed over \$225,000,000, because of her beautiful mountain scenery. Yet you could tumble every range and peak in Switzerland into one-tenth of the Willamette valley, and still have much room left. Now that the automobile owner has come to the conclusion that he lives in a more beautiful, a more varied, and a more interesting country than he could visit by going "across the pond," he has begun to express a desire to "see America first," and thousands from the east will visit this coast during the present season. It is therefore important that Dallas should guide those who come from north or south to Polk, the blue ribbon county of the Pacific northwest, by a system of signboards along the trunk line highways. The Commercial club could undertake nothing at this time that would be more to the interests of the community.

If some ingenious statesman could devise and secure the adoption of a scheme by which the salaries of members of the political party in power would rise and fall with the general business conditions, we should not wait so long for remedial legislation. If, for instance, the democratic senators and congressmen who helped frame the tariff law found their salaries dwindling at the same rate that the incomes of manufacturers and laborers are decreasing, there would be loud demand for a special session to revise the tariff. Then, too, if the compensation that goes to the distinguished occupant of the executive mansion were cut to correspond with diminished incomes received by private industry, perhaps we should hear less about industrial conditions being a "state of mind."

Administration officials were stunned a few days ago when 2,500 residents of Washington stood in line to receive blanks for applications for positions as unskilled laborers in the government service. Usually there are a few hundred applicants, but 2,500 applicants was a severe shock to those who have been contending that prosperity has returned and the army of the unemployed disbanded.

It is sincerely to be hoped that the new beverage indulged in by the editor of the Independence Enterprise will not become popular among the fraternity in this neck-o'-the-woods. The formula as made known by that journalistic effort contains a bucket of Willamette river water diluted with a gill of Jersey milk. The new drink will not be christened until the first anniversary of the recent sale.

If Dallas would have a concert band during the coming season it must come to the front with financial support. The musicians are ready to do their share, for the most part without money and without price, but it is necessary to have a director of ability and this costs something. Individually the expense is light to the community.

The months spent in contemplating the horrors of the war in Europe have a natural tendency to curb those jingoes who ordinarily might clamor for swift vengeance on Germany.

A college professor now says the despised dandelion is a useful plant, as it fertilizes the soil. The average lawn owner, however, probably would prefer to buy his own fertilizer.

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