

# Ashland Tidings

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Ashland, Ore., Thursday, May 20, '15

### COUNTY FINANCES.

The average citizen gets little tangible information from the semi-annual reports of our county court, as such cover so wide and varied interests as to be difficult to assimilate without considerable close study. This is no fault of our county officials, and the accuracy and high value of these reports cannot be challenged. They are entitled to commendation for the data provided to the public.

But, as first stated, the information at best is difficult to assimilate. The following statement as to some facts in connection with Jackson county's finances may be easily understood by the average taxpayer:

The unpaid county warrants outstanding at different dates, as far as ascertained at this time by the Tidings, include the following:

July 1, 1896, outstanding warrants ..... \$152,462.83  
Reduced during four-year term ..... 19,949.62

July 1, 1900, outstanding warrants ..... \$132,513.21

The figures along these lines for the year 1900 to 1903 inclusive are not at this time at hand, but during the four-year term of Judge Dunn a very material reduction of county indebtedness was paid off and at the close of his term, on July 1, 1908, outstanding county warrants \$91,937.64, interest \$3,165.50. Four years later, at the close of Judge Neil's term: On June 1, 1912, outstanding warrants \$502,628.19, interest \$29,153.31; April 1, 1914, outstanding warrants \$534,732.70, interest \$58,887.82; April 1, 1915, outstanding warrants \$489,470.63, interest \$62,537.16. During the first year of Judge Tou Velle's term the inherited conditions may have largely determined expenditures, and even may have been a controlling factor in the second year of his term. During these two years the increase of county debt was \$22,104.51. It is gratifying to notice that during the third year the county court has apparently been able to reduce indebtedness so that the amount of outstanding warrants is less by \$45,262.07 than it was one year ago; and is a net reduction of \$13,157.56 during Judge Tou Velle's three years in office. (The county treasurer called for payments the warrants to date of September 7, 1911.)

It will be seen by referring to the figures above that the great increase in the county debt was made during Judge Neil's term of office, and a reference to the reports on file shows that the indebtedness was made principally during the year 1911 and 1912.

It appears also in general that the extraordinary expenditures were confined largely to warrants issued to Roadmaster Harmon, ostensibly for roads and bridges, and it appears that no receipts were turned over to the county for any items of expenditure.

An expert investigation, among other things, showed expenditures for about four years, under the head of roads and bridges, as follows:

1908, 5 months ..... \$ 28,587.81  
1909 ..... 77,949.73  
1910 ..... 101,719.89  
1911 ..... 252,708.52  
1912, 5 months ..... 22,651.71

Total ..... \$483,617.06  
Indebtedness at close of Judge Dunn's term. . . \$ 91,937.64  
Increase of debt during Judge Neil's term. . . 410,790.55

Total unpaid warrants June 1, 1912. . . . \$502,728.19  
Expended for roads and bridges during Judge Neil's term, \$483,617.06. This sum includes road machin-

ery purchased during said term, said to have been almost \$150,000.

In any event, the present amount of outstanding warrants are doubtless owing to approximately the equal expenditures in 1911 and 1912 for road machinery on roads and bridges as far as the records show.

Doubtless, also, when the citizens of Jackson county realize that on April 1, of this year, the outstanding warrants on \$489,470.63 besides \$62,537.16 of accumulated interest there will be a demand for rigid economy in county affairs, that a strong effort be made to annually make a liberal reduction in the county's present debt.

### BOARD OF CONCILIATION.

President William Sproule of the Southern Pacific Company has made public the contents of a letter written to Hon. Frank P. Walsh, chairman of the U. S. Commission of Industrial Relations, by Julius Kruttschnitt, chairman of the executive committee of the company, in which Mr. Kruttschnitt explains and amplifies his answer to the question as to what could be done to settle labor disputes and maintain industrial peace in the future.

In this letter, written under date of April 14, Mr. Kruttschnitt suggests that the usefulness of the Newlands act, providing mediation, arbitration and conciliation in controversies between certain employers and employees, could be greatly increased if it were made to apply to all railway employees engaged in the interstate business of the employer, instead of employees engaged in train service or train operation only; and, furthermore, that the Board of Mediation and Conciliation should be co-ordinated with or subordinate to the Interstate Commerce Commission, so that the same authority responsible for increasing expenses of the carriers should at the same time incur a corresponding responsibility for providing revenue to meet the expenditures. He cites the Canadian Industrial Disputes Investigation act, which has worked well because it makes an appeal to a mediation board compulsory and enjoins strikes and walkouts until the board can investigate the facts.

Speaking of the Newlands act, Mr. Kruttschnitt says: "Its usefulness would be greatly increased if it were made to apply to all railroad employees engaged in the interstate business of the employer, including those engaged in keeping in repair cars, locomotives, appliances, machinery, track, roadbed and other instrumentalities of interstate commerce." Referring to his suggestion that the Board of Mediation and Conciliation be co-ordinated with or subordinated to the Interstate Commerce Commission, Mr. Kruttschnitt says: "The reasonableness of such a provision is apparent when the complete control of revenues and almost equally complete control of expenditures by government at the present time is considered."

"The Newlands act provides that when a controversy arises, either party may apply to the Board of Mediation and Conciliation, and the board may offer its services to the parties in the controversy where interruption to the public service is imminent. There is no obligation, however, than a sense of obligation to the public on either employer or employee to submit differences to mediation."

The Redding press agent should wake up. A little town below Red Bluff called Cottonwood is about to steal Mount Lassen and its volcano away from the Redding press man. The last eruption Thursday morning threw ashes all over the sidewalks in Cottonwood, and unless Redding gets a fresh move on, Cottonwood will henceforth be the center of eruptive activities.

Some people who think they are smiling offer you a grin instead. A true smile comes from the heart, a grin is hardly skin deep.

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## Children's Spelling Above Average

To test ability in punctuation, capitalization, and spelling, two short fables were dictated to all the pupils from the fourth to eighth grades inclusive during the recent school survey. The stories were read slowly while the children wrote the sentences with pen and ink as accurately as possible. In correcting the papers five capitals, five spellings and ten punctuation marks were arbitrarily selected in each story and each paper graded according to the number of mistakes in the twenty chosen places, other mistakes being disregarded. At Ashland the average number of mistakes out of the twenty was 8.06. A similar test at Pendleton showed an average of 7.77, while for 1,900 grade pupils selected at random throughout the state the average was 9.06.

Spelling was further tested by dictating ten out of a list of the thousand most widely used words. Starting with one syllable words in the second grade the lists of ten increased in difficulty through the grades until in the eighth the list contained "emergency," "appreciate" and similar words.

In this test the average percentage of correctly spelled words for all the Ashland grades was 75 per cent. The average for 100 American cities where pupils have been tested in the same manner is 70 per cent.

Specimens of the pupils' handwriting in grades from five to eight inclusive were taken and graded according to the Ayres handwriting scale. Each specimen was passed on by twelve judges, the average grade being accepted as final. The average quality for the four grades was 45 points as compared to an average of 50 points among the same grades in the country as a whole. During the year 1913 the vertical style of penmanship was superseded in the state of Oregon by the Palmer system. The test indicated that many of the pupils are still in the transitional stage.

Inspection showed that over one-half of the fifth grade pupils wrote as well as one-fourth of the eighth grade. One-third of the sixth better than one-half of the seventh. While no definite mark has been set, the committee considers that a handwriting grading 60 would be satisfactory for ordinary business requirements. Approximately one-fourth of the Ashland pupils have reached this mark. To secure desired improvement it is recommended that the classes in penmanship be reorganized on the basis of ability rather than in accordance with the year in which the pupil happens to be.

For the final eighth grade examination Ashland uses the questions prepared by the state superintendent of public instruction. Results from eight representative Oregon cities show that on an average about one-third of those trying fail to pass. In Ashland less than four per cent failed to pass. Medford shows approximately the same figures and the committee says that part of the better showing might be attributed to the standard of grading used by the Jackson county board.

### Teachers' Review Class.

A teachers' review class in the west room of the Polytechnic College, Ashland, will begin work June 1 and continue to June 30, when the several counties have the regular examination. Tuition \$6 for the month. For information address W. T. Van Scoy, Rogue River, Ore. 98-St

## The Home Circle

Thoughts from the Editorial Pen

### Woman's Love.

There is a positive cheerfulness that is determined to look upon the bright side of life through whatever discouragements present themselves. It is fortunate for the house mother and for her husband and her children when she is possessed of an actively cheerful disposition. It is a sign of a kind heart and a firm determination to make others happy as well as to be happy herself. The cheerful woman will find a dozen causes for congratulation in events which to others have a sinister look. A week of rain keeps her at home from a long-anticipated visit, but she will tell you, and she undoubtedly makes herself believe it, that it is fortunate for the season of quiet has given her a chance to finish a quantity of sewing or to do some special preserving she was anxious to have off her mind. The lovelight is in her eye, whether days be dark or bright. She smooths all paths and conquers the most obdurate grumblers. She has a kindly word to say to everyone. Gossip pains her, and she often manages by that admirable tact, which is so often a part of her gifts, to turn the conversation into a more kindly channel of thought. There are emergencies in every household which call for a display of a statesman's skill. The cheerful woman is pre-eminent on such occasions. She conquers the grim uncle or the dyspeptic cousin with her infective cheerfulness, and her servants recognize her as their friend and ally in all matters that are essential to their welfare. The length of time she keeps her servants is a source of wonderment to her less fortunate friends, but the secret of it is her own winsome disposition. She soothes the tired worker with a word of kind commendation where another might make a querulous complaint. When direction is needed she delivers it in such a gentle, albeit firm manner, that it has no sting of reproof. This gentle, tactful woman is not afflicted with work that is from sun to sun, or that is never done. She does not moralize much, perhaps, but by some means she manages to accomplish a great deal of work and have plenty of time at her command. It is by means of that same cheerfulness of disposition. There is less delay in executing her commands, and she possesses the gift of timing her turns so that sometimes it seems as if the fairies did help her. And the fairies do help her. Heaven bless the cheerful woman.

Of all the love affairs in the world, none can surpass the true love of a big boy for his mother. It is pure and noble, honorable to the highest degree in both. We do not mean merely a dutiful affection. We mean a love that makes a boy gallant and courteous to his mother, saying to everybody plainly that he is fairly in love with her. Next to the love of a husband, nothing so crowns a woman's life with honor as this second love, this devotion of a son to her. We never yet knew a boy to turn out bad who began by falling in love with his mother. Any man may fall in love with a fresh-faced girl, and the man who is gallant with the girl may cruelly neglect his worn and weary wife, but the boy who is a lover of his mother in her middle age is a true knight, who will love his wife as much in her senescent autumn as he did in the daisied springtime.

Mothers, be patient. Do not wound a child; remember it has a

## The Horse Shoe

must be carefully selected and fitted properly to the horse's hoof. This is just as important as the fitting of a shoe to your foot. There are too many horses limping around from the effects of improper shoeing. Save your horse needless pain and also save money by patronizing us.

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tender heart, and who can bear to see the quiver of the baby lips, or hear the sobs of infant sorrow, even after sleep has shut down the tear-washed lids?

"If we knew the baby fingers, Pressed against the window pane, Would be cold and stiff tomorrow, Never trouble us again, Would the bright eyes of our darling Catch the frown upon our brow, Would the print of rosy fingers Vex us then, as they do now?"

Some women are intellectually bright in spite of their environments, and because of them. The broader and higher the life, the more there is in it. But from other women, how early in life we often see the lustre and brightness fading away; and it is those mothers who are weighted down with household and maternal duties, and have resigned themselves to receive their pleasure and advancement at second hand, through their sons and daughters. First of all, do not allow yourselves to think you are growing old, for thinking is being on this subject. Those who try to remain young in a certain sense succeed in doing so. So be generous to yourself.

Success in life does not come by having your own way every time. Yielding a little here and there smooths many a rough place. In domestic life one finds the most perfect house where there is mutual forbear-

ance, and in business the most successful merchant is the one who does not seek to gain every cent for himself.

## Guy Bates Post in "Omar, Tentmaker"

Guy Bates Post is coming to the Vining Theatre for a night's engagement Saturday, June 5, in "Omar, the Tentmaker." This is the Persian love play based upon the life, times and Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam, the same spectacular success that was on Broadway all last season. The author and producer is Richard Walton Tully, who wrote and now controls "The Bird of Paradise." Mr. Tully's specialty, in fact, considering that he is the author also of "The Rose of the Rancho," would appear to be plays of picturesque atmosphere, with a romantic story.

That the public approves is shown by the tremendous success of his three plays, and of the three "Omar, the Tentmaker," with Guy Bates Post as star, is the most notable. The central figure in this Persian love play is Omar Khayyam, the poet who wrote "A Book of Verses Underneath the Bough," etc. The title part is played by Mr. Post.

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