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THE OROVILLE WEEKLY GAZETTE

—By the—
GAZETTE PUBLISHING COMPANY

FRANK M. DALLAM, Sr. FRANK M. DALLAM, Jr.

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NOBODY HOME.

Good morning, Mr. President, have you changed your mind this morning?

What do you think about the national democratic platform of 1912, anyhow? Was it a funny joke or just a bad mistake?

Why did you endorse that platform in the campaign? Did you think that it offered promises and set forth principles that appealed to the voters and which we wanted enacted into law?

Why did you assure us so earnestly that democratic pledges were made to be kept after election as well as to enlist support before election?

Did you mean what you said, or, after all, were those fair words mere "molasses to catch flies with?"

What caused you to think that in the midst of hard times, the people would approve the record-breaking extravagance of a democratic congress, in direct violation of their pledge to effect economy in appropriations and expenditures?

Did you think that the people considered that plank of the Baltimore platform pure political guff, and that we would have been disappointed if your party had kept that pledge?

Did the same line of reasoning influence to reverse your attitude on the Panama canal tolls, the one term principle, the tariff commission idea, the preparedness issue, the spoils system, and the maintainence of American rights and American honor and the protection of American citizens in our foreign relations?

If it was not proper to keep the promises of the democratic platform, was it proper to make them and to offer them as the reason for electing you?

If democratic policies and principles were wrong in 1914 and 1915 and are wrong now, were they not equally wrong in 1912 when they were formulated?

If that is true did you not secure your office under false pretenses?

Having done this, do you think that you can hoodwink us again?

With a record of broken pledges, do you expect us to place confidence in anything you promise before the next election?

Do you think that because you have broken practically every other plank in the platform, the plank pledging you to a single term becomes null and void?

Do you think that you can, with propriety and decency, become a candidate for reelection?

If you do, as seems apparent, what have you to offer that you expect us to believe?

Have you one single idea that you are sure of?

Have you any fixed aim or purpose, other than that of holding office?

You talk of keeping your mind open. Is it so wide open that it receives everything and retains nothing?

You liken yourself to a pent-up volcano. Is that why the iron of your purpose and the metal of your spirit flow forth in a futile lava of words?

If you cannot depend on yourself, do you expect us to depend upon you?

Goodbye, Mr. President. Four years ago we built a house for you. We have furnished it with experience, and today we return, knock at the door and find nobody at home. Goodbye.

Jr.

J. F. Gillies, the industrial insurance looter, was found guilty as charged, by a jury last week, and he will receive the punishment that he richly merits, while others, who may be considered as accomplices through gross carlessness in conducting public business, will escape. It is another case of a trusted official gone wrong. That he will be duly punished for the crime does not absolve the commission from blame and merited criticism for the careless method in which the affairs of the industrial insurance department are managed, making it possible for such raw and easily detected frauds to be committed. If the governor had any vertebra he would make a clean-up in that branch of the state government. But by putting himself in the hands of the heads of departments by accepting financial aid from them, the governor has placed himself in a position where his hands are tied and he is helpless. And yet there are men who applaud Lester as a model governor, and insist on his renomination to that office. May he secure that nomination again, for it will be a bushel of fun to see what the people of the state will do to him at the polls.

It is alleged that from the time of the chinook up to last Saturday, a period of two weeks, 40 feet of snow fell in the Cascade mountains, and that on top of what had already accumulated prior to the two day's thaw, which was placed at from 20 to 30 feet. This estimate of snow fall may be true but we reserve the right to accept the statement with some reservations, for 60 or 70 feet of snow is some snow, considerably topping the powers of imagination. Anyhow, there is no getting around the well authenticated fact that the snow fall in the Cascades is about the heaviest that has ever been known. It has been sufficient to demoralize transportation on every railroad crossing that barrier, dividing eastern and western Washington. Moreover, it is a menace that spells more trouble for railroads in the spring, and will be responsible for the destruction of property to the extent of thousands upon thousands of dollars. Any one who has been on the west side at the time of the breaking up of winter, even in ordinary seasons, have been astonished at the enormous amount of flood water that rushes out of the mountains. Every stream becomes a raging torrent, the water breaking out of the banks and spreading over the adjacent country. Every thing floatable seems to be afloat, and all low lands become a vast sea. Every spring losses from floods on the west side are considerable, and with the exceptional and extraordinary amount of snow to be reduced to water and hurled upon the coast country, the floods this year promise to be unprecedented. This is not the prediction of an alarmist. It is simply a statement of positive assurance. There is no way for man to head off the impending danger and calamity, for it will be a calamity to hundreds of property owners within the zone, or path, of the coming flood. Even this valley may experience the highest water since 1894, and even the high tide of that season could be surpassed should the snow go out either under the influence of warm rains, or a protracted spell of warm weather. A gradual melting of the snow in the mountains would do no harm, but it is the danger of continued thawing when warm weather once starts in. But there is no need of crossing the bridge until we get to it. If the flood comes the people must make the best provisions for protection possible. If it does not come the residents of the valley will have reasons for being devoutly thankful.

It is not the purpose of this paper to convey the impression that there has been no winter in the northern part of the Okanogan valley, for, speaking from an experience extending over some eighteen years, it is safe to say that for protracted cold this winter has been the most severe during that period, yet it can be said that in comparison to other portions of the state, the northwest, and the country at large, for that matter, the winter here has been exceptionally moderate. Eight degrees below zero has been the lowest temperature registered. More snow has fallen in the valley, taken altogether, than has fallen in many years, and yet, six inches was probably the greatest fall during any one storm. People complained of the cold, of course, but the cold was exceptional for this locality. Still everywhere else from whence reports were obtainable, the cold was far more intense. Snow has never interfered with travel in this part of the valley. Indeed there has not been sufficient on the ground to make sleighing easy, while in all other localities the fall of snow has been phenomenal, closing up roads and causing protracted blockades. Between Oroville and Tonasket, trains on the Oroville-Wenatchee branch have not been prevented from running on schedule time, and yet, from a few miles south of Tonasket on down the line snow blockades have repeatedly tied up transportation. The trains from Spokane have never had any difficulty ruuing into Oroville. Take it all around, and those who are so fortunate as to reside in Oroville and the adjacent valley have reason to congratulate themselves upon living in one of the most equitable climates on the coast. It would have required nerve to boast about this orange zone temperature a week or two ago, but in sizing up the country at large from a weather point of view we had such a boast coming. Those who were inclined to find fault when the freeze was on in earnest failed to appreciate their fortunate situation, and really had every reason for singing hosannas instead of registering protests. The weather record for the winter is going to be an advertisement for the north end of the valley, and will encourage prospective homeseekers to locate here.

It is evident from the drift of his statements in his public speeches that President Wilson feels that something more serious than the innocent pastime of exchanging diplomatic notes is liable to grow out of our strained relations with foreign powers. If such a calamity as war should eventually occur, a calamity which we all devoutly hope may be averted, the administration can take no half way measures in its treatment of naturalized citizens who came here from and sympathize with that nation with which we might be at war. The danger from disloyal people at home would be greater than that from the enemy abroad, and the elimination of that danger should be the first act of the government. American people do not believe in cold blooded murder of noncombatants, women and children, but for protection, every man of foreign birth, disloyal to the United States, should be deported and his property confiscated. The danger of war seems greater just at present than at any period since the beginning of hostilities in Europe, and it is time for every American citizen, native or foreign born, to declare himself as to his attitude in the event of a declaration of war. He that is not with this country is against the country, and this cannot be a divided nation in the event of national danger. There can be no half way loyalty when it comes to a question of the honor and safety of this country.

The president made a western speaking tour last week, extending his itinerary as far west as Des Moines, Iowa, visiting a number of large cities speaking upon and urging the necessity of preparedness. It took the president some time to change his mind upon this course of public policy, but now, that he is enlisted in the cause he is one of the strongest advocates in the country for thorough preparation to meet the eventualities of war. He has at last come to realize the helplessness of this country should complications arise which would require this country to back its attitude on any question of international misunderstanding by force of arms. Everywhere the president was greeted with immense crowds, and everywehre he found the spirit of loyal Americanism prevailing among all classes. It is evident from the president's utterances that this country has been nearer the verge of war than the common people have any idea of, and that it will require the most delicate diplomacy to keep the United States free from the great European entanglement. Mr. Wilson returned to the White House with his anxiety considerably allayed, feeling that Americans can be depended upon to stand steadfastly by their country and their country's flag in any emergency, notwithstanding the peace at any price advocates, and the utterances of traitorous foreign born residents.

The Big Bend Outlook, a dyed-in-the wool democratic paper, is lauding President Wilson for changing front on preparedness and a tariff commission, when only a few weeks ago it was predicting that the country was doomed to the "demnation bow wows" should the republican party, advocating such heresies as preparedness and protection ever again get into power. How such journals are going to square themselves when making such a radical change of attitude on public questions is beyond finding out. It must be a gagging dose to the old line democrats. The fact is if a political party was ever on the rocks it is the democratic party of today, with one leader, and the chief mogul, working for preparedness and a tariff commission, and another beloved Moses shouting for peace at any price and free trade. The republicans have troubles of their own with that Banquo, of prominent dental frontage, who will not down, yet with all its division it is a happy family as compared to the position of its ancient enemy, which all men one encounters in the common walks of life feel satisfied is marching up to a horrible slaughter next November.

Towns within touch and remote from the south half of the Colville reservation are parading claims why they should be made registration points when the reservation is thrown open to filings and settlement, an action on the part of the government that is anticipated during the present year. The designation of registration points of course rests with the method employed in opening the reservation to settlers. Of late years it has been customary, when public lands were to be thrown open for settlement, to distribute the land by lot. That is, all applicants for homesteads would register before a stated date, and on that date numbers would be drawn as in the old fashioned lottery, that the government long ago suppressed as a source of gambling, the few drawing prizes, the many only blanks. The element of chance thus entering therein adding zest to the proceedings. This clamor to be made registration points is somewhat premature as a letter from Washington states that so far registration has not as yet been decided upon by the land department.

From present indications there are going to be a multitude of candidates for nomination for the various offices to be filled at the primary. That is one of the beauties of the primary law. Any man with the price, can file his name for any office within the gift of the people. There will be a horde of republican candidates, for this is certainly a republican year, and aspirants for position feel that a nomination at the primary would be equivolent to an election. And that is dead sure right.

Politics have commenced warming up around the edges and it will not be long until the country is in the spasm of a hot campaign.

ASSESSMENT OF ORCHRD LANDS.

The proper assessment of orchard lands and planted acreage offers to the assessor one of the most complex and vexatious problems. In practically every instance orchard land represents land that has been reclaimed from an arid or semi-arid state—land which has been on the tax rolls classified as grazing, or else not sufficiently attractive in its raw and unproductive condition to justify homestead entry and consequently not on the tax rolls at all. However, once ample water is turned onto this hitherto practically worthless waste, great indeed are the possibilities that are in store for the farmer or orchardist. The reclamation of arid lands by means of irrigation represents herculean feats of engineering and construction, and involves the expenditure of immense sums of capital. The cost of such reclamation must of necessity be attached to the land, and consequently the burden of the expense falls upon the purchaser or homesteader who seeks to engage in the legitimate vocation known as orcharding. When the matter of assessing such reclaimed land is undertaken by the assessor, it will be readily seen that another example of flagrant penalization upon thrift and industry is about to be inaugurated; resulting, practically in a double and treble assessment being forced upon the holder of such reclaimed land. In other words land that was formerly unfit for farming and assessed on the basis of grazing land, is at once jumped up to "apple land" or "orchard land" valuations. Not alone is the orchardist penalized for possessing reclaimed land in the matter of real estate taxes, but the annual charge for water, operation and maintenance must also be cared for. His early experience in planting can be truly termed "experience" and he must pay dearly for his experiments Often trees are set out, watered and nurtured throughout the entire season, to result only in severe losses from the thousand and one causes that beset the orchardist. Where this exasperating experience does not exist and instead the trees show an encouraging growth, the orchardist has yet to wait with patience from six to eight years before a dollar is realized in the way of reimbursement. During this process of "watchful waiting" the constantly increasing expense to the orchardist is frequently so cumbersome as to force him to give up the struggle in despair and bankruptcy. The policy of wise government is and has been to protect industries; the orchardist should be assisted and encouraged rather than hampered and taxed out of existence; likewise, the wheat grower, the stock raiser, the miner, the merchant and last but not least the home builder.

C. H. KNOSHER,
Assessor of Okanogan Counyt

LOOMIS LOCALS.

John Swanson, who has been doing the blacksmithing at the Arlington mine, at the old Ruby camp, below Conconully, for months, has returned to Loomis to remain until spring.

Geo. J. Hurley, Clay Fruit and Lee Fruit left this morning for Spokane, where they will attend the state game commission meeting that is to be held in that city.

Marion Chase, who has been looking over his irrigation project here for a few days, has returned to his home at Richmond Beach.

John Melcher, Jr., who has been attending school at Pullman, graduating recently, is now home with his parents.

Owing to the long and severe cold spell many of the water mains and hydrants about town are frozen. Some of the citizens are keeping water flowing by fires on the pipes, which they keep going night and day.

Andrew Bolinger, of Wagon Tongue coulee, is up visiting his boys Chester and Leslie, who are going to school here.

W. S. Douglass has flooded his tennis court and converted it into a first class skating rink. Many young people gather on the rink of an evening and enjoy skating.

Mr. Rothrock, one of the teamsters employed by Mr. Marshall in hauling the machinery to the tungsten mine, was down Sunday and reported that they had all the machinery as far as the Duncan James ranch, which is about twelve miles west of Loomis.

J. M. Richmond came near losing his life between Tonasket and Loomis Saturday night. Mr. Richmond is clerking in the Cloud-Dodge store at Tonasket, and comes home every Saturday evening in order to spend Sunday with his family. He started to walk home from Tonasket last Saturday as usual, and struck a heavy snow storm on Whitestone flat. He wandered around all night and did not get into Loomis until Sunday morning about 8 o'clock almost exhausted from his night's exertions.

A SATISFYING FEED.

It would be no exaggeration to say that the chicken supper, served in the library building Saturday evening by the teachers and the young lady pupils of the high school, was the best and most inviting that has ever tickled the palates of the population of Oroville in public place. It was too substantial to be designated as a dream, but it was one so delectable as to create pleasant dreams. For those who enjoy the bird in its many variety of styles in which it is served, there was chicken a plenty, and the trimmings of great variety and most excellent concoction. A bevy of pretty girls hovered about supplying every want expeditiously, and no hungry applicant was turned away empty. The young ladies had made preparation to feed at least 150 people, but only about 100 turned out to partake, which was somewhat disappointing. Even if the patronage of the supper did not come up to expectations of the young ladies who worked so hard and earnestly to make the affair a success, they deserve congratulations for the excellency of the feed, establishing a reputation for superior cookery that will prove a drawing card if they ever again serve a public meal. The proceeds of the supper went to help the exchequer of the high school athletic association and that institution surely needs a helping hand financially after the unfortunate trip to Conconully and Okanogan, which set the association back for a pot of money.

SOMEWHAT DISFIGURED.

Herbert Silvernail is at home on an enforced lay off, nursing injuries received a few weeks ago while serving as a brakesman on a freight running out of Hillyard. At Springdale, as the train to which he was attached was standing still, Mr. Silvernail was walking along the side of the tender when a large chunk of coal in some manner became detached, falling from the top of the tender and cracking him on the top of the head. Mr. Silvernail was flattened out and rendered unconscious. He was taken to the Sacred Heart hospital at Spokane, where he was subsequently joined by his wife. When he was able to travel he came to Oroville, where his family has continued to reside while Mr. Silvernail was working out of Hillyard. The young man is able to be out and around but the hearing in one ear is affected and he is troubled by failing eyesight. While the accident was an unfortunate one, yet Mr. Silvernail was lucky escaping more serious injury.

DESERVING ASSISTANCE.

Through the efforts of McD. Hershberger and W. O. Steele, a farmers' telephone line is in operation on Ellemeham mountain, connecting up a number of settlers. It has long been the desire of the users of this line to extend it to Oroville and connect up with the local exchange. So anxious are they to be in touch with the town that the farmers are willing to extend the line to Oroville. What they want is some arrangement whereby the local connections can be made. This is a very important matter, and is of interest to the town people as well as those attached to the system. One of the subjects that will come on to be discussed and acted upon at the next meeting of the Commercial Club, and that is next Thursday evening, and don't you forget it, is ways and means of carrying out this proposition. This is something that the Club can handle in a way to make it go, and the matter is of too much importance to be overlooked.

Hedley was visited by a disastrous fire on Wednesday of last week, when the big Similkameen hotel was entirely destroyed. The loss was considerable. Nothing could be done toward saving the property as the water mains were frozen and the fire department helpless. Wonder if the fire hydrants in Oroville are in working order after the long, cold winter? It would be something awful if a fire broke out in the business part of town and the discovery made that the fire plugs were not in working order. This town has a splendid fire pressure, with a well equipped department, but it would be helpless in an emergency if the hydrants were out of commission.

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