

Mt. Scott Herald
 Published Every Thursday at Lents, Oregon by
 THE MT. SCOTT PUBLISHING COMPANY
 J. SANGER FOX, Managing Editor.
 MINNIE GOODENOUGH HYDE, News Editor.
 J. ALLEN DUNBAR, Circulating Manager.
 Entered as second-class mail matter February 14, 1914, at the post-office at Lents, Oregon, under act of Congress, March 3, 1879.
 Subscription price - \$1 a year, in advance
 PHONES: TABOR 7894, D 61.

Improved Car Service.

The Lents Improvement Club is considering the possibility of securing improved car service on the Mt. Scott line. Many people think this District is as much entitled to a no stop car on Hawthorne Ave. as the St. Johns people are to such service south of Killingsworth Avenue. On the merits of the case regardless of what the St. Johns people have we think this section is entitled to such service. If the Hawthorne cars can care for the traffic on that avenue in rush hours, they certainly can do so the rest of the day.

The time worn custom of requiring the Mt. Scott two-car train to stop at every street crossing on Hawthorne Avenue during the day in view of the distance the people of this section live from the business center of Portland, with a Hawthorne car nine-tenths empty leisurely going along behind it, ought to be abolished at once.

Again the track from Anabel to Lents station ought to be improved very materially. The probabilities are that if the Rail Road Commission knew how poor this track is they would require its improvement at once. With an improved track such as the population of the Mt. Scott District deserves and with a no stop service on Hawthorne Avenue together with an order requiring the track to be cleared at the sidings from Grand Avenue to 50th street rigidly enforced we ought to have a 30 minute service from Lents to 2nd and Alder.

For the past two years the writer has been living in Long Beach, Cal. 22 miles from the depot in Los Angeles. From definite knowledge of the case the Pacific Electric 2 and 3 car trains make this distance making all the stops in the two cities and the country between in 53 minutes and the limited trains make it in 45 minutes. These local trains make stops through a distance of ten miles almost as frequently as the Mt. Scott cars do east of Division Street.

The Herald together with the Improvement Club stands for more rapid transit into the city. It invites discussion of this and other subjects of interest to the community through its open Forum. Let us hear from you in our next number.—J. A. D.

If Portland has anything to be ashamed of in the election just passed it is that over 50 per cent of her citizens remained at home, notwithstanding the importance of many of the measures and the great issues at stake in the election of a Board of Commissioners. The people who failed to vote are responsible for the results of election, not those who went to the polls and voted their convictions, regardless of what their convictions were. The article from the pen of R. F. Bennett, Supreme Deputy of United Artisans, which appears in another column of this issue on the "Menace of Political Indifference," is exceedingly timely and we call the attention of the "stay-at-homes" to it in the hopes that they may profit by its perusal.—M. G. H.

"Elephants are afraid of mice, but the mice don't know it. Big business that is not on the square is afraid of common men who have votes, and these common men know it."—Sunnyside Gazette. Big business that is not on the square need not be afraid of common men who have votes when those common men stay away from the polls as many of them did in Portland last Monday.—M. G. H.

A. C. Townley, president of the Non-partisan League, which has done things in the north-west beginning with North Dakota and constantly extending its sphere of influence, bluntly tells the statesmen in Washington that to encourage production and stop speculation the government must take possession of all monopolized industry and commander idle land. He says: "There would be no labor shortage on farms if farmhands saw a chance to get farms of their own, and if farmers got enough of their production." He is the chosen representative spokesman for tens of thousands of farmers in the United States and some statesmen with ears to the ground are wondering if they will have to listen stronger to him than the food and land speculators.

If Herbert C. Hoover is the man to take hold of the food problem, the speculator problem, the supply problem, the bread and butter question, then let him do it. But the farmer must know what he is going to receive for his crop else much of it will spoil because he will not be willing to pay high prices for labor and take his chance with the speculator. Indeed, many farmers will allow their crops to spoil, anyway, rather than pay what is a reasonable wage for harvest hands. Many a farmer has lost heavily rather than increase wages on a rising market in normal times.

The reason wood is high is because electric power is too high. If the price of electricity was cut one-third and thereby brought within closer reach for cooking and heating, the demand for wood would be less, and if we insisted as a people in demanding electricity at actual cost we soon would not thank any body for dumping a truck load of slabwood at our side door—the dirty, wet, unwholesome, abominable stuff!

"Vacant Lots Called to the Colors," reads a head line in an exchange. Now if the Government will conscript all the food speculators and send them to France our food problems will be in a fair way of being solved.

Our idea of a "work of super-erogation," as the preacher would say, is the Department of Agriculture telling the people how to have "wheatless" and "meatless" days. The information is entirely superfluous.

FISH WHERE THE FISHING'S GOOD



The FISHING IS GOOD IN THIS town.

The home merchant CAN SUPPLY YOUR EVERY WANT.

When you deal with him you KEEP THE DOLLARS IN TOWN.

SHOW YOUR CIVIC PRIDE.

TRADE AT HOME

Published by order of THE LENTSIMPROVEMENT CLUB

PEOPLE'S FORUM

The Menace Of Political Indifference.

Who among you knows the dimensions of the big gun "Sam" lately installed at the Panama Canal? Who is there here that is familiar with the deeds and misdeeds of Washington's last legislature? Who knows the financial basis on which this state is run? Are you a citizen? A citizen of the world; of the Nation; of the state; of the town?

I am not satisfied with myself. I believe I should be a better man. I believe that I could be a better man. My citizenship is not of the best. Neither is yours. And here is the reason: all too many of the questions of common interest that asked of me are answered with "I dun know."

Political indifference is the greatest drawback to any kind of government; and especially is this the case in a democracy. For the government by the people presupposes that the people actually wish to govern. And the reason why the people do not wish to govern is because, in the first place, they are too busy making money; and in the second place, they are weary of the evil practices of the politicians who have often governed and imagine that there is something in the acts of governing that will corrupt the morals of the most righteous.

First, then, let us examine the first excuse for the great indifference on the part of the people and see if this phlegmatic attitude is not largely responsible for the complaints that these very people are raising against the government of the nation and of the state. Herbert Spencer has said that the first and greatest law of nature is self-preservation. Man's first duty is to take up the struggle for existence. Of course it is! And as civilization progresses this struggle becomes more and more difficult and exacting. For not only are the natural bounties growing less and less, not only does the individual man have to guard against the elements and the lower animals, but there are the additional risks and dangers of a more complicated, industrial, community life. And beside all these dangers there is the one great factor not met in the life of the primitive man, the menace of the other man in whose hands rest the monopoly of trade and the power to make the distribution of wealth one-sided despite the honesty and diligence of his fellow men. "Get all you can and keep all you have, is the slogan of this enlightened age. And that is not such a bad idea if it did not entail the preventing of your neighbor's getting what he deserves. But that is exactly what it does entail.

The result of this uneven struggle for existence is a dual one. There are hundreds of thousands of able-bodied men who have lost interest in the acquisition of wealth. They tramp about the country living by the things that they can steal or beg. They do not pretend, at least to themselves, that they are among the producers. They have nothing to be taxed and they are naturally indifferent to the problems of government. What does it matter to the tramp if a Republican or a Democratic president or governor is elected? What he wants is the biggest cigar or the best bowl of soup and he will vote for the man who gives it to him.

Of course the rest of the working class are harder pressed on account of the great body of idlers; and, consequently, their struggle for existence takes on a keener aspect and they are deprived of the time it takes to get an interest in the political welfare of the country. All honor to the organizations that aim to awaken in the heart of the laboring man that interest in the affairs national, but at best, these attempts are not half successful. The interest stirred up by the flaming speeches of the politicians is transient and local. In their ignorance, made by poverty unavoidable, they are too often led to extremes that defeat the ends they have in view.

But the great political indifference manifest toward the government of the United States does not stop with the working classes and the professional tramps. The well-to-do part of the population is perhaps as much to blame as are the members of the laboring classes. This leaves the vested interests and the bosses paid by these interests, and a comparatively few from each of the groups mentioned above and the immigrants to manage the government. In so short a speech I will not have the time to prove all these assertions and will, therefore, have to ask you to take them for granted. I can now begin on the real subject of my speech, THE MENACE OF POLITICAL INDIFFERENCE.

Young orators especially are wont to use the expression, "Our Splendid Ship of State." I do not object to the use, but I should like to learn on what waters this splendid ship floats. Does it traverse the wide ocean of democracy? Does it float in the rivers of monarchy? Or does it remain tied up in the harbor of despotism? Democracy, of course! You answer; and so far you are right I think. What then is the menace of political indifference?

To carry out the figure a little farther, the answer can be stated thus: The menace of political indifference in the United States is the danger that the waters of democracy, if allowed to remain unstirred by the interests of the

individual citizen, will become so stagnant that the very odors from its slimy surface will sicken and disgust good healthy men and only those who are diseased morally and politically can be induced to guide the course of the good ship state. I think that I can prove this to be a real and not an imaginary danger simply by reviewing a little of the history of the past.

Since about the year 1880 a great majority of the immigrants to this country have come from the Southern part of Europe. These people generally are of the very lowest type of humanity. They are illiterate; they are used to a monarchical form of government. They have been accustomed to the rule of the king who left nothing for them to think about but their own selfish interests. They flock into our great cities and form there the nucleus around which the vicious though enlightened political bosses organize their machines. This has been the case for a long time in the city of New York, at least. This very ignorant element votes not because it has any interest in the affairs of the state or national government, not because it wishes to protect itself politically, but because it is induced to do so at the instigation of the bosses. And remember the late impeachment of a boss elected governor of New York.

I hesitate to cite an example of this very thing in the very recent history of our neighboring state, Idaho. Yet through the political indifference of the voters in the state of Idaho a very corrupt state official had himself renominated to a position of public trust and honor. The discovery of his dishonesty in time to prevent his re-election may be considered almost accidental. One of the leaders of the party on whose ticket his name appeared told an acquaintance of mine that he never could have been nominated in the wide world if the people of the state had been awake.

In a certain rural-school district in the southern part of this state not a year ago the regular election of officers resulted in such a wretched personnel on the school board that the next day when the real good citizens of the place saw what had been done, they held an indignation meeting and called a special election to oust the poor officers. And they did it easily.

I had the pleasure of listening to the hearing of a young culprit in one of Idaho's Justice of the Peace courts, about three years ago. The justice, who could not speak the English language plainly, did not know the meaning of the most common court terms; and he knew equally little about court procedure. He had to dismiss a case because he confused the terms defendant and plaintiff in preparing the papers of arrest. And the justice of the peace in the adjoining precinct was compelled to delay a marriage one whole day while he studied the ceremony.

I could cite you many more interesting examples of the evil results of political indifference in the United States and in the state of Oregon. But I think that I have already shown that the menace of political indifference is real, and not merely imaginative. Still the danger lies not alone in the election of poor officers. It lies not alone in the vast sums of the people's money that these poor officers waste, or steal, or misappropriate. The danger lies not only in the maladministration of public institutions. Political indifference threatens the very foundations of democracy.

Our legislatures can not now be trusted as they were in the colonial and early-statehood days. Why? Simply because the people have ceased to watch them. The average voter in this state thinks that he has patriotically accomplished his full duty to his government if he has voted for his state senator and representatives. He probably has not seen more than half of the men he voted for on the legislative ticket alone; and he has not the vaguest idea about the members from the other counties. Yet he complacently chuckles as he reviews the fluff neck of his bathrobe as he reviews the victory of the party, till the January papers begin to arrive. He now begins to grumble at the prospective rise in taxes and deplores the general depravity of the members of both houses. It was, I believe, the tax receipt that inspired the poet to write:

"Legislators' lives remind us,
 We can make our lives a pest;
 And, departing, leave behind us
 Feelings of relief and rest."

All that the legislature is losing is being gained by the governor. The increase in the powers bestowed on the governor, which was begun in New York a decade ago and which has spread over the entire country, means, after all a reversion to the more monarchical forms of government. This is but a tendency; at present, but it is a certain tendency; and it means that the government of the people, by the people is passing, succumbing.

Yet the case is by no means hopeless. The remedy is evident. First we must begin to read, to follow the deeds of the legislature and the national congress. We, you and I, must experience the desire to sit in the legislature, in the court room, in the governor's chair and on the school board. We must get our friends interested. We must see to it that the men who represent us anywhere are good men. And all of this we will do. For I have ample faith in the American people. I believe that I will be a better
 (Continued on Page 4)

Are You Thinking of Marriage?



START your wedded life right. The young man who is contemplating matrimony should bank his money. After he has furnished his home he should have something laid aside for possible adversity. Wedded life means added responsibility for him. The prospective bridegroom should open a bank account today. It means happiness in the future. We'll gladly explain our banking system.

MULTNOMAH STATE BANK

Lents, Oregon



WHEN YOU WANT TO FIND OUT

whether a thing is good or not, the first thing you do is to examine it closely. That is just what we want you to do with our lumber, for if you do, we are sure you will place your order with us. Come down to our yard and look around and you will be convinced that what we say is true.

MILLER MOWREY LUMBER CO.

Lumber, Shingles, Lath, Sash and Doors, Nails, Builders' Hardware, Roofing and Building Paper

Yard at Lents Jct.

Tabor 2116

100th St., 4 blocks from Foster

Home 2411

BECKER'S MARKET

Tabor 2181

5927 92nd St. S. E.

"Extra Choice Meats"

Jersey Bell Butter

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES ALWAYS FRESH
 TOMATOES PLANTS NOW IN

BUY GOODS MADE AT HOME

Your wants in Sheet Metals supplied at rock bottom prices. Quality Guaranteed

See me for Chicken Ranch Supplies, Troughs, Roofing, Garbage Cans

Why pay more and lose your time by going down town?

A. S. PEARCE; The Tinsmith, Foster Rd. (Opposite P. O.)

OUR SERVICE IS YOURS

Try it! That's the only way to tell. Use the phone. Come in for vulcanizing, tire change, repairs, adjustments or anything else. When you are stalled on the road with tire or motor troubles use the phone, let us help you, we will get you started in a hurry.

LENTS GARAGE

8919 FOSTER Road

Tabor 3429 D 61

H. D. Kenworthy and Co. Inc.

Funeral Directors,
 TWO ESTABLISHMENTS

PHONE TABOR 5267
 5802-4 92nd STREET S. E.

PHONE TABOR 5895
 4615 66th St., Cor. FOSTER ROAD
 ARLETA

First Class Service Given Day or Night. Close Proximity to Cemeteries Enables Us to Furnish Funerals at a Minimum Expense.

Bring Your Fine Job Work to the Herald