

**Ashland Tidings**

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Ashland, Ore., Thursday, June 19, '13

**THE OYSTERS AND THE TRUST.**

A way to "put one over" on the trusts appears to be to encourage the use of oysters. It has just been announced by the chemistry bureau of the department of agriculture that all American oyster beds are to be investigated, with a view to removing the prejudice against this article of food as subject to contamination.

The oyster is a valuable item in these cost-of-living times. It should not be turned down by the squeamish housewife without just cause. Under modern methods of shipment it should be available in every town in the United States.

There are 60,000 people engaged in the oyster business. Only a small part of the available places for beds are used. Cornering the produce would be about like forming a trust in the cabbage industry. Many of the oyster growers work farming half the year. Combining them to raise prices would be fore than Samson's job of tying the foxes' tails together.

The oyster was long regarded as the poor man's beefsteak. Restaurants that would charge 50 cents for lamb, mutton or beef, and 75 cents for sirloin, would usually give a nutritious oyster stew for 25 cents, though the juicy bivalves must have felt lonesome in some of them. A well-buttered oyster stew has a saline tang as refreshing as a whiff of sea air. Wit hon bones, gristle or refuse fat, the consumer pays only for solid nutriment.

Dr. Carl Alsberg, successor to Dr. Wiley, says the consumer of oysters runs less chance of incurring disease than from raw milk or drinking water. The proposed government inspection should reduce the danger of infection practically to nothing. So here's for oyster stew, when the next month with an R comes along. May the delicious bivalve not swim too solitary in his brimming bowl!

**DAYTON'S COMMISSION CHARTER**

Dayton, Ohio, has just adopted a commission form of government which embraces an entirely new system. It provides that the citizens shall elect a board of five commissioners, reserving to themselves the power of the initiative, referendum and recall. These commissioners are to employ a general manager, dispensing with the mayoralty, and he need not be a resident, but the best man to be found anywhere for the job. He is to be responsible only to the commissioners and the commissioners to the citizens, and will have exclusive authority in the employing and discharging of all persons whatsoever engaged in municipal service.

The commission idea is getting around to about the right place. From a careful study of commission government for the past ten years the writer has concluded that the best administration can be had through one man. The big cause of waste in municipal affairs is brought about largely by the looseness in administrative policies and detail occasioned by the compromise necessary to reach a course where a half dozen or more men have equal power in putting certain administrative policies into action. Good administration will never come from log rolling. Somebody must have power to go ahead without hindrance and put into execution as sound business principles in matters of public concern as are exercised in private matters.

Ashland should have a new charter providing for a one-man administration. Better results can be obtained for fifty per cent of the present cost of administration. The waste comes from attempting to apply old-time methods to new-time conditions. The individual officers are not so much to blame as the old system that ties their hands so that economical administration is impossible.

The United States last year imported 153,000,000 pounds of cocoa, the greatest amount on record.

**WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH ROGUE RIVER VALLEY?**

NOTE—Under this caption the Tidings proposes to publish a series of editorials, discussing the possibilities, the advantages and hindrances to the proper development of this valley.

**General Statement.**

This is a season of unusual depression throughout the United States and the Rogue River Valley is experiencing no harsher effect, probably, than every other section of the country. However, there are good reasons why it should be less felt here than in other sections, and it will be the purpose of these articles to point out why it is too severely felt and to attempt to offer suggestions as to how it may be best overcome.

The general depression comes from two causes. The country is at the end of an unprecedented era of speculation. When the speculative spirit outruns development reaction will follow as surely as the night the day. There will come a season of inactivity followed by depression in values. This effect is the result of a very simple fact. To raise values without development adds no new wealth. Take a vacant town lot, for example: A sells it to B at five hundred dollars. B buys it only for speculation and sells it to C for a thousand dollars, who adds nothing to its value but price when he sells it to D for fifteen hundred dollars. If the lot was originally worth five hundred dollars the added price of one thousand dollars represents the per cent of speculation in the transaction. Considering that a certain legitimate value has been added during the period of these transactions by reason of community growth and development, it still remains that the specific transactions in this lot has added nothing either to the lot or community value. Therefore, the degree of pure inflation caused by this transaction depends upon the relation of the number, or volume of such transactions, to those made for utility only. As long as men can profit by such transactions they will continue, but as soon as prices are forced up to a point where the full development of the property will not yield a net sum equal to the price of money rent, or money interest, profitable transfers in real estate will cease because the same amount of profit cannot be gathered from its utilization as can be gained from money loaning. The extent of depression following depends much upon the relation of property held purely for speculation to that held solely for utility. In other words, a community in which half of the lands are held for speculation will suffer less than one wherein two-thirds of the property is owned by persons who do not personally utilize it. Conversely, a community where all of the property was utilized for homes and was titled by the owner no depression would be felt, at least so long as the land yielded its average wealth. Again, as soon as the values become so inflated that the utilization of the property will not yield a fair remuneration to the persons employed in its care plus a reasonable interest on the investment, no one will care to own it and demand will stop until the values have settled back to where it will yield it. No community will prosper until its citizenship becomes contented. Communities where a large proportion of the population have been led to buy through misrepresentation, paying part down at a price that the land cannot be made to surely and permanently yield a sum sufficient to sustain those employed in its care together with the amount of interest accruing on deferred payments, soon become invested with wide discontent—everybody wants to sell and nobody wants to buy—and a depression follows which can only be relieved by a decline in prices to a point where the investment becomes profitable. Wherever such conditions exist in a community the best remedy is to hurry back to values that are justifiable. In communities where production is specialized it is of vital interest to all that only such class of land be utilized for specific crops as will profitably produce them. In all communities there are certain sharp practices in real estate manipulation that should not only be frowned down, but the perpetrators should be sent to the penitentiary, if it be necessary to stop it. It is now fairly well established that individuals in communities are not independent, but dependent. The transactions of one individual have a certain effect on all other individuals in the immediate community. Some persons who have not philosophized on the matter are inclined to say that what one individual does is no business of his neighbor. That is especially true in real estate transactions. However, for example, let us take a real estate transaction in

the orange belt of California. Down there there is certain land peculiarly adapted to orange culture lying immediately adjacent to land that will not produce oranges at all. Sharp real estate men procure the latter kind and set it to oranges, nursing the young trees long enough to unload it on a tenderfoot, knowing well enough that it will never produce oranges. Result, a discontented citizen, and a black spot on the whole neighborhood as orange land. These transactions not only militate against the proper development and value of the whole neighborhood, but while they are being perpetrated the land is being held out of its proper use and the whole community impoverished because it is not utilized for the production of that to which it is adapted. Because of the depressing effect such transactions have on the community they should be put an end to by law. In truth, it is hard to differentiate between such transactions and the act of highway robbery. If anything the first is worse than the last, because the last affects only the individual robbed while the first reflects on the value of all lands in the community. The law against one should be no less stringent than the other; both should be equally backed by moral sentiment. And the men who perpetrate these frauds should be tabooed instead of elected to places of trust in the community. If land that will not produce fruit but will produce wheat is set to fruit and held away from the production of wheat, and by reason of that, community money must be sent away for flour, the community will be drained of cash in just that proportion. This applies as well to all diversified production. Every community contains land adapted to one kind of production and not to another and it is the interest of every citizen to discourage its use for that to which it is not adapted, that it may be made a profitable asset to the community in the production of that to which it is suited. Land well adapted to fruit culture may have great value, while wheat land is seldom made profitable at a higher price than fifty dollars per acre. It is greatly to the interest of a community that values in harmony with the proper uses is maintained on land. In other words, excessive speculation should, as a community proposition, be condemned always and everywhere and substantial development encouraged. The community that does that will prosper best. Communities prosper less during great eras of land speculation than during periods of substantial development.

The second general cause is political: Without taking issue with either political party, it will suffice to say that the proposed legislative changes are so radically opposed to the system in vogue under republican administration that it will cause uneasiness and unrest while the changes are being agitated at least. The present administration is now constructing a tariff bill which changes that system from one of high protection to one of tariff for revenue only. Just how far it will affect business is problematical. Then the currency will be revised, and how radically it is too early to determine. Then trust control will be inaugurated along lines proposing to destroy combination. Necessarily these agitations will affect business to a greater or less degree as each subject for consideration is a vital spark in the commercial system of the country. Laying aside the permanent effect of this legislation, it must be conceded that during the formation of bills with this view and during the period of readjustment to conform to the new rules business generally will be uncertain and depressed. It will probably consume eighteen months' time, during which it is hardly reasonable to expect any material improvement in speculative and hardly more in cumulative enterprise. It is safe to say there will be few real estate transactions during that time. Therefore, this is an especially auspicious time to take stock. During this period of depression values will settle back and it should be the desire of all that the settlement should be solid so that the new activity will come with a firm bottom and that the country will develop rather than boom. The boomer is of no more value to a community than a vermiform appendix. The body is safer when it is cut out.

So much for general causes which effect depression throughout the country. But there are some specific, indigenous to the locality, which can be overcome. We will discuss these in order of their importance as this series progresses.

The PORTLAND EVENING TELEGRAM and Ashland Tidings one year, \$5.00.

**THE SMALL INVESTOR AND THE RAILROADS.**

The receivership for the Frisco railroad lines is a sharp reminder of the perils of the railroad share market constantly being incurred by small investors.

The railroads have been reporting of late years a big increase in number of stockholders. Magazines and newspapers devote much space to answering questions regarding stock market propositions from people of limited means, many of whom have but the most elementary idea of investments.

The railroad corporations have viewed the small investor with great favor. One sees why, from the story told by a man who spent a night at a certain city in a boarding house near the railroad yards. He remarked to his landlady that a certain freight car must have been delayed there a week, as it then had snow on it.

The landlady remarked with some asperity that the snow came the night before, and that that railroad handled its freight very promptly.

Afterward it appeared that the landlady owned two shares of stock in the corporation that owned that freight car. These little lots of stock create a widespread friendly sentiment that is felt to be valuable.

The school teacher, the clergyman, the small business man and the widow have been frequent customers at the railroad bargain counter during the past few years. Many of their prizes are bitterly repented of. The alluring stories that the El Dorado Pacific is going to buy up the Golconda Central usually prove to have been circulated by people having G. C. to sell.

The prudent French, who recently invested freely in Frisco, can't understand why a surplus of \$1,195,907 was claimed for seven months ending in January, while the road goes to a receiver for inability to borrow a sum less than one per cent of its existing debts. After some of these adventures among the bulls and bears the old home savings bank looks good.

**CHAUTAQUA PROGRAM.**

The program for the Chautauqua course for 1913 is out. It constitutes one of the best assemblies yet booked. It is well patronized and well printed and shows great care

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in selection of talent by the management. We are glad to see that a "Medford day" is provided for. Everything should be done to encourage good feeling between this and the communities down the valley and a pleasant Chautauqua outing in our splendid park will do much to foster such feeling. The Ashland Chautauqua deserves the support of the entire valley. It affords a cool, refreshing, edifying week to the people and a period of relaxation and intellectual culture necessary for good health and moral and civic development.

**No Work for Non-Residents.**

Non-residents of the state of New York will not be able to hold employment in any branch of the city government after October 1, 1913. The board of aldermen passed an ordinance providing for this on April 29th and handed it up to the mayor for approval. The mayor returned it without his approval or disapproval on May 13th and it thus became a law.

The ordinance is as follows: "No person not a citizen and an actual resident and dweller in good faith in the state of New York shall be eligible to appointment or employment in any of the departments, boards, bureaus of the government of the city of New York.

"Any person who now is, or who shall become after such appointment of employment, a citizen, resident, or dweller outside the state of New York, shall thereby forfeit and shall be removed from his said appointment or employment.

"The provision of this ordinance

shall not apply to appointments or employments for services or work to be performed for the city of New York outside of the state of New York; nor to a temporary appointment or employment for a specified service or work where peculiar or exceptional qualifications of a scientific, professional or educational character are necessary. Prior to such temporary appointment or employment evidence in writing shall be furnished that the services or work to be performed cannot be well done by any citizen and actual resident of the state of New York who can be discovered, and that non-resident person proposed to be appointed or employed is generally recognized as one possessing such exceptional qualifications in a high degree. No appointment or employment under this section shall be valid unless the consent of the mayor shall be first obtained; and he may require the civil service commission to pass upon the matter and certify whether an appointment or employment is necessary for lack of a resident of the state of New York who is competent."—New York Evening Post.

**Shake Off Your Rheumatism.**

Now is the time to get rid of your rheumatism. Try a twenty-five cent bottle of Chamberlain's Liniment and see how quickly your rheumatic pains will disappear. Sold by all dealers.

A Frenchman has succeeded in flying with an aeroplane driven by flapping wings instead of a propeller.

**Grants Pass, Ore.**

**JULY 4th & 5th**

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