

# Ashland Tidings

By  
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Ashland, Ore., Thursday, Oct. 14, '15

## FIRE.

Last Saturday was fire prevention day, and in many cities of the state wide observation was made of the day, the purpose of which had been proclaimed by the governor. In Portland a big parade and special notice in the schools were features. In Ashland the day passed practically unnoticed. This is not as it should be. Fire loss in Ashland ran up into many thousands of dollars during the past year and few and far between were the fires which a very little precaution would not have prevented.

To the newspaper man who trots around reporting fires, it is noticeable that in most cases no one has the least idea how a fire started. If the owner can't think of anything else, he charges it up to "spontaneous combustion," "matches gnawed by mice," or "defective wiring." These ancient and hoary stock causes should be given a rest. They are badly overworked. They have been the goat for many offences they never committed.

There are more people who can guess how fires started than are willing to admit it. This does not mean that they burn their own buildings for the insurance. It is simply that they are ashamed of their stupid acts of thoughtlessness.

Nine-tenths of the fires come from some little act of personal recklessness. The custom of throwing lighted matches into waste baskets and other rubbish wipes out regularly its millions of property. Failure to clean out chimneys and smoke pipes is a fruitful cause. Many people allow stovepipes to rust out. A fire of light refuse is started in the fall, and the sparks emerge freely from the rotten pipe. People will open all the drafts of a furnace or stove and go off and lock up the house. Soon the overheated pipe sets unprotected woodwork afire.

Another wretched habit is allowing a mass of flimsy packing cases and packing material to collect in basements. If fire prevention day could arouse people to the stupidity and costliness of such careless ways, it would be well worth making a legal holiday of it.

## THE PAGING OF LETTERS.

Some one has started a newspaper discussion about the proper way to page letters. It may be a minor matter. But a considerable number of bad words are constantly elicited by the eccentricities of some people in this respect.

Formerly people wrote letters in a straightforward way. They began on page 1, turned the leaf over and called it page 2, and so on with 3 and 4. Now they may start anywhere and jump to any page on the sheet. One common method is to jump from page 1 to page 4, then write pages 3 and 2. Others will jump from page 1 to page 3, then take 2 and 4, arguing that the two front sides of the leaves should be covered before the two back sides.

Probably the real reason for these peculiarities is the desire to give some originality to a letter. It is apt to be done by the same people who adopt a very striking manner of penmanship, which is exceedingly stylish but very illegible. The best written letter is the one written without pretense, in the most obvious way, the pages following like the pages in a book.

Wine and women get credit for making a fool of many a man who was born that way.

If we could only settle our bills by paying compliments!

## THE OCCULT SCIENCE OF LAW.

(Saturday Evening Post.)  
Law—more especially criminal law—has usually been an occult science. It is still the practice in Burma, we believe, to give two disputants candles of the same size, to be lighted at the same time. The one whose candle burns longest gets the judgment against the other.

Less than a hundred years ago a defendant in an English criminal trial appealed to the ordeal of battle, and the court was more or less surprised to find that the ancient law on which he relied had never been repealed. Determining a man's guilt or innocence by his ability to walk on hot plowshares, or carry a hot iron, or drink a poisonous decoction, or by throwing him bound into water, has been practiced for ages among many peoples. The medieval method of letting accused and accuser fight it out with weapons was common over Europe.

Our modest ancestors confessed their inability to find the merits of the cause, and so relegated the whole affair to the intervention of supernatural agencies. The main difference is that we are less modest. Instead of the ordeal of battle or the old key-and-Bible test or the "sieve-witch," we have the defendant play a game of trip-the-court. If he can catch the judge putting an i dot over and e he wins, and is pronounced innocent.

## AN EMPTY SACK.

Did you ever stop to figure who picks up that empty sack that you carelessly toss into the street? Who? Why, the street cleaners, of course. Who pays the street cleaners? Why, the city, of course? Who pays the city? Why—why—you and I and the rest of the taxpayers, of course.

Economy begins with the little things. It may not be economy to cut out the street cleaning department and allow the streets of the city to become one big rubbish dump, but it is economy for you, Mr. Citizen, to carry that empty sack a few feet farther and put it in a can provided for the purpose. Then why not go a little farther and impress the idea on the minds of the children? A boy or girl is the most rabid enthusiast along lines in which he or she becomes interested. Arouse a little interest in a spotless city and the children will do the rest.

## ANTI-CONVERSATION.

In an article on congressional possibilities in the southern Oregon district the Oregon Voter states that "Congressman Hawley usually lines up with the conservation element, and some think the anti-CONVERSATION sentiment will develop to the point that Vawter would have a chance." The Vawter referred to is, of course, William I. Vawter of Medford. Now what we would like to know is whether that sudden change from conservation to conversation was a slip or a joke.

A hypocrite is a man who acts differently when he knows some one is watching him.

Many a woman who doesn't know her own mind gives her husband pieces of it.

The flute player is no financier, but he is able to float high notes with ease.

The leaves will soon begin to blush to think how green they've been all summer.

Aeroplane is safer than automobiles—if you are crossing a street.

And sometimes a word to the wife is sufficient to start something.

A castle in the air may be all right, but a cottage on earth is better.

In telling a man of his faults use a long-distance telephone.

The hard part about an easy job is the getting thereof.

Sometimes money talks, but sometimes it stops talk.

There's a lot of dead timber in most family trees.

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## 214,000 People Killed on Tracks

"In the last twenty-five years approximately 214,000 people have been killed on the railroads of the United States, and of this number 113,480, or over 53 per cent, were trespassers," said R. J. Clancy, assistant to the general manager of the Southern Pacific, speaking before the Civic Auditorium Safety Conference in San Francisco, September 28.

"Trespassing," he continued, "results in more people being killed so far as railway operation is concerned than from all other causes, yet legislative bodies, state and national, have confined their efforts entirely to safety appliance legislation and have continued to disregard the appeals for trespass legislation made to them by the cemeteries and hospitals of this country every day of every year. A careful review of statistics makes the conclusion irresistible that care in the employment of men and requirement of safe practices, supplemented by trespass legislation effectively administered, will do more to lessen rail casualties than all the safety devices genius has afforded.

"The United States is the only civilized country in the world that has failed to legislate against trespassing, the consequence of which is best illustrated in comparison with similar results in other civilized countries where legislation against trespass obtains and where the casualties incident to trespass are very few in comparison with the United States."

Mr. Clancy called attention to results of observation tests on automobiles, teams and pedestrians at railway crossings and the importance of safety practices in this connection.

"In 1914," he said, "at thirty-four different crossings taken promiscuously to obtain average conditions, out of 16,482 automobiles, 17,755 teams and 54,835 pedestrians, or a total of 89,072, with the number of tracks at such crossings varying at from one to fifteen, and the number of trains over such crossings varying from one to 100, 139, or only fifteen hundredths of 1 per cent, stopped and looked in both directions."

Superintendent W. H. Whelan of the Los Angeles division of the company called attention to the Southern Pacific expenditures in safety work.

"The results of the company's activities in this direction are reflected in its accident record," he said. "For the month of June, 1915, for instance, the number of employees injured per 1,000 dropped from 8 per cent last year to 6 per cent this year."

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## Billion Bushel Wheat Crop Here

Washington, D. C., Oct. 11.—Estimates of crop production and prices for the state of Oregon and for the United States, compiled by the Bureau of Crop Estimates (and transmitted through the Weather Bureau), U. S. Department of Agriculture, are as follows:

Wheat—State: Estimate this year 17,400,000 bushels, final estimate last year 16,604,000; price October 1 to producers 76 cents, year ago 93 cents. United States: Estimate this year 1,900,000,000 bushels, final estimate last year 891,000,000; October 1 price 90.9 cents, year ago 93.5 cents.

Oats—State: Production estimate October 1 is 15,500,000 bushels, September 1 forecast 14,159,000, final estimate last year 12,740,000; price October 1 to producers 35 cents, year ago 42 cents. United States: Production estimate October 1 is 1,529,000,000 bushels, September 1 forecast 1,408,000,000, final estimate last year 1,141,000,000; October 1 price 34.5 cents, year ago 43.3 cents.

Barley—State: Production estimate October 1 is 4,790,000 bushels, September 1 forecast 4,309,000, final estimate last year 3,660,000; price October 1 to producers 50 cents, year ago 57 cents. United States: Production estimate October 1 is 237,000,000 bushels, September 1 forecast 222,936,000, final estimate last year 194,952,000; October 1 price 46.8 cents, year ago 51.8 cents.

Potatoes—State: October 1 forecast 6,100,000 bushels, September 1 forecast 6,688,000, final estimate last year 4,753,000; price October 1 to producers 46 cents per bushel, year ago 64 cents. United States: October 1 forecast 368,000,000 bushels, September 1 forecast 405,909,000, final estimate last year 405,921,000; October 1 price 48.7 cents, year ago 64.7 cents.

Apples—State: October 1 forecast 1,060,000 barrels, September 1 forecast 1,134,000 barrels, final estimate last year 1,200,000 barrels; price September 15 to producers \$2.55 per barrel, year ago \$2.28. United States: October 1 forecast 71,600,000 barrels, September 1 forecast 71,199,000 barrels, final estimate last year 84,400,000 barrels; price September 15 to producers \$1.74 per barrel, year ago \$1.85.

## Rogue May Have Fish Hatchery

At a meeting of the state fish and game commission last week it was decided to locate an experimental hatchery at Butte Falls and later a permanent hatchery on a larger scale provided a hatchery site can be properly secured and the water proves satisfactory. This will be decided as soon as possible as work on the experimental station should start early in December.

Many a woman has a fine carriage who never owned a horse.

Courtship is the frying pan and matrimony the fire.

The best way to get out of a tight place is to sober up.

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## Plans to Study 1915 Boxed Apple Crop

Washington, D. C., Oct. 2.—Complying with numerous requests from the growers' councils, chambers of commerce, growers' and shippers' organizations in the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana, the office of markets and rural organization of the United States Department of Agriculture has made plans to establish temporary headquarters in the northwest for the study of the distribution of the 1915 boxed apple crop.

The plan as outlined is based upon assurance that the office of markets and rural organization will receive the co-operation of all those interested in the apple industry, for without this co-operation the efforts of the office would not produce valuable results.

It is probable that the field headquarters for this work will be in Spokane, because of the accessibility of that point to the apple territory in the northwestern states.

The work which the office will do is not that of a telegraphic market news service, but rather contemplates the collection of mail and the compilation of data and issuance of weekly bulletins concerning the shipments and destination of the northwestern boxed apples. In this connection similar work will be carried on to a certain extent in the apple sections of Colorado, Utah and California.

Phone job orders to the Tidings.  
Notice to Contractors.  
Notice is hereby given that bids will be opened and considered at the office of the undersigned on the 16th day of October, 1915, at 1 o'clock P. M., for the construction of a

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