

Polk County Observer

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COUNTING THE COST.

Discussion of the difficulties that Japan would face, should she undertake to send a Japanese army to cooperate with the allies in the European war zone, contains considerable that is of interest to the people of this country. There has been some talk that Japan might decide to take such step, but nothing has yet come of it and for a very good reason. This reason is the acknowledged fact that it would be no easy task for Japan to arrange the transportation of a considerable force from the mikado's empire to the fronts where the European nations are at grips with each other. In fact, one little realizes what a vast undertaking this would be until he reads what the experts have to say on the subject.

It has been suggested by one writer, for instance, that Japan could make use of the Pacific-Canadian route, but to carry 250,000 soldiers and their accoutrements across the Pacific would require several hundred transports and Japan, this correspondent declares, has ocean transportation for not to exceed 40,000, or possibly 50,000 men at one time. Their food and arms and supplies of every kind would have to go with them and the estimate of the correspondent is that it would take a year at least to land 250,000 men in France ready for action. To be highly effective in this war of the millions they should all be there at once. The Japanese general staff hold, too, that another 200,000 men should be in readiness and an hand to supply the losses at the front and keep the army up to the original number.

There is also the Siberian route, but the railroad is so poorly equipped that it is not capable of furnishing quick transportation for a large army. The employment of Japanese troops in Europe is, therefore, not regarded as likely to be undertaken on a large scale. If they play a further part in the war it is more probable that it will be in behalf of Japan's ally, England, in India, where serious trouble is said to threaten British rule.

The suggestion of particular interest in this explanation of the difficulties in the way of aid for the allies in Europe from Japan is its incidental illustration of the formidable obstacles in the way of anything like a sudden descent upon our own shores by a Japanese army. It should afford some comfort to those timid souls whom the alarmists have frightened in dread of a "yellow peril." It does not, however, afford full assurance of the safety of our coasts against great naval powers, but leaves unchallenged the contention that greater naval strength is the part of prudence.

GROWING OLD ACTIVELY.

Emerson speaks of a time in life to be old, to take in sail, but there are some whose native grit compels them to ignore any such dividing line. Sarah Bernhardt declines to go on the retired list, though circumstances would seem to have served a peremptory notice that she must withdraw from further appearances on the stage. But she will not go, and the public supports her view with unbounded admiration. Long ago the critics conceded her place in the hall of fame. Any sign of weakness she might show now would not lessen the devotion of the artistic world. No decay of high spirit or inborn genius need be looked for in her. The question is merely one of physical staying power. Admiral Nelson might have quit the navy when he lost an arm, but he knew that he still had work to do. What he did for England later at Trafalgar was incalculably great, and there he yielded his life, the first sailor of the age to his last breath. What he aimed to do was accomplished. He made his country mistress of many seas, and though the oceans are destined to be free to all nations that respect international law, the high mettle of Nelson must ever be prized by mankind.

It has been said that a man never knows how many infirmities, latent and other, he has until he has had a chance, after retiring from active business, to give them special attention. The present president of the United States, as is well known, was mistaken in supposing, when he was a tired college professor, that the time had come for him to substitute a life of contemplation for one of action. He has traveled far since he sought a per-

sioned recognition of his excellent university labors. All that was in store for him seems to confute the idea of superannation. He thought his main work was done, his career rounded to a comfortable close, but the light that has been on him in recent years is not that of twilight. It is the unexpected that happens, but a soul as dauntless as Sarah Bernhardt will never surrender.

As long as enough of Sarah remains to give motion to her spiritual being she will, as always, be up and doing, constant in effort, serenely resolved, indomitable, concludes the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

NOT THE WHOLE WORKS.

Because there is dissatisfaction in the Woodburn company of the Oregon National Guard is no reason why other members of that organization should be affected. The trouble there is purely local, and had its origin because of the refusal of Adjutant General White to advance one of its officers in the ranks. As to the merits of the case we are not familiar, but from meager information from various sources it is quite apparent that Governor Withycombe made a grave error in naming White to succeed that grand officer, General Finzer, whose record is one that will go down in National Guard history as being the cleanest among the clean. The present adjutant general is pig-headed and spiteful and has already done more toward disrupting the almost perfect organization builded by his predecessor than can be undone in years. It is gratifying to know that, under existing circumstances, the Dallas members of the guard are taking no part in the controversy between the Woodburn company and General White, and that it is progressing as it has never progressed before even under adverse conditions. Captain Staffin, while deploring the effort on the part of a certain local publicity agency to bring about a rupture in his ranks, will continue to maintain his command at its present high standard, permitting those directly interested to settle their differences as best they may. The Oregon National Guard is organized for a purpose, and it is this purpose in which Captain Staffin and his soldiers are vitally interested—General White is not the whole works.

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON.

While the American people regret the demise of Booker T. Washington, recognized as the foremost teacher and leader of the negro race, the full extent of his appreciation cannot be apparent to those of the northern states as to one who reside in the very midst of his great work, as did the editor of this publication for a number of years. For more than a third of a century Booker T. Washington devoted his energies and efforts to the upbuilding and regeneration of American colored people, and through his personal efforts most gratifying progress was accomplished. It may safely be asserted that he did more than any other one man to solve the so-called race problem in the south, and untold thousands of successful and economically independent colored people will unhesitatingly accord to Washington full credit for whatever progress they have attained along these lines. The founding of Tuskegee institute for colored people was one of the most notable accomplishments of Washington's efforts, and it was through the work of this institution, under his own direction, that he found opportunity to apply his favorite theory of educating the negroes in the practical and industrial pursuits of life. Possessing rare executive and constructive ability he perfected this organization on a substantial and permanent foundation, and thereby built a lasting monument to his own self-sacrificing devotion to a worthy principle. He also gained and held the confidence and sympathies of the entire American people, while the members of his own race regarded him with a high degree of love and admiration. To them especially his loss will be a severe blow, although doubtless some other will be found to take up and carry on the work which he so successfully started and followed through long years of arduous and unselfish service.

For a man who was born a slave and was handicapped by all the limitations and drawbacks connected with a start in life so inauspicious, the success and honors won by Booker T. Washington are little less than wonderful. To members of the negro race the life of this man has been a beacon light, a conspicuous example of his own teachings that success and independence come only through honest industry and persistent striving along right lines. Nor should this example be lost on the members of any race. For if this former slave could accomplish so much in the face of adversity and unusual handicaps, how much greater are the opportunities of individuals favored from the start with liberty and enjoying all the other blessings and advantages that are common under this government of freedom and equality?

**Thanksgiving Day
a Festival for All**

Of all the religious festivals of the year Thanksgiving is the only one that is for all the people. Christmas and Easter and the whole series of Christian festivals are for christians only. The Jews have their Rosh Hoshona and their passover. The Mohammedans among us have their Ramadan, and even the Chinese have their feast days, which they observe in their own peculiar manner.

Each religion has its own, but there is one Thanksgiving day for all, when all of whatever faith, can, in their own way, call on God and praise Jesus or Mohammed or Buddha.

November 18, 1787, was our first national Thanksgiving day, ordained by the act of the Continental congress and proclaimed by George Washington. The day was set apart, in the words of the resolution, to express gratitude that God had been pleased to "smile on us in the prosecution of a just and necessary war for the defense and establishment of our inalienable rights and liberty."

The constitution had just been

THE FAIR.

Notwithstanding the fact that the county court seems determined to curtail every possible expenditure for the next year, and the further fact that no inconsiderable dissatisfaction exists regarding an appropriation of money for the maintenance of the county fair under existing circumstances, The Observer cannot believe that the governing body would act wisely in cutting off the allowance of that institution while it is still in its infancy. Much time and effort are necessary to bring success to undertakings of this character. The last annual event showed great improvement over its predecessor, thus giving evidence of increased interest on the part of the inhabitants of the county, who are really responsible for its success. The city of Dallas in providing grounds without cost to the association has seemingly contributed liberally to the fair, but aside from this its people meet other demands upon them in order to make the annual event successful. If there is a disposition on the part of individuals in rural sections of the county to relegate the fair to oblivion, there are even more who are enthusiastically in favor of its maintenance, which seems to be quite impossible without public aid.

The statement that the county fair is purely a Dallas institution is without foundation, although it is true that Dallas gives it the greater support. If those persons who are inclined to criticize the management, and the fair itself, would lend their co-operation and good offices to the undertaking what is now a meager exhibit of Polk county products could easily be made the biggest and best assembling of blue ribbon showings in the state. The very fact that the collection here displayed was awarded first prize at the state fair last fall is proof of this assertion. And this award was duplicated at the Land show in Portland, except that there second prize was given, which alone saved the entire Willamette valley from utter defeat in competition with other counties of the state. Polk, with the exhibit gathered for the county fair, was the only county west of the Cascade mountains to receive recognition at the Land show. And the credit for this goes to the knocker as well as to the booster who made it possible.

If the management is not satisfactory to the people, as alleged by some who disparage the appropriation, it is within their authority to effect an improvement through the county court, which represents the interests of the taxpayers. It is apparent to The Observer that those who labor for the fair act according to their light, and if their efforts are in vain there is abundant other material available from which to select. The fair is educational in its scope, and is for the benefit of all. Those who do not elect to take advantage of it should not prove a drawback to their fellows who profit from it. If the county court, in its wisdom, is not inclined to appropriate the fall amount asked for, it should not exclude this commendable undertaking altogether from its budget while the institution is still in swaddling garments. Another season will doubtless prove the truthfulness or fallacy of the allegations of the fellow who would rejoice in seeing the court withdraw its financial support.

FARM WASTE.

The question of how best to reduce farm waste will be one of the principal topics to be discussed at the national conference on marketing and farm credits, to be held at Chicago the last two days of the present month

adopted, and before the act setting aside this day of thanksgiving had been finally passed there had been not a little discussion in congress about the propriety of the president's asking people to give thanks for a constitution for which some of them were not thankful.

It was later that the last Thursday in November came to be the day chosen, when no marked event indicated another day, and the thanks of the nation, united under the constitution, were expressed on November 28, 1789. Since that day the custom has never been omitted entirely, although until the civil war it was only occasionally observed except in New England.

It was our civil war which brought the people to a new sense of national oneness, and since 1863 the president of the United States has annually issued a proclamation of thanksgiving. But what president or prophet or sage in 1861 could have dreamed that half a century later the lines of such a proclamation would go out into all the world?

and the first two days of the month following. It is anticipated that about 800 delegates will attend this meeting, which will be one of general interest and importance. All the leading organizations of farmers and fruit growers are planning to send delegates, as will also the National Bankers' association, the great railroads, some of the retail trade organizations and the agricultural colleges of the various states. And already the discussion has started on what this meeting will undertake and propose, not only for the benefit of the farmer and fruit raisers, but also for the advantage and welfare of the general public.

As already suggested one of the topics that is to be carefully considered is that of farm waste, with especial reference to the annual enormous waste of crops after they have been grown and are ready for market. This waste amounts to millions of dollars every year, and is naturally higher in seasons of abundant yields. It is claimed, for instance, that this year more than \$10,000,000 worth of peaches never were gathered from the trees, while vast quantities of apples and other fruits were similarly allowed to spoil, simply for lack of proper marketing facilities, a condition which some growers in Polk county cannot fail to appreciate from the fact that they are included in the list of unfortunates. A writer in The Chicago Tribune claims that thousands of bushels of potatoes in Michigan and other states are being left to spoil, because the price offered for them on the farm is not large enough to pay for sacking and hauling to market.

Of course there is something radically wrong when such a condition prevails, and the coming national conference on marketing and farm credits is going to try to locate the trouble and suggest a remedy therefor. To permit such a waste to continue is positively sinful, while it also is a deterrent to the full measure of prosperity this nation should rightfully enjoy. These surplus crops should be utilized in some manner, and by doing so it will be to the advantage of both consumers and producers. Unnecessary waste is one of the greatest faults of the American people and it is high time for them to pay more attention to plans and methods for preventing such wastes as the ones mentioned.

It seems to be a virtual impossibility to draw a Thanksgiving proclamation which does not bear a strong resemblance to the prayer of the Pharisee. This country is asked to thank God that it is not like other countries. Is that the right spirit? And if it is the right spirit with us as a country, why was it not also the right one with the unfortunate fellow who accompanied the "publican" and example? There might be material for a good sermon in this.

The total wheat yield of the world for the present year was more than half a billion bushels in excess of the yield last year. But if they keep on fighting in Europe they will need every bit of it.

There is something suspicious in the reiteration from democratic sources that Roosevelt is likely to be the next republican nominee.

No other nation has greater cause for giving thanks this year than the good old United States.

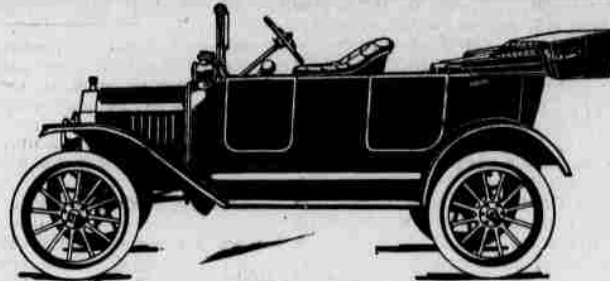
Peace talk is becoming more plentiful, even if the other signs of peace are lacking.

And then it rained!

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TREASURER'S NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that all Road District Warrants of Polk County, Oregon, endorsed "Not paid for the want of funds," are due and payable on presentation at the office of the Treasurer of said County.

Interest ceasing on the above mentioned warrants from the date of this notice.

Dated Dallas, Oregon, November 12, 1915.

F. J. HOLMAN,
County Treasurer.

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.

Notice is hereby given by the undersigned taxpayers of Road District Number 3, in the County of Polk, State of Oregon, who are more than ten per cent. of the taxpayers of said District, that a meeting of the resident taxpayers of said Road District will be held on Saturday, the 27th day of November, in the year 1915, at the hour of 2 o'clock, p. m. of said day, at the Auditorium in the School House in School District No. 21, in said Road District, for the purpose of voting on the question of whether or not an additional tax shall be levied by the resident taxpayers of said district on all the taxable property in said district for road purposes, under the provisions of Section 6321

of Lord's Oregon Laws as amended by Chapter 316, General Laws of Oregon, 1913. At said meeting the resident taxpayers of said district will by a majority vote of such taxpayers levy such additional tax (if any) as they may deem advisable to improve the roads of said district.

Witness our hands this 4th day of November, 1915.

C. H. GILLIAM
LEANDER CONNER
CHAS. REES
J. FUDGE
JOHN ZYLSTRA
G. A. M'ULLOCH
FELIX COMEGYS
J. T. FRIAR
J. J. ROBERTS
G. H. RUSSELL
I. J. WHITE
W. H. M'KEE
G. H. WOHLFORD
G. E. REMPLE
F. E. LYNN

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