

# The Polk County Observer

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(TWICE-A-WEEK)

NO. 75

## ENGLISH WALNUT AREA

### HUNDREDS OF ACRES PLANTED TO TREES IN POLK.

#### Franquette and Mayette Predominate and Quality Produced Is Considered Par Excellence.

English walnut culture in Polk county is no longer an experiment, several groves having matured in excellent condition and are producing, in abundant yields, a fine quality of walnuts for an eager market. But the larger number of groves are immature, a majority of them having been planted four or five years since. The greatest area devoted to walnut culture is that near Monmouth, planted by Charles Ireland and now owned and controlled by a company known as the Monmouth Walnut tracts, and containing approximately 200 acres. This tract has been sub-divided and sold to various parties, who are rearing the trees with the greatest of care in the hope of developing remunerative propositions. J. B. Stump of the same place has a grove of bearing trees, as has also Ira Powell. H. L. Crider has quite a large tract of four or five-year-old trees east of town. While these trees are maturing Mr. Crider expects to reap a harvest of prunes from the same ground, he having planted these fruit trees as fillers. Near by is thirty acres planted to English walnut trees, known as the E. A. Thompson tract, which Mr. Thompson recently traded to Mr. Hammel of Albany in a deal for stock in Hotel Albany. Since coming into possession of this grove Mr. Hammel has sold off ten acres to Mr. Dietz, who is looking after its progress very carefully. On the old Ewing place, near Polk Station, William Light has fifteen acres of bearing trees which are producing somewhere around 700 to 900 pounds per annum, and adjoining is Dr. Mark Hayter's young grove of twelve acres. Probably the largest grove in the county outside of the sub-divided tract located near Monmouth is that of H. C. Eakin at Rickreall, where that grower has fifty acres of trees five and six years old, some of which are bearing to some extent. There are others in the county who have smaller groves, and all are of the opinion that eventually Polk county will be a central point in Oregon for these appreciated nuts.

From a single full-bearing tree it is not uncommon to harvest several bushels of nuts, and when it is considered that they sell at from 16 to 20 cents per pound English walnut raising must appear as being attractive from a financial standpoint. Time was in the Willamette valley when walnut culture was deemed experimental by reason of the excessive rainfall and the general humidity on account of the prevailing heavy fogs, but these theories have long since been exploded, and some of the markets' choicest nuts now comes from this territory. Those who understand the conditions necessary to English walnut production, and who are familiar with climatic conditions of Polk county, will immediately say that raising the nuts here successfully has never been an experiment, but that the results in every case have proven satisfactory. Those who have undertaken it find that there is no natural causes to prevent production of perfect walnuts.

The Franquette is the chief variety tried here, although there are trees of the Mayette variety. The quality in each case is par excellence. Those who have been watching these trees with some interest declare that they prove that the English walnut may become a very valuable crop here. A nut grove is much less troublesome than an orchard of any kind; much less liable to harm from radical weather conditions or ravage by pests; much more hardy than most fruit trees and its product finds a much more steady and ready market. No losses are sustained in shipment; the rates are cheaper because less expensive provision is necessary and much less loss attends the harvest of the crop. The nuts are easily graded and handled. The Observer predicts that the English walnut production will have a place in commercial reports in the future not far distant and that the owners of groves will be quite as partial to them as they may be of any other tree crop they may undertake to produce here for profit.

### Date For Arguments Set.

The habeas corpus case of Mollie Bowers vs. Milt. Grant and wife, appealed from Polk county to the supreme court, will be heard by the latter judicial body on December 1. Walter Toose will appear for the plaintiff and Sibley and Holman for the defense. The action was brought to recover to the mother the child now in possession of the Grants, which case has been heard and reheard in the local courts for some time past.

### Educational Films Shown.

At a free matinee on Tuesday afternoon the Oregon Power company presented to large audiences at the Grand theater free educational motion pic-

tures sent out by the General Electric company. The pictures consisted of four reels, entitled "Back to the Farm," showing the Pittsfield works of the General Electric company and many interesting features of the great work carried on there. A story was woven into the exhibition that made comedy, romance and education. By viewing the pictures several hundred Dallas people, and especially the school children who attended one of the several free shows, got an altogether new idea of the extensive scope of the great electric equipment company. Manager Martin of the power company and O. C. Smith of the Grant theater, co-operated to present the pictures free of cost.

## LAST RAILS ARE DOWN

### CONTRACTOR COMPLETES EXTENSION ON TEAL CREEK.

#### Surveying Crew Mapping Out Route for Continuation of Line to Siletz Basin.

If no unforeseen obstacle presents itself, Contractor Gilo, who is building three miles of logging railroad up Teal creek for the Falls City Lumber company, or its successor, will have completed the undertaking by Saturday night, when the crew will be dismissed. Work on this extension has been in progress since last June, and gives the lumbering concern a track into the woods seven miles in length, and penetrates some of the finest timber on the coast. It is this road which the new interests that have taken over the extensive sawmill at Falls City contemplates continuing into the Cobb and Mitchell holdings, about seven miles beyond the present terminus of the line. An engineering corps is now engaged in surveying the proposed extension, and it is more than probable that work on it will be inaugurated as early as possible in the spring. Since last June Contractor Gilo has had a crew of workmen constantly employed on the Teal creek line.

There is still much speculation as to when the sawmill will resume operations, no one in the city by the falls of the Little Luckiamute having any definite information on the subject. It is somewhat generally talked, however, that the wheels will be set in motion within sixty days, but this is only surmise. It is quite certain that the mill will not remain idle long, the improvement in market conditions having a tendency to strengthen this belief.

## LUMBER RATE HEARING

### INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION HEARS COMPLAINTS

#### Portland Sawmill Owners Content That Rate Establishes Preferential of Four Cents.

Examiner Butler of the Interstate Commerce commission is today hearing the Willamette valley lumber rate case, which the Portland mills are attempting to have the Southern Pacific abolish. The Portland lumbermen contend that the rate in effect establishes a preferential of about 4 cents per 100 pounds on lumber milled in the valley. That the district so included is bounded by the south line of the Portland city limits they assert to be proof that the Southern Pacific is deliberately planning to shut out Portland from the benefits of the interior California trade. The valley mills, on the other hand, contend themselves entitled to a lower rate because of the shorter haul. They say they have no chance to ship their lumber by water to the California ports. The valley mills are pointing to general discrimination against them in regard to distribution of lumber in districts other than interior California, particularly along the Great Northern, Milwaukee, Northern Pacific, Canadian Pacific and the Soo line, to reach which points the valley mills have to pay the local rate into Portland before the through rate applies.

Upon the final result of the hearing much depends. The mills of the Willamette valley have long been at disadvantage in competition with mills having water transportation facilities, and a strenuous effort will be made by them to sustain the Southern Pacific company in its contention that because of the shorter haul to California points the valley mills are entitled to the consideration given. The case was instituted by the Inman-Poulsen Lumber company and the Western Lumber company of Portland, who are seeking to have the rate set aside, holding that the Portland is being discriminated against.

### New Club Rooms.

The new club rooms of the Woodmen of the World are being greatly enjoyed these evenings by members of that organization.

## MERGER IS SUGGESTED

### COMMERCIAL AND LA CREOLE CLUBS PLAN CONSOLIDATION

#### Latter Organization Takes Initiative, and Booster Body Appoints Committee to Investigate.

As a representative of the board of directors of the La Creole club, A. L. Martin appeared at the meeting of the Commercial club on Wednesday evening and asked the consideration of that body on the question of a merger of the two organizations. The discussion of the subject that the members of the Commercial club entered into resulted in the appointment of a committee of three, comprising W. L. Soehren, E. K. Piasecki and Tracy Staats, to confer with a similar committee appointed by the initiators of the plan, and the two to confer with the Salem Commercial club to get the plan and ideas which were employed in the merger there. The idea, as advocated by the directors of the La Creole club, was given much thought by those present at the Commercial club meeting and when the committee appointed reports back it is very likely that it will meet with much enthusiastic support from the Commercial club. No definite step could be taken at this time, however, as a result of the invitation of the social club, other than the appointment of a committee to confer with the Salem club.

The matter of graveling the wagon track, a railroad property near the depot, was referred by Vice-President N. J. Guy to W. L. Soehren, chairman of the railroad committee, and Mr. Soehren will urge that this work be done by the railroad. The matter of sending the Dallas band to the Dallas-Lebanon game at the latter city on Thursday next, as suggested by J. E. French on behalf of the High School Athletic association, was vetoed by the club, and the band will take no Thanksgiving trip. Other matters to come before the club were of a routine nature, including the reading of communications and the allowing of a few bills.

### FUNERAL THIS AFTERNOON.

#### Late Edward Biddle Will Be Interred By Brother Lodgemen.

Funeral services over the remains of the late Edward Biddle, whose demise on Monday saddened his many friends, will be held at the Chapman parlors at 1:30 this afternoon and interment will be at the I. O. O. F. cemetery. Jennings Lodge, number 9, I. O. O. F., will have charge of the services and a large number of lodgemen will gather to pay their final tribute of respect to their departed brother. Mr. Biddle was at one time grand high priest of Royal Arch Masons in Oregon and was for eight years high priest of Ainsworth chapter. Only a few relatives can be present at the services, including Louis S. Biddle of Virginia City, Nevada, who has arrived in Dallas. Until the hour of the funeral the remains may be viewed at the Chapman parlors.

### Scouts to Tackle Corvallis.

A game of basketball between the Dallas and Corvallis Boy Scouts has been arranged for December 4, to be played at the latter place. The locals are now in practice, and hope to bring home a victory.

## PSHAW, WHAT'S THE USE

### RACE SUICIDE CAUSE GIVEN FURTHER ENCOURAGEMENT.

#### Attorney General Rules That Quantity of Booze Per Family Must Be Same Throughout the Game.

That only two quarts of whisky or two dozen bottles of beer can be secured monthly in 1916 by any family, whether it consists of two persons or ten or whether all are full grown, was the ruling of Attorney General Brown in answer to an inquiry. The inquirer wanted to know if in a household where the family consisted of a parent, two sons over 25 and a daughter of 30, all of them earning separate incomes, they could not individually secure liquor. In holding that they could not, Mr. Brown quoted a definition of a family, as follows: "In its ordinary and primary sense the term signifies the collective body of persons living in one house, or under one head or manager, or one domestic government; the relations between such persons necessarily being of a permanent or domestic character, not that of persons abiding temporarily together as strangers; a household; those who live under the same roof with the pater familias, who form his fronside."

The law says it shall be unlawful for any one person or family to receive a shipment of more than two quarts of whisky or two dozen bottles of beer during four consecutive weeks.

## TO ELEVATE STANDARD

### BAR ASSOCIATION DESIROUS OF HAVING REAL LAWYERS.

#### Proof of High School Education and Three Years' Study, Named Among the Requirements.

To devise a plan that would bring more efficient and better prepared barristers before the bar in Oregon, Oscar Hayter, and his colleagues on the examining board of the Oregon State Bar association, have been working for many months. There are hundreds of lawyers in the state who were admitted to practice in the early days who are unable to cope with present day conditions to a degree that insures even as much as a livelihood. These men passed the bar examination when that barriade was more or less of a joke. It was customary to pass every applicant for a certificate to practice law in this state, and no matter how little the applicant knew of law he had a reasonable assurance that he would get that certificate. This is not in depreciation of the many excellent gentlemen and able lawyers who were admitted in the early days, but of that element of the whole which is incapable of earning its way properly in the profession. Young men taking up a legal practice, without a reasonable foundation in training, had no chance of making headway, and to their sorrow they have wound up in a maze of learned competition that absolutely shuts them out of the legal business of the day. In Polk county there were men who had never much more than glanced at law books of any kind who were admitted to the bar, and to practice of all kinds.

It is with the idea of giving young men who would become lawyers a reasonable assurance of an honest livelihood and a good and reputable practice, that the examining board is planning for its future. Applicants will be required to present proof of having had at least a high school education or its equivalent and must show that they have studied law for three years. These requirements will be augmented by the examination that will test an applicant's knowledge of the things he claims to be versed in. The plan will not make a barrier to anyone properly fitted to practice, and will further elevate the profession by giving some assurance that the men before the bar are lawyers.

### Will Plant Strawberries.

J. C. Stingley, who has a small plot of land near the reservoir, will set about an acre to strawberry plants next spring. He will set Clark's seedlings, this variety being considered the best shippers. The soil of this section is ideal for strawberry culture. It is here that Mr. Fisher and Frank Coad each have several acres of strawberry plants, from which they realize handsomely.

### Fenton's Ghost to Appear.

On Friday evening, December 3, the Perrydale high school will present a play entitled, "The Fenton Ghost," at the high school auditorium in this city. The proceeds from the entertainment are for the benefit of the gymnasium fund of that school, and the cause being worthy and the play one of real merit, there should be a large attendance.

## DISCUSS SPECIAL LEVY

### BUSINESS MEN OF FALLS CITY ARE FOR GOOD ROADS.

#### Special Meeting of Tax-Payers to Vote on Proposition Called for Saturday, November 27.

At a meeting of the Falls City Business Men's club Tuesday evening President Mehrling presided, and heard a discussion of the question of raising a special tax for the further improvement of highways in district number 21 next year. A meeting for the purpose of voting on the proposition has been called for November 27, and the amount to be raised is practically the only question to be settled, a large majority of the tax payers favoring creation of a special fund to be expended in bettering the condition of the roads leading to Falls City. There appears to be some differences of opinion as to the millage tax to be levied, some believing that it should be three mills, while others express more moderate ideas concerning it. There is a probability that under the circumstances a compromise will be effected at the meeting on the date named, and that the special tax will be levied according to program.

The district last year levied a special tax of three mills, which raised approximately \$5,000 for road work. A goodly portion of this amount was expended on the new trunk line to Newport. Those favoring a one-mill

special tax for this year say that it would create a fund of about \$1,700, which in addition to the regular levy is quite sufficient under present financial conditions. Others who are enthusiastically in favor of good roads are willing to strain a point and go the limit, believing that good roads are business getters for the community. It is proposed to improve the road between Falls City and Pelee.

Eph Wiley says he is not as unreasonable as some. Eph doesn't wish to be able to sleep under a blanket during the hot months. All he asks is to be able to sleep comfortably on top of the spread.

## ELECTRIC LINE IS PLAN

### SOUTHERN PACIFIC TO CHANGE CORVALLIS-WHITESON LINE

#### Legislation Is Pending, But Action Preliminary to Alteration of System Is Possible.

Electrification of the Southern Pacific line between Whiteson and Corvallis will be made possible soon after the first of the year by legislation now pending before the city council of Corvallis, and which will be up for final consideration next Monday night. Ralph E. Moody, attorney for the Southern Pacific, has just returned from San Francisco, where he conferred with other company officials on the subject. He reports that the Southern Pacific is eager to proceed with the electrification, and hopes to have the work done early in the year.

Two ordinances now are pending before the Corvallis council, and one of them probably will be read the second time and ordered published at the meeting next Monday. Under the Corvallis charter an ordinance must be published for 60 days before it can finally be passed and become effective. However, the Southern Pacific, meanwhile, can arrange a lot of preliminary work, so that it can start actual electric construction in the city of Corvallis as soon as the measure goes into effect.

By completing this link of 43 miles between Whiteson and Corvallis, the Southern Pacific will have a complete electric line between Portland and Corvallis, with an alternate electric route between Portland and McMinnville. The greater part of the material for the proposed improvement is now stored at McCoy, and has been for a long time past.

## STORE HAS NEW OWNER

### SIMONTON & SCOTT RETIRE FROM GROCERY TRAFFIC.

#### Mr. Tankersly of Corvallis Purchases Court Street Stock, and Is Now in Possession.

The stock and good will of the Simonton & Scott grocery store, one of the best-known establishments of its class in the city, has been transferred to E. N. Tankersly, recently of Corvallis. Mr. Tankersly has been negotiating with the owners of the store for several weeks and only on Wednesday evening did they agree to terms of sale. Mr. Simonton is to release his holdings, but will remain in the store for the time being to assist the new owner. That Mr. Tankersly is a good groceryman is attested by the several successful stores he conducted before he came to Oregon just a year ago. He has spent most of his life in Texas and for many years has been a merchant. At Corvallis he was in the First National bank, from which he withdrew to enter the grocery business here.

Inventory of the stock of the Simonton & Scott store was started on Wednesday evening and is now practically completed. The stock will be re-arranged by the progressive new owner, who will conduct a strictly cash business. Mr. Tankersly has seen the development of the Green Trading stamp idea and has a great opinion of its success, so that the little green premiums will be a feature of the business of the new store. Mr. Tankersly first came to Dallas about three weeks ago and started the negotiations that this week concluded in the transfer of the store. It was thought for a time that he would establish another store here, but this he refused to do until he had attempted to get one of those already established. Mr. Tankersly recognizes this as a good field for the grocery business and he intends to conduct his store along the most approved lines of business.

### Meeting of Elks Tonight.

All local Elks should remember the meeting at the council chamber this evening, and be present.

Messrs. Patterson and Parks of the eastern part of Polk county were Dallas visitors on Tuesday.

## MAY YIELD TO DEMAND

### TAX FOR BRIDGE MAY BE INCORPORATED IN BUDGET.

#### County Court Considering Splitting Cost, Making Cost of Structure Cover Two Years.

Because there seems to be no alternative it is very likely that the Polk county court, at its regular meeting early next month, will include in the annual budget some provision for the inter-county bridge, and that structure may get a start in the world by next spring. The bridge question has become famous in the short time it has been in the public mind and on the public tongue of the two counties. It has called forth a great variety of engineering talent that has put the fear of death into the hearts of the hundreds who daily cross the bridge, and shiver every bone in their bodies for fear the gallant wind will throw itself into the high and speed up to twenty-five miles an hour—with the disastrous result that the old, weak and dejected bridge would collapse like so much box-wood, and would be washed away to an eventual fine powder by the surging torrent of the mighty Willamette that charges on its tempestuous way beneath the ghostly bridge. People who never before knew fear are up in arms, crying for the preservation of the race that would perish from the face of the earth when the twenty-five mile wind pushed our historic old monument to transportation into the river, and are criticizing the county court for its inactivity. The engineering talent has said that the bridge was a physical myth, that it should be immediately condemned and the traffic allowed to swim the stream, and on the heels of its utterances has also said a limited traffic, say 1400 pounds to the foot, might safely travel over the bridge for a year or so.

Salem merchants got the talent to switch its remarks of condemnation, but now, it seems, some of the same element have gathered in high council to say that the bridge cannot withstand the ravages of the wind. Then, too, after an estimated repair cost of \$500 had stretched itself into \$1350, and after Mr. Holmes and Mr. Cantine and Mr. Morse, representing the well-known bridge builder, Ralph Modjeski, had inspected the structure. The bridge, therefore, is closed to traffic during gales. But that isn't the end of the story. The next chapter opens with the inspecting epidemic stamped out after all available inspectors have had a finger in the pie. Nine chances to ten the bridge will be ordered closed permanently. In such an event there is only one way out for the Polk county court. That body must make arrangements to care for its share of the cost of a new bridge. The opinion expressed by Judge Teal yesterday that the bridge cost could be included, at least in part, in the budget that will be prepared early in December, is undoubtedly founded well. But to care for this cost will mean that other very necessary improvement work will have to be set aside for a year or two, and that the tax rate in the county will remain the same as it was last year, rather than being decreased by several mills as Judge Teal had hoped to do next month. There must be a bridge, and if the present structure is forced to remain idle the only thing that can be done is for Polk county to heed what are practically demands from Salem and help build a new one. At best only a part of the cost could be provided in the budget this year and work could not be started until spring. Rainy weather would again set in before the bridge was finished and it could not be completed before the end of the following summer. Therefore, if the inspectors get a majority vote that the bridge is as useless as a nanny-goat in a deep well it will be two years before Polk county people have the exorcising pleasure of patronizing Salem commercial interests, which will have been largely responsible for condemning the present structure. Judge Teal, in common with a majority of Polk county people, thinks that the present bridge would serve well its purpose for another year or so, or until the county can fairly and squarely ask overburdened taxpayers to dig up the cost of a new one. This thing of having farms confiscated for taxes and personal property sold at auction to satisfy the sheriff's judgment seems to have escaped Marion county in the near vicinity of the paved streets and large commercial houses, where the principal bives of new-bridge agitation may be found on any dark evening. But if the old bridge is not to be, a new bridge must be, so the quicker Judge Teal an his commissioners bring themselves to the drastic duty of duplicating the assessment of last year, the sooner will engineers and Salemites be happy and peaceful.

### Read the Advertisements.

Readers of The Observer are invited to peruse the advertisements in these columns before making their holiday purchases.