

Polk County Observer

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BY H. W. BRUNE

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GLAD TO MEET YOU.

With this issue of The Observer the undersigned is casting his lot with the good city of Dallas. We came here, after visiting many other places, because of the splendid climate this community enjoys, the promising future this valley appears to have, and because the city of Dallas itself is an inviting one in which to have a home, not forgetting the fact that we also wanted to make money, although we can give you assurance that no country newspaper man expects to amass a fortune in his line of work.

We expect to continue The Observer, as it has been in the past, a newspaper which is in keeping with this progressive little city. We are interested in the upbuilding of Dallas in an industrial and commercial way; we stand for the advancement of the community in a moral, social and intellectual way, and shall endeavor to make the paper a factor in all civic and community enterprises which better these conditions. The Republican policy of the paper will be sustained.

We are new here and will make mistakes, for that is the way of humanity. These, however, will be unintentional and without thought of doing injustice. No doubt our readers will overlook some of these errors at least until our newness wears off. And we want you to know that our latch string is always out; we want to meet you and become better acquainted and will assure you that all favors extended us will be appreciated and an honest effort made to merit your good will.

H. W. BRUNE.

BOOST THE COUNTY FAIR.

The fall fair season again is at hand in this part of the country, which is a reminder that our own county fair is only a few weeks ahead. Preparations for this annual event have been under way for weeks and the managers of the fair are working hard to make this year's meet another record breaker. They also declare the prospects for carrying out this plan are excellent. The fair itself will be unusually attractive, they say, while there are encouraging indications of public interest, augmented by conditions of good crops and the fact that this is a political year, which always adds interest to public gatherings of this character.

Public aid and co-operation, however, can do much to add to the success of the coming county fair, and the management of the latter relies on the people of Polk county to do their part in advertising the fair and thereby help to increase the patronage. All that is necessary is an occasional reminder to friends and acquaintances, and if this plan is followed everyone in this section will soon be talking of the county fair and planning to attend it. The date of the fair is September 19 to 21, and it therefore is time to put forth your efforts in making the biggest fair the county ever held. It has always been one of the best fairs in this part of the state and deserves the aid and patronage of every resident of the county.

THE DANISH ISLES.

There has been a disposition in some quarters to criticize the price which this government has offered for the Danish West Indies. It is argued that the islands are intrinsically worth but little, and that \$25,000,000 is an exorbitant price to pay for them, even though this nation can make good use of them as a naval base, and further conceding it would be unpleasant and highly undesirable to have them pass under the control of some other European power, which might cause them to be a menace to American interests at some future time.

No matter what basis is used for estimating the value of these islands, however, a little study of the question will convince any fair-minded person that the price which has been offered by the United States is not excessive, when compared with what it probably would cost to acquire them by the ancient method of conquest. And while we speak of this method as "ancient," it by no means obsolete, for it is followed even to the present day by most nations, and

has something to do with the present great conflict in Europe.

Nearly every nation engaged in this war, in fact, is counting on getting a share of territorial spoils, providing its own side wins and a chance is thereby provided to make new international boundaries and a redistribution of foreign colonies and islands. Yet it would be far cheaper for any of these nations to pay a round price for the territory it hopes to acquire, for the actual cost of war will make the cost of any territory gained terribly expensive. England, for instance, is paying something like \$30,000,000 for each day of war, or considerably more than the criticized price offered by this government for the Danish isles.

War, in fact, is almost invariably the dearest and most expensive way of getting what a nation wants. And it is a matter of no little satisfaction, in this connection, to note that our own government long ago set the style of bargaining and paying for territorial acquisitions, rather than trying to get them by force. It is a style, moreover, that our European friends should study and copy, for they would find it far cheaper in the end.

A dispatch tells of the death of a young woman in Illinois, "due to a stroke of apoplexy superinduced by the excitement of eloping." And although the papers may hold this up as a terrible warning against elopements, there is very small chance it will scare the girls.

We greatly regret that it is impossible to take without hesitation or doubt the declarations of the armies of Europe in reference to the number of prisoners captured. If all claims along this line could be substantiated we should see all prisoners and no fighters over there.

The members of congress are preparing to go out into the campaign, the republicans to attack and the democrats to defend. The country in the meantime is safe. With congress scattered all over the land the people are not in any danger.

The defacto government of Mexico has decided to return the railroads of that country to the rightful owners. Chances are the government has found that it will cost too much to make the necessary repairs.

It probably would be keen satisfaction to President Wilson if he could enforce the eight-hour law on Mr. Hughes.

SOME THINGS

Old Age is no Bar to Work.

Mr. F. A. Patterson of Independence is a criterion which any man of his age, and even younger men, might pattern after with profit. Mr. Patterson with his life partner, lives in a neat little home in a fine residence district in Independence, where he is surrounded by life-long friends and relatives. However he is not content to sit and pass the time in reminiscences of early days as many men of his ripe old age are prone to do, but keeps busy a greater part of the time in his large garden which covers fully half an acre. On this plot of ground he raises vegetables of many descriptions and the ones that are growing there now are an entirely new crop. He has planted and raised two complete gardens this year. One would judge by the appearance of his onion bed that this crop is to be a profitable one. Mr. and Mrs. Patterson have been blessed during their married existence with ten children, who are all living. For these stalwart sons and daughters Mr. Patterson still spends many hours in his little work shop back of the house, fashioning a last remembrance and souvenir of his active working life and ingenuity. He has selected pieces of white ash from ordinary cord-wood and out of this raw material he has fashioned rocking chairs which would grace any parlor. About a year ago Mr. Patterson conceived the idea of making each of his children a present of a rocking chair of his own make and design and it took him 48 hours to perfect his plans. Then he went to work and he has now about finished the ten chairs. He shipped one away to a son last week. One of Mr. Patterson's sons offered him a chest of fine tools with which to work, but he refused, saying that he wished to make the chairs in his own way, a very primitive one, the only tools being a small saw, file and jackknife. The chairs are fastened together with wooden pegs. Mr. Patterson keeps as mentally active as he does physically. He is a staunch republican of the old school and a believer in woman suffrage. His broad high brow shows the possibilities of an intellectual development which has not been neglected.

The ten sons and daughters of Mr. Patterson who will be fortunate enough to receive a rocking chair are: I. L., H. R., G. S., F. C., W. H., P. C., D. P., N., A. D., and Miss M. L. Patterson.

OTHERS' OPINIONS

Signs of the Safety First movement can be seen now in the care with which the girls arrange heavy awnings to make their porches shady after dark.—Albany Evening Herald.

Oregon is one of the first to feel the effects of the impending strike. Here in Salem an order for \$15,000 worth of green prunes was cancelled because they could not be delivered if the strike is declared. Reports from the Medford section are to the effect that the car shortage has caused heavy losses to pear growers, much of the fruit rotting. The recent order will put the finishing touches to the crop as there is nothing that can be done with the fruit except to dry it, and this is not profitable.—Salem Capital Journal.

Because he has decidedly pronounced opinions, and some have taken objections thereto, W. C. De Pew, of the Criterion at Lebanon, says that every man or woman who exercises the right of franchise should stand for some political unit. "They should take a stand and have backbone enough to let their preference be known. Be something, first, last and all the time. Naturally our first thought is that it is the best to be a republican; but, if you cannot be a republican, be a democrat; and if you can conscientiously be neither, be a progressive, a prohibitionist, a socialist, an anarchist. Stand for some principle, and don't go around like an old mop without handle or wringer—a big slob—looking for a soft place to light after the fray is over."

There have been volumes of matter written and published on the railroad strike situation. To an ordinary citizen on whom the burden of footing the bill for increases will fall, it looks as if the time had arrived to establish once and forever the principle of arbitration.

Why in the name of all that is sensible should employers and employes be left to fight out their labor battles by force at the expense of the public, when other questions between individuals and corporations are settled in courts of law?

The world would soon come to a pretty state of affairs if some of the rest of us decided we would refuse to abide by court decisions and settle our own difficulties by force of hand. There would be just as much sense and right in it as for the railroad brotherhoods to refuse to arbitrate. The claim that no justice can be secured by arbitration is poor argument for if we take that ground we are practically admitting that our judicial system is a farce and that there is no justice in anything. Any decision rendered by a judicial body is not likely to please both sides, but the mere fact that one side or the other is dissatisfied is no criterion that justice has not been meted out in as liberal a manner as the case warrants. If the most powerful leaders in this country began to use force simply because the courts failed to always give them all they demanded in their pleadings, what would we come to? Yet this is exactly the situation in the present strike, the brotherhoods refuse to arbitrate because they claim they didn't get sufficient results in arbitration meetings held a few months ago. Such action as this is forcing the day when there will be a court of arbitration and these matters will be settled on their merits just the same as any other case between individuals or corporations.—Exchange.

"What's in a Name?"
O'er the name of a rollicking, laughing stream,
Men argue, dispute and contest;
For a poet, it seems, has had a dream,
And he loves his name the best.

The stream leaps rocks and laves the snag,
And rears o'er boulder and sand;
She joins not the strife, nor cares a rag
For a name men think so grand.
For ages she laughingly tumbled and played,
As she nourished the deer and the lea;
The call of her God she ever obeyed,
In a life quite happy and free.

She slaked the thirst of the Indian brave,
Who drank of her waters clear,
And when at last he found his grave
She sang for the pioneer.

When first the lips of the white man sipped
From this chattering stream of mirth,
If counting in years she then had tipped
A million or more on earth.

Call her La Creole or Rickreall,
No fault to find has she;
While the world rolls on and proud men fall,
She will find her way to the sea.

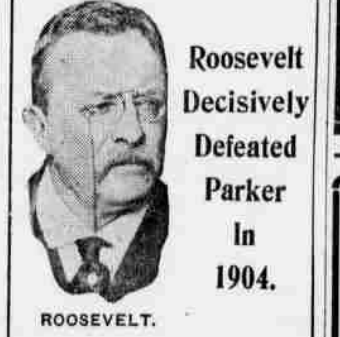
It is thus of religious creeds I think—
The same matters not a whit;

If tired and thirsty men may drink
Or lave in the waters of it.

All those performing their tasks each day,
As happy and free as the creek,
Will find their God hard by the way,
The Jew as well as the Greek.
—F. W. Parker.

My Work
(By J. C. Herbsman)
My work is "just a job"
Or a Wonderful Opportunity
It is a "meal ticket"
Or Life's One Big Chance
It is "just a common-place"
Or a Vision of Great Possibilities
It is a monotonous, dull, dead grind
Or The Joy of Life
Its end is dread disappointment
Or The Promise of a Great Reward
It spells servility
Or Service
It reduces a man to slavery
Or recreates him into a Master of Men
It changes man into a narrow, selfish monster
Or to a Godlike Being "Who Loves His Fellowman"
It withholds, grasps, hoards—with the spirit of the miser—
Or it Gives, Helps, Loves, Serves—
With the true Spirit of Brotherly Love
Which of these, Brother, is the conception of your work?

ELECTING A PRESIDENT
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ROOSEVELT.

Roosevelt Decisively Defeated Parker in 1904.
THE Republicans, pleased with the successor of McKinley, nominated Roosevelt in 1904. A split had occurred in the Democratic party over the question of free silver. William Jennings Bryan had a large following, but also had many bitter enemies. Alton B. Parker of New York was agreed on as a compromise candidate. He was supposed to have no decided views on the issue. However, before the convention adjourned he came out in favor of the gold standard. Roosevelt was overwhelmingly elected, and Charles W. Fairbanks of Indiana was chosen vice president, while Parker's running mate that year was Henry G. Davis of West Virginia.
(Watch for the election of Taft in 1908 in our next issue.)

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