

Polk County Observer

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GILBERT P. MACGREGOR.

The sudden death of Gilbert P. MacGregor on Wednesday afternoon was indeed a shock to this community. Although not a pioneer of this county or city, Mr. MacGregor had made a host of friends in Dallas during the eight or nine years he resided here. They prized his acquaintanceship highly and keenly feel his passing as a distinct loss to this city.

Mr. MacGregor was a man of sterling qualities. Above all else he cherished his friends and the companionship of his life partner. When a mere lad both of his parents died and he was left to fight his battle, homeless and without guiding hands. However, with this handicap, he made his way well and rounded out a career that might well be an example to many who had greater opportunity than he. During the last few years of his life he was a martyr to physical pain, but he endured it with such sweet patience that his friends loved him the better for it, if that were possible.

Unassuming and cultured, he was a man among men, loved and honored by all who knew him. Kind-hearted and unselfish in his dealings with his fellow-men, he was admired and respected through his home town, Dallas, whose people feel his death was untimely and mourn with the grief-stricken widow.

THE REPLY OF THE ALLIES.

The joint reply of the entente allies to President Wilson's peace note does not entirely close the door to possible peace, but it leaves a crack so thin and scanty that peace prospects are dimmed almost to obliteration. The entente nations make it plain that while they cherish a natural hope of peace, they nevertheless are determined to subscribe to no peace arrangement that fails to meet their ideas of justice and the future protection of their own interests and the rights of humanity. They believe such a peace is "impossible at the present time," wherefore they are not ready to even discuss terms with their antagonists. Which of course is tantamount to saying the war must go on, which, in fact, is the general interpretation placed on their reply to the mediation offer of this government.

The allies tactfully credit high motives to the American effort, however, and they also declare themselves in full sympathy with the American suggestion of a league of nations to insure peace and justice throughout the world. They also concede the embarrassment and actual injury accruing to neutral nations, on account of the war, but decline to accept responsibility for this state of affairs. Just a suggestion of criticism is included in the emphatic denial that the motives and purposes of all belligerents are practically identical, an intimation which was carried in the American note. This denial is also emphasized by a recitation of acts by Germany and Austria-Hungary, who again are charged with "wilful aggression to insure their hegemony over Europe and their economic domination over the world."

In one respect, at least, the reply of the allies is more responsive to the American note than was the reply of the central powers. The latter virtually ignored the request for a statement of peace terms, while the allies outline their terms in general form but without going into details. Their demands include the restoration of Belgium, Serbia and Montenegro with proper indemnities; the evacuation of the invaded territories of France, Russia and Roumania, with reparation for actual injuries; the reorganization of Europe in a way to secure and insure the economic development of all nations under guarantee of peace and protection; the restitution of provinces wrested in the past from the allies by force, or against the will of their populations, together with the liberation of Italians, Slavs and Roumanians from foreign domination; the enfranchisement of populations "subject to the bloody tyranny of the Turks;" and, finally, the expulsion of Turkey from Europe.

That the entente allies will not and cannot agree to such a program is perfectly plain, of course, and with the two opposing sides so far apart there seems no other course than to fight it out until one side can assert its mastery. It may be, of course, the struggle will yet end in a draw.

but neither side as yet is willing to admit its own defeat, or its inability to go on. At least another year of war is therefore in prospect, and if neither side gains a clear victory in that time, an offer of mediation may again be made with better prospect of bringing a favorable response.

WHERE IS THE LIMIT?

The campaign for shorter working hours still continues. At a convention of the United Mine Workers of America, held in Ohio last week, a proposal was made to launch a movement to secure a seven-hour work day and only five working days in each week. This would be a still further shortening of the working time of coal miners, who already have the eight-hour day. Under the plan proposed they would work only thirty-five hours a week, as compared with forty-eight hours at present.

For many years union labor has centered its efforts to secure the eight-hour work day, and in a good many industries this aim has been accomplished. One commences to wonder, however, if labor will be satisfied even if it secures a universal eight-hour day. The proposal referred to would seem to indicate that after the eight-hour day has been gained, at least some branches of labor are going to keep up the campaign for shorter hours. And if the mine workers were given a seven-hour day and only five work days a week, how long would it be before they would be clamoring for still fewer hours, with no reduction of pay, of course?

Unquestionably there was a time when the hours of labor were too long, and the effort to shorten them was justified by reason and common sense. The same scarcely can be said, however, of this later movement to shorten the work day still further and also cut down the number of working days in each week. And the men who work for wages should be able to see this and also to appreciate that unreasonable demands will prove a detriment to themselves and their organizations.

MAKING BETTER FARMERS.

The work of making better farmers for this country goes steadily on, and is largely being helped by the organization of co-operative and educational clubs in connection with state agricultural colleges, or backed by bankers and businessmen who realize the importance of encouraging more scientific methods in farming. The result has been the formation of many canning clubs, corn clubs, baby beef clubs, prize pig clubs and the like, the competitive feature being often used to stimulate interest and activity on the part of the members, who at the same time are encouraged to study and apply the most approved methods for attaining success in their various efforts.

It is estimated that more than a quarter of a million persons now are enrolled in these various farm clubs, most of the members being young men and women who have a laudable ambition to place farm activities on a higher scale and bring about more successful results. And one scarcely can doubt that this will be accomplished as the result of this wide spread combined and co-operative effort, especially when it is both inspired and supplemented by intelligent and persistent effort on the part of state and federal authorities, who constantly are striving to better educate and train the men and women engaged in farm work. Not only are better farmers being made in this way, but better farms and better crops and better conditions surrounding country life. No other class of citizens is making more real progress than are the farmers, who also are enjoying more prosperity today than they ever before knew.

Just the same it is rather aggravating at this season of the year to receive letters from friends in Florida of California, telling of flowers in bloom and green stuff growing in the gardens.

Hopes of an early spring should not be abandoned, just because January has turned more wintry. The more real winter weather we get now the less we are likely to get in March and April.

The next big drive on the French battle front is said to be scheduled for March. Evidently planning to get an early start so as to make a long summer of it.

And even if congress puts the ban on saloons in the District of Columbia, does anyone really believe that thirty members will themselves go dry?

Another ultimatum has been handed to Greece by the allies. By this time, however, Greece probably is hardened to such usage.

Great prosperity prevails in this country, save only for the large number of people with limited incomes.

April 1 this year will fall on Sunday. A good chance to fool the minister by going to church.

OTHERS' OPINIONS

International Enforcement of Peace Would Be Legitimate.

Humanity is literally sickened of war. Its yearning for an enduring peace involves the deepest appreciation it has ever experienced for the madness of war as a means of adjusting international troubles. The American League to Enforce Peace responds to this yearning and realization, and draws its strength from the fact that it aims at the establishment of lasting peace for the world.

The league was founded while the world was stunned by Europe's insane and criminal use of military and naval power. Yet it proposes to use force—that is, to fight as a last resort—to prevent nations from fighting. It provides that "the signatory powers shall jointly use their economic and military forces against any of their number that goes to war or commits acts of hostility against another of the signatories before any question arising shall be submitted as provided." This is plain enough and practical enough. It recognizes realities. It faces facts. It appreciates that in such a world as this, with human nature what it is, it may become necessary and then will be right and wise for the policeman of a civilization to use his billy upon the bully among nations. Here is no impractical pacifism.

A difficulty in practical working might arise in the case of the United States in the event of our joining such a league of nations for the enforcement of peace. Congress possesses the power to declare war. The use of military force by the league would be war, and would come under congressional consideration. Ex-President Taft thus meets the difficulty:

Congress might refuse to declare war. What would be the effect? It would be a breach of faith (toward the treaty obligation to make such war as the treaty provided). The treaty-making power under the constitution creates the obligation to declare war in certain contingencies. This obligation is to be discharged by congress under its constitutional power to declare war. Should it fail to do so, fail to comply with the binding obligation created by the treaty-making power, it breaks the contract of the government.

The constitutional difficulty, accordingly, is much less actual than it appears. It may be dismissed as an academic abstraction. In all human likelihood, if the United States entered a league of nations to enforce peace, the people of this country would never find themselves constrained to such use of their power for enforcing peace as they could not approve.—Spokesman-Review.

SCHOOL NEWS

As the clock struck nine last Saturday morning the faithful pedagogues from near and far, who preside in zones three and four began gathering at Oakpoint school, near Independence, for their biennial inspiration and knowledge impartation.

Faint holiday smiles were still in evidence though at first not discernible, due to frosty noses and cold toes, but with the use of a large heating stove and a few cords of wood it took only a short time to resuscitate the furberecked school ma'ams from their lethargy. They were soon chattering merrily until Supervisor Moore called them to order and reviewed briefly the reading work of the last zone meeting. He then offered some devices for use in the application of phonetics which was followed by an observation lesson in reading with a sixth grade class by ex-superintendent Reynolds, who proved his unquestionable ability to teach reading instead of hearing it, as is most common.

This was followed by the introduction of English, which resulted in an interesting round table discussion. Composition work for the lower grades was the first work in English treated by Mr. Moore.

The session was brought to a temporary close by the appetizing aroma from the coffee pot and appearance of baskets of eats. During the noon intermission the men busied themselves by fixing punctured tires for the fairer sex.

The afternoon was devoted to observation lessons with the fourth and seventh grades by Supervisor Moore. Composition was the topic used in the fourth grade and a developmental lesson in technical grammar for the seventh grade.

Five senior students belonging to the Oregon Normal rural supervisors class were present and at the close of the session their representative, N. A. Baker, addressed the gathering with much enthusiasm, saying in part: "I think this is a wonderful

opportunity afforded you teachers and I'm sure you will profit by these meetings. Mr. Moore is giving you work that we are now getting in the training school at Monmouth and without methods such as you are getting here you cannot hope to do the best work."

Superintendent Crowley closed the day's session with an inspiring talk and assured the teachers that his office was ready to serve them at any time in the best possible way.

Superintendent Crowley took a fourth grade class out from Dallas for the observation work and they were found to be good pupils and up to standard. The same can be said about Prof. Reynolds's sixth grade class which he took from his room in Rieckrell. Those answering the call were Miss Riley, Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Wright of Rieckrell; Miss Ada Farmer of Crowley, Miss Rowland of Oak Grove, Miss Lucille Tichenor of Eola, Miss Rose Bodayla of Popcorn, Miss Myrtle Wilson and Mrs. Chloe Seymour of Mountainview, Ruth Campbell of Oak Point, Miss Ellen M. Yocom of Broadmead, Miss Gladys Mitchell of Greenwood and Superintendent Crowley and his wife.

Those from the Normal school were: Miss Stella Redford, Mrs. A. B. Sare and Messrs. W. C. Hoppes, N. A. Baker and T. L. Burns. The pupils present were:

Fourth grade: Homer Ellis, Janet McKenzie, Kenneth Day and Julia Palmer of Dallas.

Sixth grade: Allen Craven, Cloyse Tatom and Ralph Clarke of Rieckrell.

Seventh grade: Esther Erickson, Ella Burright, Edyth Withrow, Helena Sperling, Herbert Chose, Manley Burright and Glen Burright of Oakpoint.

The girls that served the dinner and the ladies that furnished it, received a vote of thanks by all who were fortunate enough to be present.

The next zone meeting will be at Elkins school, south of Monmouth, on Saturday, the 20th.

Spring Valley Has Rousing Gathering

Tuesday night, January 9, was the big night for Spring Valley's sociable set. They gathered at the little white school house that peacefully reposes among the majestic oaks at the foot of the hills nine miles northwest of Salem. The night was an ideal one and the gathering was attended by a large number of cheerful farmers and their good wives. The meeting was one of the parent-teacher associations at which new officers were elected for the ensuing year, followed by a good program by the school children. Then Supervisor Moore was introduced and spoke on the subject of "The Fundamentals of Life." He closed his address with an appeal to the people of that district to wake up and complete the unfinished playshed. The president of the association, following Mr. Moore's talk, at once appointed a committee to begin work of completing the structure and it will, no doubt, be ready for use in a short time.

Eola Literary Society Meets.

The week-end attraction for Eola residents last week was the monthly meeting of the literary society, an organization that is doing a great deal of good for Eola citizens. One particular feature which is being taken up is the study of parliamentary law by the society. At Saturday's meeting officers were elected and a program was given by the younger set. One part of the program which pleased all was the "local paper." I. L. Patterson's address on the Life of Abraham Lincoln was the chief feature of the evening. Supervisor Moore also gave a short talk which proved interesting and valuable to those who were present.

Court House News

Papers filed recently with the county clerk are:

Power of attorney, Daniel Hoffman to Berzelius L. Barr.
Deed, W. B. McKown, et ux, to Turl Leverich, part of D. L. C. of D. L. Gothard, notification number 5280, claim number 48, T. 8 S. R. 6 W. 41-100 of an acre, \$10.

Marriage license: Wallace T. Brown to Grace Hulbert.
Quit claim deed, City of Falls City to Falls City Lumber and Logging Co., part of D. L. C. of John Sheldon and wife, Not. No. 6832, claim 4, T. 8 S. R. 6 W.

Warranty deed, Joseph James to Laura Hurd; 30 feet off the east end of lots 5 and 6 in block 1, city of Suver.

Warranty deed, B. C. Rockwell et ux to J. G. McIntosh. Lot 6, block 12 in E. A. Thorp's addition to town of Independence.
Sheriff's deed, John W. Orr to Henry Byerley, commencing 24 chains north of S. W. corner, N. W. quarter of section 7, T. 7 S. R. 4 W.

Administrator's deed, John C. Black to C. C. Marks, part of J. C. Elkins D. L. C. 44 Not. No. 2468, T. 8 S. R. 5 W.

Satisfaction Mortgages: State Land Board to W. H. M.

Daniel et ux, partial release, \$3150.

Christine Goetz to Michael Goetz, \$1000.

Independence National bank to Michael Goetz, \$1075.

A. M. Fanning to H. A. Yocom et ux, \$5730.

Homer Smith et al to J. D. Barber et al, \$700.

Lucy A. Wheeler to G. F. Wagner, \$1150.

Milwaukee Downer college to Broadmead Farm company, \$8000.

Louise B. Kliks to H. A. Yocom, et ux, \$1500.

State Land Board to Vernon Smith, \$1800.

State Land Board to John Walling, \$1800.

William Brown & Co. to John Walling et ux, \$524.29.

Ladd & Bush to John Walling, \$2000.

Warranty deed, Mand Montgomery to Albert Ronco. Beginning 17 chains North and 34 chains E. of S. W. corner D. L. C. of Theodore Thorp Not. No. 6743, claim 55, T. 8 S. R. 6 W.
Corporation Warranty deed, Oracle Gold Mining Co. to C. A. Clark. Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 13 of Clarkview Fruit farm.

TO INVESTIGATE BROWN ROT.

O. A. C. Professor Will Conduct Experiment Station on Chapman Place
"Brown Rot," look out! Professor Brown of the Oregon Agriculture college, will conduct an experiment station on the R. L. Chapman prune orchard just north of Dallas, next summer.

Professor Brown was here Monday and made all necessary arrangements. He will use a Hardie sprayer in the work. This machine is capable of giving 300 pounds pressure. The first spraying will be done in April before bloom time. The trees will be sprayed three or four times before the final one in September.

The results of the campaign will be open to everyone interested. The prune men of the community intend to watch the work, closely. The idea was conceived of when Professor Brown was here last year, giving a lecture.

Dinneen Writes About La Grande.

Lawrence Dinneen tells how zero weather in La Grande doesn't seem much colder than 20 above in Dallas, in a letter to local friends. He describes it as possessing a crispness that makes one want to exert himself. He characterizes his new home as follows: "La Grande is situated in a bowl of hills and is a beautiful place; there is snow everywhere. The court house and postoffice are fine brick and stone buildings. The Elks have a beautiful club house. Things are prosperous here; it is a salary town, big railroad shops and terminals and a big lumber company. Living expenses are higher than in the valley."

Why it a bootblack like the sun?



Because he does the most shining on bright days!

Our Shop Shines Every Day, Because We Keep It Clean! We Figure That's The Only Way A Meat Shop Should Be Seen! We Want Your Trade, But This We Know—To Secure it, We, The Goods Must Show. Here The Best, You'll Always Find, The Cleanly, Tender, Wholesome Kind!

Gohrke's Market

WHEN in need of Athletic Supplies, Flashlights and Batteries, Pocket Cutlery, Bicycles, Motorcycles, Sundries, Blasting Powder, Gun Repairing, Umbrella Repairing, Bicycle and Motorcycle Repairing, or in fact any light Mechanical Repairing, call

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