

# Polk County Observer

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## ELECTRICITY SCATTER CITIES.

Congestion of population in cities is one of the recognized problems of modern times, and one that constantly is receiving an increased amount of attention. For congestion of population means attendant ills and evils that are prejudicial to public health and morals, besides nurturing other factors that are detrimental to public prosperity and welfare. For instance, congestion of population contributes to crime and the upbuilding of distinctly criminal classes; it tends to draw more distinctly the line between poverty and wealth and to intensify the great basic problem of unequal distribution of wealth; it reduces the population of rural communities and thereby tends to correspondingly restrict the products of the soil, and it adds to the difficulties of distributing these products in a way to keep the cost of living within reasonable bounds; and it breeds discontent and unrest on the part of large masses of people, who seek through political means, or movements more or less revolutionary, to find a remedy for the ills and hardships which are thrust upon them.

Of course there are some compensating factors for the evils thus enumerated, but it is the strong conviction of students of this question that the real and only solution of this great problem is to be found through the scattering of population and the relief of pressure at congested centers. And this remedy is to come about, naturally and orderly, according to Dr. E. P. Steinmetz, chief electrical engineer of the United States Steel corporation, and one of the world's foremost experts in the field of electricity and allied mechanics. Electricity, declares this authority, is going to perform the miracle of scattering population and relieving the congestion of cities, and he further declares that this process already is working out the solution of this question. The application of steam to industrial mechanics, he holds, has been responsible for the increasing congestion of population, but electricity is exerting an influence in the other direction. Here is his argument: "Steam built up our great cities with their congestion and slums. Electricity will break them down and scatter the population evenly over the continent, because electricity can be transmitted anywhere by simple transmission wires. Steam must be used where generated, and where there is a large labor supply.

"With full electrical development, the labor supply need not be right at the factory door. It can be moved cheaply and quickly morning and evening. There will be no necessity for locating near where the power can be produced the cheapest, as in the steam factory, because the power can be carried over the wires. The factories will then go where the land is cheapest. Electricity will run errands in the home.

"The cost is all that is standing in the way. But the high cost is due to the limited use of the electrical motor rather than any natural disability. It is as simple as an alarm clock and should and would be as cheap if it were used as generally. All we need is better distribution and that is coming."

It is true that electricity in its modern applications and uses is fast changing and modifying conditions of life and business, and it requires no vivid imagination to realize the possibility of the picture of the future drawn by Dr. Steinmetz. There has been a strong, compelling force that has driven people to forsake the rural districts and build up congested centers, but electricity promises to reverse this order and give impetus to the back to the land improvement. Nor can it be doubted that as this process gains headway it will be better for the people individually and better for the nation as a whole. Many of the minor problems will vanish with the promised scattering of population, and peace, prosperity and progress will all be advanced by such a change.

## GO TO SCHOOL DAY.

County Superintendent of Schools Seymour has issued an invitation to all persons interested in the promotion of education to visit the schools of the county on Friday, November 12, and by their presence show their appreciation of the work that is being accomplished and lend encourage-

ment alike to pupils and teachers. The plan is an excellent one, and should have the hearty approval of every community in the county. Last year nearly eighteen hundred adults paid their respects to the schools on "Go to School Day," and this year the superintendent and teachers hope to increase the number to twenty-five hundred. And it can be done. Every community should commence to make their preparations to take an afternoon off, and visit the school of their respective districts. There will be no ceremonies of an unusual character, but the ordinary work will have a place, thus making it possible for the parent to get a good idea of every-day school work.

## DRUG HABIT VICTIMS.

Some interesting facts concerning the use of habit-forming drugs in this country are revealed in a report recently issued by the federal public health service. It has been a common belief, and especially since the agitation which resulted in the adoption of the so-called Harrison anti-drug act that addiction to habit-forming drugs was becoming very prevalent among Americans. The report referred to tends to refute this belief. Instead of the number of "dope fiends" increasing at the rate of 200,000 a year—which is a figure that has been extensively used by those who discussed this problem—the official investigation indicates that the actual victims of this pernicious habit do not number over 337,000, all told, and that their number today is no greater than it was four or five years back.

Of course this is bad enough, but it is gratifying to learn that the situation is not so bad as it has been made to appear. It also is gratifying to learn that the Harrison law is having a good effect, and that the number of deaths due to the inability of drug users to get their usual supply because of the law has been greatly exaggerated.

Another statement of no little importance is that the drug habit usually is formed. It has been the popular opinion that drug users commonly became victims of the habit through the carelessness of physicians in prescribing narcotics, and the willingness of unscrupulous druggists to renew prescriptions. It is true that these causes have been responsible for many cases, but a greater cause has been the prolonged use of some medicines and other patent concoctions which contain a small quantity of soothing drugs.

It is announced that the daily use of such a cough mixture for thirty days is quite likely to develop the habit to an extent that makes it somewhat difficult to leave off, while ninety days' use will mean the necessity of medical advice and aid before the taste for the drug may be removed. This is not only news that will surprise a great many people, but it constitutes a warning that may well be heeded by all.

## ETERNAL VIGILANCE.

It is gratifying to note, in the face of the calamity when 20 pupils of an eastern parochial school last week perished in a conflagration, that fire drills have a place in the Dallas public schools. Adequate exits do not prevent accidents of the character which brought sorrow to many homes in the Massachusetts town. In addition to proper equipment, precautions and safeguards must be thrown around young America, and the best of these is the so-called fire drill.

Eternal vigilance is the price of safety in such disastrous matters, and consequently every time human lives are lost in fires like that at Peabody it is proper to again remind the public and the proper authorities of this indisputable fact. With each recurring serious accident in which human lives are destroyed, there is a spasm of increased carefulness to guard against a repetition of the incident, but with the lapse of time this vigilance wears thin until another similar catastrophe furnishes a reminder.

Unquestionably it is true that provisions for safeguarding life in public places are much better than they were a few years back, thus affording greater opportunity for the preservation of life in cases of fire, yet notwithstanding there should be no slackening of vigilance and carefulness, and in the case of the public school the periodical fire drill seems to fill the bill. The lesson in vigilance as taught by the Dallas schools is worthy of emulation by other schools of the county and of the valley.

## GRACES THE LANGUAGE.

In several of the great cities of the country successful pressure has been brought to bear upon the public school authorities to eliminate forms of polite usage among pupils. Among the forms are the expressions "Yes, sir" and "No, sir" as being a survival of the days when society was founded upon caste distinctions. Our young Americans are to be taught that they are a race of freemen—not subservient to any masters. When addressed by their elders these youngsters will hereafter answer with a mere "yes" or "no." Without in the least com-

batting the generally accepted theory that in this country one man is as good as another, and sometimes better, it is appropriate to observe that the forms now tabooed in some of the schools are terms only of deferential courtesy, indicating, not subordination and servility, but decent politeness which all children in all lands should show their elders. No one cares to see a child cringing thing of fear and obsequiousness who says "Yes, sir" through an instinctive sense of inferiority. But personal liberty that does not recognize the element of respect due one person from another is a liberty of rudeness and impertinence. Anyone who observes the children of our public schools today will say that our national progeny will not be afflicted with undue humility or self-abasement. The average American boy or girl is more forward than is becoming, and it is a common criticism of the American youth that they are "pert," irreverent and impudent. Under such circumstances it seems unnecessary to impart any additional spirit of arrogance in the rising generation. Perhaps "Yes, sir" and "No, ma'am," should not be insisted upon, but the fact remains that these polite forms grace the language of all children when addressing their elders and engender mutual respect.

## BUSINESS BOOSTER BODY.

The organization of those citizens who comprise the business interests of Dallas into an association for the extension of the present trade territory of the county town, and for their own mutual advancement along business and social lines, is a movement that should have the endorsement of all who traffic in commodities that are retailed in this center, provided there is no discriminatory element embodied and the "combination" feature which so frequently presents itself to bodies of this character is entirely eliminated. Labor organizes unions for the protection of its members, professional men organize for the uplift of their respective callings, those engaged in industrial pursuits organize for the purpose of maintaining and bettering conditions, fraternities are organized that membership may be privileged to enjoy the bonds of brotherhood, and even society itself unconsciously organizes to carry on its gayeties, thus making organization the order of the day. But these varied associations are not permitted to encroach upon the territory of another, and neither must the businessmen's newly created organization become dictatorial in its aspect and attempt to bottle up, as it were, other businesses that fail to coincide with its views or refuse to enter its fold. The effort to extend and stimulate trade is commendable, the protection of the mutual interests of the trafficker in merchandise and the consumer is to be applauded, but further than this and the social side, wherein men of business mingle with their like, little is within its sphere.

There is abundant opportunity for Dallas to reach out into the surrounding country for trade that is now going elsewhere for a variety of reasons. While the Polk county seat is the natural distributing point for a considerable amount of territory, no little of its rightful patronage is getting away because it is not properly fostered. The smaller towns, with their limited stocks, are daily eating into the vitals of Dallas trade, while the larger towns in adjacent counties are profiting through our absolute neglect. Hundreds of Polk county's most substantial rural citizens are constantly contributing to the upbuilding and material advancement of our more wide-awake neighbors while we are apparently content with our lot. Money that should justly course through local business channels finds its way to the metropolis of the commonwealth and to catalogue concerns in other states, thus taking from the community needful sustenance to commercial activities within our own cherished bailiwick. These unfortunate conditions must necessarily continue to exist without something is done toward turning the tide of trade into the home marts. It should be the foremost aim of the businessmen's organization to counteract these detrimental influences upon local traffic, the accomplishment of which may be brought about by the concerted action by those most vitally interested and the co-operation of the whole community.

Membership in the organization but recently completed should not be restricted to any particular classes of business, but should include every line of endeavor in Dallas, excepting the professions, and the identification of these with the association might be permissible as honorary members, their support and influence being helpful in all matters of public concern. Then, when an "overwhelming majority" of the business interests sufficiently appreciate the merits of the cause to become active in its deliberations and enthusiastic for its success, Dallas will possess a business booster body that cannot fail to give a good account of itself. A fragment

of these interests, no matter how worthy may be its cause or how energetically and persistently it may labor for the accomplishment of its purposes, must necessarily be hampered for lack of support and encouragement by those who elect to remain without membership. While there is strength in unity, that unity must be complete. A comparatively few obstructionists may upset the work of many. With practically every business institution in Dallas, large and small, in full and complete accord with the principles and objects as set forth by the organizers, possible failure would be eliminated; our trade could be widely extended; a better feeling would exist between "seller and consumer," and Polk county in its entirety would reap a handsome benefit.

## GREAT OPPORTUNITIES.

Never before in the history of the world were opportunities more numerous and more promising of rich reward for those who are willing to strive with honest effort and earnest zeal to advance the interests of civilized progress and public welfare. Such opportunities always have existed, of course, but they are more numerous today than ever before, and also more easily distinguishable. In a measure this is due to the titanic world struggle now going on in Europe, which has been viewed by some as a check to world progress, although at most not more than a temporary check. But already the war is having a stimulating effect in many ways, to compensate for the losses, destruction and confusion it has caused. The arts and sciences—even trade and finance, along certain lines and especially in countries not actually engaged in the war—are commencing to feel this influence, and no nation is getting the benefit and reaping the advantage of this new condition, more than our own.

The American nation, in fact, appears to be entering an era of great opportunities—opportunities that offer much to the people individually and to the nation as a whole. Business and industry are calling for improved mechanical processes, new chemical combinations, new devices and better methods in every field of human undertaking. The old world nations also need these improvements, but the pressing need just now is on this nation, which is not emmeshed in the great war tangle and, therefore, can better turn its attention in this direction. We are expected to be the leaders in this movement, in other words, and to have the new methods, devices and processes ready for the rest of the world when the latter emerges from its military nightmare and takes up the work of restoration and upbuilding. And it plainly is the duty of this nation to face and assume this responsibility, both for its own sake and for the good and welfare of the rest of the world.

Moreover, it is the young men of America who must shoulder most of this burden and do most of the work. Edison, Maxim and other aged inventors still are active in trying to solve the problems presented, but the younger generations must be ready to take up this work where the others leave off. Young Americans should think of this and prepare themselves for the task that is before them. For those who study and equip themselves for successfully handling their work there are golden opportunities and rich rewards. High honors also await those who achieve pre-eminent success.

## EARLY SHOPPING.

As the holiday season approaches a number of good reasons are advanced why buying Christmas presents early is a good plan. But people will buy when it suits their convenience or when they have means to spend for this purpose. A better selection can doubtless be obtained if buying is gone about leisurely. Then there will be avoided some of the inevitable crush which comes a day or two before Christmas and which makes the season so painful a one for those who have to wait on the crowds. No one anticipates that "buying early" will do away altogether with the excitement of Christmas shopping, and no one would like to see that done; but in recent years it has been strongly borne upon humane persons that thoughtlessness and lack of consideration on the part of the public were imposing hardships upon the storekeepers and their employes which they ought not to be compelled to endure. It is possible in the short time which now intervenes between this time and when the season of active buying by most persons begins, for those who can do so to relieve the pressure greatly.

The president has finally declared in favor of adequate preparation "not for war but for defense," as he puts it. But, in looking forward to putting such a program through congress, it behooves the president to prepare for war—with Mr. Bryan.

Here is the last shred of that scrap of paper, the democratic platform of

**RABID  
RUDOLPH  
SAYS**

CUTTING THE  
TRANSATLANTIC CABLES  
WOULD DRAG THE HARVARD  
CHESS TEAM INTO THE WAR



GETTING SO  
A BACHELOR CAN'T  
DIE IN JERSEY CITY  
WITHOUT HAVING THREE  
OR FOUR WINES AT HIS BEDSIDE

1912: "We favor a single presidential constitution making the president of the United States ineligible for re-election, and we pledge the candidate of this convention to this principle." "Our pledges are made to be kept when in office."

The people of this country desire to see no reckless plunge into extreme preparedness for national defense; neither do they wish to have their money wasted—or frittered away in log-rolling schemes and pork-barrel projects. But they do believe in getting ready to forestall any unpleasant surprises, and they are heartily in accord with the plan of making the condition of preparedness "very adequate."

It probably is a good thing, after all, that there are so many persons in this world who have "more money than brains." It helps to make easy picking for the fellows who have more brains than money.

A quarter of a million Serbian women are fighting for what they think is their country and their right. Where's the argument now that women shouldn't vote because they do not bear arms?

Secretary McAdoo says that "Financially this country is stronger than any other nation on the face of the earth." Which constitutes a handsome testimonial to the value of peace.

"We shall continue to have wars so long as governments are made of men," says ex-President Taft. Is this a concession to the cause of woman suffrage?

Hughes and Borah would make a presidential team that would be hard to beat. And there's a possibility.

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**OTHER THINGS**  
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**A Rare and Curious Collection  
 of Fact and Fancy.**  
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**My Friend.**

He was my friend. He understood all the vagaries of my mood. Say I was joyous, he was gay; if sad, he felt the selfsame way. He held, with trusty common-sense, all that I told, in confidence. He died. And now I look around, but such a friend is seldom found. I miss his kindly presence, yet a dog like that is hard to get! —Judge.

"Really, mother, this Sunday church going is all very fine," says A. V. R. Snyder to Mrs. Snyder, "but it does play the deuce with one's pinochle game." —

Joel Hoffstetter, who lives just across the slough, is learning to play on the clarinet and three of his neighbors' dogs have left town. A clarinet is awful trying on a dog's nervous system.—Enterprise.

Frank Barrett respectfully requests that official attention be called to his new hat. Attention, please!

"Doc" Cherrington cut his mustache off awhile ago and said he'd never grow another. But Doc's fingers twitched nervously while the ornament was gone so he let it grow again. Now Doc has something to play with during his very few idle moments and consequently he is entirely happy.

Bill White, the democratic rabbit shooter, says: "Money's the thing—no matter where or how you get it."

"Boots" Kersey brings word from Portland that he did his best to avoid the temptations of the big city. But why, pray tell us, did "Boots" choose to keep company, in the performance

of such a task, with Rex Lampman, Dean Collins and Tom Stockwell? That is a trio that knows more of the cozy little retreats, where "it runs in golden streams of cool refreshment," than any other in Portland.

There was a man who thought that he could win a little bet. By quenching in some gasoline a lighted cigarette. He thought the fluid, being wet, would douse the flames somehow. There was a man who reasoned thus. He is not with us now.

There are two non-refillable bottles, according to the motto of Walt. Toozie. One comes with Johnny Walker whisky and the other is the bottle of youth. (Similar to the fountain of youth.) "I only take a little at a time from either one," says Junior.

As an inducement to sinners to attend religious services during the rainy season, Rev. George H. Bennett announces an unusually good assortment of umbrellas at the Methodist church both morning and evening.

## The Irony of Fate.

Jack Syron, Red Prairie's best little bachelor, recently won a sewing machine in a contest. Jack now wants some kind of a contest in which he can win the very essential accompaniment to a sewing machine.

Twice-a-Week Observer, \$1.50 a year.

## GUARDIANS NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been duly appointed Guardian of the estate of Henry M. Berry, an incompetent person, by the Hon. County Court of Polk County, Oregon. All persons holding claims against said estate should present the same to the undersigned for adjustment, and all persons owing said estate are hereby notified to settle same with said guardian.

J. D. SMITH,

Guardian of the estate of Henry M. Berry.

SIBLEY & EAKIN,  
**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR.**

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, S. S. Duncan, has been by an order of the County Court of Polk County, State of Oregon, duly appointed as the administrator of the estate of Irvin Dunn, deceased, and he has duly qualified as such administrator.

Therefore all persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified and required to present the same properly verified, to the undersigned administrator at his office in the County house at McMinnville, in Yamhill County, State of Oregon, or to said administrator at the residence of H. L. Fenton, at Dallas, in Polk County, State of Oregon, within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice.

Dated this 25th day of October, 1915.

S. S. DUNCAN,  
 Administrator of said estate.

FRANK W. FENTON,  
 Attorney for said estate.

Date of first publication of this notice is October 26, 1915.

Date of last publication of this notice is November 23, 1915.

## NOTICE OF FINAL SETTLEMENT.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned as executors of the estate of John H. Ground, deceased, have filed their final account in the County Court of the State of Oregon, for Polk County, and that Saturday, the 20th day of November, 1915, at the hour of one o'clock in the afternoon of said day, at the court room of the said county court, in the city of Dallas, Oregon, has been appointed by said Court as the time and place for hearing of objections to the said final account, and the settlement thereof. ROBERT F. GROUND, WILLIAM H. GROUND, JOHNNIE M. GROUND, Executors of the estate of JOHN H. Ground, deceased. L. D. BROWN & J. R. SIBLEY, Attorneys for the estate. 97-5t.