

# Ashland Tidings

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Ashland, Ore., Thursday, June 20, '12

### ELECTRIC LIGHTS.

Some folks are very, very foxy. Since the city council passed a resolution to pay the electric light plant a reasonable sum for the current consumed in lighting the streets the Siskiyou company comes forward and offers to furnish the juice for about half that price. Why didn't the Siskiyou company think of that sooner? Before the city plant was installed if that company had reduced its price for service, as it now proposes to do, instead of increasing it 40 per cent over the then high rate, as it did do, there might have been some sense to it, and it might have overcome the demand for local competition in the form of a municipal plant.

The Siskiyou company's proposition is not in good faith. It does not desire that the municipal plant be made to pay. It wants the credit given the municipal plant so reduced that it will be made to appear to lose money, in the hope of eventually discharging the people and influencing them to discontinue the city plant.

Mr. Siskiyou Company, you are on the wrong track. The municipal plant is here to stay. If for no other reason, to keep your rates within bounds.

If the city plant produced nothing it would still be a money-making proposition to keep it running in order to keep your company from holding up the people, as it attempted to do just before the municipal plant was installed.

### "COMMON CLAY."

It is said that a number of the richest and noblest lords and dukes of England are annoyed at the recent conspicuous publication of the facts about their ancestors, who are not very remote, and who were mighty poor and humble yeomen, mechanics and petty tradesmen.

It does take the edge off of 'em a bit, but it is encouraging for the rest of us. It is lucky indeed that there is only one kind of clay, and that anything that ranks above is the production of education, environment, development.

Take two babies born today. The tenement baby has all the potentialities that are wrapped up in the baby born in the home of wealth. They are made of the same stuff. One is as good as the other. The trouble is that they don't have an equal chance.

It is the business of civilization to see that we shall make the most of our common clay—all of it—and slowly, gradually, through the unfolding years, we shall find the way to do it.

Common clay is the material from which we mold all shapes of beauty and of light in the world of humanity.

### MOTHER OF BIG MONEY.

New York state is collecting big money by means of its inheritance tax and it is interesting to see how the very great fortunes were acquired, every one of them growing out of conditions that did not exist a century ago. For instance, the biggest fortunes were made in railroads; the next biggest in gas, electric light and other public utilities, and the only manufacturers who piled up multi-millions were those engaged in mergers of trusts. Fortunes of merchants and landlords were comparatively small. Joseph Pulitzer's fortune is at least \$40,000,000 and possibly half as much again was made in metropolitan journalism. That was exceptional. If you had to name the mother of these big fortunes in a word you would say Monopoly.

Character is a fear destroyer. Guilt grows fear. Fear comes quick and overwhelms the public man conscious that his ulterior purpose hides behind but a show of public service. Character seeks light. Guilt covers at the first intimation of publicity.

### HISTORY OF A DELUSION.

Do you remember Peffer of Kansas? If you do, probably you recall nothing except his whiskers, which waved hilariously in thousands of cartoons from the moment he came to prominence in the politics of his state to the moment of his retirement from the United States senate.

Peffer at 82 is in a hospital at Topeka, minus a leg to avert death from bone infection. He submitted to the amputation of the left leg, and this was only another sacrifice for the cause he holds dear—the populist cause.

You see, he was in the midst of an elaborate article, "The Rise and Fall of the Farmers' Alliance," and was bound to finish it "if it takes a leg," which it actually did.

Young citizens may be interested to know what that wild-eyed populist movement of twenty odd years ago was all about. Well, they fought for a lot of hairbrained radical ideas. Here are some of them: Direct primaries law, public utilities commission, direct vote for United States senators, prohibition of railroad rebates and discriminations, initiative and referendum, recall of judicial decisions.

Were those populists insane? No. Just dreamers who talked about "the rule of the people." They were laughed off the face of the earth.

Of course, it was easy to answer them. All you had to do was to point at Peffer's whiskers! Could you imagine anything more conclusive in the way of an intellectual clincher? Hardly. But even in his old age Peffer clings to these delusions and thinks them worth writing about. But what can you expect of him? Look at his whiskers!

### THE BLIND WHO SEE.

General William Booth, the venerable head of the Salvation Army, is declared by his physicians to be hopelessly blind. We think that they put it wrongly. Booth is not hopelessly blind. He has but lost his eyesight.

Blindness is the most terrible of all man's physical afflictions, ordinarily, but it is not so in the case of this man.

Booth has spent the larger part of his lifetime and nearly ninety years in trying to do good to others. He has not needed eyes to see where help was needed. Eyesight has not determined how to help. Luxury, worldly ambition, have passed by unseen by him, for his sight was wholly spiritual.

In our mental musings, in our dreams, in our best ambitions, we have vision without the aid of eyes. The spiritual sight is strong and never hopeless. To Booth the material things of this earth have long been dim and to him whose existence has been so strongly spiritual the total eclipse of physical vision cannot mean much of a change. "Hopelessly blind?" Nay, the good old man is one of the blind who really see!

### BRYAN.

Sixteen years ago he leaped into national prominence with a speech which carried the deep insurgency of the hour. He led, not once but thrice, to glorious defeat. Each time he was followed by the minds, the hearts and the votes of millions of his countrymen.

Today he is but 52, which is early noontide in the day of intellect, of politics, of statecraft.

It is marvelous that a man who leads only to defeat could retain his hold upon the minds and the imagination of men over so long a period. The explanation lies neither in his eloquence nor in his political principles, whatever may be said of the quality of the one or the soundness of the other. The explanation of Bryan is character—integrity, sincerity, fidelity, courage.

True moral grandeur is so rare, especially among politicians, that the world takes off its hat whenever it appears.

### REAL UNKIND.

It is amusing to note that the matter most worrying the bankers in the so-called money trust investigation, is probable disclosure of the names of stockholders and directors borrowing from their own institutions and the character of the securities put up for such loans.

Of course, the courteous, genial, kindly way to deal with the bankers is to merely publish a list of the officials after a sort of "who's who" fashion. To dig down into the use of money of banks for uplift of bank officers and stockholders is downright muckraking and no wonder the bankers squeal. What's the use in starting a bank if you can't borrow the depositors' money without public exposure of the securities you put up and pass upon?

### LO, THE POOR WHITE MAN.

It seems the American Indian has decided not to die out, a decision that amounts to almost a breach of faith with our white civilization.

We supposed, of course, that the "Red man" was going, but in 1900 there were 248,253 of him and in 1910, b'gosh, he turns up with 265,683. After we have kindly relieved him of his ancient hunting grounds and even of the graves of his ancestors, and enforced a "move-on ordinance" for about two centuries.

It's another instance of the pernicious influence of Teddy Roosevelt. Those Indians have been reading his speeches about race suicide. As they have 50.9 per cent of males to 49.1 per cent of females, they are likely to keep right on multiplying.

In a few thousand years they may be moving their white benefactors back to Europe.

### THE SHACKLED UNIVERSITY.

The big business men of the United States saw from afar the struggle now in progress between the right of property and the rights of men.

They went shrewdly to work to control the educated men of the day in which the battle would be fought. The method was to pile their money into colleges and universities and thus to color the thought and mold the philosophy of the future.

The consequence is that a struggle must be made to free the university from the influence of money. The remedy is public education at public expense for public benefit. And the first condition of success for this movement is a state of public opinion that scorns the boughten college with all its boughten facts and theories.

It is time to begin in earnest.

### BROW-BEATING UNCLE.

Note how they brow beat your Uncle Sam. Uncle is trying to dissolve the sugar trust. President Morey of the Great Western Sugar Company testifies that the refineries are refusing sugar beets because of the suit and will build no more factories until things are right, which means until the trust's right to squeeze both consumer and producer is undisputed.

The producer's beets must, therefore, spoil while the courts slowly grind. Now, what would almost any nation on earth, save ours, do under such conditions? Put up national refineries and save those beets. That's what! But our private business interests are too powerful to allow that.

The great woman suffrage parade which took place in New York on May 4 will go down in history as one of the most representative and democratic demonstrations this country has ever known. Thousands upon thousands of women of every class and occupation—multi-millionaires, college professors, doctors, lawyers, authors, artists, nurses, stenographers, dressmakers, cooks, laundresses—marched shoulder to shoulder, united by their common cause, with a dignity and seriousness of purpose born of profound faith in a great principle. At the close of the parade a mass meeting was held in Carnegie hall, at which \$2,500 was collected. The Men's Equal Suffrage League of New York, which formed a conspicuous part of the parade, numbers among its members some of the most prominent men of the state, including politicians, lawyers, college professors, philanthropists, clergymen, editors and financiers. It has located branches in Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Albany and other cities, and has been carrying on active organization for the last two years.

Success does not begin and end with the dollar mark. He is a pitiable failure who barter away a clean conscience that he may for a while accumulate a few dollars; for the great and enduring success is the keeping of a good name, a clear conscience and a lofty and unswerving character amid all circumstances and despite all the allurements and temptations of commercial and political life. There can be no enduring success without character. Success without it is but a gilded bauble, which tarnishes with the coming of the light.

You are entitled in the world to an equal opportunity. Everything else that comes to you will be through your own efforts. It is a world of contest and friction. Use polishes the instrument; disuse rusts it.

The Rogue river valley needs to fix values on a fair and equitable basis, then prosperity will follow development.

The Rogue river valley needs less speculation and more development.

### OUR PARTNERS IN TOWN BUSINESS.

Ashland is a partnership. All of us here are in business together. We have our own individual ownership of property, but our prosperity as a whole is very closely bound up with each other.

If you have a house to rent, goods to sell, labor to sell, your success in getting a good price for such services depends wholly on the prosperity of your neighbors. If they are doing a good business they will pay you good prices, and as times go the prices paid will tend to increase from year to year.

On the other hand, if your neighbors are not prosperous, they will haggle over the last cent for your house, your goods, your labor, and the prices for these services will tend to fall.

When you buy goods away from home you work to reduce the prosperity of your neighbors, making them both less able and less willing to do anything to advance your prosperity. When you buy goods at home you increase the prosperity of your neighbors and they become better able to advance your interests and entertain a kindly feeling toward you that makes them want to do so.

It would be interesting to trace in detail some time the actual result of buying goods at home that you previously bought somewhere outside. Suppose your wife orders a \$25 bill of clothing at A's dry goods store, instead of buying it on some trip to another city. The merchant of course has to send a large portion of that \$25 out of town to pay the jobber for the goods. But a large share of the expense of any business is in labor, rent, taxes, etc., spent at home. It would not surprise us if \$10 of that \$25 stuck right at home. In some lines more than that would do so.

This portion that remains at home spreads out in a circle of usefulness. In this case it would pay the wages of a clerk for a week, enable the clerk to pay house rent for two or three weeks, permit the landlord to pay the carpenter to put his property in better repair, allow the carpenter to pay interest on his mortgage at the bank, help the bank to lend money to a mechanic to build a new house, and so on. Think it over!

### THE CHORUS GIRL.

The chorus girl is a movable adjunct to the modern stage, who makes nine changes of toilet in the first act, without missing a hook or eye. Chorus girls make ideal wives, as they never keep a man waiting out in the touring car until he can feel the chillblains taking possession of his person. In order to be a successful chorus girl, one must have a figure which cannot be confused with a stand-pipe. The rest can be acquired. Several of our leading chorus girls have abandoned the stage, at the request of men who wanted to get rid of their small change, minus a modest alimony, and none of these gentlemen has been surfeited with ennui or pocket money since. The chief occupation of the chorus girl is shooting happy boys away from the stage entrance, which they infest in silk hats and palpitation of the heart. She is also kept busy being photographed for the Sunday papers in her stage complexion. It takes a chorus girl some time to adjust her complexion so that she won't look like the highlight on an interurban car as she generally carries it around in her trunk. Some chorus girls use a complexion which would trip a fire alarm, while others affect the genteel pallor of a man who is awakened by the noise in the cellar. There is no more popular institution on the stage than the chorus girl whose beauty has not begun to waver off, and she is the recipient of many encomiums and oral offerings from elderly gentlemen, whose hair has gone where the woodbine twined. The life of a chorus girl is full of offers of marriage, and rehearsals, during which the stage manager indulges in a very low order of remarks relative to the decline of skirt dancing and the inviting qualities of a brimstone future. She isn't half so bad as she is painted, and without her first seven rows of the orchestra circle would be as empty as a bathing beach in January.

### ARMY BILL VETOED.

President Assigns Reasons for Rejecting Measure.

Washington, D. C.—President Taft on Monday sent to congress a veto of the army appropriation bill.

Among the reasons given by the president for his veto are: That the army bill contained a body of legislation which would substantially reorganize and change the existing army establishment.

That the bill would render ineligible after March 5, 1913, for service in the most important position of the army the chief of staff and many others of the most efficient officers of the army.

He said that in cases of urgency, when the president and congress were agreed, legislation had been included in appropriation bills, but no condition of urgency is here disclosed, nor can it be claimed that there is any reason for attaching the present legislation to this bill.

"Taken as a whole," the president said, "it would be hard to conceive of a clearer instance of an attempt to force upon the executive legislation well known to be disapproved by him. There can be no constitutional defense for such a practice."

### To Indict Johnson.

Chicago.—A federal grand jury will be asked to return an indictment against Champion Jack Johnson, on a charge of smuggling. A midnight raid on Johnson's home several weeks ago by federal authorities resulted in the finding of a necklace valued at \$3,000 which the pugilist is said to have smuggled into this country.

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### THE BALLOT FOR WOMEN.

Mrs. Meikle Gives Arguments in Favor of Suffrage.

What does voting mean to a woman? Does she sacrifice any dignity by going to the polls? The woman who votes only avails herself of a rightful privilege that democracy has gained for her. No longer a mere household chattel, she is recognized as man's fellow worker and helpmate, and credited with public spirit and intelligence. As a mother she has a special interest in the legislation of her country, for upon it depends the welfare of her children. She knows what is good for them just as much as the father, and the unselfishness of maternity should make her interest ever keener. She should deem it one of the grandest privileges of her sex that she can now help to choose the men who will make the laws under which her children must live, and exert her purer influence upon the political atmosphere of her time. How can she sacrifice any dignity by putting on her bonnet and walking down to the polling booth? Woman thinks nothing of transacting ordinary commercial business, of working alongside men, of playing her part in the practical business of life.

They do not mind going to the box office of a theatre to purchase tickets for the play. There is very little difference between doing that and putting their vote in a ballot box. The men about the booths show them every courtesy, the officials are anxious to make things easy for them, and the whole business of voting does not occupy more than five minutes. The woman who thinks she is making herself unwomanly when she has a vote and won't use it is a silly creature.

There are no duties or obligations attached to our American franchise that women are not capable of performing. For citizenship they possess all the patriotism, virtue and intelligence that the law requires, and a great deal more. Who, especially, are the women who demand for themselves and their sex this political equality? From my own observation, they are those whose standards of intelligence, morality and social position are the very highest.

They are foremost in every good work for God and country, to help the orphan and widow, to aid the poor and comfort the sick. You will find such noble women, wives, mothers, daughters in all our cities and towns, united and unceasing in their efforts for temperance, public decency and morality.

I believe that the doors of political freedom and equality, at which they are knocking louder and louder, should be opened to them. And why? In order that their special knowledge and experience in regard to their own sex and in regard to children may influence legislation for the physical, moral and social protection of girls, rich as well as poor, and for guarding the child's natural home from evils that carry with them criminal poverty and disease.

The opposition to equal suffrage is a matter of course. All great social

and political reforms, as well as religious ones, have always been resisted by prejudice, customs and the old cry, "Inopportune." So it is with this. It is a battle—reason and justice opposed by senseless fears and selfish motives. The cause is just. It has been defeated but never conquered, and in November it will be victorious.

MRS. JAMES F. MEIKLE.

### To Study Labor Conditions.

Ottawa, Ontario.—Hon T. W. Crothers, minister of labor, has left for an extensive trip through western Canada, for the purpose of investigating labor conditions in that section. Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Edmonton, Calgary, Vancouver, Rossland and other important industrial centers will be visited.

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