

Polk County Observer

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Office.....517-519 Court Street
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BY LEW A. CATES.

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FAIR APPROPRIATION.

Appreciating the indisputable fact that the entire community may derive lasting benefits from the county fair, The Observer has persistently championed the local institution from its very inception, and under normal conditions shall continue to follow this course, but nevertheless it cannot believe that the county court is acting in the interests of the taxpayers by incorporating so large a sum in the 1916 budget for its maintenance. And in this view it does not stand alone. The county fair, because of its educational features, is deserving of and entitled to liberal recognition from the governing body in order that it may continue the promotion of its manifold helps to the agriculturist, the horticulturist, the stockman and the younger generation of the rural realm, to say nothing of the advantage given Polk county from a publicity standpoint, but the appropriation awarded the institution last year should satisfy for the coming event, even though the association guarantees the financial expenditure consequent to an exhibit at the land show at the metropolis next fall.

The tax-payers of Polk county, in common with those throughout the state, are already overburdened by taxation, and curtailment wherever possible should be the watchword, until such time, at least, when the effects of the present financial depression shall be less keenly felt. Individually the addition to the appropriation of last year would be infinitesimal, and while there are those in all sections of the county who would gladly contribute the extra mite toward the creation of the larger amount sought, and who would loudly applaud the county court for its generosity, it should be remembered that the enterprise is not financed from the public fund with any degree of unanimity, and also that the under dog should have due consideration accorded to it. It is a well-known fact that no inconsiderable opposition to the proposed levy, as incorporated in the annual budget, has developed among townspeople as well as ruralites, the opinion being freely expressed that with the present rate of taxation, the stringent condition of money, and the multiplicity of needs for which there is a demand to provide public comforts and conveniences to the populace, the fair association should be content with a lesser amount than \$2,000.

And even so, Polk county, through the exercise of a spirit of community and individual co-operation, and with judicious management on the part of the association's executive, can hold a most creditable exhibit and make the annual event a success and a permanent institution. We contend that the fair should be a community enterprise, of the community and for the community, and as such should receive the financial support of the whole community, which end can be justly and equitably satisfied only through uniform assessments upon the taxable property of the territory which it is calculated to include in its various ramifications, but business acumen is equally necessary for its successful outcome and for its permanency. There should be sources of revenue other than that contributed through the generosity of the governmental body of the county, and money derived from these should aid materially in the promotion and maintenance of the fair from year to year. Yamhill county conducts an annual fair without financial assistance from the county; Benton, which admittedly has one of the most interesting exhibits of any county in the state, receives an allowance of but \$1,400, while several others holding fairs get only state aid, which goes to show that gate receipts, revenue derived from concessions, etc., meets their obligations. The Polk county fair might be broadened along similar lines, greatly to its benefit, and to the benefit of the people. No person would object to a small admission fee, and if the fair continues to show improvement in the future as it has in the past it will be well worth the money. Certainly some such provision must be wrought, because with growth more financial sustenance must be forthcoming and the people, at best, will eventually balk over the outlay.

The Observer heartily endorses an appropriation by the county court for

the 1916 fair; it believes it to be in direct line with progressive movements and advanced agricultural education, but it likewise believes that the association conducting it should be content with an appropriation similar to that of last year.

WHY NOT?

Ex-President Taft says the government could save at least \$4,000,000 a year by simply abolishing postmasters and conducting the postal department on the same basis that private business is conducted. He suggests that deputy postmasters, selected for ability and efficiency and named under civil service regulations, could and should be the real executives in each postoffice, and further declares that this would put an end to "interminable policies and actual waste" which now permeate the postal system and handicap it in rendering service to the public. Moreover, he believes it is not fair or right to "devil" the president with the factional fusses, bickerings and strife that always accompany the selection of each new postmaster. The whole system is wrong, wasteful and needlessly disturbing, in his opinion, and he thinks the time has come to look for a better system, based on sound business rules and regulations.

The suggestion is really a good one and should be carefully and earnestly considered by the people of this country, who can easily bring this change about by simply giving it their approval. There is not a particle of doubt that efficiency, economy and better service would be promoted by discontinuing the practice of rewarding political workers by giving them jobs and salaries as postmasters, and no other reason to continue this practice than that it "suits the politicians" and offers an incentive to play the game. When, however, the people get the worst of it in the long run, in wastefulness, inefficiency and deterioration of service, why should the public hesitate to throw this slovenly and loose system into the discard and insist on the substitution of a better system, based on real business rules? And in thinking it over they should remember that Mr. Taft says this would result in an annual saving of at least \$4,000,000, while the chances are the economies which would follow would greatly exceed even that estimated amount.

WHICH CHRISTMAS?

Mr. Ford is evidently imbued with boundless confidence in the success of his peace undertaking. According to a wireless message from the Oscar II, on which the peace excursionists are traveling to Europe, Mr. Ford made the statement: "I'll bet this ship against a penny that we'll have the men out of the trenches by Christmas." Some, no doubt, will regard this offer as nothing more than a bluff; that Mr. Ford does not own the ship anyhow, and that he therefore runs no danger of losing, even if someone should take him at his word and his prediction prove erroneous.

But Mr. Ford is evidently "safe," even without this loophole of escape. It is to be noticed that he does not specify "which" Christmas, and not impossible he would fall back on a convenient mental reservation in case he should be called upon to "make good." There are numerous Christmases to come, and of course it is certain that one finally will arrive to witness the fulfillment of his prophecy. After all, therefore, it might be unwise to "take" Mr. Ford's wager. Under his own interpretation he may be betting on a sure thing.

TO PREVENT "DUMPING."

One of the big problems which this nation is sure to face after the conclusion of the European war will be that of providing some plan to prevent danger to American trade and industries through the "dumping" of excess stocks of European goods and manufactures. Experts regard it as a foregone conclusion that European nations will widely resort to this practice after the war, not only to get rid of accumulated stocks and quickly convert them into ready money or credits, but also for the sake of reviving and restoring lines of trade that have been impeded or entirely throttled by the war. Also there is another motive to encourage this practice—a likely desire to smother American competition if possible. And to accomplish this the Europeans may find it to their interest to sell goods in the United States at an actual loss, for at least a time, hoping and intending to recoup such losses by exacting higher prices after American competitors had been driven out of the market.

President Wilson, we are told, is giving serious thought to this problem and may make it the subject of a special message to congress later on. Secretary of Commerce Redfield already is engaged in the work of drawing up an anti-dumping bill for presentation to congress, but this measure is first to be submitted to the president for his approval, and such changes and revisions as he may deem advisable or essential. It is known, however, that the Redfield bill will proceed along the lines of the Australian law, which classes "dumping" as unfair competition and puts wide

powers in the courts to check and prevent such practices. In the experience of Australia it is claimed this system has worked out in a very satisfactory manner, and it is held that it can be applied with equally satisfactory results in this country.

In any event it is clear that something must be done to safeguard American trade and interests from the unfair competition of European "dumping." A good illustration of this anticipated danger is found in the case of the dye manufacturing industry. Shut off by the war from the usual European sources of supply, Americans have made a good start toward making their own dyes and thus putting this nation on an independent basis. Germany, however, with superior facilities for making cheap dyes, might undertake to crush out this new industry and again control the markets, both of this country and in other nations. It is to prevent this and all similar unfair attempts to smother American trade and industries that this country must provide an effective barrier against "dumping." And congress must do this in time to prevent any real damage to American interests.

FORGING FORWARD.

By perusing the pages of The Observer today one must naturally arrive at the conclusion that Dallas and Polk county have not been idle during the past year. While the list of improvements made here and elsewhere throughout the county is in no wise complete, it being quite impossible to cover the entire field in the matter of betterments, it is sufficiently voluminous to evidence the continued progress that has been made within the bailiwick. It was the aim of this publication to ascertain to an even greater extent the improvements made in the county, but a number of correspondents failed to respond to our request for information, and hence the incompleteness of the report as given today. The greater amount of lasting work along municipal improvement lines has been done by improvement lines has been done by Dallas, yet notwithstanding this fact the other towns of the county have made progress. Like in the county seat town, Independence, Monmouth and Falls City have accomplished less in building activities than in former years, but all have forged forward to a greater or lesser extent in municipal betterments. This is particularly true of Falls City, where a considerable sum of money was expended in street and sidewalk improvements. The rural communities have shown the greatest activity in building, and it is regrettable that we are not enabled to have a complete list of the structures erected during the past twelvemonth.

Under prevailing conditions there should be rejoicing among residents of Polk county over the progress made in 1915. While other more pretentious communities of the Willamette valley have, practically speaking, been at a standstill we have advanced in a most satisfactory manner. And with the return of improved financial conditions The Observer predicts that the progress of the coming year will be more pronounced in all sections of the county. In many instances contemplating betterments are awaiting "better times," and with these assured for the not very distant future we may reasonably expect a most prosperous 1916.

LUMBERING.

With a stronger lumber market, and the consequent revival of the industry throughout the Pacific northwest, Polk county, which has extensive lumbering interests within its boundaries, must naturally be materially benefited. Already the operating sawmills of this locality are feeling the effect of slightly bettered conditions, and have hopes for further improvement for the near future. A large amount of money has been expended in Polk county during the past year preparatory to the time when the merchantable product shall have reached normal figures from the salesman's standpoint. New extensions of logging roads have been made in the western portion of the county, thus tapping hitherto untouched forests of splendid timber, and the coming season gives promise of much activity. It will mean additional woodmen to supply logs to the mills, a larger tin-pail brigade at the manufacturing, and more prosperity for the community as a whole.

The market continues to show an upward tendency, but to just what extent the improvement will be cannot be fully determined until early in the new year, at least, and possibly not until the opening of spring. Lumbermen, however, are sanguine, and this alone means no inconsiderable.

NEW CRISIS LOOMS.

Apparently it is "just one blamed crisis after another" for this nation. No sooner is one serious dispute with our neighbors nicely adjusted and disposed than another appears, and it is getting so there is scarcely a breathing space between the endless succession of complications. Just now it is Austria that is causing worry, in connection with the recent sinking of the steamer An-

cona, an act which varied only in detail and degree from the sinking of the Lusitania, and which caused this government to file with Austria a protest similar to the one previously made to Germany concerning the Lusitania affair.

The protest over the Ancona attack, the same as was the case with the Lusitania protest, calls for disavowal as well as reparation, and it is stated that the question of continuing diplomatic relations with the dual empire may depend on the latter's making a satisfactory reply to the American note. The situation is concededly tense and fraught with serious possibilities, and the action of Austria is awaited with no little concern. It is known that the Austrian government has not yet recovered from a feeling of peevishness over the enforced recall of Ambassador Dumba, and it now is stated that had it not been for pressure brought by Germany on Austria, the latter might have turned the Dumba incident into an open quarrel. This feeling may add to the difficulty in reaching a friendly agreement over the Ancona affair, while a further complication is noted in the disclosure that only a few days back the Austrian submarine which shelled the American oil tank steamer Petrolite, in the Mediterranean, forcibly took part of that ship's provisions and supplies.

Of course this government, and the American people generally, will sincerely hope that nothing serious may come from the new dispute with Austria, but the crisis which has been precipitated has spread a feeling of uneasiness and apprehension. Fortunately, the present week has seen the solution of two other points of dispute, with England over the arbitrary seizure of suspected American vessels and with Germany over the demanded recall of Captains Boy-Ed and von Papen, so that the Austrian dispute is now the only one of serious import. And this may also be settled amicably and satisfactorily, after a certain amount of diplomatic palaver and maneuvering, although the chances are that by that time some new crisis will make its appearance to continue the uncertainty and state of tension. In fact, not until the great war is ended will the nations of the world recover their usual good nature and be ready to treat each other with entire and unselfish fairness.

Mr. Ford seems to be having some trouble to keep peace among his own delegates, although they are traveling to Europe to try to harmonize the warring nations.

People who argue that the present war will be the last, should be reminded that previous to last August many prominent men of the world were firm in the conviction there could be no such thing as a general European war.

Kansas claims to have \$75,000,000 invested in automobiles. And the really wonderful thing about it is the fact that the savings banks of that state are carrying larger total deposits than ever before.

Probably Mr. Bryan still keeps the motto "God Bless the President" engraved on his ax handle. Yet some people complain that the great commoner lacks the sense of humor.

And he awoke in the morning with a sigh of content for his Christmas shopping was finished and he could now sit back and watch the other fellow rush his head off during the last few days preceding Christmas.

The true school room is the mother's heart, the best college the old home, the high festival day for the soul is Christmas day.

Only one more week to wait.

WOULD HAVE ALL WARLIKE.

Senator Chamberlain Has Compulsory Service Bill.

Senator George Chamberlain has introduced a bill advocating compulsory military service to raise the citizen army to a volume that would meet the government requirements. It is proposed that everyone not excused for physical, religious or other specific reasons, be obliged to serve between the ages of 12 and 23. Senator Chamberlain advocates realists, without arms, for those between 12 and 14 years. Those between 12 and 17 years would be organized into a cadet corps. From 18 to 23 they would become the citizen army. From fourteen to fifteen they would receive rifle training in some instances. Those from 16 to 17 would be expected to spend ten days in a military camp each year.

The citizens' army would have 20 days annually in training camp for drill, in groups divided geographically.

His Work Appreciated.

Recently Professor R. G. Dykstra, of the Peervale schools, issued a leaflet on "What Shall I Do With My Life?" a copy of which was mailed to President P. I. Campbell of the University of Oregon, who, in commenting on the work, has the following to say: "It is well arranged and full of value. I truly hope that you may send a large number of them into the public schools."

OTHER THINGS

A Rare and Curious Collection of Fact and Fancy.

With the show windows filled with toy soldiers for Christmas things look dubious for the anti-militarist and the pacifist.

"There's one good thing about the winter season," says that brilliant groceryman, Harry Viers, "there's nothing to swat or to muzzle." Just the same, Harry, we'd like to muzzle this rain.

Judge and Jurist.
Judge Teal and District Attorney Sibley have known one another for twenty-seven years or more, and even now when one of them has a story to tell anyone else within hearing must leave.

Religious Education.
Last week we asked a large number of most worthy and notable citizens the number of the commandment which reads: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." We hope that these w. and n. citizens know more about the practice of that commandment than they do about its numerical classification.

Was there ever anything as elusive as the word you would like to use in a Christmas letter, but can't call to mind when you need it?

Hugh Black says he would rather not find a gold brick than to break an arm in reaching for it.

Dig! And you get what the harvest brings.

Cheery Optimism.
Our idea of an optimist is a woman who can hum "Home, Sweet Home" over a washtub of steaming clothes; sing "Coming Through the Rye" as she wrings them out; whistle "Old Kentucky Home" while she hangs them up to dry, and, as she stands over the ironing board with the old dining-room emblem "What is Home Without a Mother" staring her in the face, can sing, hum and whistle "In The Good Old Summer Time," meanwhile getting two children ready for school, bathing baby, hanging the bird cage out of reach of the cat and putting the corned beef and cabbage on to boil for father's dinner.

Ad. in Coquille Herald: "Farmers: Geo. Moulton wants your hides." Just so Geo., don't scalp 'em.

Dr. Bollman hasn't produced that ride so we refer you to Dr. Staats, who says the only difference between an automobile and a river boat these days is that the former has tires.

Carey Hayter, who is well-known as a bachelor, says: "When a fellow thinks a great deal about getting married he seldom does it." With which philosophy we heartily agree.

As the years pile up and our hair turns grey, it is our wont to look more often into the casket in which lie the hopes of the years long gone.

We noticed by an altogether esteemed contemporary last week that a certain lady who had been taken to the hospital, suffering greatly, was in very poor health. Really surprising.

The most deceitful thing in Dallas is the court house clock.

Many of the Christmas presents that are being sent away just now are going in time that the sender may get one back before the big day.

FREE CHRISTMAS GIFTS
The offer made to subscribers by The Observer may be considered unique. Those who pay their subscription tomorrow—Sales day—will be given a coupon good for fifty cents in merchandise at the store of any merchant whose announcement appears in these columns either today's or last Tuesday, for each year. This is an opportunity to purchase small Christmas gifts without expense.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS.
Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, William A. Yocum, has been appointed by the County Court of the State of Oregon for Polk County, administrator of the estate of Hathaway Yocum, deceased, and has qualified.

All persons having claims against the said estate are hereby required to present them, duly verified, with the proper vouchers, within six months from the date of this notice, to Oscar Hayter, attorney for the undersigned administrator, at his law offices in Dallas City Bank Building, in Dallas, Oregon.

Dated and first published December 17, 1915.
WILLIAM A. YOCUM,
Administrator of the estate of Hathaway Yocum, deceased.
OSCAR HAYTER,
Attorney for administrator. D17-J14

A Rainy Day Need Not Be Dull
Cheer up! Get to work in a FISH BRAND
Reflex Slicker
\$3.00
Strong, easy fitting, light, and waterproof, absolutely. Reflex edges from running in at the front.
Black, Yellow or Olive khaki.
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BULLETIN

ONE CENT A WORD, 'PHONE

The charge for advertisements under this heading is per cent per word for each insertion. No discount for consecutive issues. If you have anything for sale or purchase, or if you want to lease a house or business building, or if you want help or a job of work, or if you have lost or found anything, or if you want publicity of any kind, this column. You are sure to get results—others do, why not you? Telephone your "want ads." or advertising all communications to The Observer, Dallas, Oregon. Count the number of words to remit with order. Telephone No. 19.

W. L. ALEXANDER & COMPANY
offers every young man in Dallas who is interested in out-of-door sports the opportunity to perfect himself in the splendid and profitable skill of Tree Repair. We guarantee connections with this company completion of course that will establish you in a solid business that will grow as you grow. Your opportunity is our opportunity. We solicit your investment in Tree surgery pays. Learn it. Work at Portland School of Practical Forestry, 817-20 Dekum building, Portland, Oregon.

FOR SALE—Fine fresh Jersey seven years old. Price reasonable. Cass Riggs, South Red 13.

FOR SALE—Buildings suitable for private garages. Will trade for wood. R. L. Chapman.

FOR SALE—Choice building lots. Bolman and Staats.

WANTED—Machine, cast and plate iron, brass and copper, and rubber, and rags of all kinds in fact, junk of all kinds. H. Halleck, Monmouth, Oregon.

FOR SALE—Sixty-acre dairy in Coos county; bottom land; mile from postoffice; mile to school; on milk route; good road; good improvements. Very low price. B. Folsom, Gail Hill, Dallas.

POSITION WANTED—Married wants position on ranch in Dallas district. Understands stock, and poultry. References furnished. Family consists of wife and four children. Address Mobley, Box 58, Monmouth, Oregon.

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Send us your laundry by parcel post. The rural carrier is now authorized to transact this business. It costs but few cents. We'll return it promptly.
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