

# Ashland Tidings

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### DIRECT ACTION.

Agitator Ector, in jail at Lawrence, Mass, charged with accessory before the fact to murder for inciting the strikers to riot, in an interview with a special correspondent to The Outlook had this to say on the political game:

"They tell us to get what we want by the ballot. They want us to play the game according to the established rules. But the rules were made by the capitalists. They have laid down the laws of the game. They hold the pick of the cards. We never can win by political methods. The right of suffrage is the greatest hoax of history. Direct action is the only way."

That is a fair expression of the position of the Industrial Workers of the World. There is a half truth in what Ector says of the political game. But we part company with him on his opinion of suffrage. If the rules of the game have been laid down by the capitalists it is only because the great body of American citizens have failed to exercise their electoral privilege intelligently. The election laws of this country are such that every citizen can exercise his judgment at the polls with the same force as any other citizen. If he is unable to do so in practice the fault is outside the law. If we admit half of his contention as true—the stacking of the cards—is it established by custom, not by law, and remedy lies within the law. The abuse grows not out of the election laws, but rather out of the rules of party organization. Whatever advantage the capitalist has gained has been through party manipulation. No one questions the charge that party organization is corrupt. No one questions but that nominations have been so manipulated through party organization that when it came to a general election the voter was left to a free expression which was in fact no expression at all. He cast his vote without let or hindrance for the candidate of his party, and whichever way the election turned, the capitalist won. Not because there was no proper remedy at law, but because the individual voters were so divided against their best interests by blind party service that the cards were stacked through party manipulation, in the nomination of candidates out of harmony with their principles.

We will go further. We will agree that "direct action is the only way." Direct action through politics under the law. The fault lies in the indication of our political action through party organization. The dictum of the organization has been allowed to displace the individual judgment of the elector. Thus the party is the medium through which "capitalism" has stacked the cards. Controlling party organization, it controls all.

There has been a great struggle in American politics for fifteen years. It has been a struggle between the people and "capitalism" for control of the party organizations. The struggle has been mostly under the old system of party conventions and the people have generally failed. The primary system has now been tried far enough to demonstrate that it produces a fair expression of popular sentiment, and is not susceptible to absolute control by party bosses. It has demonstrated very plainly one other thing. Whenever an expression has been recorded through the primary it has been a decidedly progressive sentiment—that is progressive as the term is used in contradistinction to standpointism—and the gist of the progressive sentiment is the same in the democratic, socialist and republican parties, insofar as it relates to governmental control, that is, the right of the people to control their government and governmental agents.

"Direct action" is guaranteed through the primary in practice. So far it is handicapped by party primaries, but as its operation progresses, it will be seen that a party primary is, in fact, a party organization destroyer. When the primary system has come into general use in every state the matter of keeping together a party organization will be out of the question. Then the uselessness of party primaries will be recognized and a general primary system will take its place. By that means the way will be made clear for the people to win by political methods and Mr. Ector will discover that the right of suffrage, instead of being what he now thinks it is, "the greatest hoax of history," will prove the most beneficent and rational plan by which the people are enabled to control their government, that has ever been devised in the economy of nations.

Moreover, party prejudice will be melted in that crucible and go out with the dross. Men will be no longer held against their individual political judgment by the bugbear of party regularity. Each citizen will be able to exercise his judgment freely without fear of having a charge of disloyalty urged against him by some favor-fattened ward heeler who has no better knowledge of vital principles than a Poland China hog has of the English language.

When every national issue is forced to stand on its merits, no longer bolstered by party authority, false issues raised to overshadow vital ones will mostly disappear, and the expressions of government will be more in line with common justice.

### THE CHILD-MIND.

Won't it be a strange thing if, presently, science demonstrates to us that "The Kingdom of Heaven" is within us?

You know it says somewhere else in the Book, "Except ye become as little children ye shall not enter the kingdom" and often on the lips of the dead there is a smile, beautiful and wonderful, as if they had entered upon a rich inheritance, attained some rare joy after weary seeking, or solved the riddle of existence. But a greater marvel than this is to meet, as we do once in a while, one who goes about his daily duty with this same heavenly smile, this same serene certainty that "all's well."

Such a one, whether man or woman, invariably proves on acquaintance to regard the here and the hereafter with the child-mind. He may be vastly learned (usually is), or otherwise, young or old, high or low, rich or poor, but you will certainly find him direct in method, simple, intense, busy, faithful, full of moods and tempers—that is, tempestuous and serene by turns, but wonderfully sane and wholesome—and above all else, eager in all undertakings, whole-souled, enthusiastic.

Have you ever noticed, with a child, how his treasures of today are his trash of tomorrow? He will take anything at hand, and out of the treasure-house of his imagination clothe it with whatever he requires. If he plays with the same thing again, it must have an entire new outfitting, or he loses all interest in it.

The always-happy people are like that. Each day's work, every new problem that confronts them, is a new "play" in the general scheme of "getting growed," and the blessedness in which they dwell, and which overflows onto all who come in contact with them, is far ahead of any heaven we're certain of, or it would seem a matter very well worth while for science to concern itself with. Still says, in his "Fool's Prayer":

"This not by guilt the onward sweep Of Truth and Right, O Lord, we pray;  
Tis by our follies that so long We hold the earth from haven away."  
Won't it be wonderful if we find that all this world-sorrow most of us strive so much about consists entirely of the habit of shutting our eyes tight, turning our backs to the light, and then crying because we're afraid of the dark!

The Mail-Tribune prints a comparative annual statement of the school boards of Ashland and Medford on its editorial page, showing that Ashland is way ahead of that town in management and results. Bonds were issued by both districts to cover the cost of new buildings. There is little difference between the service in the two districts, about the same number of rooms, of teachers and equipment. Yet Ashland has no floating debt and over \$13,000 in cash on hand. At the same time Medford has but \$858 in cash and has a floating debt of over \$47,000. The Tribune calls for an official explanation. That's easy. It is just the difference between the Ashland conservative, result-getting kind of management and the Medford hot air kind.

Lewiston, Idaho, is considering the proposal to build a \$50,000 bridge across the Clearwater river.

Celebrate the Fourth in Ashland.

### PHYSICAL VALUE OF RAILROADS

Four years ago the Interstate Commerce Commission appealed to congress for a physical value of railroad properties. The commission found it impossible to arrive at a just basis for rate fixing without knowing the amount of capital invested in the enterprise as well as the cost of operation. For some reason not satisfactorily explained congress failed to grant the request.

Under our constitution arbitrary rate fixing which amounts to confiscation is not permissible, and justly so. But, where does the rate cease to be reasonable and become confiscatory? That is the question to be settled before the purpose of the interstate commission can be rightly fulfilled.

The railroads took the ground that the value of railroad property should be determined by the amount of stocks and bonds out against it. The people believed that a large part of that was fictitious and in no sense represented the true value of the property. The demand was for rates which would allow a reasonable return on the actual investment without considering the book value of properties.

That can be accomplished only by a true official physical value, and that should be arrived at by a disinterested commission.

The reasons why congress failed to provide for the physical valuation, as requested by its commission, is not in evidence. There are those who believe that railroad influence working through congress defeated it, and that the railroad opposition came from the fear that a disclosure of the true physical value as related to the book value would result in demand for reorganization, upon true value, without water, and put the courts in a position to determine what was a reasonable rate based upon such value.

This consideration has had large influence in augmenting the present ferment in American politics. The demand is growing insistent for members of congress truly representative of the people's interest. This sentiment is now too strong to remain leashed within party bounds. It has broken up through the bottom of the political structure and the spiked flail of partisanship is too weak to drive it back.

The demand comes from no less authority than the Interstate Commerce Commission of the United States. Physical valuation of railroad properties is a fixed demand of both La Follette republicans and Bryan-Wilson democrats.

But what if a true valuation of railroads should disclose that the bonded indebtedness of the property was equal to or amounted to more than the true value? What then would become of the valueless paper stock through which the properties are now kept under control by railroad stock manipulators?

### OHIO'S CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

Strange is the irony of fate, and a rare example is found in the calling together and the work of this convention. There was no special demand on the part of the people of Ohio for the calling of the convention. The pioneer in agitating the subject was the Ohio Board of Trade, and its chief object was to secure the right of classification of property for taxation. It not only failed to get what it wanted, but it lost what it had won in the amendment of 1903 when the convention replaced bonds on the tax duplicate.

Next to the commercial interests came the liquor interests. Seeing that a convention was to be called, they entered the arena with the object of securing a license system in Ohio. They succeeded in making this the most mooted issue in the campaign. Nearly every candidate had to declare himself "wet" or "dry." Behold the result! The liquor people get their coveted license, but with such restrictions as to give them far less liberty than they now have.

Lastly came the initiative and referendum advocates, mere opportunists. Few in number, they had long hope of winning their point, perhaps, within a score of years. When it was decided to call this convention they saw their unexpected opportunity and began a vigorous campaign. Rapidly they won converts and succeeded in making their hobby the issue of the campaign, next to the liquor question. In the end they won more than the commercial or liquor interests, but fell far short of their ideal.

The great work of the convention was along lines not contemplated in the campaign nor discussed among the people, such as the changes in the judiciary and in the government of cities. The general belief is that a large majority of the proposals will be adopted by the people, and if so they will practically amount to a new constitution—a far better one than that under which the state is now governed.—From "Making a New Constitution for Ohio," by Henry W. Elson, in the American Review of Reviews for July.

### The Home Circle

Thoughts from the Editorial Pen

#### Our Schools.

While the Tidings has always been a warm friend to the schools of Ashland, it intends to take a deeper interest in them during the ensuing year. We believe it is the duty of every citizen to take a live interest in our schools. During the years that are past, scores of diplomas have been handed out as class after class of our young people have stepped out of school's life into life's school. Would that we could in this issue of the Tidings place before its readers the familiar face of each and every one, but such is among the impossibilities, for Grim Death, on his white horse, has thinned the ranks, and as "Death loves a shining mark," many of the most promising fell before reaching the noon-day of life, but we can assist in keeping green their memories. Our school home! What words fall upon the ear with so much music in their cadence as those which recall the scenes of school days now numbered among the memories of the past. Intervening years have not dimmed the vivid colorings with which memory has adorned those joyous days. While we all graduate in much the same manner, now different has the wheel of fortune turned. Some with plaintive tongues have had to walk in lowly vales of life's weary way, others in loftier hymns have sung of nothing but joy, as they have trodden the mountain top; but no matter how near the summit or base of the mountain of fame you will meet with a graduate from our schools, you meet with one who is a credit to society. "As the twig is bent, so is the tree inclined," and habits were formed under the moulding power of a moral atmosphere which seems to permeate the schools of Ashland, which stay by one through life. Our school life is indeed the golden link that binds youth to age, and he is still but a child, however time may have furrowed his cheek or silvered his brow who can yet recall, with a softening heart, the happy school days passed in this city.

#### Fourth of July.

Let every reader of this column plan for a jolly time on the Fourth. We live too fast in America. We have not enough holidays—not enough resting places—not enough intermission in our work-day world. It were better oftener to have laid aside its tools—traffic and trade stopped, now and then, and to consider its aim and end.

There must be an oasis in every desert. The black Sierras has its sunlit valleys. There are smiling nooks even among the Cordilleras. Halting places they are, great rocks and their shadows, even in the dreariest land. He who builds up a shelter for the storm-beaten and foot-weary pilgrim over the road traced by the "great caravan" is a benefactor to his race and his memories should be cherished while holidays are observed.

Holiday time! Who would care to know why and whence came the custom? Enough to know that care perfume must smooth his wrinkled front, and fun and frolic for the time rule the hour. It were folly not to enjoy the glimpses of sunshine that come through the cloud rifts, short lived and evanescent though they be. They prove that there is brightness beyond—that no clouds are so dense but stray beams may penetrate them. Rosy faces, wreathed and joyous, welcome the festive season. With its admonitions, its reminders, its regrets and its hopes, comes the happy holiday. It is well that the ancient builders set up mile posts on the highway of time, else it were a dull and tiresome road.

#### Don'ts for Wives.

The leader of Rockefeller's church at Cleveland, Ohio, recently took the above heading for his text, and he asked his hearers to put the following ten don'ts up in their wives' mirrors:

1. Don't marry a man for a living, but for love. Manhood without money is better than money without manhood.
2. Don't overdress nor underdress; common sense is sometimes better than style.
3. A wife with a hobble skirt and a husband with patched trousers make a poor pair. A woman can throw more out of a window with a spoon than a man can put into the cellar with a shovel.
4. Don't think that the way to run a house is to run away from it. It is wrong to go around lecturing other women on how to bring up children, while you are neglecting your own.
5. Don't tell your troubles to your neighbors. They have enough of their own. Fight it out with yourself if it takes all summer.
6. Don't nag. The saloonkeeper is always glad to welcome your husband with a smile.
7. Don't try to get more out of a looking-glass than you put into it. Nature's sunshine is better for a woman's beauty than man's powders and paints.
8. Don't make gamblers and drunkards of your children by running whist parties for prizes and serving punch with a stick in it.
9. Don't forget to tell the truth, especially to the conductor about the age of your child; honesty is worth more to you and them than a nickel. A boy who is 8 years old at home and 6 on the cars will soon learn other things that are not so.
10. Don't forget that home is a woman's kingdom, where she reigns as queen. To a mother of a Lincoln, a Garfield, or a McKinley, is to be the mother of a prince.

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### PITTSBURGH.

The city of Pittsburgh was named in honor of the eminent English statesman, William Pitt, who, it will be remembered, stood up and fought King George III to the ropes when that sovereign expressed a polite desire to insert a ring in the nose of the freeborn American citizen. Owing to the presence of a defective flue in his bronchial tubing, Pitt never got any closer to Pittsburgh than the Tower of London, but his friends reported that the Pittsburgh fog made the London fog look like a new brand of smokeless powder. Pittsburgh was discovered by La Salle, who raised the French flag on the Davis dam and attached his name to all of the streets and hotels of the country that would stand for it. When Pittsburgh was discovered it enjoyed an airtight monopoly on the natural gas supply of the nation, but it has lost much of its prestige on account of the sharp competition of the Congressional Record and the Chautauqua circuit. Pittsburgh mines a great deal of hard coal at \$1 per ton, but as most of this coal is shipped as perishable matter at letter postage rates, it sets the consumer back twenty times that modest sum before it hits the cellar floor. The Pittsburgh oil fields were invented by Andrew Carnegie, who afterward patented the steel trust, some of whose patents are about to expire with a loud noise. Andrew built up a good business, shed honor and free public libraries upon the body politic and finally retired, taking with him the encomiums of a grateful people and most of the ready cash of the country. He now has quite a little money loaned out on real estate and pipe organs and has not been obliged to do any work for a number of years. Pittsburgh is surrounded by two novel rivers and the protective tariff, and is thus enabled to cure most of her own ice and cut quite a little in Washington.

### WEST CHANGES RESIDENCE.

Humble Home Has Been Subject of Magazine Articles.

The palatial (?) mansion in which Governor West resided for a number of years is no longer the chief executive's home. He has given up the house which has become famous for its modesty and commonplace appearance notwithstanding it having been the home of the chief's executive.

Governor West now lives in a pretty new cottage recently erected on the northeast corner of the intersection of High and Center streets. Although a beautiful place, the new home is little more imposing a structure than was the little cottage the governor recently vacated.

Magazines and newspapers ran cuts of the governor's former "mansion," and drew picture and editorial contrasts between the elegant homes of other state governors and the Oregon governor's small place.

A Portland judge says that hereafter any person convicted of cruelty to animals will have to serve a jail sentence.

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