

The Herald

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Entered as second-class matter September 8, 1908, at the post office at Monmouth, Oregon, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

ISSUED EVERY FRIDAY, BY

The Acorn Press, Publishers
Monmouth, Oregon.

Subscription Rates

One year - - - \$1
Six months - - - 50 cts

FRIDAY, SEPT. 10, 1909.

In Friday's paper the Observer advocates the establishment of a wood distilling plant in that city similar to the one now in operation at Linnton. This is a good move and it is to be hoped that it will meet with the approval of the business interests, not only of Dallas, but of the entire country. This is a matter that should cause no jealous feelings, nor envy on the part of any other locality, for Dallas is pre-eminently fitted for such a plant. The material is at hand to produce a handsome income, that at present is a comparative waste. All such enterprises help the county at large almost as much as they will help the immediate vicinity where located. In the first place they will utilize waste products, secondly they will make business and bring money into the county that otherwise would go elsewhere, thirdly they will help to lessen taxes and that makes for considerable in some people's eyes. We are glad the Observer has taken this matter up and heartily second any such move. While we differ in many ways from the opinions of the editor of that paper, we do so honestly and hope we are not so hide bound that we do not appreciate any effort of his towards the general good of the county. No matter how widely divergent the opinions of the press of this county on politics, religion or sociologic questions, we should pull together for all that goes for the upbuilding of Polk county.

There are some queer propositions in the human family and we don't have to go a thousand miles from Monmouth to find some of them. Whether their business is good or bad they constantly talk grouchy and say that there is nothing doing. Now this is all wrong. If you are not making anything at your business the chances are more than even that it is your fault and not the fault of the business. Instead of going on with it and always finding fault, get out and let a better man take hold of it. To be continually bemoaning a business and still staying with it denotes that you are good for nothing else, or that you are lying about the business, either of which is bad in the sight of the public. Then the worst part of it is when the stanger comes to town, he learns that the place is hoodooed and that it never was very much anyway. This is a good way to get him to locate in your part of the country and spend some money trying to build up the various industries of the county and state. Better for the community if you would hie yourself away to some desert island where you could see no one for a period of ten

years, then perhaps you would feel differently when you got out or perhaps you would have run down and not be able to get wound up again.

We may kick at the hot weather but we are not having waterspouts and washouts every day that interfere with trains and do untold damage to crops, not to say anything of the loss of life suffered in some places. Up in eastern Oregon they have had two waterspouts that destroyed several hundred feet of railroad and delayed trains, besides washing away many acres of good land. During the past two years we have had no thunderstorms here, in fact it is seldom that thunder is heard in this section of the state. This of itself is an inducement for some people to locate here, as there are many who cannot stand the severe electric storms that sweep over the Atlantic coast.

Don't fail to tell your eastern friends that from September 15 to October 15 the rate from Missouri river points to Monmouth is only \$25 and that it would be a good time for them to take advantage of the cheap fare to get out here and secure a cheap home before the price gets way up out of reach. Monmouth and vicinity offer the best opportunity for investment now open anywhere in the west.

The Devilfish in Action.

A naturalist who observed devilfishes in action says that he thought no more diabolical creature could be imagined. They resembled enormous bats and in following one another around in a circle raised the outer tip of one of the long winglike fins high out of the water in a graceful curve, the other being deeply submerged. They might be seen now gliding down with a flying motion of the wings, sweeping, gyrating upward with a twisting vertical motion marvelous in its perfect grace; now they flashed white, again black, so that one would say they were rolling over and over, turning somersaults. While swimming along the two great arms or feelers of the devilfish are whirled about in constant motion, like the tentacles of a squid. When these tentacles come in contact with anything they close upon it. It is generally believed that this clasping, although at times doing considerable harm to fishermen and their boats, is largely automatic and that, upon the whole, the devilfish is timid rather than a fighter.

The Rust of Custom.

The bitterness toward innovation is just the same in an army as out of it, but perhaps with more reason. A new thing cannot possibly be accepted until it has proved itself better than that which it displaces. The first cannons were possibly rejected, and the Christian inventor took them to the Turk, who used them at the siege of Constantinople. The first firearms were bitterly opposed because they destroyed the soldierly bearing of the troops. The British navy strenuously objected to the first large guns because one charge would cost as much as one of Nelson's broadsides. Ericsson's Monitor met with more opposition in Washington than it did in Hampton Roads. At the outbreak of the civil war it is said that congress ordered the adoption of the new weapon, over the objection of the chief of ordnance, who kept a specimen of the old one in his office to show visitors how good it was.—Army and Navy Life.

Living Lights of the Sea.

One of the marine curiosities fished from the bottom of the Indian ocean by a dredging vessel chartered by the Calcutta Society of Natural History was a mammoth sea crab, which continually emitted a bright white light, similar to that seen in the spasmodic flashes of phosphorescent luminosity kindled by the common fireflies. The oddity was captured in daytime and placed in a large tank, nothing peculiar except its immense size being noticeable in the broad glare of the tropical sun. At night, however, when all was in pitchy darkness, the crab surprised the naturalists by lighting up the tank so that all the other sea creatures, great and small, occupying the same tank could be plainly seen. When the luminous crustacean was prodded with a pole he emitted flashes of light, which enabled the experimenters to read small print, even though otherwise they were in total darkness.—London Chronicle.

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