

**Polk County Observer**

Published Each Tuesday and Friday.

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Telephone.....Main 19

BY LEW A. CATES.

**Subscription Rates.**

One Year.....\$1.50  
Six Months......75  
Three Months......40

No subscription taken unless paid for in advance. This is imperative.

Entered as second-class matter in the Postoffice at Dallas, Oregon.

**WILL SOLDIERS WEAR ARMOR?**

Will the soldiers of the future wear armor, as they did in the olden times? This is a question that is being discussed with some seriousness, and especially since Sir A. Conan Doyle recently advanced an argument advocating the equipment of British soldiers with strong coats of mail to withstand the fire of machine guns over open places. And although the suggestion is rather startling at first, it is claimed by some experts there is logic behind it. In other words, it is held that offensive warfare in modern times is advancing so rapidly in methods that nations must go back to the medieval era for means of protection. Already in France the soldiers are wearing metal helmets in the trenches, and it is pointed out that Sir Arthur's plan would merely go a step further, or backward, whichever you choose to look at it.

The chief objection to armor in the layman's mind is its weight, but this objection cannot fairly be filed when it is appreciated that a half suit of armor in the sixteenth century weighed only thirty pounds, as against sixty pounds carried by the modern infantryman. The war horse of the fifteenth century was burdened with 350 pounds total weight, but the steed of the German cuirassier gallops under 350 pounds.

The real reason that armor fell into disfavor was because of its cumbersome. The movements of the wearer were impeded, and in an assault or retreat, an unarmored foe had the advantage, especially when ammunition ran out. The armor that the creator of Sir Nigel favors would be a light steel helmet and a light steel plate to cover the heart and lungs. A third piece might be added to protect the abdomen. This could be tested and tempered for strength to withstand shrapnel, machine gunfire, and rifle bullets.

The curator of the army in the Tower of London lays a finger on a weak point in the suit of mail plan, by asserting that no living man can temper steel as well as the armorers of the feudal age. But even that might be accomplished with the aid of modern inventive skill and genius.

**THE MOVIE BUSINESS.**

It is popularly supposed that the motion picture business is a veritable gold mine, yet it is stated on the authority of a man very prominent in this line that "more money has been put into the movie business during the past two years than has been taken out." Of course this does not signify that the business, as a rule, is unprofitable, but it does suggest a rate of development of this business which indicates a danger point ahead. In other words, it stands to reason that no line of business can long be prosperous and profitable, when more money is being invested in its development and extension than is being taken out in actual returns.

The rapid growth of the movie business has been nothing short of remarkable, and it unquestionably is true that fortunes have been made by many who have acted as pioneers in this new form of public entertainment, while a much larger number are today enjoying satisfactory and profitable returns on their investments. Conspicuous successes in this line, however, coupled with the comparative ease with which a start can be secured, has led to such a "rush" in the movie business that already there are serious complaints that the thing is being overdone, and that the fierce competition now encountered is destructive of profits to all but the most favored, while many others are finding it increasingly difficult to make ends meet and some are facing actual losses.

It is not to be doubted that the movie business will continue to attract a large patronage for a long time to come, but obviously there is a limit beyond which it will be impossible to go, and apparently that limit has about been reached. This and the claim that for two years more money has been invested in this business than has been taken out of it, is all the warning that cautious men will need to make them more careful about chasing investments in this particular line.

**DECLINE OF SLIPPER TRADE.**

The time are changing in more ways than one these days, or perhaps one better say that customs, styles

and methods are changing with the times. For example, we are now told that slippers are on the way to extinction, and this statement is made on no less an authority than that of the United States government, which reports that only 15,000,000 pairs of slippers were manufactured in this country last year, "a marked decrease from the reports of previous years." It is reasonably clear, moreover, that the explanation of this does not rest on the "high cost of living," for the statistics of the shoe manufacturers show that the American population continues to wear its three pairs of slippers per capita per year.

The explanation, according to Uncle Sam, is that women are getting out of the habit of wearing slippers. Father still gets into them when he comes home from work as much as ever he did, but mother often doesn't buy a pair from one year's end to another. Why? That is the question that isn't answered. Perhaps because that isn't considered stylish. Perhaps because shoes are more comfortable than they used to be, or that she buys more comfortable shoes than she used to, which amounts to the same thing.

Whatever this may mean to slipper manufacturers, the new generation ought to be glad to hear the news. In the old days it was usually mother who wielded the slipper. Father was more likely to take a trunk strap or the horse whip, or a convenient sapling cut to a proper length for real business.

**BUILDING GOOD ROADS.**

The extent to which the American people have turned their attention to the question of building good roads is probably appreciated by only a few. It was only a few years back that the present good roads movement was started, and for a time it was rather up-hill work to convince the general public that public highway improvements were being neglected and serious losses, to say nothing of endless inconveniences, were thereby being incurred. Today, on the other hand, little argument is needed to stir the people of any section to need of good roads, and all over this country there has been aroused a spirit of commendable competition to have the roads of one state, or section, equal or excel the roads of neighboring states and sections.

And the people everywhere are pushing this work of road improvement with real zeal and enterprise, and also with much courageous common sense. They recognize the fact that a good road costs a good deal of money, and that it is useless to wait for plans to shift the outlay upon somebody else. They are also convinced that well-built highways are one of the best paying investments. Later on they will, with equal courage, look to the necessity of keeping up good roads after they are obtained. In the past the care of roads in this country has been a sort of comic opera performance for which taxpayers spent plenty of money, and in which they generally participated with a few days of sham labor each year. They took an easy view of "working the roads" because they knew it to be a fiction. When they figured on the first cost of a thoroughly made road they gave it up as something hardly to be hoped for before the millennium.

Nevertheless, in forty-eight states, an unprecedented activity prevails in road building, and many countries of small population and wealth are voting liberal amounts to improve roads that have been waiting for grading crews and stone crushers for a hundred years and more. Long continental lines, from east to west and north to south, are received with enthusiasm, and lateral branches to join them multiply on all sides. As has been frequently remarked, the Romans knew how to build roads that would last and were not afraid of the work and expense, though money was scarce and hard to borrow 2,000 years ago. A good road need not be an Apian way, but in order to endure it must be constructed on sound principles, and not illustrate a penny-wise and pound foolish policy. The idea must also be dismissed that somebody outside will relieve a community from paying its full share of the cost of permanent highways.

Road improvement in this country has ceased to be a travesty, a pinchbeck system of how not to do it. On the other hand, the people everywhere are taxing themselves to the limit to secure permanent good roads, convinced that this is a paying investment and that lasting advantages will be secured in this manner. And at the rate of progress already made in this work, it will be only a few years before this country in spite of its vast area, will have a system of good roads that will be the envy of all other nations, and will also be of immense practical value and advantage to the people of this land.

And even if the case of the Arabian is smoothed over, how long will it be before a "real offense" may occur?

**DANGER IN GOLD.**

On the face of things one might think that the more gold this nation could secure and hold, the better it would be for the business and financial interests of the United States. The prominent and leading bankers of this country, however, declare this is a mistake—that too much gold would be sure to bring trouble and a menacing danger, likely to end in serious disaster. They insist that already the supply of gold in this country has reached the high limit of safety, at least for the present. And they profess genuine alarm at what may result should there follow further large importations of the yellow metal, sent to this land to liquidate the already large and rapidly mounting balance of trade held against European nations—notably Great Britain—due to enormous purchases of supplies and munitions made by the latter.

Such a situation is indeed unusual and interesting. It is a fact, as shown by statistics, that this country now holds the largest stock of gold of any nation in the world, and the fear of largely increasing this supply is based on an apprehension that this would lead to a period of wild and reckless speculation, a dangerous inflation of values, an increased cost of living, a fictitious "prosperity," and an almost inevitable collapse that would give this nation a set-back which might require years to overcome. Already the banks are loaded up with idle money, and the natural effort to make these funds productive is shown in declining interest rates and a moderation of safety rules as applied to security. A further enlargement of the gold supply, it is claimed, easily might crowd this tendency to the point of actual danger, ending in what would be nothing short of national calamity.

Of course, however, England must pay her debts to this country, and if the settlement is not to be in actual gold, some other method must be provided. The plan which seems to be most generally favored is to have England establish a large American credit, through floating a loan of, say, half a billion dollars, secured by American securities deposited in trust. Such a loan, it is claimed, would meet with favor on the part of American bankers and investors, and would solve what appears to be a very difficult problem. England has the gold and probably could spare it to liquidate American debts, but she, no doubt, would also prefer to adopt the loan plan suggested. And as the interests of both countries would best be served through the adoption of this plan, there seems to be no good reason why it should not be carried out.

**ARMENIAN SUFFERING.**

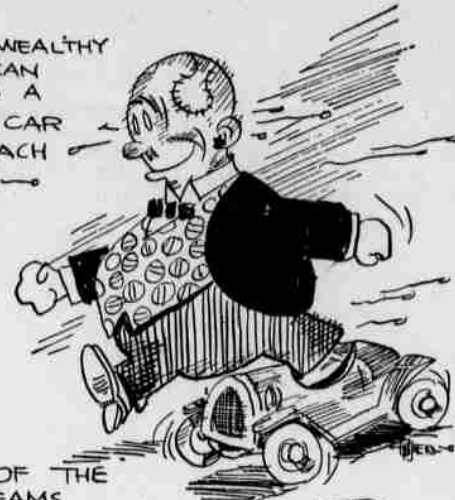
Among the greatest sufferers by the European war have been the Armenians. Their condition is even worse than that of the Belgians. Massacres by the Kurds and Turks have again broken out, accompanied with atrocities. A multitude of Armenians whose homes had been ruined and burned have fled across the frontiers from Turkey and Persia into Russia. There are about 100,000 of these refugees, most of them women and children. "Never in my life have I seen such suffering," writes Tolstoy's daughter Alexandra, who is serving with the Red Cross near the frontier. Some of the refugees in her hospital had had their hands and feet cut off. All were emaciated and in tatters. They are not only destitute but brokenhearted, many having seen their husbands and children slaughtered before their eyes. According to a later dispatch from Tiflis, under date of August 10th, 255,000 Armenians have abandoned their country with the retreating Russian army, and are taking refuge in Trans-Caucasia.

Most heart-rending is the fate of the inhabitants of many towns in Armenia and Asia Minor, who have been exiled wholesale, and whose homes and lands have been given to Mohammedan immigrants from Balkan countries. The men of these families have been detained for some unknown purpose, and the women and children sent to distant parts in Mesopotamia and Konia, to live in unhealthy places, or rather to perish, far from friends and co-religionists. From under this terrible weight of woe Armenia appeals to the kind-hearted American people. The Armenian colonies established in the United States and in other parts of the world have made great efforts to relieve their people in the mother country. They have already raised among themselves, and sent to the proper agencies for distribution, hundreds of thousands of dollars. But the misery is so great and so widespread that help from other sources is urgently needed.

The bureau of the census has just issued a volume that will surprise some of the theoretical and imaginary statisticians. It is a bound folio volume of 285 pages, devoted to the "Indian population in the United States and Alaska, 1910." Contrary to the general impression, the Indian

**Rabid Rudolph says—**

SOME WEALTHY GUYS CAN AFFORD A CYCLE CAR FOR EACH FOOT—



MOST OF THE BALL TEAMS HAVE HIT THEIR STRIDE, WHICH IS A LIMP—

SAVE AS BASEBALL

population is increasing, rather than diminishing, though the increase doubtless represents a gradual diminution of pure Indian blood. In 1890 the United States census showed an Indian population of 248,253, which in 1910 had increased to 265,683.

**TROUBLES OF JAPAN.**

Japan is having her troubles, even though that country is escaping most of the disturbance caused by the European war and has been favored by rare good fortune in carrying out her ambitious plans with respect to the domination of China, her big, rich and helpless neighbor. In fact, it is this very thing which appears to lie at the bottom of the present most pressing trouble of Japan. For having practically seized China, Japan must now maintain a considerable military strength there. And the stronger she keeps her armies on Chinese territory, and the tighter she draws the bonds of her new control about the great republic, the more money it will cost and the more hostility she will arouse among the Chinese.

The principal purpose of Japan's seizure of China was to gain a monopoly of Chinese trade, but thus far the result has been exactly the opposite. The silent boycott adopted by Chinese merchants against Japanese goods is reported already to have lost Japan more than twenty million yen. It will be a long time before the Japanese can overcome this boycott, which is all the harder to combat because the Chinese will not admit that it exists.

What Japan needs most of all is a statesman who can save her from the distressing financial situation that this condition portends. He cannot do so by taking any backward step as regards the seizure of China, for to do so would be to lessen Japanese prestige in the eyes of the world and the Japanese people would not allow it. On the other hand, to continue the present policy in China seems to mean nothing less than an increased boycott. And Japan, already overtaxed to the point of exhaustion, needs every yen that increased foreign trade can bring her.

The choice of Count Oyama as premier was regarded as a stop-gap merely. He made concessions to all the leading parties, and in trying to please everybody he seems to have pleased nobody and is more or less blamed by all the factions for the present situation. The sharpness of the political strife may be gathered from the story that has recently come out regarding the charges that a cabinet minister accepted a \$5,000 bribe. He denied the allegation, but some of his opponents claimed to have the evidence against him, and he resigned.

It is seldom that news goes broadcast regarding Japanese internal scandals. They are so jealous of their reputation that seldom will a Japanese say a word against anything in his own government that might give ground for criticism in other lands. It is nevertheless true that the political feuds of Japan are deep and bitter, and the nation is far from being united as to prompt policies to be pursued. It indicates both the pettiness of Japanese politics and the bitterness of the recent election that a cabinet crisis should be brought about by such a cause. Can you think of any other great country in the world where it would even be charged a member of the cabinet would accept so paltry a bribe as \$5,000.

The president and his advisers are still waiting for "all the facts." And so are the American people.

General Huerta is not the only Mexican leader who has been jolted by Uncle Sam's laws. A large tour-

ing car belonging to General Villa has been attached at El Paso in connection with a suit for alleged damages.

One of life's mystifying little occupations is listening to the circus caliope's wheezings and vainly conjecturing what tune the thing is trying to play.

Last year women at the beaches were allowed to eliminate the long skirt. This year they are allowed to eliminate stockings. Next year—we shall spend our vacation at the bathing beaches.

Germany, so it is stated, has spent more than \$3,000,000 strengthening the fortifications at Namur in Belgium. Which does not look as if Germany is planning to give up Belgium, if she can help it.

**Governor Appoints Albert.**

Governor Withycombe has appointed John H. Albert, a banker of Salem, to represent the state at the Pan-American road congress to be held in Oakland, Cal., September 13 to 17. Mr. Albert is a member of the advisory board of the state highway commission.

The Observer has no \$1 bargain days.

**Dissolution of Partnership.**

Notice is hereby given that the co-partnership heretofore existing between F. E. Davis and C. M. Horn, under the title of Davis & Horn, is this day dissolved by mutual consent. F. E. Davis, succeeding to the business, will liquidate all indebtedness against the firm and likewise will collect all outstanding accounts due the said firm.

Dated at Dallas, Oregon, August 4, 1915.  
F. E. DAVIS  
C. M. HORN

**SUMMONS.**

In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Polk County.

J. M. Grant, Mary V. Kirkpatrick and Anna Crider, Plaintiffs, vs. Sarah P. Riggs, Armand Riggs, Edith Riggs, H. L. Crider, Lucy A. Allen, Glen O. Allen, Allen, Sylvia A. Bolton, Dean Bolton, Mabel C. Miller, John Miller, Owen K. Allen, Anna M. Allen, Edith F. Blinstone, W. L. Blinstone, Mernie E. Jackson, Everett Jackson, Wayne V. Allen, Hattie Allen, Gladys Cooper, Otis Cooper, Verda M. Allen, C. Albert Allen, Margaret Allen, Nancy Crawford, James Crawford, Nancy Ann Holt, D. M. Holt, Armond Smith, Dora Smith, John Riggs, Mattie D. Riggs, Sarah Fleming, James Riggs, Nellie Cronise, Thomas Cronise, Emma Messinger, —Messinger, Eliza Riggs, Charles Riggs, Franja Riggs, Matt Riggs, Anna Riggs, Harry Riggs, Sallie Riggs, Mary Forrow, William Forrow, Georgia Estes and J. B. Estes, Lula Payne, Carlos Payne, Lib Short, T. H. Short, Grace Baker, Frank Baker, Sadie Perkins, Milton Riggs, Maud Riggs, Grandville Riggs, Ann C. Hubbard, George W. Hubbard, John L. Riggs, Louise Riggs, L. W. Riggs, Ann Riggs, Laura Bryan, C. B. Bryan, Frank Weaver, Cecelia Weaver, Eva Gilbert, R. J. Gilbert, R. H. Riggs, Chassie Holman, Gip Stanford, Mary Ellen Holman, H. Holman, Thomas R. Riggs, Sarah E. Riggs, Susan M. Richardson, Harriet L. Veazie, Susan Long, Rachel F. Brown, John G. Brown, John H. Whitely, Cleveland Sears, Martha E. Curtis, Charles E. Curtis, James W. Scroggins, Rosa Scroggins, T. H. Guy, Ellen Guy, the unknown heirs of J. B. Riggs, deceased, also all other persons or parties unknown, claiming any right, title, estate, lien or interest in the real estate described in the complaint herein, Defendants.

To Nancy Ann Holt, D. M. Holt, Armond Smith, Dora Smith, Lula Payne, Carlos Payne, John L. Riggs, Louise Riggs, Frank Weaver, Cecelia Weaver, R. H. Riggs, Chassie Stanford, Gip Stanford, Thomas R. Riggs, Sarah E. Riggs, Susan M. Richardson, Susan Long, John H. Whitely, Martha E. Curtis, Charles E. Curtis, Georgia Estes, J. B. Estes, and —Messinger, and the unknown heirs of J. B. Riggs, deceased; also all other persons or parties unknown claiming any right, title, estate, lien or interest in the real estate described in the complaint herein, of the above named defendants:

In the Name of the State of Oregon: You and each of you are hereby required to appear and answer the com-

plaint filed against you in the above entitled Court and suit within six weeks from the date of the first publication of this summons, to-wit: On or before the 11th day of September, 1915, and if you fail to answer the said complaint, for want thereof the plaintiffs will apply to the Court for the relief in said complaint demanded to-wit: That the defendants and each of them be required to set forth the nature of their claims, and that all adverse claims of the defendants be determined by a decree of said Court, relative to the premises in said complaint described, and that by said decree it be declared and adjudged that plaintiffs are the respective owners of the premises described in said complaint, and that by said decree it be declared and adjudged that plaintiffs are the owners in fee simple of the respective tracts of land described in said complaint, and hereafter described, and that said defendants nor any nor either of them, have no estate, title, or interest whatsoever in or to said premises, and that defendants and each and all of them be forever barred and enjoined from asserting any claim whatever in and to said land and premises adverse to said plaintiffs, and for such other and further relief as to equity shall seem meet and proper. That the plaintiff, J. M. Grant, is the owner in fee simple of the following described tract of land, to-wit:

A part of the D. L. C. of John E. Lyle and wife, Not. No. 1948, Claim No. 68 in Tp. 7 S. R. 5 West of the Will. Mer. in Polk County, Oregon, described as beginning at a point 15.15 chains North and 15.10 chains East of the N. E. corner of the D. L. C. of Isaac Levens and wife, Claim No. 51 in said Township and range; said point also being the N. W. corner of Lot No. 4 in Block 1 of Whiteman's Addition to the City of Dallas, in Polk County, Oregon, and running thence S. 62 degrees E. 2.27 chains to the S. E. corner of Lot 3 in said Block 1; thence North 29 degrees, 30 minutes W. 4.02 chains; thence S. 62 degrees East 2.27 chains; thence N. 29 degrees, 30 minutes W. 2.49 chains to the S. E. corner of Lot 7 in Block 2 in said addition; thence N. 62 degrees W. 4.54 chains to the S. W. corner of Lot 2 in said Block 2; thence North 29 degrees 30 minutes East 1.14 chains to the N. W. corner of said Lot 2; thence N. 65 degrees East 1.38 chains; thence N. 74 degrees 30 minutes E. 93 links; thence S. 61 degrees, 30 minutes E. 5.34 chains; thence S. 47 degrees East 6.79 chains to the East line of said Lyle D. L. C.; thence South on said East boundary line 10.10 chains to the South boundary of the La Creole River; thence N. 25 degrees, 30 minutes West 3.91 chains; thence North 71 degrees, 15 minutes West 2.30 chains; thence S. 85 degrees, 30 minutes W. 5.40 chains; thence S. 65 degrees, 30 minutes W. 4.69 chains; thence N. 1.60 chains; thence N. 9 degrees, 30 minutes West 1.69 chains; thence North 27 degrees, 45 minutes West 2.11 chains; thence North 29 degrees, 30 minutes West 2.95 chains to the place of beginning. That the plaintiffs, Mary V. Kirkpatrick and Anna Crider, are the owners in fee simple of the following described real estate, to-wit: Beginning at a point 9.26 chains South and 30.59 chains East of the Northwest corner of the D. L. C. of William C. Brown and wife, Not. No. 1955, Claim No. 64 in Tp. 7 S. R. 5 West of the Willamette Meridian, in Polk County, Oregon, and running thence West 51.44 chains; thence South 10.18 chains; thence West 11.85 chains; thence South 18.71 chains; thence South 5 degrees East 15.00 chains; thence South 5 degrees 45 minutes East 19.67 chains to the center of the County road; thence South 81 degrees, 30 minutes West along the center of said road 9.31 chains to West line of Solomon Shelton D. L. C.; thence South 16.27 chains; thence North 89 degrees East 35.54 chains to the West line of lands belonging to Lott D. Brown; thence North 10 feet; thence South 89 degrees West 12.82 chains; thence North 20.05 chains to the center of the County road; thence South 81 degrees, 29 minutes West along the center of said County road 6.30 chains; thence North 40-58 chains; thence North 19.04 chains; thence North 2.85 chains to the North line of lands belonging to Frank V. Brown; thence East 32.15 chains to the division line between the East and West half of the D. L. C. of Wm. C. Brown aforesaid; thence North 8.83 chains to the place of beginning, containing 141.80 acres, more or less, excepting therefrom the railroad right of way. Also beginning 50.21 chains West and 21.34 chains North of the Southeast corner of the D. L. C. of William C. Brown and wife aforesaid; at an angle corner on the line between lands of Mary V. Kirkpatrick and Anna Crider and Lott D. Brown, and running thence West 8.03 chains to the East line of lands heretofore conveyed by George M. Brown and wife to Frank Weaver; thence South 36.75 chains; thence South 47 degrees East 45 links; thence North 41 degrees, 45 minutes East 12.48 chains to Lott D. Brown's west line fence; thence North 28.00 chains to the place of beginning, and containing 27.11 acres more or less, together with a right of way 16 feet in width beginning at the Northwest corner of the above premises and running thence West to the Northwest corner of the lands of Frank Weaver; excepting and reserving from the above two descriptions certain roadways and rights of ways as described particularly in that certain deed from George M. Brown and wife to Mary V. Kirkpatrick et al, recorded in Vol. 63, Deed Records of Polk County, Oregon, at page 152 thereof, and in that certain deed from Frank V. Brown and wife to Mary V. Kirkpatrick et al recorded in Vol. 60 of said Deed Records at page 394 thereof.

This summons, under and pursuant to an order of the Hon. John B. Teal, County Judge of Polk County, Oregon, made at Chambers in the City of Dallas, in said County and State, on the 29th day of July, 1915, is served upon you by the publication thereof for a period of six consecutive and successive weeks immediately prior to the 11th day of September, 1915, in the Polk County Observer, a newspaper of general circulation, published at Dallas, in said County of Polk; the date of said order is July 29, 1915 and the date of the first publication of this summons is July 30, 1915.

SIBLEY & EA' N,  
L. D. BROWN,  
Attorneys for the Plaintiff.