

Polk County Observer

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BY LEW A. CATES.

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SAFETY LAST.

In the steamer Eastland disaster, the same as with nearly all catastrophes that are not due to natural causes, the fault can easily be traced to the fact that someone responsible for providing adequate safeguards for life deliberately neglected to follow the rule of "safety first." In the case of the Eastland this responsibility appears to have been shared by a number of persons, all of whom must stand some portion of the blame. The design of the vessel itself was concededly faulty, and marine experts now tell us that she never was a safe boat. In an effort to remedy this fault her upper deck was removed several years ago, but even after this alteration she was known as a marine "crank" and experienced lake sailors fought shy of her.

But the larger and nearer responsibility of course rests on those connected with her management and use at the immediate time of the disaster which caused the needless sacrifice of hundreds of lives. Only a year ago her allowed passenger capacity was 2,000, yet an accommodating federal inspector increased this to 2,500 at the solicitation of the owners. Here the responsibility begins to be more clear and definite. It is now known, also, that even the legal limit was largely exceeded on the day of the accident, it being claimed that the number of persons aboard at the time of the accident was nearly, if not quite, 3,000. It also is admitted that something was wrong with her water ballast system and the engineer has stated he could not make it work properly. And, finally, it is significant that when the vessel was listing dangerously at her dock, the captain sent a warning to members of the crew, but for some unexplained reason failed to give warning to the passengers, or to take any step to free the latter from their peril.

All around, in fact, the good rule of "safety first" appears to have been displaced by the careless and negligent reverse rule of "safety last." And back of this carelessness and negligence was the old fault of greed—the desire to make the last dollar of profit, regardless of risk and danger to those who were invited to make use of the boat, and who had a right to expect that reasonable and proper precautions would be taken to safeguard them against just such hazards. It was a terrible and costly mistake on the part of those who shared in this responsibility, and no doubt someone will be made to pay the penalty. But this will not repair the damage or restore the lost lives. What is needed is the kind of regulation that will prevent such accidents, by choking down the greed of men who allow the dollar sign to obscure the motto of "safety first."

GOOD ADVICE.

In the current issue of Farm and Fireside a contributor writes an interesting and practically helpful article, full of sound advice to farmers, on the subject of the purchase of farm machinery. He takes up the guarantees which many manufacturers give with their goods. Some say that such guarantees are of no value and others say that they really protect the purchaser. The following general comment on the subject of guarantees is taken from the article: "It's a good plan in reading a guarantee to see whether it fully covers all points in which you want protection. Some guarantees sound convincing but really promise very little. If you want a free trial or shipment on approval, you can sometimes get such a privilege by asking for it. But it is unwise to assume any more than is actually specified."

Modern business is built up largely on guarantees. People do not like to trade with folks they cannot trust. That business is getting freer from traps and hooks is due largely to guarantees, some of which assure you of satisfaction or your money back. Others promise long-continued service and free repairs, while still others give a free trial till you make up your mind whether you want to buy. The idea is to help you get your full money's worth, and to make you feel safe in buying an article on which you are not fully posted but which you want if it suits you.

MUNITION FACTORIES.

There is considerable gossip going about in labor and diplomatic circles to the effect that recent strikes in American factories being utilized in the manufacture of munitions are due to some nefarious and outside cause, presumably German influence. Of course, no proof is forthcoming, and unless somebody in Washington is affected by the heat, there will be no investigation. The best thing officials can do in a foolish case like this is to ignore it. But it leaves a bad taste, and we trust that the spokesmen for the unions will come back with a quick and determined denial and thus end the nonsense.

American laborers are, no doubt,

representative of the American people in general. If the American people, as Mr. Spring-Rice would have us believe, are for the allies, what makes him presume that the laboring classes would go to the length of strike sacrifices in order to prevent ammunition shipments to England? If, on the other hand, they are pro-German, why, then his first contention falls to the ground. Or, are we to presume that any partisanship our working classes may feel sink into immediate insignificance as soon as somebody shows cash money? No matter which way you look at it, the whole talk appears idle and vicious. And, worse, it is stupid.

For these strikes are due to exactly the same causes that furnish the real reason for strikes in all cases. The workmen realize that this is a great money-making season for contractors who furnish the allies with war munitions, and they want their share of the profits. Whatever may be said against such a tendency from an economic or patriotic viewpoint cannot alter the fact. The workman, worthy of his hire ever raising his valuation in direct ratio to the demand in which he finds himself, and being ever on the lookout for an opportunity to better himself, he sees no reason to let the present chance escape. And, right or wrong, war or no war, this is an axiom of economics that even a Gompers ought to appreciate by this time.

AN AGE OF SPEED.

Celerity in traveling has always been one of man's great ambitions and during the last few years more progress has been made in this direction than for many preceding centuries. On land and in the air he now exceeds the swiftest birds in their flight. A recent item related that some homing pigeons in Texas had broken the record of their tribe by making an average of forty-one miles an hour for a distance of 500 miles. Yet about the same time an automobile in a test at Chicago averaged 100 miles an hour, and the old dream of "a mile a minute" is attained easily and every day by men who think nothing of this performance. Real flying machines, the cherished ambition of inventors for ages, also have become an accomplished fact, and they soar like the birds, exceeding them in rapid motion, and go through evolutions beyond the range of the feathered sort.

A locomotive has traveled at the rate of 120 miles an hour. Motor boats have covered forty-five miles an hour, and each year shows an advance in their speed. Aeroplanes have worked up to a flight of nearly 100 miles an hour and an altitude of six miles. Birds are so far outclassed that they can no longer be said to be in the running for records. It long seemed that human air flight was too baffling a problem ever to be solved in a practical sense, but at length success came with a rush. No limitations to what it may become can now be seen. It may in time be the choicest method of travel. For simple ease of motion it is the most agreeable and its swiftness already is greater than was expected.

It is said that war legislates. It certainly stimulates invention with an intensity not seen at other times. Napoleon's most important rule of action was celerity. The world appreciates speed in its various forms, and the progress made in it is simply wonderful. So wonderful, in fact, that humanity as yet fails to grasp the real significance of the changes which have been wrought in this direction.

MATERIALS ABUNDANT.

Official investigations have established the fact that Germany is amply supplied with all raw material necessary to continue the war for a long time. Good crops are furnishing sufficient quantities of breadstuffs, vegetables and potatoes, even permitting a considerable increase in cattle and swine, the number of which had been artificially decreased to guard against a scarcity of potatoes and fodder. The production of meat is thus increased. There are plenty of vegetable substances to produce all necessary oils and fats.

Of greater importance is the certainty that Germany is producing enough lead to satisfy all demands. Besides the large reserve stores, there are immense quantities of lead pipes which are easily replaceable with iron. The stores of copper are large enough to manufacture all shells and shrapnel far beyond the probable duration of the war. Even if the prediction of Germany's enemies that the war will be of long duration should prove true, the copper now in private use could be replaced easily with other materials. Statistics show that the amount of copper used in roofs, household utensils, pots, plates and boilers is more than 200,000,000 tons, which is sufficient to continue the war for many years.

A NEUTRAL CONFERENCE.

The Independent declares that the hour has come for a conference of neutral nations upon the questions growing out of the war, and to exert the influence of the neutral world toward the restoration of peace. In as much as the material interests of the whole earth are more or less involved in this great struggle, and every nation is concerned in the protection of fundamental rights which are being disturbed by the acts of belligerents, there is ample justification for such a conference, and a firm, united stand by all neutrals should have a powerful influence upon the course of the war if not upon its termination. If it were definitely understood that all the neutral nations of the world were of one accord—in their interpretation of neutral rights, and in their determination to insist

upon a proper respect for their rights—the belligerents could hardly afford either to defy or to ignore them.

It is true enough that with the exception of the United States all of the neutral countries are comparatively small and unimportant. Outside of Asia and Africa there are some thirty-five independent countries not at war. Their combined population is but 50 per cent greater than the population of the United States, and their combined resources probably less than ours, yet altogether they could wield an influence quite out of proportion to the sum of their individual powers. There is this danger, however. The overwhelming superiority of the United States would place upon its shoulders a large share of the responsibilities growing out of such a conference, and the tendency among the representatives of this multitude of minor nations would very likely be to let us take all the burden upon ourselves. The big brother act is very fine and very beautiful, and Uncle Sam has done some great things in international altruism, but he can hardly undertake to shoulder the troubles of the entire neutral world. However, a conference of neutrals whose work would be limited to the expression of views and to the offering of mediation would not be open to that objection, and it might accomplish great things even under such restrictions.—Globe Democrat.

JUST A PIE.

The St. Joseph Gazette is much interested in the story of the Chicago man who makes pies and who placed an entire page ad. in one of the Chicago newspapers to tell the public about his pastry. The advertising cost him a vast sum of money—no matter how the expense is figured. It seems particularly great when we consider that the entire advertisement—taking as much space as the largest mercantile establishments of Chicago employ in attracting attention to their immense stocks of goods—was devoted to talking about something which retails for a dime. Moreover, that something was just a pie.

What could a man say about a pie which everybody who eats pie would not already know? Inquires The Marshfield Times. How might such an expenditure for such a purpose be considered at all likely to earn even a slight return on the cost? It is all well enough to spend large sums of money advertising something to which popular attention is being directed for the first time. But pie—everybody who likes pie knows all about pie. There could be no opportunity for building up a profitable pie business merely from talking in the newspapers about pie.

That is what a lot of people would say, and they would believe it, too. But the Chicago man who makes pies thought differently. He told newspaper readers about his own brand of pie—how delicious its taste, what a fine dessert it makes above all others, how young and old acclaim his special pastry to be the very choicest to be found anywhere. He talked as though it kept him extremely busy making his kind of pie fast enough to supply the demand for it from people unwilling to eat any other. Down in the corner of the page he showed a picture of the place in which his pie was made, and it was like the advertisement—big and attractive.

We fancy this pie announcement is about the first page-size publicity of that kind ever indulged in by a pie-maker. We are certain, too, that it paid, for reading it, we longed to send the office boy out with a dime to buy one of those particular splendid pies. We have no doubt that the advertising made other people hungry, too, and that thousands of these were fortunately able to immediately buy the pie they had been reading about. It pays to advertise—anything that the owner wishes to sell to somebody else. If there is possible profit in the deal, advertising will make the disposing of the property easier and the gain therefore better. It matters not whether it is a \$1,000 piano or a 10-cent pie that is offered—the more the bargain is offered, the greater will be the financial benefit to the advertiser.

Down in Coos county the tax payers are suffering a recall movement similar to that now under way in Polk, and all because County Judge Watson and the commissioners reduced the pay of men working on the highways from \$2.50 to \$2.25 per day, and that of teams from \$5 to \$4.50. This difference obtains, however: While the Coos county court is charged with a general disposition to reduce many legitimate bills, the Polk court is alleged to be extravagant. The recall move there, as here, is being led by men who have a personal grievance.

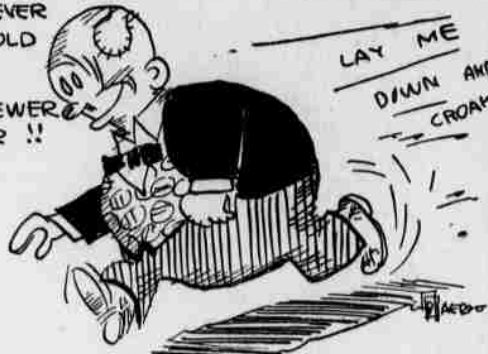
Louis J. Simpson of North Bend, who last fall announced his candidacy for congressional honors in this district, has withdrawn from the field, his time being too precious to devote to such trivial matters as politics. His position is well taken. While Simpson is popular in his own bailiwick, he does not enjoy an extensive acquaintance through the first district, and even were this the case there are other good and sufficient reasons why his candidacy would not be greeted with enthusiasm.

At last someone has discovered a fly in the prosperity ointment. It is now claimed that this year's cranberry crop will be a small one, with scarcely enough to go around when it comes to the annual celebration of Thanksgiving.

England wants to add a postscript to her recent note on the "orders in

RABID RUDOLPH SAYS—

THE SONGS THAT NEVER GROW OLD NEVER GROW ANY NEWER EITHER !!



WITH WALTER JOHNSON PITCHING NO TRAFFIC POLICEMAN IS NEEDED AT THIRD BASE—O

council." And this nation will be all the more ready to receive it if it will offer some solution of the troublesome problem connected therewith.

Somebody remarks that Admiral Noah did not have to keep a lookout for German submarines. Of course not—he didn't fly the British flag.

OTHERS' OPINIONS.

One of the promoters of the recall says that "we will have the support of the three influential papers of the county, The Observer, Itemizer and the Monitor." This statement is rather premature. The Observer has already taken a stand favorable to the county court and the Itemizer, like the Monitor is reserving judgment.—Independence Monitor.

Should the political situation next year be such that the democrats might have a chance to break into the state house without the use of burglar's tools, Asa B. Robinson of Polk county has been suggested as a suitable and a very capable choice for secretary of state. If all Oregon knew Robinson as does Polk county, the result would never be in doubt.—Independence Monitor.

Wells Gives Land to County.

Commissioner Wells was in town yesterday, and when asked why he was undertaking to horsewoggle all the money from the road fund for roads in his district, he replied that the records would show that this district was getting no more than it is entitled to. "I personally," he said, "gave the county a strip of land 200 rods long by fifty feet wide through my farm in order to make a road around a hill instead of over it, and did not ask a cent remuneration therefor. The road is being built for the benefit of the many and not for me individually, and while there may be some dissatisfaction in my section I believe that on the whole the people are satisfied with what the court is doing in the way of road construction."

Card of Thanks.

We desire to tender our sincere thanks to the many friends who gave such kindly assistance during the illness and after the death of our beloved husband and father.

Mrs. Minnie Matheny
Elmer E. Matheny
Lynn E. Matheny
Viola Blanche Matheny

Nearly every woman feels that her husband is very nervous and that his employer should be more considerate.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, W. A. Keyt, by an order of the County Court of the State of Oregon for Polk County made and entered on July 13, 1915, was duly appointed administrator d. b. n. with the will annexed of the estate and of the Last Will and Testament of E. C. Keyt, deceased, and that he has duly qualified as such. Now therefore all persons having claims against the said estate or against the said decedent are hereby notified and required to present the same with the proper vouchers and duly verified, to the undersigned administrator at the law office of L. D. Brown in Dallas, Oregon, within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice or be forever barred.

Dated July 15, 1915.
W. A. KEYT,
Administrator d. b. n. with the will annexed of the estate and Last Will and Testament of E. C. Keyt, deceased.
B. A. KLIKES,
McMinnville, Oregon, Attorney for said administrator. J16-A5

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

Notice is hereby given to whom it may concern that bids will be received and opened by the county court of Polk county, Oregon, on Wednesday, the 4th day of August, 1915, at 1 o'clock p. m. for the placing of 500 yards of gravel, more or less, from Smithfield, onto the Ed. Richmond road.

Certified check of 5 per cent of the amount of the bid to accompany said bid. The court reserves the right to reject any and all bids. File bids with County Clerk.

By order of County Court. 29-41.

BULLETIN

ONE CENT A WORD, 'PHONE 19.
Observer want ads, do the biz.



The charge for advertisements under this head is one cent per word for each insertion. No discount for successive issues. If you have anything for sale or exchange; if you want to rent or lease a house or business building; if you want help or a job of work; if you have lost or found anything; if you want publicity of any kind, try this column. You are sure to get results—others do, why not you. Telephone your "want ads." or address all communications to The Observer, Dallas, Oregon. Count the number of words to remit with order. Telephone No. 19.

FOR SALE—Practically new 3 1/2 in. wide tire, Studebaker wagon; a bargain. J. D. Smith, Jr. Phone 1294. 227 Jefferson street, Dallas 35-1f

FOR SALE—Good sound team of work horses, seven and eight years old. Also harness, wagon, plow and harrow. 713 Shelton street, Dallas. 40-3t.

ABSOLUTELY FREE—We will furnish modern bungalow plans, according to your own idea, prepared by one of the foremost architects on the coast, free to all who purchase material at our mill. Come and let us talk it over. Dallas Planing Mill, Dallas, Oregon.

TO EXCHANGE—Five passenger Carter automobile in good condition, run only 7,000 miles, to trade for one or two milch cows and young stock. Car cost new \$1,800. Apply to this office. 37-1f.

WANTED—Machine, cast and stove plate iron, brass and copper, zinc and rubber, and rags of all kinds; in fact, junk of all kinds. A. N. Halleck, Monmouth, Oregon. 31f.

WANTED—Your lame horses to shoe. Williams, the horseshoer, Monmouth, Oregon. 5-1f.

WANTED—Carpet cleaning and window washing, both business and residence. Milo V. Woods, phone 1173 or 1092. 11-1f.

FOR RENT—Good modern cottage, Sheldon street. Enquire at 513 Church street.

FOR SALE—Quick meal oil stove and oven, cheap. 124 Court street. 20t-x

FOR SALE—12 head good milk cows. Mrs. D. O. Brown, Dallas, Phone 442, or White 52. Aug. 1-Sept. 1

FOR SALE—Ten acres of land, half cleared and half in oak timber; two miles east of Dallas. Inquire of Andrew Heeb, Dallas, Oregon. 42-9t

FOR SALE OR RENT—Five acres of land, all under cultivation with new buildings, five miles north of Dallas. R. L. Cow, heifer, horse and buggy for sale cheap. Wm. Riehl, Dallas. 42-21x

WANTED—Position as cook or housekeeper on a ranch. Have one child ten years old. Address C. Noble, Medford, Oregon. 42-2t.

The Observer, a Twice-a-Week paper, costs no more than a weekly.

FOR RENT—450 acre farm, 275 acres cultivated, 50 acres bearing prune orchard, 20 acres clover, 7 room house, prune dryer, other buildings, running water, 7 miles from Salem. Long term lease for right party with enough horses and help to handle large farm. E. K. Piasecki, Dallas, Oregon. 42-1f.

FOR SALE—Second-hand grain sacks. Phone 19x15. Ewing Bros. 42-21x

FOR SALE—Studebaker "Six" at a bargain; run less than 2,000 miles; in first-class condition, or will exchange for Dallas property and pay difference. Apply at The Observer office.

BLACK'S GROCERY

We can please you if you want the best

WE CAN PROVE IT

SOME GROCERIES FLUCTUATE IN PRICE WITH THE MARKET; BUT, NO MATTER WHAT THE MARKET, OUR PRICE IS THE LOWEST. SHREWD BUYING AND A BIG TRADE THE ANSWER. YOUR PATRONAGE ON TRIAL IS SOLICITED. PUT US TO THE PROOF.

SIMONTON & SCOTT
Phone 18. 525 Court street.

The Observer, a Twice-a-Week paper, costs no more than a weekly.

City Transfer

W. R. COULTER, Proprietor

The world moves itself; We move anything else

Piano and Furniture Moving a Specialty

Stand—Kersey's Confectionery. Phone 1061

Residence Phone 1202

BUY REAL ESTATE NOW...

CITY OR FARM PROPERTY WILL NEVER BE CHEAPER THAN AT PRESENT.

WE HAVE SEVERAL ATTRACTIVE BARGAINS IN FARM LANDS, ORCHARD LANDS AND CITY PROPERTY.

SEE US BEFORE DEALING ELSEWHERE.

McBEE LAND CO.

ROOM 5, STAFRIN BUILDING DALLAS.

Observer Want Ads, do the business

THE MADENA HOTEL

(Under New Management.)

BEST DINING SERVICE IN FALLS CITY. COMMERCIAL PATRONAGE SOLICITED. SAMPLE ROOMS.

HUTCHINSON & ABBOTT, Props.



When We Hand You Our Estimates

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.