

The Holt County Sentinel.

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THE CURBSTONE CROAKER.

Dr. Jonas Whitmer Tells All About This Species of Residents.

At the request of many of the Boosters, we take pleasure in presenting the address of Dr. Whitmer, which he delivered at the Boosters' annual luncheon, on Tuesday evening of last week:

Were I to ask the over-enthusiastic booster to define a croaker, the sum and substance of the definition I would likely receive would be that the croaker is the individual that the booster bumps into.

Generally speaking society is divided into two great classes, the optimists and the pessimists.

To the optimist the future is as a garden of roses bathed in the sunshine of happiness and prosperity, while to the pessimist the future holds misgivings, and forebodings of disaster and failure. Such an arrangement I believe to be necessary to our social welfare.

The optimist is as it were the sail to the ship while the pessimist serves as ballast. The one imparts motion while the other gives stability to the craft.

The optimist is the power to the vehicle while the other is the brake. The one is a positive quantity and the other is the negative quantity in the great equation of life.

We are necessarily what we are by nature, some are reckless and daring while others are prudent and cautious. Ordinarily we would place the croaker in the pessimistic class, but a croaker strictly speaking is a chronic grumbler, an unreasonable fault-finder. But I believe we find him in both classes. The one is constantly complaining that we are moving too slow, while the other is unduly alarmed lest we be going too fast.

The knocker is usually considered the antagonist of the booster, but the knocker is not necessarily a croaker. The honest and courageous knocker has my profound respect if he does knocking at the right time and the right place. For instance, we call a meeting to consider the advisability of holding a chautauqua or of holding a celebration on the Fourth of July.

The knocker who attends that meeting and who takes the floor and expounds in an honest, straightforward manner why he is not in favor of the movement, has my respect as much as the booster who is promoting the enterprise. But after the question has been argued pro and con and the ballot taken, and the motion carries, if the knocker instead of falling in line with the majority and helping to make the enterprise a success, goes out on the street and taking his stand on the curb and continues to knock, then I claim that he is a croaker, but he is twice over a credit to the knocker who stays away from the meeting and who when he hears of the action taken mounts his little forum in the public places and begins to croak with croak. I have little toleration for the croaker who does not assume his share of the responsibility or shoulder his proportion of the burden.

We have in our midst the croaker whose name we never see on the chautauqua guarantee list, and who was never known to invest in a season ticket, but who waits until a special attraction is offered and then secures his admission to the grounds so as not to miss any of the morning program, absorbs the full afternoon attraction and remains until after the moving pictures at night, and then because he has spent 35 cents and has been refused a pass out with a return, feels justified in branding the executive committee as the most infamous scoundrels that ever outraged a loyal community. I have heard even worse things said about the officials of our railroad, but I have yet to find the names of any of these croakers on the stock book.

Our forefathers, those patriots of Lexington and Bunker Hill, who left their blood-stained foot prints in the frozen snow of Valley Forge, were contending for a principle and to a casual observer it might seem that these croakers were contending for the same principle, but closer scrutiny will reveal the fact that they have it slightly reversed and instead of no taxation without representation they believe in representation without taxation.

We have some croakers who are in favor of all kinds of improvements and enterprises, but when they receive a pressing invitation to decorate the subscription paper they instantly develop all the malignant symptoms of chronic croakeritis.

Now I do not wish to deal harshly with this class of poor unfortunates

because I realize that they are too often mistreated and misunderstood. And I am convinced that contrary to the generally accepted theory they are not only slaves to a habit, but are victims of a disease, and like many other diseases it manifests itself in various forms. In the brief space of time which has been allotted to me it will only be possible for me to take up and describe a few of the most common forms; those with which you are the most familiar.

Perhaps the most common form is that which is known as the persistent, progressive, pernicious form, in which those afflicted manifest symptoms very similar to that well-known malady commonly known as the belly-ache, the individual is usually displeased with everything, the weather is either too hot or too cold, too wet or too dry, and if it happens to be an ideal day it is only a weather breeder; there is a peculiar sourness and whine to the voice accompanied with rheumatic pains in various parts of the body which are considered infallible forecasts of bad weather.

Then we have the wise know-it-all form, technically known as sapientie Croakeritis in which those afflicted are found discussing all subjects from Canadian reciprocity to the graft in the Sunday school fund, the following lines may describe him more fully:

He knows the trusts are all rotten.
And that the government is on the street.
The army and navy are tainted.
And Morgan is hoarding the dear.
He talks about guaranty laws,
Of tariff reform and home rule,
How Wall Street is robbing the people,
And how Bill Taft is his fool.
He tells us how to run railroads,
How chautauques should be managed,
He don't take a snout at a knut hole.
While the auditor jakes runs down his board,
He tells all about farming,
How to fatten on half of the feed,
And of wonderful profits in beans.
If Sears-Roebuck furnished the seed,
His income would be high in the thousands.
If his ideas received their true worth,
But his wife with her sewing
Is keeping things going
While he's superintending the earth.

I wish now to call your attention to one of the most peculiar and baffling forms of this disease and one which is liable to escape detection under even the most careful observation. In this form we always find the individual closely identified with the boosters, in fact, we usually find him in the van of the procession carrying a banner, waving a flag, beating a drum; in fact, making all the noise and wind so peculiarly essential to the standard-bred, full-pedigreed booster. There seems to be but one test which renders the complete change from Dr. Jeckel Mr. Hyde uncovering the most malignant symptoms of this violent form, causing the subject to rip and rare, and rage and tare and lunge and plunge, and curse and swear, and shake his fists and tear his hair, and that is for the town council to order a granite sidewalk along adjacent to, and abutting the broad side of his property.

With your kind forbearance I will mention but one more form of this disease, a form which you have all met and are reasonably familiar with. I allude to the I-told-you-so croaker, and to fully describe him I can do no better than to use the words of Byron:

"Of all the dismal, horrid notes of woe, sadder than owl songs or the midnight's blast, is that portentous phrase, I-told-you-so, uttered by friends, those prophets of the past, who instead of saying what you should do, own that they foresaw that you would fall at last."

But, fellow citizens, I have the satisfaction of knowing tonight that the I-told-you-so croaker, in this community has been given very little opportunity lately, and whenever these words have rushed to the lips as the exultant shout of realized anticipations, they have been for the Booster to say and not for the Knocker.

Our Sympathy.

Mrs. G. W. Lacey, of Maitland, formerly an old pioneer settler of this neighborhood, is very sick, with little hope of her recovery. She has a complication of diseases, and old age is against her. She is 76 years of age. She is remembered as one of the kindest and best persons in sickness of this community, the night never too dark or stormy for her to answer to the call of her neighbors when in distress, and alleviate them in their distress to the best of her ability, with a willing hand and a sympathetic heart. We all hope for her recovery and that she may yet live to enjoy more years of happy life and health. —Triumph Item in Jeffersonian. The Sentinel extends its sympathy to Mother Lacey and hopes for a speedy recovery.

A G. W. Reception.

One of the most brilliant affairs of the winter season was the joint reception of Mrs. Andrew Tochterman and Mrs. William Morris at the elegant new home of Mr. and Mrs. Tochterman, on Wednesday last, the birthday of the "Father of his Country."

The affair was a "squad" affair, one squad reported for duty from 2 to 4; the second from 4 to 6 and the third from 7:30 till 12.

The decorations were on an elaborate scale, the home being especially adapted for such purposes, and it looked from the exquisite arrangement that Mr. Tochterman in building his new home, had this purpose uppermost in his mind. Every nook and corner, the stairway, lights, etc., were beautifully decorated with American flags, the larger flags serving as portieres. While pleasing to the eye, they tended to make the guests prouder of their country and filled them with genuine patriotism.

The afternoon guests were given souvenirs of a latched and the evening guests minute silk flags. Elegant refreshments were served, the color scheme being in harmony with the decorations.

The guests were to wear some token emblem that would indicate she represented some state of the union, and the guest naming the greatest number of the states was to be given a prize of a hand-painted picture. The prize was given Mrs. Netherland and the second to Mrs. W. C. Proud. Mrs. Netherland wore a card on which was drawn a road and a pool of water in which was an island, and Mrs. Proud wore a little latched.

In the evening the guests were given a query to answer, and the best answer to receive a prize: "What answer would Washington have given had he not told the truth?" The prize, a handsome hat pin, was given to Mrs. B. G. Pierce, her answer being: "Father, I was in bed asleep, and didn't know the tree was cut down."

It was a most enjoyable occasion, and the guests were unanimously glad that G. W. had a birthday and delighted at being present on this occasion.

Good Ship California.

Fred Hershner, one of Holt county's boys, is in the navy and is on the Cruiser California, now in the harbor at San Diego, as is also the ships South Dakota and Pennsylvania. In a recent letter to his mother he says: "The crews are divided up into companies and are sent ashore, where they go into camp for a three days' outing." He says it is the best stunt of their long cruise.

"The camp is pitched in a well drained, healthful location, near the San Diego polo grounds. In honor of the commanding officer of the cruiser fleet, the camp was named 'Camp Thomas.'"

"The purpose of the camp is that of instruction field duties, shore drills, infantry tactics, close and extended order formations, physical drills. Problems of defense and attack are worked out; maneuvers against a landing party from the fleet."

"I am writing this from aboard ship, having returned only a few hours from the shore camp."

"The grounds where aerial meets are held are only a short distance from where we are anchored, and gives us a splendid view. It has become a common thing for us to see a flying machine about as common as it is for you to see an automobile. We now see the flying machine sail out over the water and then dart down and skip along over the water like a bird, then rise and sail about the ship, then down to the water again and then up in the air again, and away to the grounds. It's simply the wonder of the age. I am well, and enjoy the best of health."

Your son, FRED.
"Aboard Ship California off San Diego, Feb. 10, 1911."

The home of John Peters and wife, of the Lincoln district, was the scene of a happy throng of nearly 100 guests who came to witness the marriage of their daughter, Myrtle, to Clifford Andes, on Wednesday evening of last week, February 22d. The ceremony being performed by Elder Dawson, of the Oregon Christian church. Miss Ida Gould presided at the instrument the bridal couple entering the parlor to the step of a beautiful wedding march. The groom is a son of Jacob Andes, of the Shiloh district. They are of the best of the young people of Northern Holt, whose legion of friends will wish them a long, happy life.

An Old Subscriber.

In almost every day's mail The Sentinel is receiving encouraging words and oftentimes a little of "the necessary" from its good subscribers who live away from the dear, old town that stands on the hill. These letters are highly appreciated and The Sentinel takes this opportunity to publicly express its thanks. We believe there are few weekly papers in the state who enjoy a more substantial and appreciative bunch of readers than The Sentinel, and every year, beginning a little before Christmas time and continuing until spring, the remittances pour in quite regularly. In the mail a few days ago came the following letter, which is only a fair sample of the many we receive, and the writer's many friends will be as glad as we are to hear from him:

EDLORS SENTINEL: I enclose post-office order for \$1.50, in payment of my subscription to The Sentinel for another year.

At one time in December I thought that I would not need it again, but contemplated subscribing for the "Spirit Messenger" or some other "Astral" publication, but now I have regained my usual health, and have the promise of a new lease of life.

Each Monday morning brings The Sentinel, and it is the first mail that receives my attention, like greeting an old friend. I often visit Oregon through the memories, blessed memories, of happy days gone by. I look into the faces of the kind friends of long ago, many of whom have crossed over the "dark river," to return no more, and in fancy bring back the pleasant times "when you and I were young, Maggie." What a glorious thing that we forget the unpleasant things that happen, and remember only the pleasant side of life.

May heaven's best gifts be yours, and as Tiny Tim says, "God bless us all." Yours faithfully,

W. R. SPRINGER.
Mr. Springer was Holt county's circuit clerk, 1878-83, and while we have had many excellent circuit clerks, we have had no better than Mr. Springer made.

A Kansas City Wedding.

Wednesday of this week, March 1st, two of Holt county's most estimable young people were united in marriage at the Christian church parsonage. Alpha Hayden, of Oregon, and Miss Nette Wylie, of Forest City, were made husband and wife. It is certainly a pleasure to make this announcement, for they have legions of friends here who will wish them all the happiness that can possibly be bestowed upon them.

The bride was raised near Forest City and is the youngest daughter of the late Charley Wylie; a graduate of a Tennessee college and also a graduate of an art school, besides knowing the art of housekeeping and up in the culinary art, she is a charming woman, and we must say our young friend, Alpha, has chosen wisely and well.

The groom resided in Oregon many years, and went to Kansas City and took a thorough course graduating as a professional nurse. There are no better nor more manly young men anywhere than the groom, and his many friends here will be more than pleased to hear this bit of news.

After a few days spent in Kansas City, they will come to Forest City, where they will go to housekeeping until they complete a residence on the bride's 320 acre farm near Forest City, when they will go to farming.

Freight Trains Change Time.

Has discontinued freight No. 98 and No. 99, which had for their run Clarinda to St. Joseph and vice versa. No. 98 will come only as far as Corning and return as No. 99 within an hour or two. The arrival and departure here will be in the afternoon. This makes it very inconvenient for Fairfax, Tarkio and other towns up the valley. Heretofore No. 99 has got to Corning before 9 a. m. and scores of passengers from the Flyer south changed hastily to No. 99 for points up the valley. We understand Tarkio will protest and bring the matter before the State Board of Railway Commissioners. Tarkio for a long time has been boosting for an additional passenger train each way and also a fine new depot, and the town is very sore that a lemon has been handed it. —Corning Mirror.

In speaking of a person's faults, Pray don't forget your own: Remember those with homes of glass Should never throw a stone. If we had nothing else to do, Than talk of those who sin, 'Tis better we commence at home, And from that point begin.

TWINT CUP AND LIP.

\$10,000 Damage Suit for Alienation Is Filed With the Circuit Clerk.

AN UNUSUAL AND IMPORTANT SUIT.

A suit has been filed with Circuit Clerk Dunham, around which, no doubt, a good deal of interest will center, when the April term of court shall convene. The plaintiff is Jacob Closs, and the defendants are Christ Reutzer and Gottfried Marti, two of upper Holt's responsible citizens. The plaintiff states that he became engaged to marry a certain young lady and that he continued to be so engaged for a long time, said engagement being continued, by agreement of parties, until the plaintiff was able to provide a home. That, on or about the day of ———, the plaintiff was able to provide a home, and was ready and willing at all times to carry out and perform his engagement of marriage with the young lady.

That Christ Reutzer and Gottfried Marti are related to the young lady, and that prior to the time the plaintiff became able to provide a home for himself and intended wife, defendants entered into a conspiracy for the purpose of alienating her affections and preventing her carrying out and performing her agreement of marriage with the plaintiff. Jacob states that, in pursuance of said conspiracy, said parties, jointly and separately, and in pursuance of the agreement to do so, accused plaintiff of writing certain obscene, lewd and lascivious letters and postal cards, addressed to ——— at Mound City, Mo.,

and so poisoned her mind that she believed that this plaintiff had written the letters and postal cards, while in truth and in fact, the defendants knew said charges to be false, and were falsely made for the sole purpose of injuring Jacob and preventing the consummation of the marriage engagement.

Plaintiff states that since the 3rd day of October, 1907, the acts and charges of the defendants have been almost continuously made, up to March or April, 1910, to divers persons, and, especially, to ———, and that, on account thereof, she has refused to carry out and perform her agreement of marriage with plaintiff. That plaintiff has been greatly humiliated and damaged in his good name and on account of the loss of the affection of the girl. Wherefore plaintiff prays for judgment against the defendants for the sum of \$10,000, and for his costs.

There is also, a second count in the petition, in which a large lot of matter is set up and pleaded to the effect that on or about the 3rd day of October, 1907, and continuously thereafter until March or April, 1910, the defendants entered into a conspiracy for the purpose of slandering and injuring the good name and fame of Jacob and, in carrying out the conspiracy, each of the defendants, by agreement, almost continuously charged this plaintiff with having committed a crime against the laws of the United States of America, to-wit: "Feloniously depositing in the mail in the postoffice at Mound City, Mo., and other places, certain obscene, lewd and lascivious letters and postal cards, addressed to ——— at Mound City, Mo.," and procured a warrant to be issued against plaintiff by the United States, charging this plaintiff with the crime above mentioned; that afterwards, a preliminary hearing was had, and it was adjudged by the United States commissioner that there was no probable cause for the issuance of the warrant.

That the issuance of said warrant was procured by the defendants feloniously. That from the 3rd day of October, 1907, up to and during the month of March, 1910, and after the United States commissioner had made a thorough investigation of the facts and found no probable cause for the accusation, the defendants continued to charge and circulate reports, and stated to divers persons that Jacob was guilty of the charge of sending said obscene literature through the mail.

Closs states that during the month of August, 1910, Gottfried Marti and Christ Reutzer, said to certain parties that Jacob Closs was a "black mark" from Germany, and could not return there, meaning that Jacob Closs was a criminal, or of such character that he could not return to his native land.

The plaintiff further states that during the month of March, 1910, Gottfried Marti stated to a party: "Jacob Closs fooled the officers at his preliminary trial, and that he was a slick one with the pen and wrote the letters for which he was arrested," and charging that plaintiff was guilty of the charge made in the United

States court, in the warrant issued for plaintiff, notwithstanding the fact that the United States commissioner had found no probable cause for making such charge. Closs states that after his discharge from the warrant issued against him by the United States government, he offered a ward of \$100 for the apprehension and conviction of the parties who wrote the letters and cards alleged to have been written by him to the young lady, and that defendant, Reutzer, stated to the party, "That Jacob Closs put up the \$100 as a bluff, as he knew Closs wrote those letters and cards, and fooled those officers in St. Joseph."

Plaintiff states that he has been greatly injured in his good name and fame by reason of the wrongful charges and statements made by both the defendants named, and that, on account thereof, he has lost large sums of money by the citizens refusing to transact business with this plaintiff on account of the false charges made by the defendants, and plaintiff states that by reason thereof, he has been damaged in the sum of \$10,000. Wherefore, he prays judgment against them for the sum as actual damages, and that he also prays for the sum of \$10,000, as a punishment of said defendants, and as a warning to others, for the wrongful, false and unlawful statements and charges made against this plaintiff, and for his costs in this behalf expended.

The petition is signed by H. B. Williams and C. C. Crow. Mr. Williams is a prominent attorney of Craig, in this county, and Mr. Crow is a well-known lawyer of St. Joseph.

Can You Tell?

It isn't often that our affable and congenial probate judge is put in a condition of wonderment and perplexity, and just can't say yes or no, but last week he was stumped for good, and just had to say "I don't know." Perhaps there is some one living in our county that can put Judge Porter wise on the question, and if they can, he will feel grateful to them for the information that would help him solve the mystery. We give the letter verbatim, et literatim:

TO JUDGE DEAR SIR: We have got a intres in a small track of land which that man has got & his estate is going to be settle up. I for got his name, but a man lives Clost by the land by the name of Buck Smith; he can rite you all bout it, the party's Name that owned it was C. Hanlin or tuevina hanlin had three Children, mary, C. W. and ante Hanlin. the man lives rite John farms can tell you all a Bout it & mat yokum. this has bin some wher about 38 years agoe ed Hanlin killed a man & give this land for Bonds ank skep the Country. I Woist you to look it up for me if you pleas & I Will pay you for your truble those yanvinkles are my Wifes grate uncles to my Wifes mother named Waa Cuevinge Yanvinkle before the money Came from her mother side, there is only 20 acres but some said 80 I have not bin able to see after it, so I will try now, see what I can doe they only got a quick Claim Deed for it, & they Wont Wornteed for it, now We can Proove our right on the land, peat Redgway did live thire at that time, he lives here now, or his boys, Rether the old man dide out here; boys are here yit. I Will Close at this riting, to here from you soon

Yours Truly S. Houns.
Goff, Kansas, Feb. 10, 1911.

The Bankers' Assessment.

The abstract of the assessment of the banks of Holt county has been compiled by County Clerk Zeller and the assessed value of the bank stock and real estate is given as follows:

	Stock	Estate
Zook-Roesker, Oregon	\$10,000	\$1,250
Citizens	11,300	1,300
Bank of Mound City	14,575	1,500
Holt Co. Bank	14,630	1,500
Exchange	8,250	2,000
Farmers, Maitland	19,250	2,500
Peoples	18,100	1,200
Bank of Corning	8,950	9,000
Peoples	10,400	1,000
Bank of Forest City	18,900	800
Home	9,350	900
Farmers & Mer. Craig	10,540	1,000
Heaton	26,400	2,000
Bank of Bigelow	9,500	1,500
Bank of Forbes	6,650	9,000

Clarence Murray, accompanied by Drs. Bullock and McClanahan, took his little son, Chester, to St. Joseph Tuesday, where Dr. Bullock, assisted by Dr. McClanahan, operated on the little fellow, who has been suffering for some time from an abscess in the side. At last reports he was getting along nicely. —Forest City News.