

LEAVENWORTH ECHO

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THE SEATTLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND HOME PRODUCTS.

How best to bring about a combination whereby the consumers of Seattle could be brought to see the benefits of using, where possible, goods and wares that are made right at home occupied the attention of the chamber of commerce and the manufacturers' association of that city one day last week. This is one of the best and most practicable movements that has been inaugurated by those who have the present welfare and future greatness of Seattle in mind.

The erection of fine public buildings, the opening of broad well paved streets and beautiful parks, the planting of trees and flowers, all have their part in making the "city beautiful," of which our neighbor, the Wenatchee Republic, speaks so eloquently, but all these much to be desired surroundings must rest on the solid basis of local business prosperity.

The manufacturing nations have ever been the most prosperous and powerful, and their manufacturing cities the largest and most beautiful. This is true of ancient and modern times, and under our own system of intensified life, it is, if possible, more true.

If the Seattle Chamber of Commerce can by the adoption of some distinguishing label increase the consumption of home product, it will have conferred a benefit on the entire state of Washington, the value of which can scarcely be overestimated. To overcome the prejudice of the consumer in favor of the imported product will require a campaign of education. The preference of the consumer for the goods that are made away from home is in most instances a mere matter of prejudice, nothing more. The average consumer attaches some mysterious virtue to the article that is made away from home, even though it be no farther than a neighboring state. The writer remembers the difficulty the merchants in the south had in introducing the use of southern made cotton goods after the war of the rebellion. Cotton goods with the South Carolina brands on them were rejected for years by the southern women who preferred the northern make, and the prejudice against the southern manufacturer was in part overcome by putting Lowell, Massachusetts brands on the southern cotton goods. It took years to overcome the prejudice in favor of the northern made article. A campaign of education was conducted by the press and pulpit of the southern states, and had not prejudice been met with prejudice there is no telling how long the southern manufacturers would have had to wait to get the full measure of their deserts. To gain the point, sectional pride, love of home and even political prejudice was appealed to.

It is to be hoped the Seattle manufacturers will not find it difficult to overcome this prejudice against home manufactured goods. For prejudice it is, pure and simple, nothing more. Every newspaper in the state ought to lend its aid in this campaign of education. If they would pursue it with but one half

the zeal they do politics the battle could be easily won, and the remotest part of the state would be benefitted by the building up of a great manufacturing metropolis on Puget Sound and the market it would afford for home-grown farm products. Hurrah for the Chamber of Commerce and the Seattle manufacturers.

THE METHODIST CHURCH MAKING A STEP FORWARD

The National Conference of the Methodist church now in session at Los Angeles, Cal., has taken quite an advanced, and what is regarded as a liberal stand on the subject of members attending dances and theatres, and playing cards. Hitherto these offenses against church rules have been regarded as sufficient cause for expulsion. As we look back over the last thirty-five years we can recall any number of modifications of the teachings of the church. Two hundred and fifty years ago the Catholic church taught the children of men that the earth was flat, and imprisoned Galileo for saying that it was round. When the church magnanimously offered to give him his freedom if he would retract what he said, he replied that he could take back what he said but it would be impossible for him to make the world flat. The Methodist church has made the discovery (rather late) that it can expel its members for going to a dance but it can not prevent them from dancing.

The following account in the dispatches will be found interesting reading:

A question of important bearing has come prominently to the fore in the Methodist general conference proceedings involving a change in discipline to the extent of entirely removing the church ban on the pleasures of dancing, card playing and theatre going. It seems not unlikely that the conference will vote to remove the present rigid restriction regarding the indulgence of these recreations.

The subcommittee of the committee on state of the church, of which Judge H. S. Sibley is chairman, has reported back to the main body its recommendation upon this matter, in which it urges a radical change in the church rule on the subject, making it simply an advisory restriction instead of a mandatory prohibition as at present. Under the prevailing rule the member of the church who attends a dance or theatre is guilty of desertion of the rules of the church and may be punished by expulsion, but if the recommendation now proposed is adopted this penalty will be rendered entirely optional with the authorities. The committee on state of the church has not decided definitely just what form the recommendation of the committee to the general body will take, but it seems assured that it will propose some radical changes in the discipline along the line outlined.

It is the custom of the Echo to treat all the members of the newspaper profession who visit our city and incidentally call on us, courteously, and mention their coming and going. Last week we failed, not by design, nor yet from lack of space or rush of work, to live up to our custom, but from nothing less than thoughtlessness, to mention that Mr. Leonard Fowler, editor, and Mr. W. Wood, city man of that excellent paper the Wenatchee Republic spent several days in and about our city doing a little rustling for their paper, and if they picked up any bets that we overlooked we will be the last to kick.

Not since Messrs. Lindsay & Spencer bought the Wenatchee Advance from Mr. Fred Reeves last fall a year ago and turned it into a republican paper have the democrats been represented in Chelan county by a newspaper. They have ever since that time wanted an organ to preach the peculiar doctrine of their faith,

and the Echo learns that they have bought the Fruit Valley Journal, of Mission, and that J. M. Cunningham and H. M. Murry will have charge of the publication. If democracy must be preached in this county, the Echo knows of no two men who could present the false doctrine in so plausible a shape. Mr. Cunningham has been the chief man in the mechanical department of the Wenatchee Republic ever since it was established, and the handsome appearance of that paper is due to his skill as a practical newspaper man. Mr. Murry has been with the Republic since last December as general manager, and has made a host of friends and has given abundant evidence of newspaper ability. The Echo wishes the new proprietors abundant success.



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