

Polk County Observer

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POLK DOESN'T WANT A "TIN" BRIDGE.

So thoroughly imbued with the spirit of haste are some of Salem's citizens, that they are giving little thought to the advantages of a permanent bridge across the river. They forget that the "tin" bridge which has just been closed served a period of only 26 years of usefulness, and are now clamoring for another "tin" structure which probably would last during the present generation.

Polk's county court is favoring a concrete bridge, because such a structure, at a cost slightly above the cost of a steel bridge, will stand forever. The charge made in the Salem Journal last Saturday evening that a small clique of obstructionists in control of Polk county affairs was intentionally delaying matters, is not a statement of truth. The Polk county court has been instructed by citizens of this county to invest its money in a concrete bridge, and that is why the court will not give heed to the state highway commission's recommendations for a steel bridge. And, too, "tin" bridges are out of date nowadays—it costs too much to keep them in repair, to paint them, and replace them every so often.

Despite the fact that the Salem papers are well acquainted with the "concrete bridge" sentiment on this side of the river, the Journal had the following to say editorially last Saturday evening, under the head, "Marion County Should Build The Bridge."

"If the Willamette river is bridged at Salem in the immediate future it is evident that Marion county will have to do it. Unquestionably the officials of Polk county do not want a bridge at this city, subordinating the welfare and convenience of the entire central Willamette valley to an effort to force certain trade into the Polk county towns that otherwise might cross the river. That a majority of the people of that county want the bridge rebuilt there is no doubt, but the small clique of obstructionists in control of the county affairs is in the saddle and purposes to delay construction through one excuse or another just as long as it can be done.

"This being the case, what should Marion county do? The wisest plan, it would seem to us, would be to go ahead and build a steel bridge, according to the state highway engineer's plans, without any assistance from Polk county. The entire cost of a bridge of this type would be less than Marion county's share of the cost of a concrete bridge, even if Polk county should assist in building it. According to the report of the highway engineers it would be a more serviceable structure after it is built, and these engineers are the only persons who have thoroughly investigated the matter.

"If Marion county has no right to divert its tax money to the payment of a bridge which would be partly within Polk county this objection could no doubt be remedied by legislation. There is still time to get a bill through at this session, if it is needed, that would legalize the construction of the entire bridge by this county.

"The quickest, cheapest and easiest way to solve the bridge problem is for Marion county to proceed to build it, and allow the obstructionists of Polk county to be taken care of by the voters of that county when they get another crack at them."

FOREIGN DEMAND FOR AUTOS.

The export of American autos and motor trucks has grown to prodigious proportions since the commencement of the European war. The latter not only resulted in immense purchases by the belligerent nations, but as they, in turn, could no longer supply the demand from nations not directly concerned in the war, these latter nations were compelled to turn to America to supply their needs. As a consequence the auto export trade of this country grew by leaps and bounds. From the start of the war until last October it reached the remarkable total of \$230,000,000, and even this does not take into account immense separate shipments of engines, tires and accessories.

This truly remarkable showing is made by a business which received its first impetus in France and which even now is less than twenty years old. The annual growth of the Amer-

ican auto industry is shown by a statistical table recently published indicating that the exports during the past six years have increased from \$12,965,049 in 1911 to \$120,000,866 in 1916. A striking feature of the industry in the first year of the war was the tremendous growth of truck exports and the relegation of passenger cars to second place in the value of the machines exported. In that year (1915) the shipments of passenger cars were more than four million dollars less than in the preceding twelvemonth, while truck exports jumped from \$1,181,611 to \$39,140,682. But it is interesting to note that during last July and October, for the first time since October, 1914, the export of passenger cars exceeded in value the export of commercial vehicles.

This increase in the export of passenger cars, however, is evidently due, considering the embargoes which the belligerent countries have in force against imports of pleasure vehicles, to the growing popularity of American motor cars in neutral countries outside of Europe. All the South and Central American countries are now importing American-made automobiles. Even little Honduras, one of the poorest countries in the group, with a population of only half a million, took a considerable number. Moreover, there is every prospect that the demand for our machines in South America, Africa and the Far East will continue to increase for at least a number of years.

KEEPING DOWN EXPENSES.

The so-called pork barrel seems to flourish and cause trouble in other nations than our own. In Argentina, for instance, the new executive, President Irigoyen, has caused quite a commotion by announcing a policy of national retrenchment and economy, which includes opposition to all unnecessary appropriations and cutting off a large number of public officials whose services he believes can be dispensed with.

The Argentina republic in common with all South American countries, has been rather hard hit by the war in Europe. It has suffered a diminution of trade and its financial situation has been critical, inasmuch as its banking arrangements were made in Europe and a host of firms indebted to Germany, France, or England, were called upon to settle up their accounts at once with a diminished revenue incoming to keep them going. The government itself has suffered loss of revenue and some measure of curtailment of expenses was deemed essential. Hence the plan to inaugurate strict economies in governmental expenses.

Our own government is facing the problem of meeting greatly increased expenses without a corresponding increase in national revenues, and this problem promises to become acute at a no distant date. Military expenses and the program of better military preparedness already have added many million dollars to the annual expense of the government, and it is obvious that steps must be taken to largely add to the federal income. Facing a problem of this kind, however, it seems perfectly clear that needless expenses and actual extravagance should be guarded against, as a first step in the prudent administration of public affairs. Yet congress is still building and filling pork barrels and the pork grabbers are as numerous and eager as ever. Wisdom and foresight should teach that the "pork" should be cut out, just as is being planned in the little republic of Argentina.

REFORMS IN RUSSIA.

The effect of the European war has been to bring about radical changes in all the belligerent nations, some of which promise to be distinctly beneficial in time to come. Particularly is this true of Russia, which, we are told, has "found itself" in the awakening of human instincts and ambitions long smothered by handicaps which it seemed almost impossible to overcome. The war, however, has brought about reforms which probably could have been accomplished in no other manner. The great evil of intemperance, which was one of the greatest drawbacks to progress in Russia, has been greatly reduced, and other notable reforms have been launched which promise to work wonders in arousing national ambitions and aspirations, and cultivate a spirit of national co-operation.

The effect of this national reformation has at last extended even to those dreary dwellers without hope, the political exiles in Siberia. Men and women, some of whom are among the most intellectual of Russians, are being pardoned and returned to their former homes. Exiles who long have been separated from their families and friends, and who had little hope or prospect of ever rejoining the latter, are being happily surprised by notification of their freedom and a chance to reunite with their loved ones.

One scarcely can comprehend what the inauguration of such a policy

must mean to the people of Russia. Liberation of the exiles through the granting of amnesties is a thing hitherto undreamed of. Perhaps as terrible a feature of political exile to Siberia as any was the feeling of finality that attached to it. One going into exile felt he might as well be dead. Those who entered Siberia under such circumstances abandoned hope.

Recently it was announced by the minister of interior, that arrangements had been made for the liberation of 120 additional prisoners of certain classes, and that the cases of others will be investigated and disposed of as soon as is practicable. It is even conceivable that before long, political servitude in Asiatic Russia will be a thing of the past.

It is a great development for Russia. The government of the czar, it would seem, is becoming almost humane. Perhaps, in time, the government may see fit to treat the Jews as fellow beings and to accord the Finlanders a share of humanity. One can hope for almost anything from Russia now.

Before passing on the point of whether this country has agreed to pay too much for the Danish West Indies, some Americans will first want to know whether the fishing down there is any good.

The total value of American farm products last year is officially estimated at thirteen and one-half billion dollars. No wonder the American farmers can afford to own autos.

A cassowary in the "zoo" at Seattle has laid an egg that contains as much filling as two dozen ordinary hens' eggs. Please ship us a flock of cassowaries by return mail.

It is claimed that more than half a million persons in Syria have died of starvation during the past year. Not all the war sufferers live in the actual war zones.

The old-fashioned calamity howler seems to have disappeared.

OTHERS' OPINIONS

The Delinquent Tax List.

The Portland Journal says that publishing the delinquent tax list is a graft. As far as Multnomah county is concerned it is a graft to publish it in four Portland daily newspapers, but it is not a graft in other counties of the state. The law was "fixed" for the benefit of the Portland newspapers and this is the reason that it costs \$12,000 to publish the Multnomah county delinquent tax list. We agree with the Journal that it is a graft—as far as Multnomah county is concerned. But this is the point we wish to raise: To be consistent the Journal should have refused to take the graft money, or have returned it to the poor devils who were unable to pay their taxes. No so, however. It put the graft money down in its jeans and is now posing as a Simon pure friend of the people. This publisher, in common with other newspaper men of the state, resents that accusation of the Journal that publishing the delinquent tax lists in counties outside of Multnomah, is a graft. It is legitimate business and the list should be published for good and various reasons. It is well to say that the Journal admits taking "tainted money."

The greatest service performed by the publication of the delinquent tax list is to get before the public the fact that the property advertised is for sale. By these sales the county collects the money due it for taxes and which it needs in the conduct of its business. Not to advertise the sale publicly would result either in the necessity of the county going without a lot of its tax money or in the monopolization of the buying of tax titles by the few who are able to go to the expense of getting a list of delinquent property. This would not be fair to the taxpayers of the county.

Still another purpose served by the publication of the delinquent tax list that would not be served by the use of postal cards is that many who are delinquent hasten to pay before their delinquencies are made public through publication. Thus a large amount of money is put into the county treasury and the cost of publication saved.

The law requiring the publication of the delinquent tax list was repealed some years ago but was again put on the statute books through the protest of the taxpayers whose property had been sold without their knowledge, so the post card system was not effective even to the extent of reaching those who were delinquent.— Cottage Grove Sentinel.

Bunkers Ready Last of February.

The Southern Pacific company is rapidly assembling material for the construction of the 300 foot spur to the site decided upon for the munici-

pal bunkers, according to a letter received by Auditor Gregory. The site chosen is about two blocks off Main street near the round house. Bids for the construction of the bunkers will be opened at the regular meeting of the council, February 5.

MAY GET EVAPORATING PLANT

Independence Men Tell Wittenberg-King Co. of Advantages Offered By Polk.

Independence is trying to persuade the Wittenberg-King Evaporating company to locate a plant in Polk county, near Independence. Joseph Hirschberg and C. W. Irvine, representing the merchants' association were in The Dalles Thursday telling the officers of the company why Independence should be chosen.

The president of the company said that they would build another plant in the near future. It will be located in the city which promises to supply the most products. Cultivated area with possibilities for a larger amount of products will be the main drawing card for the new plant. It will probably be located in the Willamette valley, however.

The Wittenberg-King company is a big thing for The Dalles; it employs about 100 people and provides a market for an enormous output of fruits and vegetables. The plan of the Wittenberg-King company to find a good location for another plant, has reached the attention of a large number of commercial bodies in different cities of the northwest. The Dalles office of the company is receiving, by mail and wire, requests from various cities to be heard regarding their "advantages."

FAVORS STATE MARKETING.

Grange Master Against Matching Appropriations With Bonds.

The State Federation of Labor beginning its third day session was addressed Thursday morning by C. E. Spence, master of the state grange. He was in favor of a bill providing for state marketing and called special attention to the cold storage proposition whereby eggs could be bought at 18 cents a dozen, placed in cold storage and later sold at 45 to 50 cents a dozen. Mr. Spence was opposed to the Bean bill, house bill No. 21, and was of the opinion that the state could match the federal appropriations for the building of good roads without issuing bonds. The bill for using the convicts of the state for quarrying lime was favored by Mr. Spence.

The law and legislative committee reported in favor of the bill providing for five per cent interest on implied contracts and eight per cent on specified contracts. This is senate bill No. 37.

House bill No. 66, which provides for the amending of the eight-hour law was opposed by the committee appointed to report on the bill and also favored the proposed bill for one day rest in seven.

TEACHERS TO GET PRACTICE.

State Normal Arranges To Use Independence Schools Next Year.

A contract has been made by the Oregon Normal school with the directors of District No. 29, including the city of Independence, to use the Independence elementary school as a training school. This school has an enrollment of 350 pupils and by reason of the number and location is well adapted to this purpose. This will afford students an opportunity to do practical work and thus enlarge the scope of the normal. The action on the part of the Independence school board, in making the contract with the normal, was unanimous.

Arrangements have also been made to use the rural school known as Mountain View for training school purposes. There are 50 pupils enrolled in this school and those who are preparing for rural work will get their instruction there. This allows the rural section to work out its problems in a rural school.

President Ackerman is planning to use these schools in the opening of the fall semester.

CAN'T HELP CHOOSE TEACHERS

County School Superintendents Still Have No Voice; Bill Fails.

The bill so strongly advocated by Superintendent Clyde T. Bonney, of Wasco county, when he made his tour of Polk county schools recently, and also favored by Superintendent Crowley failed to pass the house of representatives, Wednesday.

The bill provided that county school superintendents should have a voice in the selection of teachers, and was introduced by Mrs. Alexander Thompson, the only woman member of the house. The vote was 33 to 20 against the measure.

Those who favor the bill, argue that the superintendent is more closely in touch with the teaching situation than the board of directors possibly be, so that he should at least have a vote in their choice.

CHEERFUL WORDS

For Many a Dallas Household.

To have the pains and aches of a bad back removed—to be entirely free from annoying, dangerous urinary disorders, is enough to make any kidney sufferer grateful. The following advice of one who has suffered will prove helpful to hundreds of Dallas readers.

Jack Mott, 818 Hayter street, Dallas, says: "I took Doan's Kidney Pills several years ago, when having backache and kidney disorder, which I considered due to the nature of my work. Constant strain and neglect caused my back to give out. Doan's Kidney Pills soon brought me around in fine shape. My back soon felt as strong as ever and my kidneys were normal."

Price 50c. at all dealers. Don't simply ask for a kidney remedy—get Doan's Kidney Pills—the same that Mr. Mott had. Foster-Milburn Co., Props., Buffalo, N. Y.

NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY.

Pursuant to the terms of the Will of the late Gideon Sowers, the undersigned Executor of said Will offers for sale, for cash, at private sale the following described premises belonging to said estate, to-wit:

Lot 1 in Block I, Montgomery's addition to Falls City, Polk County, State of Oregon, being store property. Lots 5, 6 and 7 in Block B, Montgomery's addition to Falls City, Polk County, State of Oregon, being residence property.

All bids to be submitted to the undersigned Executor of said Will at the office of Walter L. Toose, Jr., at Dallas, Oregon. Bids will be received on each tract separately, and all bids submitted should state whether bid is for one or both tracts, and be accompanied by a certified check for 5 per cent of the amount offered.

All contracts of sale are made subject to the approval of the County Court.

W. F. NICHOLS,
Executor of the Last Will and Testament of Gideon Sowers, deceased.
WALTER L. TOOSE, Jr.,
Attorney for Executor. A85-1f

Dr. Freeze, the Portland specialist, will continue to make regular trips to Dallas each month. Watch paper for dates. Call Gail hotel. Fourteen years' experience over 7900 cases treated.

PUBLIC SALE

We will sell at Public Auction, at our ranch, four miles north of Independence, on the Salem road, the following:

ALL OUR HORSES
Over 30 Head

SATURDAY, FEB. 3
At 10:30 A. M.

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