

Polk County Observer

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A CONTRAST.

The great war is now costing England about \$15,000,000 a day. The other fighting nations are spending more than twice as much, which accounts for the estimate that the total daily expense to all the belligerents amounts to at least \$50,000,000. In return for this stupendous expense they are getting nothing but losses, sorrows and destruction. In addition to monumental national debts that will bring a galling burden of interest obligations, and a still heavier burden of taxes when it comes to liquidating the debts themselves.

The situation in this country presents a pleasing and gratifying contrast to the above. In this land trade and industrial operations are proceeding uninterrupted, abundant prosperity prevails and is gaining ground every day, peace and tranquility are enjoyed by the people, and the future is bright with promise, the only disturbing factor being the slim possibility that this nation may also be dragged into the maelstrom of war. A favorable feature is the prospect of another bumper crop yield, and in this connection one optimistic expert estimates that every day of fine weather for the balance of the crop season will add at least \$50,000,000 to the new wealth of the nation in crop products. This, it will be noted, is exactly the estimated daily cost of the European war. But while the European governments are squandering this amount to see who is "boss," the farmers of this land are being enriched by a like sum, which eventually will add to the wealth and prosperity of this nation as a whole.

No sensible citizen of this land would think of exchanging places with the war-ridden people of the fighting nations of Europe, who are facing troubles and sorrows to the limit of human endurance, and whose only consolation must come in the thought that the great struggle must sometime come to an end, thereby giving them a chance to rebuild and repair and again enjoy the blessings of peace. Nor can any intelligent American fail to appreciate what a striking contrast exists between the conditions in his own land and the conditions that confront his European neighbors. And thinking of these things he should thank the fates and providence that his lot has been cast amid so fortunate and favoring surroundings and that his government is represented by high-minded, earnest and honest men, who are intent on keeping this country out of such troubles as have fallen like a black cloud on less favored nations. Nor should he forget to daily renew his pledge of loyalty to his government and the men who officially represent him. For it is by such united patriotic support and devotion that this nation will continue in the enjoyment of peace and prosperity.

THE AMERICAN NAVY.

The launching of the new super-dreadnought Arizona last week tends to focus fresh attention on the American navy and its relative size and power. The Arizona herself is one of the largest and most powerful war vessels ever built for any navy and it is conceded there are few ships today that could cope with her in a give and take fight. The only foe that the Arizona would need to fear, in fact, is the modern submarine, which has injected a new problem into naval warfare. Coincident with the launching of the Arizona, however, the interesting statement is made that the naval authorities of this government are even now working out a solution of this problem, which they believe will result in largely reducing the danger of submarine attacks.

As for the relative strength and effectiveness of the American navy as a whole there is a sharp conflict of expert opinion. While some are inclined to argue that the navy of this government is all right, a splendid fighting force that probably would hold its own against the navy of any other nation, others are just as certain that the United States navy is weak and inefficient, poorly equipped and without proper training, and calculated to give disappointment if a test should come. Of course one of these claims must be wide of the mark, and the truth probably lies between the two extremes. In this connection it probably would be hard to find a more competent authority than Admiral Dewey, and his opinion was given in the shape of an interview a short time since. After viewing the assembled fleet in New York harbor he said it was "not only composed of the finest and most efficient warships that we have ever had, but it is not excelled except in size by the fleet of any other nation in the world;" that "our officers are as good as any and our enlisted men are superior in training, physical development and devotion to duty, that the efficiency of the fleet has steadily progressed and has never been so high as it is today." Yet on top of this he added the very significant hint that "We need more

ships, more officers and more men, in accordance with the wise policy that has been adopted."

This comment evidently sums up the whole story of the American navy today, but the note of reassurance which it offers should not be permitted to obscure the vital point called to attention as a parting reminder. It would be most singular if the navy was not composed of "the finest and most efficient warships that we have ever had." Certainly the navy has undergone improvement within the last few years, and most rapidly under the stimulus afforded by the European war. But it is not competent to compare the American navy with its former self. It must be compared, ship to ship and gun for gun, with the present-day navies of other world powers before its "efficiency" can be accurately estimated.

Nor can it be forgotten that the admiral's rather enthusiastic claim of superiority for American officers and enlisted men is purely conjectural. Of course most Americans believe the personnel of their navy is imbued with a higher degree of patriotism and devotion to duty than is characteristic of the personnel of the navies of other nations, but science takes no account of sentiment, and it is only with the yardstick of science that military and naval preparedness can be accurately gauged. Whether an American ship could defeat, for instance, a British ship of the same class is a question that could be answered unmistakably only by actual combat. The relative efficiency of American ships and American seamen in any war of the past is not an infallible indication of what their efficiency would be in a war tomorrow. War is one human institution that does not draw strength from tradition.

THE HONOR SYSTEM.

The brutal murder of the wife of the warden of Joliet prison by a colored "honor" convict will help to revive the old question of how far you can trust men of this class. The "honor" system among convicts has grown rapidly during recent years and advocates of this system have urged it as the one most promising plan of redeeming men from criminal tendencies and bringing out their better qualities. Our late governor, Oswald West, and his penitentiary warden, Col. B. K. Lawson, were among the strongest advocates of this system, but others, including men who have had long experience with criminals, insist that sentimental mercy shown to criminals is a waste of effort; that natural instincts and confirmed habits are not to be changed in this way, and that perverted natures are dangerous anywhere and always. They therefore oppose the indiscriminate granting of "honor" privileges to convicts, claiming that it does more harm than good.

The solution of this problem is to be found in the correct interpretation of human nature itself. Convicts are essentially no different from other people—they include persons of good, bad and indifferent tendencies and morals. There are plenty of people who never saw the inside of a prison that it would not do to trust too far, for they would be sure to take advantage of an opportunity to wrong even a friend and benefactor. In this Joliet tragedy, similarly, a negro "trust" abused the confidence reposed in him and committed a crime so atrocious that it shocks all good people. That it affords no convincing argument against the honor system itself, however, is shown by the fact it was necessary to take stringent precautions to prevent the other prisoners from wreaking summary vengeance on the despicable coward who broke faith under the honor system, by wantonly slaying the woman who was regarded by all the other convicts as one of their best and warmest friends.

LAW NOT VALID.

The so-called upper berth law enacted by the Wisconsin legislature has been declared unconstitutional by the United States supreme court. The law in question was intended as an accommodation to travelers and provided that upper berths in sleeping cars should not be made up before they actually were engaged. The idea, of course, was to give the occupant of a lower berth a little extra room and advantage, by leaving the overhead berth undisturbed unless actually called for by some other traveler.

But the federal supreme court declares it unconstitutional, as it amounts to "taking private property without compensation therefor," and one of the justices also added that it is an interference with interstate commerce. Both these points seem to be well taken, moreover, and whether they are or not there is no going behind the returns when the federal supreme court says it is so. Travelers will therefore have to give up the luxury of controlling a section for the price of a single berth. The law makers did their best to get something for nothing from the sleeping car companies, but after all the latter have some rights that are not to be ignored.

GETTING IN BAD.

If Mr. Bryan imagined he was going to make a political ten-strike by splitting with the president over the latter's foreign policy, it seems impossible that he has failed to discover his mistake by this time. The amount of criticism and ridicule which has been heaped on the devoted head of the former secretary of state on account of his resignation surely has been enough to convince him he is "in bad" with the citizens of this nation as one result of his precipitate action. Nor has any of his subsequent statements served to alter the

first impression that the influence which most moved him was a political one—his old-time ambition to ride into power as the moral hero of the hour. In fact this suspicion has been strengthened, if anything, by his almost daily manifestoes, which, instead of revealing grounds of justification for his course, have served to show that he seized upon a relatively small thing to furnish an excuse for cutting loose from the administration and thereby get a chance to launch a propaganda of his own.

Instead of finding a receptive and admiring audience, however, Mr. Bryan has encountered an atmosphere of chilling indifference and critical distrust, with only a few mild and scattered notes of apology to break the monotony. Even those who would excuse his conduct in deserting the ship of state sum it up by saying that "if he felt that way about it it was wise for him to get out," and almost invariably adding that he was "foolish for feeling that way." And whenever reference is made to Bryan's chances in 1916 the conclusion reached is always the same—that he stands not a ghost of a show and is a "dead one" so far as politics is concerned.

A GREAT STATE.

Oregon and Polk county should be proud of their achievements at the great exposition at San Francisco, where competition is of the keenest kind. The numerous awards made exhibits from this state is a standing advertisement for the fertility of its soil and the excellence of its climate. Highest awards for agricultural and horticultural products, unsolicited prizes for educational displays, and honorable mentions for other exhibits are something that should entice anew the booster for this section of the great Pacific northwest. While Oregon is probably the most thoroughly advertised state in the union, much of the publicity given it has been of the bombastic variety, real facts and figures having been almost totally disregarded in some instances, but the bringing home of the bacon at the greatest of all international exhibitions is evidence that behind these idle words there is a substantialness to the commonwealth that cannot be overlooked, and that Oregon possesses wonderful resources and advantages that are worthy of consideration by the contemplating settler who has worked out the soil of the older states.

What Oregon needs, and what The Observer believes will be followed in the future, is conservative statements of fact concerning obtaining conditions, relegating flowery embellishments and over-colored word pictures to the archives of oblivion. Misrepresentation, whether designed or otherwise, cannot fail to prove damaging. Past history has proven this to be true. The unvarnished facts are sufficient to make good our claims that Oregon, all things considered, is the best state in the union.

SIGN BOARDS.

All cross-roads in Polk, and every other county in Oregon for that matter, should be equipped with sign-boards. Not alone are these necessary for the guidance of home people who have occasion to make trips into territory unfamiliar to them, but to automobilists who are touring the state in considerable numbers. A generous act never falls of its reward, and when the authorities can perform so splendid a service in the line of duty at a trifling cost it should be done. People of Polk county appreciate the kindness of those who have placed sign-boards and guide posts at various road crossings in other adjacent counties, and we should return the compliment. Some of the principal thoroughfares of the county have already been marked, but there are many that have not received this attention.

In ox-cart days small thought was given to guide posts. When the horse crowded the ox from the highways, guide-posts assumed a greater importance. But it remained for the automobile to bring the cross-roads sign post to its full usefulness. These are days of long tours. On any day one may see machines bearing the license tags of other states, many of them distant. The county is criss-crossed with tourist routes and scarcely any territory daunts the man behind the steering wheel. Automobile clubs have done much work in erecting guide posts, but the task of properly posting the highways, even of a single county, is well nigh endless.

DEMOCRATIC EXTRAVAGANCE.

Here is what a democratic newspaper, the Brooklyn Eagle, has to say about the expenditures of the present administration and party pledges: "At Baltimore, there was promise of retrenchment. There was to be an end to extravagance and a return to simplicity. There were to be no more prodigious expenditures of money wrung from the pockets of the people. In the face of these pledges, the sixty-third congress spent between \$2,225,000,000 and \$2,250,000,000, or, approximately \$350,000,000 more than the next preceding congress cost the country. Republican congresses were charged with having kept taxes high and reduced the purchasing power of the people's toil. The next national convention of the republicans will have something to say on the subject."

There has been a strange dearth of fish tales in the state press this year. What's the matter? Have all our Isaac Watsons quit the game or is it possible that the fish yarns won't survive close scrutiny any more?

With all the Italian workmen going back to Europe to fight, and the

RABID
Rudolph
SAYS—

YOU MIGHT
CALL ST. LOOEY
THE SUBURBS OF
THE AMERICAN
LEAGUE!



RUBE
MARQUARD
DOESN'T
PITCH AS MANY
NO HIT GAMES
AS HE BATS—

USSEN, BUGS!
UMPS IS LIKE
MOLASSES AND
SULPHUR—
NECESSARY
EVILS—

Roumanians, Bulgarians and Greeks preparing to go back, it looks like there might be a draft on the pure American stock for hard labor in this country after awhile. Thus do the horrors of war come home to us.

The chauntauqua is an educational institution of high character and recognized as such throughout the eastern part of the country. To let it fail for lack of support here will be to take a step backward in the upbuilding of the city. The program is a distinct improvement over that of last year and that one pleased everybody who heard it. Do not put off getting your season tickets until the tent is up. Get your tickets now so that the men who have put up the guarantee to the company which furnishes the artists may receive the benefit of your promptness.

A French official is quoted as saying that up to date the big war is a draw. Not to hear the Germans tell it, however.

Lumber trade reports declare that business in that line is steadily improving. And this is very cheerful news for Dallas and Polk county.

GIVE WAY TO CHAUTAUQU.

Advertisers Discontinue Lectures During Next Week—Subjects.

"The Longest Prophetic Period," which was the subject at the Seventh Day Adventists' meeting Saturday night, was certainly interesting. Starting back at the time of the command to restore Jerusalem, in 457 B. C., it extended for 2300 days, prophetic time or literal years, or to 1844. At this time the real work of judging began, when everyone's case is placed on the docket in the heavenly court, there to await its turn. Prof. Emerson attempted to show that all must stand before this judge, and he urged each one to secure the only attorney available for work at this bar, namely, Jesus Christ, the righteous.

On Monday evening it was shown that all nature is and always has been under fixed self-executive laws, which have not and do not change, the laws governing the planets being so fixed that men can figure out the exact time a star will pass a certain line to the fraction of a second. Man, he said, is also under fixed self-executive law and as an epitome of man's duties, God gave the commandments and if a man transgress any one of these precepts he is the loser thereby.

Owing to the fact that the Adventists are very strong in educational lines, and the chauntauqua being mostly educational, the lectures will be discontinued for the five days of its continuance. There will be a lecture on each Sunday night, July 4 and July 11, but none between. The subject for the eleventh will be "Turkey and Armageddon," or "What Will Happen When Turkey Is Carved." Prof. Johnson has gone to Eastern Oregon until after the Chauntauqua, his place being filled by Prof. Chas. Emerson of Harvey, North Dakota.

Children's Day.

Sunday at the Methodist church was a day long to be remembered. An unusually large Sunday school devoted its hour to the usual interesting program. At eleven o'clock the pastor spoke briefly on "Childhood a Reality," after which the beautiful and impressive sacrament of baptism was administered in the christening of seven children. One adult was also baptized, and two were received in church membership. Miss Roxana Fluke sang a highly appreciated solo.

In the evening the house was filled to the doors and with many standing in the aisles. The pastor of the Baptist church with his congregation came as welcome guests. Dr. Tapscott offered prayer, after which the Sunday school presented a very pleasing program in which the songs and recitations of the little folk were much enjoyed. The choir sang a fine anthem, and Edna Morrison and Georgia Jennings a duet of rare melody. The Methodist church is devoted to the work of education, and under its auspices are many colleges and universities. A liberal offering was received which will be added to the fund from which loans are made to needy students in completing educational work. More than twenty-two thousand have thus been aided by this fund.

Members Harold Hart and Eugene Cobb of Portland are visiting in Dallas.

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Too Careful
If Sick**

WHEN YOU GET SICK
ENOUGH TO GO TO BED IT
MEANS THAT THE DOCTOR IS
GOING TO PRESCRIBE FOR
YOU. PLEASE BEAR IN MIND
THAT WE FILL PRESCRIPTIONS
FAITHFULLY AND EXACTLY,
JUST AS ORDERED,
WITH ONLY THE PUREST OF
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BE RIGHT.

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PHARMACY**

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MONUMENTS, HEADSTONES AND CURBING.

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IT IS MADE OF THE PUREST
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Pure candy, such we carry, is doubly enjoyable because while you enjoy its taste, you can also feel assured that it is not harmful. It is made right here where it is sold and if you are a "doubter" we will gladly show you through the factory. A skilled manufacturer is in charge of the work, and no city sweat shop methods are employed.

Particularly if you are buying candy for the children be sure that you get it here. The assortment is the largest in the city.

Remember that our labors are not confined to candy making, but we can, upon an hour's notice, deliver to your home in the city the choicest

ICE CREAM

of any flavor, put up in bricks of any design or tint. This is city service.

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**2 World-Famous
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Each the best of its class. 2 splendid grades at 2 different prices.

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and
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Coffee**

"The Kind With the Flavor"

SOLD BY

DALLAS MEAT COMPANY.

BLACK'S GROCERY

**We can please
you if you want
the best**

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SPECIALS

WHILE THEY LAST.

Front Doors—2x10x6x10—1 1/2".....\$3.20
Front Doors—2x8x6x8.....\$3.00
Windows 2x20.....\$1.20
Odd Windows at a Special Price.

Remember that these prices are special to clean up the stock on hand. When the lines are sold the old prices will prevail. Better telephone your order now to 1243.

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of the cost of the lumber you require you can depend upon it that the figures will be as low as first-class, well seasoned lumber can be sold for honestly. If you pay more you pay too much. If you pay less you get less either in quality or quantity.

**Willamette Valley
Lumber Co.**