

Polk County Observer

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Office.....517-519 Court Street
Telephone.....Main 19

BY LEW A. CATES.

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PROSPERITY IS HERE.

For a long time the talk has been that "prosperity is coming." Now, however, the people are commencing to appreciate the fact that prosperity is here; that it has returned while we have been talking about it, and that already this nation is commencing to enjoy conditions of prosperity. There are numerous signs and indications of this, which have sprung up almost overnight, as it were, and which even yet have not attracted the attention they deserve. Reports from the east, for instance, declare there has been a tremendous revival of freight traffic within the past month or two. Every eastern railroad is being rushed to the limit to handle the vast volume of freight being offered for transportation, terminals and sidings are crowded with loaded cars, and thousands of extra men are being employed to help handle this new freight rush, which in itself is a sure sign of a strong revival in general trade and industry. In our own Willamette valley shippers have been appealing to the public service commission to compel the railroad company to supply them with cars. Every ship leaving for Europe, moreover, is loaded to the limit, and official export figures have far outdistanced all previous records. Domestic trade also has taken a sudden spurt and jobbers and wholesalers are being rushed to fill the orders which are pouring in on them. Industrial activity is also speeding up, factories and mills are adding new help and increasing working hours, and the stimulating effects of this new prosperity are commencing to be observed in every quarter.

Similarly, trade and financial reports from other parts of the country are commencing to tell of the returning good times, or, rather, of good times that already have arrived. In the south, which a year ago was in a panic of fear over the depressed price of cotton, trade and industry have regained their regular stride and everything looks rosy. Throughout the central west, the west and the northern sections the story is the same—bountiful crops, good prices, fast reviving retail trade, increased activity in all industrial lines, and returning confidence in the future.

In other words, prosperity is here and this nation already has fairly entered a period of good times, which the shrewdest business experts tell us will continue for at least several years and will discount any similar period of prosperity heretofore experienced. We have had our "lean" years, but the "fat" years seem to have arrived, which means that this nation is headed for real world leadership in industry, commerce and finance. A golden opportunity has literally been thrust on the people of this most favored nation, and while the east is more speedily feeling the effects thereof it will follow to the coast country, and the whole land will again enjoy more than its share of "peace, plenty and prosperity." Yet, favored in this manner, the American people must not forget they owe a duty to the world in general, no less than to themselves—the duty of being of real service. And this is a point which President Wilson has carefully emphasized in his annual Thanksgiving proclamation, just issued, and which every true American should conscientiously study for its patriotic meaning.

ATTEND SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Evangelist Taylor, who concludes a series of revival meetings in Dallas early next week, emphatically appeals to young people to attend Sunday school, which means nothing more than standing by the church. The world of today recognizes the value of the Sunday school and the church. The business and teaching world give preference to the young man or young woman who has always been a Sunday school scholar and who has church habits. Pastors all over the country get dozens of letters during June and July from school principals asking for information concerning the church and Sunday school habits of young people who have applied to them for a position. And almost without exception the pastor has seen the position given to the Sunday school young people, while the applications of those who thought church and Sunday school habits not worth while were rejected.

Parents who are anxious for the success of their children, and young

people who hope to succeed in their chosen work will do well to ponder that thought. Study a list of "Who's Who in America" and you will find that one out of every ten on that list are the sons or daughters of preachers. No other profession furnishes so large a percentage of America's great men and women as the ministry. Now, we do not think that it is because preachers and preachers' wives are brainier than others and, therefore, their offspring are naturally more capable, but it is rather because the children of the manes of America have been church-going and Sunday-school-going boys and girls. Religious training is indispensable.

THAT BRIDGE.

From the evidence at hand it would appear that Marion county is attempting to force Polk county into constructing a new inter-county bridge across the Willamette river at Salem. The report of the examining engineer would not indicate that the closing of the structure to traffic was necessary in the interest of public safety, notwithstanding statements to the contrary. If the carrying capacity of the bridge has deteriorated only from five to twenty per cent during the past quarter century, under strict traffic conditions the structure should be abundantly able to support a proportionate load without danger to life or property. This might be easily regulated by the bridge superintendent, and the structure continued in service until such time as financial conditions warranted the creating of a fund sufficient to erect a new and more substantial span. While it must be acknowledged that the inter-county bridge is not what it should be, it must also be admitted that it never was much of a bridge. It has deteriorated at most less than one per cent per annum, and the attempt to force its replacement when fully eighty per cent of its original efficiency remains seems to be ill advised, and especially so when the possibility of reducing its carrying load is so apparent.

It is not the purpose of The Observer to take issue with the state's engineer who made a careful examination of the structure's physical condition, but merely to call attention to a means that might be adopted to maintain the bridge in service for at least another twelve months. In fact Mr. Holmes is not quoted as saying that the bridge is dangerous to traffic, but that it has outlived all practical usefulness and that in the interest of public safety the present heavy traffic should be prohibited, which leads to the conclusion that by lessening the load danger might be eliminated for some considerable time to come. That noticeable lack of rigidity throughout the entire structure, mentioned in the voluminous report, has manifested itself for so these many years under the very eye of the Marion county court and the city of Salem, yet it created no great alarm until of recent date. And with the hereinafter mentioned alarm came a desire to change the location of the bridge, the alarm becoming greater and greater on the Marion county side of the beautiful Willamette with agitation of the proposition to cause an elaborate new span to be constructed.

While Polk county is not inclined to shirk any responsibility incumbent upon it, and while it would not be a stumbling block in the path of its progressive neighbors, doubt exists as to the real necessity of the proposed large expenditure at this particular time, and also as regards the necessity for closing the bridge to traffic while more than eighty per cent of its original efficiency remains. Only recently a considerable sum of money was disbursed for repairs, and at that time it was stated upon what was deemed good authority that the structure would bear its burden for several years to come without further expense, but with the new turn of affairs it has suddenly and unexpectedly become so dangerous to life and limb that it must stand idly as a monument to fear. Just what action will be taken in the premises would be difficult to predict. There appears to be a wide difference of opinion as to the likelihood of the bridge collapsing; Polk county is without the needful to erect a new bridge and knows not where or how to secure it; Marion county is excited over the matter and would resort to subterfuges to make its point. In the meantime traffic is obstructed because of the closing of the bridge, and an inadequate ferry system is being operated for the accommodation of those who would go to and fro while anxiously awaiting the outcome of the entanglement.

GOOD HEALTH.

No other thing is of more value to a nation than general good health among its citizens. According to the federal health bureau this nation lost nearly a billion dollars last year through ill health among its wage earners. This, it is declared, was not only a loss in dollars and cents to the workers themselves, but it was also an economic loss to the country. It is estimated that probably fifty per cent of this loss was due to carelessness and ignorance of the common

laws of hygiene and could have been saved had the people been educated to the need of proper diet, clothing and bathing and the errors of over-eating. The government, realizing the enormous waste caused by illness, has inaugurated, through the health service, an educational movement looking toward the conservation of public health. It has issued a pamphlet entitled "In Fighting Trim," in which great stress is laid upon the value of personal endeavor by every individual as of the highest public importance in the organized war against disease. It is claimed that the wonderful victories won in combating infectious diseases have had a tendency to divert public attention from the equally important body fortification against disease.

Health is the most valuable possession of a human being. With it a man is king of his own rights; without it, he is seriously handicapped in the battle of life. The public is coming more and more to realize this fact and takes advantage of every opportunity to gain information looking toward the conservation of health.

HELP THE CAUSE.

Dallas' first market day, next Saturday, promises to be a pronounced success, judging from the interest manifested in it by the farmers of the surrounding territory. This movement has been introduced in many of the Willamette valley towns during the past year and the results attained have surprised even the most sanguine supporters of the undertaking. But to be really effective the present enterprise should be taken up and carried through by the merchants of the city as a whole, and not through individual effort as under existing conditions. Mr. Davis has well laid plans for the future success of market day, but it should be a community affair rather than that of one merchant. Those farmers who have familiarized themselves with the undertaking are offering it their hearty co-operation, believing that it cannot fail to redound to their benefit. It only remains, therefore, for the business interests of Dallas to put a shoulder to the wheel to make market day one of the permanent institutions of the city. The committee now working in conjunction with Mr. Davis to provide ways and means to make this a monthly event should succeed in its efforts to elicit the support of the merchants to a sufficient extent to make market day permanent.

ENGLISH MILLS BUSY.

During seven months of the European war ending July, 1915, which period was under the democratic tariff, there was imported into the United States \$11,240,251 worth of woolen goods, made in foreign factories, as compared with \$8,870,101 of such goods imported during the corresponding period in 1913, which was under the republican tariff law. This clearly indicates that English mills are not only busy in supplying their own war demands for woollens, but are producing enough to increase their exports to the United States. The chief items are English cloths and dress-goods, which represent over fifty per cent of the total woolen goods coming in during this seven months war period.

During the seven months ending July, 1914, which was the period immediately preceding the outbreak of the war, imports of woolen goods from foreign countries amounted to \$29,239,274, representing an increase for this period under the democratic tariff law, over the similar period in 1913, republican law, of about 230 per cent, or an increase of \$20,000,000 worth of woolen goods which displaced that amount of goods which should have been made in the mills and factories of the United States, employing American labor.

DODGING TREATY PLEDGES.

The latest example of putting a "scrap of paper" construction to an international treaty has been furnished by Greece. Greece and Serbia had entered into a solemn compact which bound one to go to the assistance of the other if attacked by Bulgaria. When, therefore, Bulgaria recently declared war on Serbia and actually attacked her, Serbia called on her treaty ally to carry out her pledged obligation by taking steps to help defend Serbia against invaders. Greece, however, replied that the treaty was binding only in the event that Serbia was attacked by Bulgaria alone. Serbia having been attacked not only by Bulgaria, but by Germany and Austria also, Greece holds that her pledge of assistance is nullified.

The war has demonstrated that men are still in possession of all the primitive virtues of courage and fortitude. No better or braver work has been seen in the world than the fighting that has been done by the men of Germany, Great Britain, France, Austria and Russia. This war is beyond all question the most horrible that has ever transpired. It has made greater demands on the mental and physical strength of men than any conflict ever waged. It is to the credit of man-

kind in general that men have been equal to the occasion.

If, however, the war has this bright and glorious side, it also has its reverse. It has been shown that solemn obligations amount to nothing when brought into direct conflict with selfish interests, and the attitude of Greece is the latest example of this.

THE HARVEST FESTIVAL.

Ghosts and goblins will walk tomorrow night when youth celebrates its annual harvest festival—Hallow'een. Of all the gay days that the youngsters enjoy there is none like hallow'een. It is rather a night celebration than one for daylight hours and very few loving mothers refuse to release the bonds that confine juvenile enthusiasm on that occasion. It's only once a year that harvest celebration comes, reason these mothers, and it is with rare delight and good will that they send to the grocery for sonny-boy's pumpkin. And it is with even greater delight, mixed with a vivid realization of joy, that the same sonny-boy bobs up from a fence corner several hours later, with lantern lighted, and enjoys a hearty laugh at the mock fright of some passerby.

But hallow'een has changed, as have so many good old American customs. Fence gates, those few that survive the decree of civic fashion that makes fenceless yards popular, are reasonably safe from the depredations of young rowdies. Perhaps this is because those rowdies of by-gone years have grown up and the present generation has had different ideas of sport instilled into it. The grocer's wagon is very apt to be in the shed on Sunday morning, rather than suspended precariously from a limb of a sturdy tree and Farmer Brown's hay mare won't be found in the church belfry. Times have changed. Tomorrow night parties and entertainments will be in order for the little folks and the older folks will dance and make merry in many other ways. Several dinner and card parties are planned and, withal, the harvest festival of 1915 will be a gay one.

EDUCATORS GALORE.

There is a magnificent array of educational talent in Dallas this week, the annual teachers' institute being in session. There are in the neighborhood of one hundred and fifty teachers from all parts of the county in attendance, all bent on becoming more familiar with the modern methods of teaching through an exchange of ideas and by listening to the addresses of prominent educators from leading institutions of learning. The teachers' institute has a tendency to raise the standards of the schools, thus returning to the taxpayer a liberal recompense for their cost. The schools of Polk county are among the very best in the state, made possible by "the man behind the gun," the taxpayer, who willingly contributes to the cause of education so long as good results are attained. Under the direction of County Superintendent H. C. Seymour the advancement has been marked, yet the foundation for a most magnificent superstructure is but being laid.

GOOD BUSINESS.

By participating in the Anglo-French loan Americans who have goods to satisfy the European demand will stand to reap a double profit. In other words, they will draw about five and one-half per cent on the money which they advance and will then get back their money, together with a profit, for the goods they sell for European use. For none of this money is sent away—every dollar of it remains in this country to pay for various kinds of supplies ordered and purchased by the European borrowers.

It is this aspect of the case which has made many Americans freely willing to participate in this loan, for they feel that by so doing they are helping themselves and helping the best interests of this nation. They would be glad to participate in any other foreign loan, under similar conditions, and they would discriminate against no nation which would take American money under the same terms. They hold it is good business to extend credit to reliable customers, and this is just what the European loan amounts to.

NEW RECORD IN EXPORTS.

Official records show that the total exports from this country for the first two weeks of the present month broke all previous records, amounting to more than \$151,000,000, of which New York furnished just about one-half. This is at the rate of nearly three billion dollars a year and means that the billion dollar trade balance in favor of this country for the last fiscal year probably will be largely exceeded during the present fiscal year. For the single week ending October 16 the favorable trade balance amounted to \$43,912,658, which would seem to indicate that this year's trade balance may be double that of last year.

Of course it is true that these remarkable figures of exports are parti-

ally accounted for by the European war, and also true that when the war ends and trade competition is again established this nation will have to hustle to hold its own in competitive markets, while it will naturally lose its present large business in arms and munitions. For the present, however, things are certainly working to the wonderful advantage of this nation, which thereby is being strengthened and prepared for the conditions that will follow the ending of the great European struggle. Financially and industrially it will be in better shape than ever before to successfully face competition in the markets of the world, while Europe will need and take vast quantities of American goods and supplies as the process of rebuilding and rehabilitation progresses. In fact the foreign trade outlook for this nation never was so promising, and although the present large exports are partially due to abnormal conditions there is reason to expect American foreign trade will continue at high levels even after the war.

It is estimated that about 60,000 persons sleep every night in Pullman cars in this country. And estimating the average tip at twenty-five cents this means that about \$15,000 a day is contributed to the sleeping car porters, which allows the company to add just that much more to its dividends.

The American people are not disposed to quibble over the necessary outlay for national defense. They have been brought to a realization that little attention is paid to the rights of a weak country, and that when it is both weak and rich it invites jealousies that are dangerous.

Following the rule that "a thing that is worth doing is worth doing well," the coming congress will be asked to appropriate about \$400,000,000 for army and navy purposes next year. And Uncle Sam is the boy who can afford to do it.

OTHER THINGS

A Rare and Curious Collection of Fact and Fancy.

An Exploded Theory.
Don't say, "There was never another in-law."
So bad as that creature
Your mother-in-law."
Come, son, don't be simple—
The witch is a pimple
Compared to that blister
Your brother-in-law.
—Homer Hyde.

Famous Celebrations—Bill White's birthday party and Doc Cherrington's inter-city billiard tournament.

Notice is hereby given that those who wish to attend the chicken pie supper at the Christian church next Thursday and get satisfactory results should enter early. School Superintendent Harry Seymour bought a reserved seat ticket on Wednesday.

Attention! Watch Carefully.
Albany Democrat: Glad Portland is having a dress up day. Have been ashamed of the town for some time. Portlanders should see Albany people dress.

If Frank Morrison doesn't come back from California pretty soon, Al Snyder will buy a ticket to the municipality in which his old pal has his temporary abode. He's just dying for some one to pick on.

Breeze Gibson, who is here from Dallas, went to smoking again Friday. He quit Thursday because he thought it might be hurting him.—Alibi.

Which is Very True.
A Washington man is being tried for bigamy. Any man who thinks he can manage more than one woman at a time gets his own punishment.—(G. T.)

While on the Siletz last week Manager Martin of the Oregon Power company captured a trout so long, but it was with some difficulty that he first captured the Indian who had caught it.

Possession.
When I have had a joyous day
With friendships rich, and blue
above it,
No grain tomorrow down the way
Can ever come and rob me of it.

The other day one of Lot Brown's horses broke a leg between the berry patch and the barn. Lot has received reinforcements for his apple barrel and the enemy is advancing in large numbers.

If the number of weddings this fall are any criterion it must be going to be an awful winter.—Willamina Times.

We're Satisfied.
Spuds, all in the root house, jams and pickles all made, a barrel of kraut on tap and the pig all smoked, so let her rain if it wants to.—Exchange.

Cheer up, you pessimists, Carey Hayter has returned from his fishing trip.

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