

The Sentinel

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR OF THE SENTINEL

(Continued from first page.)

this bank has more money than its directors know what to do with, and is spending it in such ways as paying salaries of its clerical officials annual salaries of \$4,000.

I halted the other day before the bronze tablet on one of the principal street corners at Riverhead, giving the names of the men from this township, who entered the World War. There were over 300 of them, including seven who made the supreme sacrifice. The names of seventy of the three hundred were distinctly foreign, most of them Slavic and nearly all ending in "ski." Danowski, Prusowski, Kolesinski, Yarsinski, Winowski, Yarsinski and Kaczrowski are examples.

The names occurring most frequently were seven Hallocks, five Youngs, five Danowskis, four Tuttils, four Downses and four Olivars. The name that most interested us, however, was that of Hallock Luce. That was the name of the writer's maternal grandfather, who made livestock his specialty, and of his son who was a good deal of a politician. There are now living three others of that name, in the direct line, of whom the fourth, who was the one in the service, is now a practicing physician, and the first who has not been a farmer.

The Christian name Hallock, so popular with our grandfather's descendants, is also a surname and, as in most cases where the last name becomes a first one, results from the bestowing on the son her own maiden name. The first Hallock Luce was the son of Prudence Hallock, who married Eleazar Luce. He was also the grandson of Prudence Young, after she became the wife of Eleazar's father, whose name was also Eleazar.

As indicating how families have intermarried here, we may further note that two of our sisters married Hallocks and one of our brothers a woman, whose maiden name was Hallock. Also that two of these three Hallocks had men of the name of Young not very far back in their family trees.

Other names here in which we find the surname of the father and that of the mother combined are Terry Hudson, Wells Reeve, Downs Terry, Tuttil Young, Wells Hallock, Howell Reeve and Conkling Terry.

The prevalence of the "ski" names here now indicates the growth of the Polish invasion which was well under way sixteen years ago, when we wrote of its beginnings. Probably half the farms on Sound avenue are now owned or rented by Poles, while the doubling of the population of the village of Riverhead during the past twenty years is largely due to their influx. The largest church in the county now is the Polish Catholic church at Riverhead with 4,000 members, which it will be noted is considerably more than the entire population of that place. It was for some time the only Polish church in the county and included in its membership people from a wide area.

There is no complaint that the Poles do not make good citizens, or that they are not as honest and law abiding as their neighbors who trace their ancestry back to the Pilgrim fathers and those who followed them back in the 1600's. In the public schools their children do not progress as rapidly as those of Anglo-Saxon stock, but they are being rapidly Americanized. Their homes are not after the European model, but are indistinguishable from those the people who were here so long before them are building. In fact one of this race is credited with building the most costly residence on this end of the island; and they are not only learning to whisk about the country in automobiles but are progressing from the silver to the higher priced cars.

Of course, we cannot help regretting to see our native heath being so rapidly transformed into a Polish section, but at the same time we realize

that the money that's often which was spent upon the construction of the new building, which is now devoted to the collection and library of the Riverhead Town Historical Society, which all is somewhat full. The room is only now one afternoon in the week, but the obliging minister gave us the key and turned the building over to us for another afternoon, and we devoted some hours to its dusty treasures, which include much genealogical lore, as well as many relics of the ways in which the people of the town have taken part. There is in this collection the material for any number of newspaper stories, but a single one must suffice.

Among the Young family have been several preachers, besides the Rev. John Young, who was at the head of the Connecticut colony that made the first English settlement on eastern Long Island, and probably built the first church in the state in which the services were conducted in the English language. Among the pulpiters descended from Rev. John was the Rev. Ezra Young, whom we remember as still living, while we resided here. He was long pastor of the Presbyterian church on Shelter Island and like all protestant preachers in our youthful days, was called "Priest," probably Priest Ezra rather than Priest Young, as Rev. Christopher Young—was dubbed Priest Chrissy, Rev. John Wells, Priest Johnny and Rev. William Benjamin, Priest Willie. Those not held in such reverent affection as to warrant like familiarity of address found the title attached to their surnames like Priest Hale, (whose given name, by the way, was Eusebia.)

But to our story. Priest Ezra was one day on the way to visit a parish-ner named Chase, who accompanied him. When they reached the small stream on the letter's premises, still known as Chase's creek, the layman suggested that the stream was so shallow, that it was not worth while for the man of God to remove his stockings and wade, but that he would carry him over on his back. So his parson mounted Mr. Chase's shoulders, and on the way over remarked to his parson: "You can never say now that you haven't been priest-ridden."

Another thing we learned during our sojourn in the rooms of the Historical Society, was that in early days on Long Island "Mistat" was a title of honor bestowed only on clergymen, public officials, members of the learned professions and college graduates and that the common herd were addressed as Goodman and Goodman. The spirit of caste our Pilgrim fathers had always felt so strongly in Europe was not to be exercised by a mere voyage across the Atlantic and they started in here about where they left off there. The liberty they sought in the new world certainly was not the breaking down of the barriers between all stations in life.

At Riverhead, on the site of the old grist mill, where we used to take our wheat to be ground, (practically none is now raised here) for the past quarter of a century a fine park has been maintained and kept in perfect order by T. M. Griffin, which is at all times freely open to the public, in which are cultivated many beautiful flowers. This park is at the end of a mill pond and includes the old mill dam over which the water never ceases to flow. An island in the river is covered with gorgeous white hollyhocks of mammoth size, presenting a mass of bloom at this season; while a small pond beside the main one, about the size of a city lot, is filled with plants of the Egyptian lotus, brought from the land of Cleopatra, which on stalks several feet long are day by day unfolding their wonderfully beautiful scarlet chalice, which are larger than a sugar bowl and of indescribably delicacy of coloring. The flat topped seed pods, almost the size of a teacup, which succeed these blossoms, are so poppy-like, that we can credit all the stories told of their narcotic powers. A vase of lotus blossoms ornaments the reading desk of the Congregational church here every Sunday during their flowering season.

H. W. Y.

REVISING THE TAX LAWS

The ways and means committee of the house of representatives has decided on the repeal of the express tax of one cent on every twenty cents of value, and has recommended many other changes in the war tax laws, as indicated by the press dispatches. That committee has voted to levy a flat license tax of \$10 on all retailers of soft drinks and to fix the manufacturer's tax on cereal beverages at 12 cents a gallon in place of the present measure tax of fifteen per cent on the sale price.

Repeal of the eight per cent tax on the amount paid for the transportation of oil by pipe lines also was voted by the committee. By this action all of the transportation taxes

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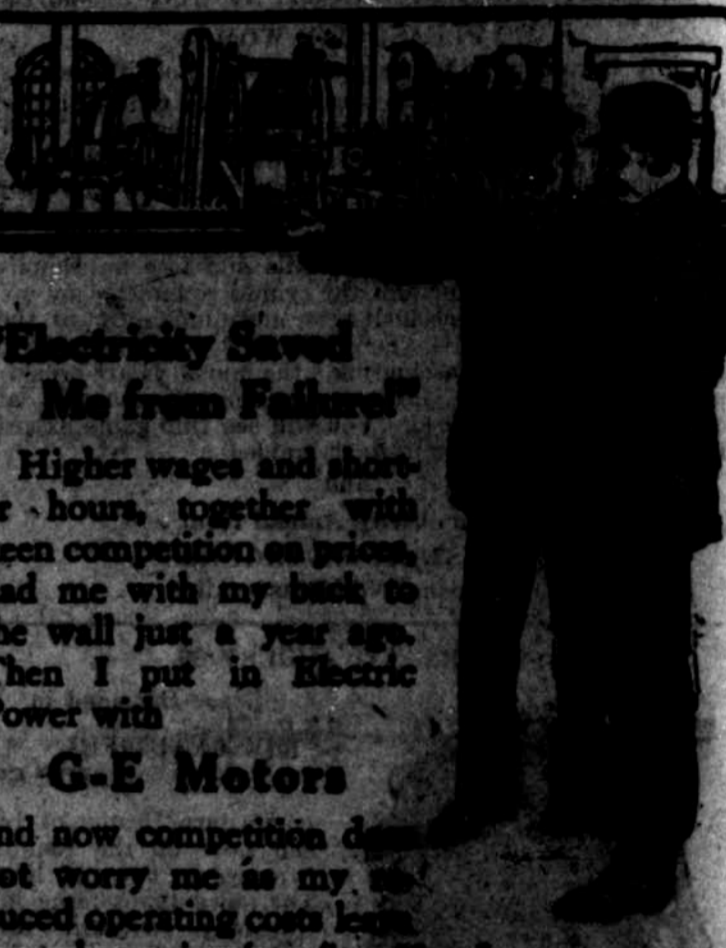
As a result, he goes about his work cheerfully and without any shadow of his back. He isn't afraid to meet opportunity half way. He is just of his career.

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of Coquille, Oregon



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