

Ashland Tidings

By
THE ASHLAND PRINTING CO.
(Incorporated.)
SEMI-WEEKLY.
ESTABLISHED 1876.

Bert R. Greer, Editor and Manager.
Lynn Mowat, News Reporter

Issued Mondays and Thursdays

Official City and County Paper

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Entered at the Ashland, Oregon, Postoffice as second-class mail matter.

Ashland, Ore., Monday, Feb. 7, 1916

ANOTHER PROOF OF GREAT NATIONAL SUPREMACY.

The comptroller of the currency, John Skelton Williams, in his annual report, calls attention to the unique financial history of the United States in 1915.

The report shows that in the year ended with the bank call of November 10, deposits in the institutions of the federal reserve system, which are all national banks, gained \$2,851,000,000—a little more than 33 1-3 per cent.

During this same period the loans and discounts increased by \$917,000,000, so that the increase in deposits was \$1,934,000,000 more than the increase shown in loans.

The earnings of the banks did not increase with the deposits, for not only was a smaller percentage of deposits kept out in loans, but the prevailing rates of interest were much below the average rate in recent years. Yet the increases in capital, surplus and undivided profits of the banks for the year was in excess of \$17,000,000.

A compilation of the world's largest banks, as they ranked in 1914, showed eleven foreign banks larger than the leading institutions in the United States, four of the eleven, however, being practically government institutions.

Evidently, the list of world's largest banks, when revised for 1915-16, will contain names of more American banks among the eleven leaders.

NEW ITEM IN NATIONAL DEFENSE.

Instead of remaining the most wasteful of nations, the United States must become the most economical.

This is the latest "preparedness" cry.

The United States bureau of chemistry has already undertaken to point the way. It commences with the conservation of food at its source of supply, the farm.

It deals with the prevention of food spoilage, it develops new uses for products, new methods of preservation, new ways of detecting adulteration of foods. It deals with such matters as the breakage of eggs in transit, which is said to be enormous and preventable.

In such conservation is the key to big economy, but it is not the master key. That is in the hands of the American housewife.

The greatest waste in this land of great extravagance is that which accumulates in the garbage cans at the kitchen doors.

Lack of economy in cooking is often merely thoughtlessness, as in the case of housewives who pay the same rate for the tail and the tenderloin of a porterhouse—and then throw the tail away.

Such thoughtlessness of "culinary non-preparedness" may prove just as fatal to a nation as military non-preparedness. It is one of the pronounced differences between the self-sufficiency of Germany and the "muddling" methods of England in the present war.

Important query: Why is a snore?

QUIT IT.

Get some glass of water envelops at the Tidings office to-day and help advertise Ashland as a resort.
Package of 25, 10 cents; 500 with your business card printed on them for \$2.50.



Scene from "The Fatal Card," Vining Theatre, Tuesday, Feb. 8.

CONCERNING DOUBTFUL BIRTH-DAYS.

Among our national sins of omission is the neglect of a birth registration in the United States. This is about the only country in the world without a system of keeping birth statistics.

For the first time, the census of 1915 established a birth-registration area, including ten states and the District of Columbia, covering about ten per cent of the land area of the United States, and about thirty-one per cent of the population.

The returns for these states are now beginning to come in for the year 1915, and they will be available about January 1, 1917.

Foreign nations have relied upon birth statistics as a basis for their military estimates. The immediate need for birth registration in this country concerns our industrial army.

With the increase in the number of child labor laws, the problem of birth registration becomes important for the whole country. When there are no birth statistics, thousands of girls and boys find it impossible to establish the exact date upon which they may be permitted to go to work, as required by law.

Most persons fancy that birth registration is a matter for the census man to worry about. On the contrary, it is often of great benefit to individuals.

HEALTH IN DOLLARS AND CENTS.

There are far too many people in this land of our who can't grasp or understand a thing unless it is put up to them in the form of dollars and cents. Therefore Dr. Irving Fisher of Yale quietly set to work and figured out, from government statistics, that "needless sickness, death and fatigue" annually cost this country—guess! Well, the enormous sum of \$1,500,000,000 (one billion and a half)! Think of it. Fifteen hundred million dollars wasted yearly just because the most of us won't take a few minutes each day to fill up our lungs with fresh air, to exercise, to heed the need of moderation in eating and to think about the condition of our health. Perhaps it will sink in deeper if we pick out one disease. Take tuberculosis. Statistics show that the average cost of each death averages \$8,000. Well, in 1914 there were 75,000 deaths from tuberculosis in the registration area of this country (which includes only 66 per cent of the population), so the money loss thus represented reached the astonishing sum of \$600,000,000.

GO BY THE CLOCK.

Be prompt.
Don't keep the other man waiting. This implies he has time to waste. Which aggravates him, even if it is true.

Don't be too early. That means you have time to waste. Which is a confession that you are not doing business, or that you are not efficient at your business.

When you have an engagement to keep, follow the minute hand of your watch.

THE WAR MAKERS.

"The Battle Cry of Peace" is the title of a motion picture exhibition which is going the rounds of the country and which suggests to the mind that it must have been produced and financed by people interested in munition factories and armor plate mills. It is a sort of a silly, illogical, impossible story with enough of the spectacular to work on the nerves of the nervous and cause the unthinking to line up for a big military campaign.

A lawyer had advertised for an office boy. He was examining an applicant and asked: "Do you ever tell lies?" "No," the boy replied, "but I can learn soon."

The People's Forum

Preparedness.

Ashland, January 24, 1916.

To the Editor: Inasmuch as the preparedness bug is at the present time in the minds of our people of this great nation, much discussion will be the result.

The present great war in Europe has and will create great changes and bring before us as a nation some very important lessons that of course should not go unheeded, and it is to be hoped that our learned men at Washington will take a sane and sensible view of the matter.

The first great lesson is the struggle for commercial supremacy. First, last and all the time we must realize we are living in a commercial age, and friendship and humanitarianism count for naught in such a mad struggle as is now going on across the way.

The same proposition has been enacted before and it sent civilization backward for thousands of years. Our records chronicle one such catastrophe, and how many have preceded this one we can only guess, for we know that human nature is pretty much the world over. Now it seems that these problems are sure to come before us in the not far distant future, as we must all admit that commercial supremacy is in our bonnet as a nation, and sooner or later we will be called upon to resist encroachments on our rights and perhaps on our soil. We of course deprecate the day when such things must come about. We had hoped there was intelligence enough to have avoided such a thing as war, but look at the farce of The Hague tribunal and also the farce of treaties between nations or neighbors, so to speak.

International law has been cast to the winds and only a semblance of it remains, and that only through policy's sake for the present. Age old friendships have been bartered and cast aside. Now the question stares us in the face, where are our friends, or have we any to whom we can appeal? None as long as might makes right. We must plan to take care of ourselves. This seems evident, and the nearer we approach commercial supremacy the sooner we may expect a mixup.

Let us consider the ways and means of this preparedness program or proposition. First, the submarine has demonstrated its usefulness in destruction; the air machines have come to stay, and the trench and poison gases have also proved their usefulness in extermination. The older modes of warfare are now practically obsolete, as also the floating palaces called battleships. I might ask the question, what great part have they played in the present war, and say their part has been nil.

Of course, we need a great navy, but let us not go beyond reason, for it only takes a little thing to put one of our battleships on the bottom of the sea, as has been proven by the submarine. The great forts can only command respect at the entrances to our harbors, and we have very extensive coast lines which we must prepare against invasion. As self-defense has always been our policy, we hope it always will be.

We as a nation do not want a large standing army. We do not want to be a military camp. It is a thing of

which to be ashamed rather than proud.

Let us not get the idea that we can lick somebody. These are the thoughts of a bully and always breed trouble. We can always get an army in short order, should one be needed against invasion. But let us establish camps in our forest reserves where our militia can go for a summer outing and go through their training and also help with fire patrol when needed. It is a good healthy proposition and worthy of consideration.

Now comes the last proposition, but not the least. The writer has in mind that now is a splendid time to start agitation for a national highway around our borders, or especially along our western coast line, the same same to be included in our national preparedness proposition. With such a highway properly constructed and numerous big guns mounted on auto trucks and placed at advantageous points along said highway and manned by a proper compliment of men—in other words, so they could be moved from place to place quickly and several could be mobilized at any point in a few hours—then with a few wireless stations, which are needed any way, also to have other highways at advantageous points leading to the interior, which are also very necessary for purposes of supplies, etc. It seems as though some such plan would meet the approval of all the people and be a great preparedness proposition, for it would at all times be free from snow (the highway) and would be a great factor in the development of this section of the country as well as a great convenience to the people in general and would be putting money into something that would be an everlasting benefit. It seems that this proposition is worthy of due consideration.

As there are no railroads along this western coast line only for short distances, and even did one extend the whole distance there would necessarily be many tunnels and could be put out of business for months with a few pounds of dynamite so they could not be depended upon in case of an invasion.

The writer has traversed the western coast most of the way from Mexico to Puget Sound, and has found wagon roads most of the way right close to the coast, and knows that such a highway is feasible and can be constructed under government control at a reasonable cost, as much of the material necessary is right on the ground or handy by. It would then be an everlasting monument of usefulness to the whole people as well as an economical measure of preparedness.

Respectfully yours,
F. W. MOORE.

Mrs. Kinsman Enthusiastic.

Medford, January 2, 1916.

Editor Tidings: While in Ashland visiting relatives a few days recently, I went up to the park and took my first drink out of the new lithia water since it was piped into Ashland, and the inspiration that came over me I am unable to express. I looked and said thanks to our Creator and to Bert R. Greer, the promoter. Being a native daughter made it seem more wonderful to me, and never until the golden spike is driven, which will be July 4, will the people of Ashland realize what it means to them. We will not only have people from Oregon and California there, but we will have people from other countries to join in the procession. Our beautiful free camp grounds and the hundreds of auto parties who camped there last year are spreading the news of our work, and when we celebrate the great event we will spread the news to the watering places of Europe and Saratoga Springs, where the crowds go.

While in Ashland almost every one I met on the street was carrying a jug, going or coming for the water.

It appeared to me that we are like the soldier in the raw recruits, and need training, and to do this we must have a leader.

Professor Anthony of New York gave some valuable information when he said as a drink the waters are curative and excellent in many ways, but should not be taken unless needed by the system. And to do this we must be taught how and when to use them. Our next step should be a sanitarium.

We owe congratulations to the springs commission, to Mayor Johnson and the Commercial Club, and to the ladies of the Civic Improvement Club, who worked together unceasingly on the project with so many difficulties to overcome.

Ashland has the spirit and the enterprise that will realize all of our dreams.

Wishing you all prosperity and success in the new year just begun.

Sincerely,
M. M. KINSMAN.

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Watson on Lighting Contract.

Editor Tidings: Apropos of the discussions of the light and power contract recently in the city council, I deem it pertinent to discuss briefly the contract entered into by the late council, of which several members remain. The report of the proceedings of February 1, speaking of said contract, asserts that the last council handed the present one "a lemon," and Mr. Root is reported to have said that he "felt like repudiating the contract and believed it could be done." All effort to synchronize the two plants to the present time have failed and the city has ordered \$1,400 worth of wire for further experiment with no assurance of success. How much money has already been spent on it to the present time does not appear. It is not too late to discuss the legal phases of the contract and doubtless will be of interest to all the people of Ashland.

It will be remembered that an election was called at the direction of the council, to get their authority to enter into this same contract for a period of twenty years. The authority was refused by an overwhelming vote of the people. Notwithstanding this vote, the council arbitrarily entered into the same contract for three years (differing only in the matter of time, which was not an issue in said election). Aside from the slap in the face which the council administered to the voters of the city, the question arises, DID THE COUNCIL HAVE ANY AUTHORITY TO MAKE THIS CONTRACT? I maintain they did not. It is my opinion that the council had no power to make such contract. The contract made was not for municipal purposes. The constitutional limit within which they have power to contract indebtedness was already exceeded. The contract made is ultra vires and void. The charter did not confer the power and there has been no authorization whatever of the city enlarging the limitation placed in the charter. The fact that the payments provided for in the contract are to be made in installments makes no difference; it is the aggregate amount of the obligation that must be used to measure the limit placed on that power. The contract provides an obligation on the city to pay a MINIMUM of \$700 per month; \$8,400 per year; \$25,200 for the three years, while the charter limit is \$5,000. Seven hundred dollars monthly being the minimum, we have no knowledge of what may be exacted as a maximum.

The city council's powers are specifically set forth in the charter, and they have none that are not expressly conferred or necessarily implied. An implied power is one which it is necessary to exercise in order to carry into effect an express power. In my next installment of this discussion I will present the law and make the application. I will not be deterred in this matter by any insinuations from the mayor or any member of the council, but will speak as

a citizen and taxpayer to the citizens and taxpayers of Ashland.

C. B. WATSON.

We Apologize.

Dear Editor: I see by yure issu of a short time ago that you say the ground hog saw his shadow when coming out from the ground and went back into the ground to stay six weeks, that is a lie because there is no such a thing as a ground hog in this here part of the state only squirrels of which there is to kinds the grey squirrel which has a bushy tail and the ground squirrel which is not good to eat and as for ground hogs there is no such a thing or at least not near ashland and if you mistook some other animal for a ground hog it was probably a gofer or a mole the last one of which is blind and could not see an electric headlight like mister Bieler has on his gasoline automobile say nothing about his shadow, and let me advise you to ask somebody who knows something about hogs like Bieler or Fred Herrin or some of them fellers befor you go to lying to the public at large.

P. S. In reading this over it sounds as if I ment that mister Bieler and Fred Herrin were hogs and to save trouble I thought I would add this after to make it clear that I did not mean mister Bieler and Fred Herrin was hogs as I was talking about pork hogs which eat anything.

P. S. If you put this in the paper like you seam to do with all the letters you get do not put my name at the foot but put a stizen or subscriber or something like that.

Notice.

The Ashland Bakery has recently changed hands and has been thoroughly renovated and will in the future be known as the Bon Ton Bakery. Special orders for high-class pastry will receive prompt attention. Buy our bread, the best in the state. When ordering groceries call for Bon Ton bread, at present sold by the White House, Nims & Saunders, Charles Loomis, W. Flackus and Loomis & Nelson.

ROBT. MULLER,
Proprietor.

73-2t

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Watch Developments in This Paper!!!

Dwight Edwards Company
Portland, Oregon

