

Ashland Tidings

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Ashland, Ore., Monday, Sept. 30, '12

THE INITIATIVE MILLAGE BILL.

The initiative millage tax bill, providing for a six-tenths of a mill tax, four-sevenths for the use of the agricultural college, and three-sevenths for the use of the university, and providing also for a single board of regents, was prepared by a joint committee from the governor's special commission appointed to solve Oregon's higher educational problem, and from the boards of regents of the two institutions working in conjunction with the governor and with the presidents of the two institutions, and is offered as a substitute for all the present legislative bills for support and government of the two institutions.

This bill does not increase the average rate of taxation for the support of the two institutions as shown during the last ten years.

The state of Washington is at present paying for the same purposes seventeen-hundredths of a mill more than the Oregon bill calls for; namely, forty-five-hundredths of a mill for the university and thirty-two-hundredths of a mill for the agricultural college.

The growth of the two institutions will certainly keep pace with the growth of wealth in the state, as has been shown by the experience of all other states using the millage basis of support.

This bill expressly repeals the \$500,000 appropriations of the legislative session of two years ago, now submitted to the voters under the referendum (official numbers on the ballot, 372, 373, 374, 375) for their approval or rejection.

The present standing appropriations to be continued for one year are most urgently needed to give the institutions a start in buildings and to carry them through the period while the mill tax is being collected. The passage of this bill will take the university and agricultural college out of politics. The efficiency and dignity of the institutions demand permanency of support and freedom from political entanglements.

Through the unified control of the single board, hearty co-operation of the two institutions will be insured. The advantages of a combined institution will be secured, and the advantages which come from segregation will not be sacrificed.

Since the millage bill involves the question of taxation, it should be taken directly to the people. It is therefore not an abuse but a proper use of the initiative law, and the bill should be voted upon its merits.

In the United States behind the ostensible government sits enthroned an invisible government, owing no allegiance and acknowledging no responsibility to the people. That invisible power working through both the old parties—for in democratic communities that power is democratic and in republican communities it is republican—is in full control of the government. Its method has been the control of parties through the party boss and the control of government through parties. Equal opportunity has been displaced by special privilege and industrial justice by legal commercial favors. Under such circumstances a republic cannot long endure, for equal opportunity and industrial justice is the foundation of republican government. To destroy this invisible government, to dissolve the unholy alliance between corrupt business and corrupt politics, is the duty of every American citizen. Nor can it be accomplished without changing the system. It is absolutely foolhardy to attempt it through the old parties, for they are the main spokes in the system, fashioned and moulded by the invisible power, which now controls the government.

There will be 30 per cent more apples than last year, but owing to the higher costs of the orchardists' rubber tires, apples will have to go up too.

INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM.

The editor has been again wading through the Oregon political pamphlet in an attempt to form an intelligent judgment on the forty-eight proposed initiative bills. He finds it absolutely impossible to do so. It is our opinion that not one per cent of the voters at the polls in Oregon in November will be able to cast an intelligent ballot. Standing in the voting booth with a general ticket as big as a newspaper, containing the names of all the candidates, from presidential elector to dog catcher, of six or seven separate political organizations, and another, as big as a blanket, containing the forty-eight measures proposed, he is bound to be lost in the endless mazes. If he attempts to vote on all candidates and all measures it will take him two hours to do it, and if he wants to exercise an intelligent vote on each he could not do it in a year.

All of which leads us to advocate the "short ballot" and wonder how in the name of common sense the people of Oregon could so misunderstand the proper uses of the initiative and referendum to the extent of becoming so hopelessly entangled in such mazes of initiated legislation.

The initiative and referendum does not supply an intelligent working system for legislation as a substitute for the representative system. To attempt to do so is but to discredit it. Oregon has gone wild on the initiative. It has forgotten that there is a state legislature whose function is to make law.

The initiative and referendum as tools to force really representative government are wholesome and will prove effective measures, but as law-making instruments supplanting legislative function they will prove untrustworthy and cumbersome.

The great good in the initiative is not in its law-making power, to be always substituted for the representative system, but rather because of its force in bringing the legislature into a more responsive relation to popular will.

In its proper use it should only be exercised after the legislature has failed to respond to the popular demand for legislation in the interest of the whole. So used it becomes at once a restraint on misrepresentation and a fit weapon in the hands of the people when their representatives fail to respond to a popular demand.

As a substitute for the representative system it will prove a failure, and no better illustration could be devised than will be afforded the electorate in the November election when it comes to wrestling with the practical side of the question in the voting booth.

It will prove altogether a dangerous expedient to vote yes on measures that are not understood, and the general tendency will be and should be to vote no when in doubt.

When the legislative body becomes thoroughly responsive to the popular will more wholesome legislation can be enacted in one session than the initiative can produce in ten years. Let the initiative, referendum and recall be exercised in such manner as to force the legislature to properly respond to the public needs. That is the proper function of these measures and when applied only to these uses they will prove salutary and effective.

While the initiative is too cumbersome to be practical as a medium for the enactment of general legislation, as is apparent in the number of measures before the people this year, it may be made highly useful in amending the constitution so as to open the way for needed legislation, and under particular circumstances, as when the legislature fails to enact measures for which there is a popular need or attempts to pass a bill against public interest.

We are again reminded that sometimes it is a grand thing to be an editor. Not to be a good editor, nor yet a bad one, but just to be an editor. During the fruit season, in as grand place as the Rogue River valley, it is especially so, for at such seasons friends always remember the poor editor, as we have just been remembered by H. H. Bachtell of Talent, in bringing us a full basket of as fine peaches as ever a tooth bore down on. Where in all the land is to be found such peaches as the granite soil produces? What equals the size, color and delicious flavor? Where so many kind friends to bestow such luscious gifts?

Move to Deepen Willamette River.
Salem and Albany are interested in the movement on foot to have the government deepen the channel in the Willamette river from Portland to Eugene. The commercial bodies will bring the matter to the attention of congress and it is hoped to increase the depth of the channel six feet by proper management of the water by building wing dams and dredging.

Remember that the Tidings wants ads bring results.

The Home Circle

Thoughts from the Editorial Pen

A Home Snuggery.

There should always be one spot in the home sacred to the best interests of the family. A room full of comfort, where the sofa is made to lounge on, and the chairs to tilt back, and the carpet to dig the toes in; where bills and bickerings are alike forbidden, and the straight-laced propriety of the dining room or parlor can be abandoned for romps and story telling; where the dust doesn't show and nothing is too fine to use, and at whose door all the burdens drop off as they will some time at the gate of heaven—a room whose speech is silver and whose silence is golden—where the tranquility of a summer Sabbath is broken only by sweet murmurs of love and confidence—where a happy cat curls herself to repose in blissful affinity with the peaceful house dog; a place where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest. A sort of moral lean-to which adjoins the house beautiful. Here Jacob's ladder is planted, and angels ascending and descending bring with them endless measures of peace.

Every home should have this one place of retreat.

It is no impossible place. Love is the architect, content its atmosphere. We find it in our friends' homes, often where least expected, and are surprised because it is never a show place. It is simply a golden room in a wooden house.

Fashion.

Fashion kills more women than toll and sorrow. Obedience to fashion is a greater transgression of the laws of woman's nature, a greater injury to her physical and mental condition, than poverty and neglect. The slave woman at her task will live and grow old and see two or three generations of her mistresses fade and pass away. The washerwoman, with scarce a ray of hope to cheer her in her toil, will live to see her fashionable sisters die all around her. The kitchen maid is hearty and strong when her lady has to be nursed like a sick baby. It is the sad truth that fashion-pampered women are almost worthless for all the ends of human life; they have but little force of character; they have still less power of moral will, and quite as little physical energy. They live for no great purpose in life, they accomplish no worthy ends. They are only doll forms in the hands of milliners and servants, to be dressed and fed to order. They write no books, they set no virtuous examples of rich and womanly life. If they rear children, nurses and servants do all save give them birth, and when reared, what are they? What do they ever amount to but weak scions of the old stock? Who ever heard of a fashionable woman's child exhibiting any virtue of power of mind for which it becomes eminent? Read the biographies of great and good men and women. Not one of them had a fashionable mother. They nearly all sprang from strong-minded women, who had about as little to do with fashions as the changing clouds. The trite saying, "A man may say too much, even on the best of subjects," will answer here.

School Teaching.

At a teachers' examination they were asked by the superintendent, "Why do you teach school?" Nearly all of them taught from a desire to do good, and one or two were honest enough to confess they wanted the money. To teach for the sake of doing good is noble, and there is no harm in working for money, providing you do your very best to earn your money. Whoever expects to teach school on "flowery beds of ease" might as well abandon the field at the outset. There is no need for a teacher to be eternally grumbling about small salaries, school directors and superintendents, and unnecessary work. A teacher must make up her mind to work hard and to be found fault with. She must not be over-sensitive. Let her conscientiously strive to do her work and let a worrying, trying-to-please-every-body spirit depart. Above all things, don't be forever grumbling. Accept the situation and extract all the sunshine and sweetness out of it you can. We believe there is much enjoyment in plain, prosaic school teaching. Fathers and mothers are apt to express their opinion in a way that you will hear of, if you happen to cross John or Mary, but that is only the bitter with the sweet. There are parents who appreciate your earnest work; you are sowing seed that will ripen into grand men and women if you are doing the best you can, working cheerfully, and not continually grumbling about your salary, the lack of appreciation, and your social standing. Dignify your labor, be gentle and patient, and, above all, be earnest in your work.

Don't you see a good many pale girls in your stores, girls with bloodless, half-baked sort of faces, whose walk, whose voice, whose whole expression is void of spirit and force? Those girls are in the green state. Send them out in the country; let them throw away their parasols and live out in the sunshine for three months, and we would give more for one of them in any work requiring spirit than for a dozen of the pale things who live in the shade. The only girls with red cheeks and sweet breaths, the only girls who become fully ripe and sweet, are those who baptize themselves fully in the sunshine.

A woman's influence is very great for good or evil. A kind word from a wife or a mother may stay a man from untold evil, and one sharp, bitter, thoughtless word may drive him to desperation.

The Tidings for artistic printing.

PROGRESSIVE PARTY PLATFORM

(First Installment.)

The conscience of the people, in a time of grave national problems, has called into being a new party, born of the nation's awakened sense of justice. We of the progressive party here dedicate ourselves to the fulfillment of the duty laid upon us by our fathers to maintain that government of the people, by the people and for the people whose foundations they laid.

We hold with Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln that the people are the masters of their constitution, to fulfill its purposes and to safeguard it from those who, by perversion of its intent, would convert it into an instrument of injustice. In accordance with the needs of each generation the people must use their sovereign powers to establish and maintain equal opportunity and industrial justice, to secure which this government was founded and without which no republic can endure.

This country belongs to the people who inhabit it. Its resources, its business, its institutions and its laws should be utilized, maintained or altered in whatever manner will best promote the general interest. It is time to set the public welfare in the first place.

The Old Parties.

Political parties exist to secure responsible government and to execute the will of the people.

From these great tasks both of the old parties have turned aside. Instead of instruments to promote the general welfare, they have become the tools of corrupt interests which use them impartially to serve their selfish purposes. Behind the ostensible government sits enthroned an invisible government, owing no allegiance and acknowledging no responsibility to the people.

To destroy this invisible government, to dissolve the unholy alliance between corrupt business and corrupt politics is the first task of the statesmanship of the day.

The deliberate betrayal of its trust by the republican party, and the fatal incapacity of the democratic party to deal with the new issues of the new time, have compelled the people to forge a new instrument of government through which to give effect to their will in laws and institutions.

Unhampered by tradition, uncorrupted by power, undismayed by the magnitude of the task, the new party offers itself as the instrument of the people to sweep away old abuses, to build a new and nobler commonwealth.

A Covenant With the People.

This declaration is our covenant with the people, and we hereby bind the party and its candidates in state and nation to the pledges made herein.

The Rule of the People.

The progressive party, committed to the principle of government by a self-controlled democracy expressing its will through representatives of the people, pledges itself to secure such alterations in the fundamental law of the several states and of the United States as shall insure the representative character of the government.

In particular, the party declares for direct primaries for the nomination of state and national officers, for nation-wide preferential primaries for candidates for the presidency, for the direct election of United States senators by the people; and we urge on the states the policy of the short ballot, with responsi-

Pure Mountain Water Ice

Reduced Prices on Ice

FOR SEASON OF 1912

Save money by purchasing coupon books. Issued for 500, 1,000, 2,000 up to 5,000 pounds.

This is the cheapest way to buy your ice.

Delivery every day except Sundays.

ASHLAND ICE AND STORAGE CO.

TELEPHONE 108

bility to the people secured by the initiative, referendum and recall.

Amendment of Constitution.

The progressive party, believing that a free people should have the power from time to time to amend their fundamental law so as to adapt it progressively to the changing needs of the people, pledges itself to provide a more easy and expeditious method of amending the federal constitution.

Nation and State.

Up to the limit of the constitution, and later by amendment of the constitution, if found necessary, we advocate bringing under effective national jurisdiction those problems which have expanded beyond reach of the individual states.

It is as grotesque as it is intolerable that the several states should by unequal laws in matters of common concern become competing commercial agencies, barter the lives of their children, the health of their women and the safety and well-being of their working people for the profit of their financial interests.

The extreme insistence on states' rights by the democratic party in the Baltimore platform demonstrates anew its inability to understand the world into which it has survived or to administer the affairs of a union of states which have in all essential respects become one people.

Social and Industrial Justice.

The supreme duty of the nation is the conservation of human resources through an enlightened measure of social and industrial justice. We pledge ourselves to work unceasingly in state and nation for:

Effective legislation looking to the prevention of industrial accidents, occupational diseases, overwork, involuntary unemployment, and other injurious effects incident to modern industry.

The fixing of minimum safety and health standards for the various occupations, and the exercise of the public authority of state and nation, including the federal control over interstate commerce and the taxing power, to maintain such standards.

The prohibition of child labor.

Minimum wage standards for working women, to provide a living scale in all industrial occupations.

The prohibition of night work for women and the establishment of an eight-hour day for women and young persons.

One day's rest in seven for all wage-workers.

The eight-hour day in continuous 24-hour industries.

The abolition of the convict contract labor system; substituting a system of prison production for governmental consumption only; and the application of prisoners' earnings to the support of their dependent families.

Publicity as to wages, hours and conditions of labor; full reports upon industrial accidents and diseases, and the opening to public inspection of all tallies, weights, measures and check systems on labor products.

Standards of compensation for death by industrial accident and injury and trade diseases which will transfer the burden of lost earnings from the families of working people to the industry, and thus to the community.

The protection of home life against the hazards of sickness, irregular employment and old age through the adoption of a system of social insurance adapted to American use.

The development of America by lifting the last load of illiteracy from American youth and establishing continuation schools for industrial education under public control and encouraging agricultural education and demonstration in rural schools.

The establishment of industrial research laboratories to put the methods and discoveries of science at the service of American producers.

We favor the organization of the workers, men and women, as a means of protecting their interests and of promoting their progress.

[To be continued.]

SUNSET MAGAZINE and Ashland Tidings one year \$2.75 to old or new subscribers. Regular price of Sunset Magazine is \$1.50 per year.

Independence will install a steel bell tower and new hose house.

Gresham is to have a soda and ice plant.

Sale of Sweaters

FOR

Men, Women and Children

In this important sale are a splendid quality and a big variety of sweaters in every size for men, women and children. Styles are high and low neck; colors blue, red, gray, black and white. Every person should take advantage of the prices at which we are offering these sweaters. See window display of sweaters and prices.

Blankets and Comforts

Now is the time you will need heavier bed coverings. Just now we are showing an immense line in cotton and wool blankets, colors gray, tan and white. Prices of cotton are 75c up to \$3.50. Wool blankets \$4.00 up to \$10.00.

Comforts for full size beds, silkoline covered, in handsome patterns, at \$1.50 up to \$3.25.

Comforts, sateen covered, and others silk in beautiful patterns, at \$3.50 up to \$7.50.

The Store with a Rest Room **VAUPEL'S** The Store with a Rest Room