

The Polk County Observer

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(TWICE-A-WEEK)

NO. 73

MAY WITHDRAW HELP

COUNTY FAIR APPROPRIATION NOW SEEMS DOUBTFUL.

Complaints Registered by Tax-Payers May Have Effect of Eliminating It From Budget.

That the county court will include in its next budget an appropriation for county fair maintenance seems to be questionable, Judge John B. Teal holding that the benefits derived from the annual exhibit are not sufficiently great to warrant the expenditure, and, further, that there should be curtailment wherever possible in the tax levy, which must necessarily be heavy. Complaints are registered from several sections of the county against this piece of alleged extravagance on the part of the court, and this protest will undoubtedly have a tendency to strengthen the opinion expressed by Judge Teal. It is asserted by those opposed to the appropriation that the fair benefits comparatively few people within the county; that it is practically a Dallas institution, and as such should be maintained from that source rather than to burden property holders throughout the entire county with the additional assessment necessary for its support. While the argument is faulty in the main particulars, it is bound to have a certain amount of effect. It is admittedly true that the fair, outside of the school, industrial exhibits, is not widely beneficial in its scope, but this unfortunate condition obtains largely because of lack of interest on the part of those who would condemn it, the want of whose encouragement and assistance, other than financial, alone prevents it becoming one of the largest and best county fairs of the state. But there is a combination of circumstances surrounding the enterprise that augurs to its disadvantage, and those opposed to the fair being made a permanent institution through county aid are making the most of these counteracting influences. While, perhaps, appreciating the fact that all residents of Polk county enjoy the same privilege of participating in the event, a large majority electing not to do so, the opinion appears to prevail quite extensively that an appropriation for its maintenance is but an extravagant expenditure of public funds.

The fair management has not as yet submitted its annual report to the county court, as provided by law, but will file the document within a short time, and this may have something to do with finally determining the matter. As it now stands, however, the likelihood of an appropriation from the county is considered doubtful.

ASHLAND IS ENTERPRISING.

Would Re-erect Oregon Building After Panama Exposition.

If the Southern Pacific will haul the Oregon building to Ashland free of cost, it is not wholly improbable that the famous Oregon Parthenon will grace the wonderful park being developed at Ashland through the expenditure of \$175,000 secured by bond issue for this purpose and that of developing the Lathia springs there. Just now there is no great hope that the government will decide to maintain the building, and contract calls for its removal within ninety days after the close of the exposition. The best offer that the commission has had for the building is \$1,000 the concern making this offer agreeing to remove the structure and put the ground in the shape required by the contract.

It will cost from twelve to fifteen thousand dollars to wreck the building and Mr. Greer is confident that he can secure that amount in his home city, providing the Southern Pacific will agree to transport the wreckage to Ashland. It is understood that the Spring commission already has available a considerable sum for the construction of a casino in the park, and there would be no difficulty about financing the reconstruction of the Oregon building. If the Parthenon is not to be maintained there, it is reasonably certain that all Oregon would delight in its reconstruction at Ashland. That city is spending a very large sum to develop a great resort and the beautification of the mountain park practically in the heart of that city is now in the hands of McLaren, father of Golden Gate park's landscape beauty, and also responsible for the wondrous beauty of the exposition grounds. The Oregon Parthenon would have perfect surroundings there, and as a convention hall, museum, casino, or something of the sort it would serve a good purpose and advertise Ashland as nothing else could and result to the great advantage of Oregon in general.

Death of Cordelia Krebs.

Mrs. Cordelia Krebs, a prominent business woman and early resident, died at her home in Portland, Thursday, at the age of 82 years as a result of a stroke of apoplexy sustained

about two weeks ago. Left a widow with a large family, Mrs. Krebs came to Oregon more than 30 years ago, settling near Brooks, in the Willamette valley, where she acquired about 700 acres of raw land and went into the business of raising hops.

She is survived by the following children: John, Frank, Conrad and Michael Krebs, the latter two prominent hop growers near Independence; Mrs. Pauline Thiel, Margaret Krebs, Cordelia Kettinger, Mrs. Josephine Holton and Mrs. A. B. Gillis, wife of Dr. A. B. Gillis of Salem, Oregon. Besides there are 20 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Educators Visit Schools.

Mr. Harrington, industrial field worker for the state, and Prof. Barr of the Agricultural college, are at work among the rural schools of Polk county, assisting Superintendent Seymour and Supervisor Parsons in their work of improving conditions. These educators spent the greater part of last week in this county, during which time they visited a large number of schools. They are loud in their praises of Mr. Seymour and the good work he is doing in the promotion of education.

BRIDGE OPEN TO TRAFFIC

INTER-COUNTY STRUCTURE IS UNDERGOING REPAIRS.

Yet Under Strict Regulations, Engineers Hold That Span Is Unsafe to Travel.

The inter-county bridge at Salem is open to traffic. The bars were thrown down last Saturday morning, and Salem again enjoyed the feel of Polk county coin of the realm, over which it was greatly agitated during the brief period the big structure was officially closed. Repairs to the bridge will go forward as rapidly as possible, and in the meantime restricted traffic will be permitted. During this period which will cover about a fortnight, loads as heavy as 7,000 pounds, including wagon and team, will be allowed to pass. The Capital Journal of Saturday has the following concerning the work:

Workmen are tightening the laterals in the center of the bridge, and replacing the beam under the first panel east of the center. With this center section of the bridge strengthened, autos, with a gross weight of not more than 6,000 pounds will be permitted to cross, 300 feet apart. The regulations will require the same distance between wagons, with the gross weight of 7,000 pounds. Autos will slow down to 10 miles an hour, and wagons, four miles.

In order to lighten the weight on the bridge, the sidewalk will be removed, as the engineers feel that the reduced weights on the spans, by the removing of the sidewalk, will add greatly to the safety of the bridge. The ends of the batter posts will be re-enforced with steel plates riveted on, and the intermediate posts will be strengthened by having timbers clamped on. The bottom cords are to be re-inforced with torn-buckle rods, to take care of the deterioration of the cords. With the opening of the bridge traffic will be permitted 16 hours a day, and the traffic will not be interfered with only at times when the repair work may require.

B. A. McClain, superintendent of the work in charge for the Coast Range Bridge company, stated today that the repairs should be considered as only temporary, and even after all the repair work had been completed, the bridge really will not be safe. "According to the weight of traffic and weight of metal in the structure, the bridge cannot be made safe," said Mr. McClain.

Granges May Consolidate.

The growth of the Monmouth Grange since its organization several years ago, and the extending of its scope in farming activities, has led to talk of consolidation with granges at Lewisville and Buena Vista of the Luckiamute valley. No definite action has been taken, but the advantages of consolidation have been widely discussed. The grange movement has been widening in Polk county since the meeting of the State Grange at Monmouth in 1913.

Offers Reward.

It having been reported that Theodore Bergmann had disposed of his interest in the Theo. Bergmann Shoe Manufacturing company of Portland, that individual offers a reward of \$100 to the first person furnishing evidence that will convict any salesman or manufacturer of shoes who circulates the false story. Mr. Bergmann is still on the job as president and manager of the company, and as such is making his competitors go some.

Another theory which does not work out in practice is the one to the effect that the collar-button rolls under the dresser. Instead, the collar-button drops at your feet, and you step on it while hunting it.

Monthly Sales Days Now Give Promise of Success

The primary purpose of establishing a regular monthly Sales Day on the last Saturday of each month is community advancement along material lines by bringing the city and rural district in closer business and social contact. It must be admitted that, practically speaking, the interests of all residents of Polk county are identical—what helps one individual or one community augurs to the good of the whole. It has been fully demonstrated elsewhere in the Willamette valley that a periodical gathering of the farmer and city folk on one common ground enhances mutual interests and redounds to the benefit of both, financially and otherwise. It is the aim of the Dallas Commercial club to exert its influence and good offices for the benefit of the rural sections of Polk county as well as its cities, and hence the promotion of this undertaking, in which the participation of every farmer of the county is most earnestly requested. It is absolutely necessary to have the co-operation and support of the rural population in order to make Sales Day a success, and to this end it is proposed to offer every possible inducement to bring this about. Sales Day is not a one-sided proposition—it is for mutual interests, as is herein shown beyond a shadow of doubt.

The first sale under the management of the Commercial club will be held on Saturday, November 27, at the corner of Main and Oak streets, where a commodious building has been secured for the accommodation of stock, vehicles, machinery, farm implements, or anything that the farmer may have to offer for sale or exchange. Farmers may leave whatever they wish to dispose of here at any time during the month previous to Sales Day, with assurance that it will be carefully looked after. Stock, for which stalls are provided, may be brought in on the day of sale, or the previous day, as the owner may elect. Opportunity will be afforded during the forenoon of Sales Day to farmers and others to "strike their own bargain" if they choose; and at 1:30 in the afternoon such articles as are not disposed of will be sold at auction to the highest and best bidder by the Sales Day management without one cent of charge to the owner. There will be no fee exacted for accommodations or for sales effected through the management. A regular auctioneer will do the crying.

For Sales Days the merchants of Dallas will offer for the consideration of the purchasing public bargains in their respective lines, thus affording a money-saving opportunity to all who visit the county seat on that day. These bargains will be announced through the local press during the month, and must necessarily prove an added inducement to the economical buyer, who would make a dollar do more than ordinary duty, to attend these monthly events. Thus, it will be seen, that while the introduction of a Sales Day, such as are now being successfully carried on in other communities of the Willamette valley will operate to the interest of all concerned the resident of the rural realm who participates in it will get the big end. Every farmer has something on his place for which he has no use, now or hereafter, while another may want that very article badly. Opportunity is offered by Sales Day to make an exchange that would prove beneficial to both; or a chance to buy or sell advantageously.

The committee in charge of this monthly Sales Day invites the farmers of Polk to give the undertaking their co-operation that it may be made one of the permanent institutions of the county. The plan has worked successfully in other places, and there can be no good and sufficient reason why it should not be successful here. It is at least worthy of a trial. Anything left at the stables of Burk & Shepherd, Main street, will have the best of care pending Sales Day.

DEATH UNDER WHEELS SUFFERS HEAVY LOSS

SON OF A DALLAS BUTCHER MEETS UNTIMELY DEMISE.

While Attempting to Board Freight Train, Young Man Is Thrown Beneath Cars.

While attempting to swing himself aboard a moving train at Salem on Saturday last, Clifford Busey, whose father, William Busey, is employed in Dallas as a butcher, was instantly killed. The wheels of several cars passed over the young man's body. The accident was witnessed by the rear brakeman, and several passersby. Young Busey had, according to eye witnesses, made two attempts to board the train. One of his arms was slightly crippled from a former accident, and it seems that he failed to secure a proper hold and was jerked off his feet and thrown under the train. No inquest was held, the blame for the accident being attached to the unfortunate young man himself.

Upon receiving the sad intelligence, the grief-stricken father departed immediately for his home. The family resides at 1085 Union street, Salem, from which place the funeral was held.

School Playgrounds Surveyed.

County Surveyor Canfield made a careful survey of the grounds deeded to District 2, Perrydale, and fixed definitely the limits of the campus. It was found that the south line came within a few feet of the school building, cutting into the well, as well as some smaller buildings. However on the north side sufficient ground is recorded in the deed to build several gymnasiums. The high school student body is busy soliciting funds for the new gymnasium. Less than one-half dozen persons subscribed an amount exceeding \$100.

Motonna Sells Hops.

One of the largest hop deals of recent weeks was closed Wednesday when Louis Laehmund bought 500 bales from Frank Motonna of Independence, at 11 cents. This is about half of the Motonna crop for this year.

heaps of ashes with piles of tin cans and an occasional iron stove or similar article interspersed. Mr. Stark of Eugene, owner of the building, arrived in Independence today to appraise the damage, and it is thought probable that a substantial building will be erected on the valuable corner. The building of the stocks in it could not be insured to anywhere near their value because of the hazard of the old frame structure. But with the amount of stock taken from each of the affected establishments it is probable that no great loss was suffered except by the owner of the building. The total loss is estimated at \$25,000.

Gosso Returns to Reformatory.

After tramping to within a few miles of Oregon City and almost famished because of lack of food, Charles Gosso of Dallas and George Stindler of Fremont, who ran away from the state training school Tuesday, voluntarily returned to that institution in the week, willing to subject themselves to the punishment in store for them. The boys stole a gun from Captain Spong near Lincoln, but according to their story they met two other larger boys who relieved them forcibly of the weapon, claiming it as their own.

INCREASING HOP AREA

POLK COUNTY GROWERS PREPARING FOR BIG CROPS.

Buena Vista Correspondent Says Equipment Is Being Renewed and New Lands Cleared.

A Buena Vista correspondent has the interesting news concerning the hop industry in Polk county, which shows that with the end of the season growers are making definite plans to increase the acreage. Along the lowlands of the Luckiamute and Willamette rivers farmers are preparing land that never has been in use for farming purposes, owing to the water in the winter months. The carving out of new fields and a renewed interest in the crop are features of the season's end, after a large portion of the crop already has been sold. While the price so far this season has not been high, growers explain that in the long run a fair profit can be obtained. A carload of hops last month was sent from this county to New York City. The shipment contained hops from the Independence, Buena Vista and Rieckreall districts.

The hophouses have been made the target for improvement, and before another drying season looms, every kiln is to be placed in maximum working condition, and according to the plans of the present many new houses will be erected. Some of the houses along the Luckiamute river are completely dilapidated, and if weather conditions permit reconstruction will take place immediately. Repairs are to be made inside the houses at an early date. For the first time in three years September was no barrier to the success of the harvest. Rain had become common, and led to dissatisfaction by pickers. Although the price a box fell to 40 cents during the last season no discontent was expressed by pickers over general conditions.

"If growers will economize in their returning expenses a fair yield will return a substantial profit," said one grower. "One of the principal expenses this year was spray. Insects made their appearance rather suddenly and many used too much material. Drying expenses, too, can be cut without difficulty."

The yield this season was greatly varied. In the Independence district nearly every yard produced a heavy crop and picking paid. Along the Luckiamute valley the worst crop in years was received. The Buena Vista section averaged nearly the same as last year, but the upper regions suffered. In the higher climates toward Bridgeport only small yields were the rule. At Rieckreall and Dallas, the yield varied in each district. One yard with heavy hops was bordered by a light yard. White hops were noted to be abundant in all the yards and pickers were not bothered with Canadian vines. The opinion is commonly expressed among the growers here that the future of the hop industry in Polk county lies in the improved methods for the preparation of the dried product.

The Troubles of a City.

Poor old city of Independence! De-feated in the courts over the North Independence line question, more trouble is threatened. Sixth street property owners may resist the city and refuse to pay their assessments due next month for street improvements on the ground that they received a rock quarry instead of any improvement, and now comes sundry citizens who say they will not stand for any 20 mill levy next year because the city has no authority to plaster that much on the poor taxpayer. All this proves how much fun a councilman gets out of his job.—Monitor.

Miss Mildred Chapin of Falls City visited friends in Dallas Saturday.

OLD POLK WINS AGAIN

SECOND PRIZE COMES TO POLK FROM BIG LAND SHOW.

Great Honors Awarded County Exhibit—Morrow County Scores First But Has Big Advantage.

"Hello! Dallas?" "Yes." "Alright, we merely desire to state, casually and without the slightest indication of bragadoecio, that Polk county, the blue ribbon county of the state, the preferred community of agricultural development, the county where the crops of field, garden and orchard grow as nearly to perfection as anywhere in the land—we simply want to state that old Polk county was awarded second prize for its magnificent display at the Manufacturers' and Land Products show at Portland." That is about the way the news of Polk county's triumph came to The Observer early yesterday morning. And with the information Polk county is entirely satisfied, for Polk county is declared superior to any county in this great state with the exception of Morrow county, which was awarded the first prize.

Polk county's supremacy is absolute. Not only did she win first honors at the state fair, but she had the best county fair held in this part of the state, and to add laurels to her crown she annexed second honors at the big Portland exposition. Morrow county's blue ribbon doesn't detract the least bit from the glory of Polk county's premium because the former has the unusual advantage of having a government and state experiment station and the grains, grasses and other crops that can be grown there and under the direction of the experts stationed at that farm Morrow county can produce a very fine display. Polk county is denied this advantage, and in spite of it the next best display in the state was gathered from within the boundaries of this county. Mrs. Winnie Braden, who has been in charge of the county's participation in the various exhibitions of resources, is entitled to much of the credit that comes with this final victory. Her tireless efforts have been rewarded as well by the appreciation of the residents of the county as by the results she has achieved. The land show will continue throughout this week and will be largely attended by the public spirited citizens of this county who delight in seeing the manifest supremacy of home soil. Polk county's exhibit, in addition to winning the prize, is conceded to be one of the most beautiful displays at the Portland show, and it is a sight well worth seeing. Portland papers say the judges were called upon to make an unusually close decision in order to give Morrow county first prize over Polk and it was only after prolonged debate that honors were awarded. Mrs. Braden says the county was very fortunate in deserving second place against such competition. The prize winning counties in the order of awards, are Morrow, Polk, Union, Baker and Malheur, Polk county was the only one in western Oregon to take prize money.

OREGON APPLES IN DEMAND.

Californian at Exposition Just Had to Have One.

A few days ago a lady approached one of Oregon's representatives at the Panama exposition and said: "I'm from Los Angeles; I have heard of Oregon apples all my life, but I have never tasted one. I have inquired around here in the building and they tell me there are none for sale, but I'll tell you what I'll do—I'll give you twenty-five cents for just one out of that box there, and if you won't take twenty-five cents I might give you fifty." Needless to say, she finally got a fine Oregon apple, at no cost.

On November 15th, officially designated as "Oregon Apple Day," all visitors to the Oregon building can get a sample of the fruit for which there have been so many requests. The commission has arranged for the distribution of something less than 200 boxes of Oregon apples on that day—Spitzenbergs of 96-to-the-box size—and during that day a program involving music and addresses and special features will be carried out. The exposition had asked for this day and will co-operate in every way possible to make it memorable.

Mrs. Stinnett Seeks Divorce.

Asking the custody of six minor children and property valued at \$2184, Mrs. Sallie Stinnett has filed suit for divorce against her husband, Charles Eugene Stinnett, who was committed to the penitentiary at the last term of circuit court here. The couple was married on October 26, 1890, in Tennessee, and for several years have been residents of Polk county. In the complaint filed by her attorney, Oscar Hayter, Mrs. Stinnett repeats the allegations which were responsible for the conviction of her husband in his recent trial, and his sentence of from 6 months to 10 years in the penitentiary.