

Polk County Observer

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Office.....517-519 Court Street
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BY H. W. BRUNE

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HUGHES AND FAIRBANKS.

IT COULDN'T BE DONE.

Somebody said that it couldn't be done.
But he, with a chuckle replied,
That "maybe it couldn't," but he
would be one
Who wouldn't say so till he tried.
So he buckled right in with a trace
of a grin
On his face, if he worried, he hid it.
He started to sing as he tackled the
thing
That couldn't be done, and he did it.

Somebody scoffed: "Oh you'll never
do that;
At least no one ever has done it."
But he took off his coat and he took
off his hat
And the first thing we knew he'd be-
gun it.
With a lift of his chin and a bit of a
grin,
Without any doubting or quit it,
He started to sing as he tackled the
thing
That couldn't be done and he did it.

There are thousands to tell you it
cannot be done
There are thousands to prophesy fail-
ure;
There are thousands to point out to
you one by one
The dangers that wait to assail you.
But just buckle in with a bit of a
grin,
Then take off your coat and go to it;
Just start in to sing as you tackle
the thing
That "cannot be done" and you'll
do it.

—Contributed.

WIDOW PENSIONERS.

A law of especial interest to the
widows of soldiers and marines was
passed by congress during the final
stages of its recent session, and signed
by the president on September 8.
Under this law the widow of a sol-
dier, sailor or marine who served in
the civil war, and who was his law-
ful wife during such period of ser-
vice; or the widow of a soldier, sail-
or or marine who served in the civil
war, the war with Mexico or the war
of 1812, and who has reached the age
of seventy years, is entitled to a pen-
sion of \$20 per month. And if such
widow already is a pensioner, under
the old law, a mere statement of
facts, made in proper form and filed
with the pension department, will se-
cure an increase to the rate noted.

This generous provision for the
widows of men who served their gov-
ernment in the war specified will be
a great help to many women of this
country, as the pension provided is
a considerable increase over the rate
which heretofore prevailed. There
will be, however, much disappoint-
ment to pension widows who find
themselves unable to claim the in-
crease on account of not yet having
reached the age of seventy. And in
truth it does seem this is a rather
extreme limit, and one that probably
will cause serious effort to be made
to induce congress to modify this
clause of the law so that younger
widows, who otherwise are qualified
to secure this benefit, may come under
this law for larger pensions.

DANGER OF SPECULATIVE BOOM

Financial writers declare this coun-
try stands in danger of a speculative
boom and they are warning the pub-
lic not to join in a movement of this
character. Recently there has been
a rapid growth of speculative deal-
ings in Wall street securities, and
recently there was a "two million
share day" on the New York stock
exchange—the highest record for
many years. The public, we are told,
is investing wildly, blindly and in-
judiciously, lured on by the prospect
of quick and enormous profits. Yet
conservative bankers and financiers
are inclined to the belief that securi-
ties values already are unduly inflated
in many instances, and they prophesy
trouble—perhaps disaster—if this

speculative movement keeps up and
something should happen to give a
setback to business, or a chill to pub-
lic confidence.

And this "something" is very apt
to happen at any time, and may
cause fully as much trouble as pre-
dicted. Conditions are abnormal and
not even the most astute can foretell
what the future may bring. Abund-
ant prosperity is bringing fine prof-
its to American industries and busi-
ness concerns, but a sudden change in
the European war situation, also other
things that easily might happen,
would be sure to cause a speedy and
perhaps drastic readjustment. Specu-
lation at the present time is danger-
ous and the American people should
not forget this fact. A wild specu-
lative boom would be about the worst
thing that could happen to this na-
tion at the present time.

DANGER AT GRADE CROSSINGS.

The grade crossing danger has be-
come a far more serious question
since the use of the automobile has
become so general. It is a question
that worries railroad managers prob-
ably even more than it does the gen-
eral public, moreover, for every grade
crossing accident subjects the com-
panies to possible claims for damages,
to say nothing of the possible dam-
age to trains themselves. To elimi-
nate all grade crossings is, of course,
out of the question, as the expense
would be monumental. Therefore,
railway officials constantly are striv-
ing to reduce the grade crossing dan-
ger in other ways—through the adop-
tion of various safety devices, and
particularly by trying to educate the
public (especially autoists) to ob-
serve the rule: "Stop, Look and
Listen!"

This is the burden of circular let-
ters which are being sent out by
several eastern railroads and which
probably reflects the views of every
other railway company. It calls at-
tention to the increasing number of
auto accidents at grade crossings and
appeals for public co-operation to re-
duce this danger. It suggests that
while drivers are inclined to regard
certain crossings as especially dan-
gerous, "all" grade crossings are
dangerous. The best safety devices
are unavailing, moreover, when driv-
ers ignore warning signs and signals,
as they do with frequency. The only
safe plan, says a circular, is to re-
member and observe the rule, "Stop,
Look and Listen." And if the pub-
lic will do this, it is suggested, grade
crossing accidents speedily will de-
crease, meaning the saving of many
lives and avoidance of injuries and
property destruction.

This argument is sound and sen-
sible, and it is to be hoped the pub-
lic—autoists in particular—can be in-
duced to follow the good advice of-
fered. Auto accidents at grade cross-
ings are increasing with alarming
frequency, and there is a tendency to
place too much blame on the rail-
roads. The latter cannot escape re-
sponsibility for negligence or care-
lessness, of course, but the public
should be willing to do its part to
reduce the grade crossing danger.
And one feature of this responsibil-
ity calls on autoists to "stop, look
and listen" when approaching a
grade crossing, or at least to slow
down and make certain no train is
approaching, before attempting to
cross the tracks of a steam or electric
line. Nor should it ever be forgotten
that "every grade crossing is dan-
gerous."

"JOKER" IN LABOR LAW.

The Democrats boastfully refer to
the new federal child labor law passed
by the present administration, and
are using this as one of their cam-
paign arguments. If other democrat-
ic campaign claims are as flimsy as
this one, however, it will not take the
American people long to see through
Democratic shams and pretense. For
it now is being pointed out that the
new child labor law has a "joker"
in it, which virtually robs it of pre-
tended protection for child labor.

In other words, while the new law
purports to forbid the shipment in
interstate commerce of goods in
whose production child labor has been
used, it actually forbids such ship-
ments only for thirty days after the
child labor has been employed. South-
ern canning factories, for instance,
which are notorious offenders in the
employment of child labor, merely
have to store their products for thirty
days, after which they are free to dis-
pose of their goods just the same as
before. And, of course, the same
method of evasion is open to all em-
ployers of child labor.

The much vaunted child labor law,
in fact, is not what it pretends to
be, and instead of being a credit to
the democratic administration it is a
reflection either on democratic hon-
esty, or on democratic ability in the
matter of law making. In other words,
the democratic congress and the dem-
ocratic president either intentionally
left a vital loophole in the new enact-
ment, or they carelessly neglected to
frame this law so it will actually pro-
tect child workers and thus cure a
well recognized evil.

In either case the situation is not

creditable to the democrats, and in-
stead of boasting of the new child
labor law they need to either explain
and defend its defects, or altogether
ignore it. It is not a good cam-
paign argument for the democrats.
For like some of the other democratic
arguments and claims it is certain to
prove a boomerang, to injure their
own cause and furnish obvious advan-
tage to the republicans.

The bankers in convention have
discussed the proposition to retire
all the greenbacks and bank notes.
The general public is not greatly in-
terested in the project, however, be-
cause the general public doesn't get
hold of enough greenbacks and bank-
notes to make much difference to it
whether they are retired or not.

John M. Palmer, progressive nom-
inee for vice-president this year, will
take the stump for Wilson. But it
will be rather hard sledding for John
with Roosevelt out "plugging" for
the Hughes and Fairbanks ticket.

The man who nominated President
Wilson at the St. Louis convention
this year has been defeated for the
democratic senatorial nomination in
New Jersey. An omen, perhaps.

"Woolen fabrics are going up" is
a market report. Modesty impels us
to remark that it is to be hoped they
will not get any higher than last
summer's cotton fabrics.

The farmers of course are not wor-
rying over the prospects of higher
prices for bread. They are getting
their share of the profits.

Not even politics is sufficient to
distract the attention of some men
from the closing events of the base-
ball season.

Ducks, like voters, are inclined to
be a bit gun-shy at this season of
the year.

Only thirteen more weeks of the
leap year, girls, so hurry up!

SOME THINGS

The recent Methodist conference
during its entire session of nearly a
week at Lebanon, was characterized
by profound religious feeling, brother-
ly spirit and a flow of wit and hu-
mor. Rev. Bennett's invitation to as-
semble in Dallas next year was one
of the humorous events of the meet-
ing. The Springfield pastor had pre-
sented an invitation when Mr. Ben-
nett addressed the conference. "I
bring you cordial greetings and a
hearty invitation from the church,
the commercial club and the entire
city of Dallas, the Gem city of the
Salem district. It has never had a
conference. Dallas Methodism is a
pioneer. It was founded in 1846.
Many eminent preachers have minis-
tered at its altars, men like Dr.
Doane, Stratton, Flynn, Booth—and
myself. Dallas is on the map; it is
the center of things; all roads lead
to Dallas. But Dallas is a conservative,
old town, and I am the slowest thing
in the county of Polk. It needs the
inspiration of this conference to jar
it loose and set in motion some great
movements of progress. Come to Dal-
las, brethren. They are a hospitable
and warm-hearted people over there.
They enjoy great comfort and will
make you very comfortable. Why,
Bishop, even the Dallas mountains are
clothed with fir. Prunes and Pros-
perity—Dallas, Rah! Rah! is the slo-
gan there. But brethren you will find
something better than prunes. Bis-
hop, I have been in Dallas now for
three years and am a full-fledged Pil-
grim Father. If this conference will
come to Dallas next year you will all
be initiated into the mysteries of the
Pilgrim Fathers—for every one of
you will land on a Plymouth rock."

OTHERS' OPINIONS

An Albany physician was called
out of bed one morning this week
and asked why he was hard to digest.
Early this morning the Democrat of-
fice was asked what state made the
first star on the American flag. These
are busy school days.—Albany Dem-
ocrat.

Boosters Boost.

The party of Albany boosters, in
several autos, who made a trip to
Independence, Monmouth and Dallas
Monday to distribute bills for the
round-up October 12-13-14, report a
pleasant ride. Instead of 150 autos
as reported in prospect in the Port-
land papers, there were six or seven.
Most of the many Albany auto crowds
that went to the fair did so by way
of the Pacific highway on this side.
The boosters had a good time of it,
were not disturbed by dust much,
keeping far enough away from each
other for that. They did some effec-
tive work in advertising the show and
a good many Polk county people may

be expected here during the round-up
and harvest festival. With big crops
and high prices there is a prosperous
look to the Polk towns, the home of
some of the finest farms in the val-
ley. The number of modern farm res-
idences attracts attention.—Albany
Democrat.

PUT MONEY IN THY PURSE

Many ingenious appeals will be made
to the voter to cast off the ties of
party and vote for this candidate or
that because "he is greater than his
party."

It is well to keep in mind, however,
that this is primarily a contest of
parties and principles and not primar-
ily a contest between Mr. Wilson
and Mr. Hughes.

The voter should carefully weigh
the evidence presented and determine
for himself which party and which
set of principles will better ad-
vance the interest of the country and
his own personal fortunes during the
next four years.

Perhaps the greatest issue of the
campaign is that of whether or not
American industry and American la-
bor shall be compelled to compete
with the industries and the cheap la-
bor of Canada, Europe and Asia or
whether they shall be given the pro-
tection of a reasonable and adequate
tariff.

The Underwood law—a Democratic
measure—has been in effect since the
fall of 1913.

Under this law Canada is selling in
Oregon and Washington annually
about \$25,000,000 worth of lumber
shingles. In the Canadian mills orien-
tal labor is largely employed.

Under this law cherries grown in
Europe can be laid down in Chicago
and Cincinnati at 2 cents per pound
less than the cherries grown in Ore-
gon.

Dairy products from Europe and
Canada can be marketed in American
cities for less than our own.

Fish caught by aliens in Canadian
waters are sold in this country in
direct competition with fish caught in
American waters by white men.

Chinese eggs and other products are
sold on the coast in enormous quanti-
ties—the increase last year being
more than \$24,000,000 in excess of
the year before.

The \$164,000,000 balance of trade
in our favor in November, 1912—the
month Wilson was elected—was en-
tirely wiped out in the spring of 1914
and it went \$11,000,000 against us
before the European war commenced
on August first of that year.

Three million men were idle or
working part time.

Soup houses and five cent lunches
were opened in Portland and in every
other sizable town in the country.

The European war saved the east
but it has done little for Oregon—
where we produce no munitions, har-
bored wire, automobiles or medical sup-
plies.

Democratic victory undoubtedly
means a continuation of quiet times,
accentuated by similar conditions in
the east and middle west with the
closing of the war in Europe.

A Republican victory means the re-
opening of Oregon mills and factories;
a revival of business in all lines; with
work for everybody at good wages.

This is not a campaign dream.
We are not now concerned with
causes, but with consequences—con-
ditions—facts—and it is a fact that
our good times always come with Re-
publican rule and that tight times
always travel in the same jitney with
the Democratic donkey.

It always will be thus until the
leopard learns to change its spots and
the Democratic party its free trade
theories.

In the meantime, let us vote for
busy mills and steady jobs and the
comforts that ready cash will buy.

Library Obtains New Books.

Among the new books at the public
library are: American Year Book,
1915; Self Reliance, Fisher; Facts in
Jingles, Stoner; Little Lame Prince,
Craig; gift of Master Wendell San-
ders; Under the Country Sky, Rich-
mond; Mrs. Ralfame, Atherton. The
following books have been received
from the state library for the club
year:

The Russian Opera, Newmarch;
Short History of Russian Music,
Pougin; History of Russian Music,
Montagu-Nathan. A large wall map
of Oregon, 54 by 72 inches, showing
the forest resources of the state, has
been presented to the library by the
state forester.

The total circulation in September
was 697; juvenile books in circula-
tion numbered 214; adult books, 393.
The number of callers during the
month was 1,549. Eleven new bor-
rower's cards were issued and 14
books were added to the library.

Fairbanks Speaks Today.

Charles W. Fairbanks, republican
nominee for vice-president of the United
States will speak in Salem today
at 2:30. Several prominent Dallas re-
publicans plan to attend.

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