

The Polk County News

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LOUIS LEHMAN, Editor

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Editorial

(SQUIBITORIALS)
THE OPTIMIST

The optimist reckons this way: increase in population of his home town means that new blood, new money and new citizenship has come into the community; decrease in population means that only a few of the undesirable have left, leaving the rest of us better off than before. But we are not all optimists.

THE GAP IS BRIDGED

The gap that used to separate the city man from the country man has been bridged with strong supports of mutual confidence. Added facilities of transportation and communication have not been the only reasons for this change. Education, and the Twentieth Century spirit of cooperation have been the chief factors in the realization of genuine community interest.

EXTRADITION AND CRIME

When a criminal escapes to another state or country than that of the scene of his crime, it takes ten Philadelphia lawyers and as many stenographers to bring him back to trial. If anyone is in doubt of the highly technical phases of the extradition process let him ask the prosecuting officer of the district. Elimination of much of the red tape in bringing felons across boundary lines would help in the battle against crime. Mere legal fictions prevent justice being done to society.

MA FERGUSON'S DEFEAT

The Texas Governor's defeat at the polls does not indicate that woman has no place in public office. Texas was torn by factional strife. Women are no less individual than men and they rise and fall by their own merit; or failing that, by the fickle fortunes of politics. Even so, the advent of a 33-year old Attorney General into the Governor's chair will mark no less a sensation than the feminine entry last year. Texas has big business to look after, and it is time he gets down to the business of providing good government for her people as well as "vindications" for her favorite sons and daughters.

IS DEMPSEY TO FIGHT?

Whether the champion boxer likes head lines, whether he doubts himself, or whether the uncertainties of management has delayed the climax, there is going to be a bout between Dempsey and Gene Tunney in September if one more technical point can be settled. The license committee of New York City has not yet granted a permit for the fight; but as is the way of New York, no doubt the license will be issued. Sport enthusiasts look forward to the match with eagerness, while others all but wonder what it's all about.

MORE ABOUT FRIENDLINESS

Two families living side by side are friendly neighbors. Second families, who live on either side of the first named families, respectively, are neighbors to the said second families, and son on and on. Calculation of this sort makes the "whole world kin," for according to the geometrical truth, persons who are friendly to the same third person are friendly to each other. But because people are human and not mathematical propositions, somewhere along the line the chain of sympathy and good-will is broken. The job for each of us is to see that we are not the breaker of the chain of human kindness.

BETTER WORLD CONDITIONS

To say that the entire world is not affected by the political or financial upheaval of a nation as powerful as France is not expressing opinion consistent with historical fact. Now that Premier Raymond Poincare has been given an overwhelming vote of confidence by the French chamber of deputies to restore financial order, marked improvement in world trade and world stability will be noticeable. Every wave of discontent has its corresponding effect in the adjustment of national disorder and with respect to world tranquility. French stability will help France, Germany, England, and we are not so far away but that American trade and commerce will feel relief.

WHY NOT A COUNTY PARK?

Does Polk county need a county park, a recreation area where citizens of the entire county may meet for large gatherings, picnics, reunions, conventions and celebrations? Suggestions often bear fruit. We believe it would be well for our county officials to give thought to such a movement. Statistics are not at hand as to the number of counties in the country that own parks, but it is known that many of them own such areas. If cities and towns can have parks there should be no legal obstacle to a county-owned park. It is worth investigating. We are not offering any suggestions as to the location for such a park, altho several places come to mind, and the longer one thinks of the plan the stronger the idea grows. The parks areas in the cities and towns are free to the public as everyone knows; but there is always more or less hesitation on the part of the stranger or non-local resident to use their facilities. But the county-park idea offers no such objection. Here all people of the county could meet on common ground. There would be no north and south Polk county, nor east and

"BOUND" TO WIN OR LOSE



west Polk county, but JUST ONE BIG BODY OF CITIZENS OF ONE BIG POLK COUNTY, all playing and singing and eating and resting together in the POLK COUNTY PARK THAT WE HOPE IS TO BE. The park would be owned by all the people, and this community of interest would bring results in more ways than one.

ROBERT TODD LINCOLN

The young generation knows little of the late Robert Todd Lincoln, last surviving son of President Abraham Lincoln, whose passing at the age of 83 years ends a long and interesting career. The unassuming, he attained the high office of secretary of war in two presidential cabinets, and otherwise merited the presidency of the large and well known Pullman corporation.

The passing of one so closely related to Abraham Lincoln touches the heart of the people of the United States, directly for the deceased and indirectly for his distinguished father.

There will be crime waves so long as there is waving of crime.

Many a lovesick youth finds out too late that there is a trim in matrimony.

Peace for the world starts at home.

Advice to young men: The eight-hour day is no license to take a sixteen-hour night.

One hope for humanity is that the idler at least trusts that the worker is doing his share of the world's work.

The last payment you make on the car is the amount you pay the dealer to let you trade it in for nothing on a new one.

Radio performers are reviving the old songs, but they don't sound natural without the thick tongues and whisky tenors.

Prohibition proves that you can now raise as much kale in a vegetable garden as you used to could Cain in a beer garden.

To hear the politicians talk about the "corn belt" one would think they neither raise it nor drink it east of Pittsburg and south of Knoxville.

"Thus far we have not heard of anyone paying his bills by air mail," Boston Shoe & Leather Reporter. No, but lots of people stall them by hot-air mail.

The total number of church members of all denominations in the United States is 47,000,000, which would make quite a salvation army if they all worked together.

Cur picturesque English! Can you imagine what a fellow would look like after having been backed up, turned down, set on, beat to it, held up, shut out and then knocked cold?

In these precarious days of bobbed hair and equal rights it's harder for man to reach his turn in a barber's chair than it was for woman to get her seat in the affairs of government.

It is said that there are 28 ways of pronouncing Los Angeles, (which includes Hollywood in its official environs) and all of them are wrong. Here is the 29th, which is correct: "Law single us." Law, as in court; single, as in youth; us, as in matrimony.

THE STATE'S TRAFFIC TOLL

(From The Asheville Times)
There were 75 deaths and 660 injuries on North Carolina highways in the first six months of 1926 and excessive speed was the chief cause of accidents, says the State Highway Commission's semi-annual report on highway traffic. The total number of accidents was 703.

The summary of deaths and the attributed causes are as follows: speed, 20; carelessness, 12; intoxicated drivers, 10; reckless driving, 9; pedestrians on highways, 6; blinding lights, 4; faulty cars, 2; cars parked on the highway, 2; unknown, 10.

The primary causes are, then, according to this summary for six months, speed, carelessness, intoxication, recklessness, carelessness on the part of pedestrians, in the order given.

This report carries with it additional argument for a State patrol force to watch over and regulate traffic on the main thoroughfares. And one of the duties of this constabulary would be the filing of more complete reports as to the causes of accidents than the Highway Commission probably has time and facilities for compiling. Police patrol is not

one of the duties of the Highway Commission.

The Commission's summary has in it one encouraging feature: the number of deaths and injuries for the first half of this year shows a marked improvement over the same period of 1925 when there were 1,072 accidents with 76 deaths and 886 injuries.

WHEN JUSTICE IS TOO EXPENSIVE

Eight hoboes, extracted from a freight train in the Asheville yards, drew sentences of 50 days each when they were haled before a Justice of the Peace. Thirty days of each sentence are to satisfy justice while the other 20 days are thrown in for good measure to liquidate the court costs.

The defendants, no doubt, deserved the aggregate sentences which they received but their cases raise a very interesting question in court expenses. Isn't justice somewhat lopsided and a trifle too expensive when a person convicted of a simple misdemeanor in a Justice of the Peace court must do additional time to the extent of 20 days just to meet the court costs?

READ THE POLK COUNTY NEWS

A Story of Self-Help in Industrial Development

(From Manufacturers Record)
A Southern city noted long before the Civil War for its iron works and cotton mills and other industries, and a city which has not had a factory failure in 60 days, and in which many existing factories are being enlarged and new ones located, can furnish inspiration for all other cities in the South whose people will study the facts presented in this issue about Columbus, Ga. It is a remarkable condition that Secretary Roberts of the New Industries Chamber of Commerce has presented.

An equally important discussion of the upbuilding of Southern cities is given in a personal letter from Mr. Roberts, presenting some facts which should be carefully studied by the Southern trade. In the course of his letter sending his special article for publication, Mr. Roberts writes:

"We are very proud of the expansion set forth, much of which you saw actually in progress. We regard the prospect for the future as very bright. Some big things are in process of development, but are not yet far enough along to be discussed in print.

"You will notice we have included a brief outline of the policy which governs the work on this committee. It is done in the hope that it may encourage other Southern communities to keep their feet on the ground, thus saving the money they can ill afford to lose and preventing bitter disappointments which will surely tend to slow up development.

"The present enthusiasm over moving factories to the South will stand a large amount of debunking. Undoubtedly it is being shamefully exploited by a certain class, because, in their frenzied competition, certain communities are not mounting the cost. Cool judgment is required. The more experience I gain, the more firmly I am convinced that Columbus displayed a fine foresight when her ambition along this line was placed in the hands of thoughtful business men who compose this committee. These matter should be handled by a deliberate body, and not a hasty mass-meeting.

"If you were to make a close investigation of the deals by which some factories are now being removed from the North, I believe that in many instances it would be found that the conditions imposed have exceeded all bounds of reason or fairness; that some communities are committing themselves to meet demands that are little short of absurd. I know of two such commitments that recently blew up under a cool business analysis, but not until after there had been a considerable amount of exploitation and re-joining. In these instances, fortunately, only the pride of the communities suffered.

"Manufacturers who are willing to set up a safe investment will get what money is needed in Columbus, but the committee insists that such proposals must be sound in construction and under the management of capable men. It does not fancy the

idea of having our people take all the risk. Most of our moneyed men are manufacturers who are still in harness. They not only are willing to invest money, but they contribute invaluable help in other ways—the real friendly public spirit which has helped to build our great plants of today.

"Our campaign started with several aims in view: To induce plants that are misfits in other localities to come here if we offer them more advantages; to interest capital and genius from other sections in the development of opportunities which we know exist here; to induce sound concerns operating in certain lines to establish explorative plants in Columbus, to be enlarged when advantages are proven; to encourage our own manufacturers to expand and take on new lines and to stimulate our home people to branch out in new manufactures. While we receive a large number of Santa Claus letters and handle them as such, we are making progress along all lines, as you will see from the summary. Good concerns are finding that our people are ready to 'go down the line' with them, and home people are becoming conscious of the close guard that is being kept against unsound promotions.

"Personally I think that the real and greatest development of this section is going to be done largely by Southern men and by capital and men from other sections attracted here by the magnitude of our opportunities, and NOT by the removal to our towns and cities, almost wholly at our expense, of old manufacturing plants of doubtful efficiency.

"The rich industrial areas of the North were not developed by competitive bidding for debilitated factories in other sections, but by their own people who saw and improved opportunities.

"The depletion of opportunity in other sections as concerns certain lines, by reason of various incurable causes, and the increasing recognition of our advantages in these lines, makes THE SOUTH'S HOUR—the great opportunity for our own factories to expand, for our own people to build and for the capital and energy of the North to join us to their own great profit.

"Certain communities have noised it about that they have pooled considerable sums for the purpose of inducing some factory to move there. Not a doubt but that they will be fully accommodated—but how much more businesslike and profitable to all concerned, including the community, if they would put up a little more capital and establish and operate a new factory for their own benefit!

"Industrial development, and industries that are worth having, are slow movers. The prudent manufacturer will give every thought of a new location full time for seasoning. The enterprise that is doing well at home is not interested in moving, but is sometimes ready to consider expansion. They are the sound kind, and patience must be exercised if



The Weakest Man in the World

Indecision is the worst form of weakness because it is mental. Physical weakness can be and is so often overcome that it is a waste of breath and printer's ink to recite the names of the Stevensons, the Napoleons and Elizabeth Barrett Brownings who conquered it by the exercise of mental strength and left their influence upon history.

The weakest man in the world is the one who is continually debating which of several good roads to take who is always divided between two opinions. He may know that either of two methods of doing a thing are good, but yet he so apprehensive of selecting the method of lesser merit that time, the only capital of the poor, passes by and leaves him exhausted at the place where the roads divide.

The boy who is in love with two girls and spends his evenings debating about which one to see, until nine or ten o'clock finds both girls otherwise engaged, will turn out to be the man who hesitates so long in deciding which of two positions to accept that when he comes to a decision both positions are gone.

Life is like that for all of us. There is hardly to be found any one so miserable as not to have before him a choice of places where he may

live and of occupations in which he may engage and it is a peculiar thing that we are more likely to be down-cast over the necessity of making this choice than cheered by the thought that we have two or more good things from which to select. Stranger still is the fact that many of the most unhappy people in the world are men and women who have more money and property than the average. The psychological basis of this strange misery is that it arises from indecision most deadly enemy of happiness.

Man is so constructed physically and mentally that action is the safety-valve of his emotions. Indecision in inaction. Worry dread enemy of peace, attacks the mind exposed to it by timidity and suspense. The full mind has no room in it for worry, fear, and hate, those foes in the front-line trenches of the enemy.

Indecision is bad enough because it causes delay; but that is only a small part of the story. A resolute fighter delayed by sickness or poverty or temporary defeat, has lost nothing by time, which is at once the most important and the least important factor. A weakling, delayed by fear, has lost both time and strength.

It is the time that is wasted by irresolution that is truly gone forever. The ass in the fable, wavering between two bundles of hay until he starves to death, is a fit symbol of the man who is so afraid of selecting the wrong one of two benefits that he ends by securing neither.

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