

# Ashland Tidings

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Ashland, Ore., Monday, June 17, '12

**"THE QUESTION BEFORE THE HOUSE."**

When a prohibitionist at Asbury Park asked Senator La Follette if he were a prohibitionist, the questioner probably did not mean to be disorderly, but he was. Senator La Follette had just closed an address on the fighting issues of the pending presidential campaign, of which prohibition is not one nor likely to be. Prohibition was therefore on that occasion not germane to what parliamentarians call "the question before the house." It was a disorderly interruption. But Senator La Follette answered it straight from the shoulder, as is customary with him. Not being a prohibitionist, he said so in one word of one syllable. But he added several words of well-merited rebuke. He said to his clerical questioner:

"I don't think that was fair of you; that question was not entered into the discussions of the campaign, and is not an issue; but as you ask it and have my answer, I suggest that you put the question also to Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Taft when they come here."

The advice was probably not taken. These out-of-order questions are almost always put to candidates who are already as far forward in the progressive fight as public opinion will tolerate; and it is not an unfair inference that as a rule the questions are put in the interest of reactionary candidates who give less candid answers than may be expected from progressives, or whose answers cannot so well be made to count to their prejudice. Prohibitionists, however, are not especially addicted to this kind of disorderly conduct. They are probably freer from it than many others. It was done on the largest scale four years ago, when equal suffragists insisted upon making the suffrage question a rider on the shoulders of presidential candidates in a campaign that was utterly devoid of equal suffrage possibilities. Mr. Bryan refused to answer one way or the other, on the ground that the question was not involved in the campaign, and republicans made the most of it; Mr. Taft made a deceptive answer, and republicans made the most of that, using it both ways. What Mr. Taft himself made of it after his election—well, his anti-suffrage speech at the suffrage meeting in Washington, is it forgotten? This raising of questions "not before the house," to the prejudice of questions that are "before the house," has enough other angles to furnish material for a book. But any one whose bump of orderliness is reasonably developed will need no book to teach him the difference between the importance of any given subject considered regardless of temporary circumstances, and its importance considered with immediate reference to such circumstances.

**USES OF WATER.**

We are the most conservative people on earth. Bismarck, man of iron and support of monarchy that he was, stood thirty years ago many years ahead of where our most advanced statesmen stand today. He declared that German industry could not prosper while a few men held a monopoly of transportation. Hence he insisted on public ownership of railways and the canalizing of all the rivers. Gradually the manufacturing towns grew up on the water fronts so that nearly all the heavy freight of Germany is moved by water at one-tenth the cost of railroad transportation, while the average cost of all transportation, rail and water combined, is about one-third that of the United States. However, the Americans have not wholly neglected their water resources—they have poured ten billions of water into their railroad stocks and bonds, about half of the whole.

**PARTY ORGANIZATION.**

We have before us what is termed a "weekly news letter" from the "Employers' Association of Oregon." This organization, as indicated by this letter, has the rabies on questions of labor as well as of politics. One S. F. Argonaut in discussing political questions has the following bit of undigested intelligence: "Ruie of the people, in the sense that it is proposed by the progressives, is practically an impossibility. There must be, in politics, as in other things, organization, discipline, co-operation—in other words, some species of party organization and action. It has been so everywhere since the overthrow of centralized and arbitrary authority in public offices. It will be so until the world in course of political degeneracy or evolution shall come round again to dictatorship, kingship, or by whatever name you may style the all-powerful man."

When "the all-powerful man" of which he speaks was a dictator he was so only because the people had fallen into the habit of granting to him the individual power. As soon as they discovered that he was using that power arbitrarily against the interests of the many he was shorn of it. The institution of absolute monarchy was changed or modified.

They mistakenly delegate the power inherent in themselves to this individual and suffered by it. When they saw their mistake they quit. Ever since then people have delegated the power inherent in the whole body to what we call political organizations and those organizations have administered that power in the interest of the classes instead of all, just as the monarch arbitrarily used it.

When the people were divorced from the idea of the monarch they refused longer to delegate that power to him and kept it to themselves.

As soon as the American people are divorced from the idea of political organization they will refuse to delegate power to an organization which they can more equitably exert themselves.

If, under our system, all power is inherent in the people, why is it absolutely necessary to create an instrument through which that power may be expressed instead of exercising it directly, especially so when it finds that the instrument fails to exercise it in conformity with the will of the conferee?

Just this has brought about the direct primary. It supplies the machinery through which the individual can exercise inherent power without delegating it to any other individual or organization.

The primary system is a political party destroyer. No organization can be maintained under it, because the way is made for the individual to exercise directly the power heretofore delegated to the party organization.

Therefore, under the primary system there is no more need for party organization than there is for seven wheels on a lumber wagon.

If it is to be a government by the people for the people, who has a better right to determine the kind of government than the individual?

If the exercise of power is to be in the interest of all, equitable and just, why necessary to create anything to stand between the individual and the government.

The primary system will make officials responsible to the whole instead of to party; there will be no longer any spoils system.

Man has been always inclined to worship his creator. It is as true in politics as in religion. Officials created by the people will serve them; when created by a party they have served it.

Party service instead of public service has all but destroyed the American system. The system is being changed now and brought into conformity with modern demands. There will be no further use for party organization. But it will take some time yet for institutional worshippers to become aware of it.

It takes time to educate people away from old customs. They are slow to adopt new methods for old ones even long after the old have proven inefficacious.

The councilmanic system is entirely inadequate in this age of public utility relations to municipal government. It was never built to meet such, because when it was devised such had never yet entered into consideration. The commission form was created to meet these new conditions and is capable of so doing admirably when relieved of all the incumbrances of councilmanic government. The trouble is that the people are fearful of laying entirely down old forms and constructing the new especially to meet modern demands without regard to the old. That alone is responsible for badly constructed new commission systems.

They have too much of the old luggage to carry.

How cautiously the people have approached the primary system. It was a new thing and was about to take the place of an old and sacred institution, the convention. Politicians and many well-meaning persons shuddered at the thought. But in action it is getting the desired results. True, it is absolutely destroying party organizations, but that is what is needed. After while the people will see the absurdity of holding party primaries, because the parties will be no more. Then they will adopt what should have been in the first instance, a general primary.

As long as conventions adopted platforms and nominated candidates party organization was necessary to elect them, but since, under the primary system, every man must stand on his own merits and announce the policies of government he proposes to administer, submitting his case to the individuals of society only, and standing responsible only to the majority will as expressed at the polls, there is small need for party organization.

Party organization is forceful in establishing an issue against the will of the majority, but it is useless as an instrument through which the majority will may be expressed.

The great break in the republican party today comes from the party organization attempting to force a stand-pat issue in spite of an overwhelming progressive sentiment in the party.

Party organization is not necessary to maintain administration in line with popular will. In fact, it is a menace to popular government.

After while the people will come to see that.

There should be an official plat made of the land in the Rogue river valley showing depth of soil, adaptability of specific tracts to profitable crops, what land is adapted to fruit culture and what is not. This plat should be an official document and be made of record at the county court houses, so that strangers coming into the communities may be protected against land grafters. No community can be made to permanently prosper by planting orchards on hardpan and selling them to the unsophisticated stranger as good land and orchard values. The sooner such practices are made impossible the sooner will the valley begin and continue to prosper. No community can afford to allow land grafters to rob people coming here in good faith with money to invest. The Rogue river valley is one of the best orchard districts in America. There is good land and bad land in it; fruit land and land not at all adapted to fruit culture. Nothing is added to the wealth of the community by planting orchards on land not adapted to it, raising the trees to two or three years old and unloading them on people not familiar with this locality, only to sour-sap and die before they bear. Such land should settle back to the uses for which it is adapted and the prices should be forced back to what its production will justify. When that is done the valley will develop faster and the development will be permanent and profitable. People living here should force this issue. It is the big issue in this valley. An absolute ban should be put upon land grafting in the interest of all.

There has been a great deal said about the danger of government ownership on account of the horde of office-holders it will create, thus making it possible for the ins to keep themselves in ad infinitum. Under our theory of government an official is a public servant rather than a ruler. If every public servant became automatically disfranchised as soon as he took the oath of office, and his citizenship was re-established when his official tenure expired, that danger would be eliminated. The outs, then, would do the voting and the government would be administered in their interest instead of that of the office-holder. Is there any good reason why that doctrine should not be incorporated into law?

The world owes you nothing. You owe the world the honest measure of a man's service. That, and nothing more. Do your part honestly and fervently. Look not to the consequences, nor to the opinions of men. The work will tell for itself. See that your course is directed along right lines. And remember, always, the world is filled with men of many minds. The work of others is not your work. Think right, act right, and proceed without fear. It is not yours to please, but to do.

Unless Mr. Taft and the colonel make up pretty soon, we shall have to serve their meals in their own rooms when they come to visit us, as we can't have the peace of the dining room broken this way.

**BOOSTING ROME.**

Just think, Rome, ancient and famous Rome, has decided that she must do something to attract capital, industries and population. Like any ordinary town on a new railroad in the west, they will doubtless have the Roman chamber of commerce—yes, and the Roman boosters.

The trouble with Rome is that neither good nor other building materials are found in its neighborhood. Result, high cost of living, stagnation and hard times for its 530,000 people.

The only real good asset is the tourist, and just when he is most needed he doesn't come.

What's to be done? Why, Rome is to be made a seaport. Deep water is seventeen miles away, and the Tiber is no good except for poets. There is to be a big canal, and then gigantic basins and docks. This means cheap foodstuffs and building materials, to be followed by industries and commerce.

The generation that does it will rank with the generations that built the Coliseum and St. Peter's. Keep you eye on Rome.

**LOADING UP THE FUTURE.**

London wasn't much of a town in the time of Henry VIII, back in the sixteenth century. When the king gave his courier, Richard Page, a slice of land he had taken from one of the abbays, nobody thought it much of a gift. It made a nice little cow pasture, but that was about all it was good for. Even as late as 1825 it was valued at only \$25,000.

King Henry has long since turned to dust, likewise Richard Page. But millions have been born. They swarm daily over that old cow pasture. They have reared great buildings on it. Street railways converge there. The air resounds to the roar of traffic and now the old pasture is valued at \$150,000,000.

Never mind about Richard Page's gift from the king. But did you ever stop to think of the enormous real estate values that yet remain to be created by the unborn millions of the future?

Did you ever stop to think that someone must pay rent, interest and profit on all these values to be? Quite a load for the future!

**THE HOBBLE STREET CAR.**

Women don't vote in New York, but they rule just the same. New street cars have steps only three inches from the ground. Either the women had to discard hobble skirts or the street cars had to be reconstructed for their benefit. The cars surrendered, while the hobble skirt waves triumphant, so to speak.

The optimist doesn't always make good, but he will make good oftener than the pessimist.

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**THE SCHOOL MA'AM.**

The school ma'am is a conscientious individual, who teaches the young idea how to shoot. Once in a while she gets hold of a pupil whose eyesight is so defective that she can't shoot anything but moloz paper wads, which describe a graceful parabola, and spread out on teacher's collar like a bow-legged man in an upper berth. The teacher is supposed to take the mind of youth while it is in a raw state and break it to drive single or double. The hardest task a teacher has to perform is to provide mental pabulum for scholars whose parents forget to endow them with anything in the intellectual line outside of ears and feet. The rural school ma'ams put in longer hours for less pay than anybody in the universe who never strayed into the newspaper profession, with a drum cylinder press and soul full of hope. It is encouraging to reflect that most of our presidents sat under some rural school ma'am with a hard rubber ruler and a plous leaning toward corporal punishment, at one time or another, and had their characters formed along with a number of brisk and bas relief welts. Very few school ma'ams nowadays punctuate their remarks with anything but the power of love, which has about as much effect upon a case-hardened pupil as spraying talcum powder on the mumps. There is plenty of room in this country for the old-fashioned school ma'am, with an arm like a premium ham, who used to reach over into the third row of seats and land the school bully on a hardwood floor with a jolt that caused him to see the nebular hypothesis for a week. People whose children never pluck any prizes to speak of, have a very low idea of school ma'ams in general, but if it were not for our school ma'ams most of us couldn't tell a cube root from any other vegetable.

Judge Colvig, president of the Medford Commercial Club, is touring the state to secure signatures to the good roads home rule measure.

"Everybody's doin' it." Send your social news to Miss Hawley. Phone 3-9.

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You will save 25 to 35 cents on these Gowns and Skirts if you buy this week. We've placed on sale about a hundred of these garments. They are made up of fine cambric muslin, some trimmed with embroidery, others lace, high and low necks. The usual prices of these night gowns and skirts are \$1.25 and \$1.35. This week at \$1.00.

## Ladies' Black Embroidered Stockings

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An unusual offer. Fine black lisle silk embroidered Stockings, worked up in different designs and colors, sizes 8½, 9, 9½ and 10. These stockings formerly retailed at 50c and 75c. Choice this week 39c.

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These suits are made up of stripe madras in various colors and styles, neatly trimmed, in sizes 2½ to 10 years.

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The Store with a Rest Room

# VAUPEL'S

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