

Ashland Tidings

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SPLENDID IMPROVEMENT.

The park board is to be congratulated on the splendid work being done in Plaza Park. Especially is the widening of the walk and its resurfacing a much needed improvement. It should be extended the same width up through Chautauqua Park to the entrance of Lithia Park. That path will always be the main pedestrian way to Lithia Park and should be at once widened and covered deep with decomposed granite so it would be free from mud and present an inviting appearance to the public. Chautauqua Park, though, in a sense private property, is much used by the public and will be more used in the future as a main foot thoroughfare to Lithia Park. That being true, the city should stand the expense of grading and surfacing the walk. It should be well lighted its full length, for already many of our citizens are taking delight in visiting the springs fountains in the evening. Tuesday evening the writer passed more than a dozen men and their wives walking up to the springs after dark. One of the best, the fairest, investments the city could make would be to establish and well light a good path through Chautauqua Park. Ashland should begin to dress for the party. By the middle of next month many strangers will be here to visit the springs. Whatever improvement is made should be done at once.

Mill street, as well, should be at once improved. It is understood that the Chautauqua board has indicated a willingness to deed to the city the tract of Chautauqua ground which runs up into Lithia Park and the strip of ground between Mill street and the center of Ashland creek, if the city would accept it and relieve the Chautauqua association of paying expense along Mill street. Such an agreement would be fair. The Chautauqua association is a great asset to Ashland. It is not a profit-making enterprise and it should be fostered and aided by the city in every reasonable way. Mill street should be macadamized, or paved, within the next sixty days. The council and Chautauqua directors might get together on some such arrangement.

COWARDICE.

"Thus, ambition doth make cowards of us all.
And the firm hue of resolution
Is sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought
And enterprises of great pith and moment,
With this regard, are tuned awry
And lose the name of action."

We do not pretend to quote literally from our old friend Shake, but we were reminded of it in getting a dandy good story about county finances from a prospective candidate, who thought it the great interest of the taxpayers that his story be known, but who absolutely refused to father it because he was a candidate. He would rather be elected than be right. The way the writer feels now, he has had enough of public office, but should he ever become a candidate in the future, believe us, he will go on the principle that he would rather be right than be elected. If election must be bought by a subservient silence on vital topics, then we will insist on speaking out and being defeated.

It must seem deadly monotonous in a munitions factory when 6 p. m. arrives without the regular daily explosion.

"Sunny Southern Oregon" stands magnificently by our claim. Where is the climate to be found that can beat it?

Talks With Screen-Struck Girls



(Copyrighted January, 1916, by Beatriz Michelena.)

I suggested last week that this "talk" would concern itself with the very important topic of "facial expression."

Unless one has eloquent features, i. e. features which respond very readily to changing emotions, she can never hope for any great success as a motion picture actress. I would not go so far as to say that this requisite is the only thing, but unless supported by it, nothing else can count for a great deal.

First of all I would emphasize that facial expression does not mean artificial grimaces. On the exact contrap, its effectiveness depends on its coming in natural and almost unconscious response to what one feels in-

wardly. It is not a surface accomplishment.

It follows then that to adequately feel is a very essential matter. An actress in pictures must have great powers of imagination—an imagination that can pull her out from what she really is and throw her bodily into the role she is playing. She must live her part; not make believe live it, but actively live it and breathe it and lose her whole soul into it.

If she does this, facial expression, unless she has features of putty, will pretty well take care of themselves.

Before starting out to become a motion picture actress, therefore, every girl should ask herself two questions: First, has she the necessary power of imagination to live a part, and secondly, has she features that, without effort, register her innermost emotions and thoughts? Do her eyes naturally blaze in anger or melt with love? Does scorn give her lips an unconscious but expressive twist?

She must realize that the day is gone when a pretty face can make its conquest unaided in motion pictures. True it is that beauty still counts a great deal, but the leading query after all is not so much whether she has a face as pretty as this actress or that, as whether or not she has one with features as eloquently responsive to her emotions.

THE MAN WHO WAITS.

A French philosopher of the eighteenth century, in a brilliant dissertation upon society, said:

"The civilized man, whether he be the dandy of the boulevards or the South Sea aborigine, is the man who can wait. Impatience is the assassin of the future."

Such words have the ring of prophecy, for no ultra-modern of our own century could have penned a better epitome of the spirit of this age or better summed up the difficulties which it holds.

Civilization, according to this standard, is not a thing of externals, but of mental processes. Never in the history of the world has so great stress been laid upon self-confidence as the touchstones of success for the individual. Observe that self-confidence can not exist without faith in the future. In other words, success depends upon the ability to plan, to inaugurate, and then to wait.

A brief survey of the high lights of the world's material progress will show the scope of this truth. The first step toward civilization may well have been taken when the creature man reasoned that the sowing of a certain seed would result in a definite harvest. When that seed was sown the period of waiting for the harvest constituted the test of man's faith—of his potential civilization. Probably he failed to hold that faith. He probably became disgusted, forgot all about his sowing. But when the seeds grew and flourished and came to harvest in spite of his unbelief and his inability to wait, he realized that he had invoked natural laws which operated independently of his failure to believe. Since that first small harvest, whenever and wherever it may have occurred, man has never doubted the future which lies between the sown seed and the gathered grain.

Keeping this view over the achievements of the past, we see that the processes of human progress and maturity of designs are just as infallible in the aggregate as the laws of physical nature. Foresight, vision, the ability to plan and then await the future, has laid the foundations of every stable fortune since the world began. The weary years which attended the exploitation of the great inventions, the years when a scoffing public sought to drown the inventor and his invention beneath a sea of ridicule, are the same years that have beheld the building of the great empires of the world, and saw in the end both inventor and empire-builder emerge triumphant above the welter of senseless obstructionism. In our own country, the purchase of Louisiana, the purchase of Alaska, the development of our great northwest, has taken place in the face of the bitter prophecies of the men who could not wait.

The greatest trial of the man of vision and enterprise is the unceasing enmity of those members of the community who are incapable of desiring or seeing the public good. These people see only the sowing of the grain, and to their short vision the process is one of consummate folly, for they absolutely refuse to allow the consideration of the future to be a factor in the transaction.

In the administration of communal enterprises we find the obstructionist at his worst. In no other field is his activity so great a menace to progress and public welfare. More cities and towns have been kept out of their right to control the public service

properties of their territory through fear of the short-sighted knocker than by any other difficulty. It is not the indifference of the outside public, or the lack of worth in a project of municipal enterprise which constitutes the great peril. It is the man at home—the man in the rut.

Rome, we are told, was not built in a day. We may safely add that neither Rome, nor anything else big or little, under the sun, was ever built by the man who can not wait—the obstructionist.

PORTLAND BOOSTERS

By Leonard Hinton

It is time that the people of Ashland, especially those who are prone to knock the pretensions of the city to resort prominence, were told some of the opinions of strangers to the city, opinions which are daily expressed to whomever will listen, on the streets, in the parks, at the hotels. If the delight which these people experience upon finding merely a few of the attractions of the city is reflected by the crowds that come later, Ashland has nothing to fear from rival resorts.

A gentleman from Portland who has been in the city for several weeks has been most emphatic in his approval of the possibilities which he found here. Among other interesting things, he said:

"I have spent a great deal of my time during the last few years traveling among the resorts of the Coast. Never have I seen so wonderful a site for resort development or such a number of valuable waters available for medicinal use. Other resorts which accommodate great crowds during the season are not to be compared with Ashland, either in the natural environment and climate, or in the value of the waters furnished."

The interviewer dared a leading question. "Do you think then that the city would be justified in making sanatorium provision and going to further expense in providing for the tourist patronage?"

"I should say so," was the answer. "There are things which you must have if this is to satisfy the expectations of tourists, and without which you are fearfully handicapped. For instance, I was terribly disappointed to find that there are at present no sulphur baths available. Sulphur baths are absolutely necessary to a watering place. Do you know that physicians all about the country are already advising their patients to come to Ashland for just that thing?"

"Is Ashland well known in Portland as a resort city?"

"It is becoming very well known. There will be hundreds of Portland people here this summer. A great many of them are coming soon. I believe you have very little idea of the number of tourists who will come to Ashland this year."

Since meeting him I have met several others who are here in the quest of Ashland's healing waters. Each and every one of them is a booster for Ashland. They realize as few of the home people do, the wonderful scenic beauty of Ashland's immediate environment, which comes into the heart of the city in the park system. They make allowances in the matter of lack of equipment, too, realizing that the resort is still in the building. But we cannot afford to disappoint those who will follow later in the season, by whose verdict Ashland lives or dies as an adequate resort of the first class.

The Springs Of Inspiration

(By Leonard Hinton.)
(Conclusion.)

In going over the newspaper files showing the development of Ashland's resources from the earliest inception of the movement to the present day, I was struck with the foresight which has been exercised at every stage of the project. Even at the time of the first park development the future had been planned for and left unhampered. This policy has carried throughout the operations of the Springs Commission, and at the present time Ashland has complete control of her park and mineral water systems, and by judicious regulation the best interests of the city have been protected against the baneful effects of petty politics.

The continuance of this regulation of the properties now controlled will be a large factor in their future exploitation. Until the parks have been brought to the highest state of perfection, and every provision made which money can provide for the comfort and pleasure of the tourist and health-seeker, the management of the property should remain in the hands of a commission able to give lavishly of time and effort to the work at hand and familiar with the achievements and difficulties of the past. Such a management of Lithia Park will result in very real savings to the city in a direction where even the smallest economies are important.

As a matter of fact, a great deal more work should be done in Lithia Park. Those who read the article in the Tidings of last Thursday by Superintendent Graves can form some conception of the beauty of the park if such plans could be carried out.

The realization of such a comprehensive design will of course be a matter of some time. But if the citizens of Ashland can invest their vision of the future with that perspective which is essential if the worth of such plans are to be realized, they will see that Mr. Graves has suggested nothing which is far-fetched or unrelated to the scheme of work as it already exists. Some of his suggestions, for instance, a waterfall which he says can be created for five hundred dollars, are splendid examples of economy in the relation of cost to the final enhancement of the landscape.

With co-operation we must have regulation. And regulation of such superb playgrounds as the Ashland park system must be administered by a body of men free from the petty political motives of the moment, experience in the direction of similar matters, and able because of that experience to give the public the last pennyworth of enjoyment which such a playground can provide.

The End.

WHERE PROGRESS PAYS

By Leonard Hinton.

One of the best indications of life on the part of a town is a progressive move on the part of one of the business men of the town. No one who has been in Ashland for any length of time can have failed to notice the new auto delivery car of the Home Laundry. When I visited the laundry to compliment Mr. Nisbet, the proprietor on the appearance of his innovation, I found that the new delivery car was only one feature of a service which is modern and progressive in every respect.

The fact came out that the car which aroused my admiration was the work of Mr. Nisbet himself, who, besides knowing the laundry business, has the secrets of the wood-working craft at his finger tips. While modestly disclaiming any credit for the construction of the car body, which is a spotless creation of white and gold, Mr. Nisbet admitted that he considered the new car a good advertisement. He remarked that at the time he assumed control of the laundry the delivery wagons were a rusty black, of poor appearance, and a very bad suggestion of a business where cleanliness and appearances are paramount. The first step in the new policy was the discarding of the old black wagons in favor of white. The motor car has been the logical development.

I found the laundry a pleasant, well lighted place, where the employees seemed to have plenty to do with, yet were never rushed beyond their capacity for good work. It was no surprise, therefore, to hear Mr. Nisbet say as a matter of course, that there had never been a complaint of the work turned out by the plant.

It is a distinct pleasure to be able to devote an occasional column to the boosting of a business enterprise which embodies in its everyday policy the best principles which can be brought to bear upon enterprise of any kind, and upon any scale.

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THE GLAD HAND

By Leonard Hinton

Whenever I come upon an instance of lack of co-operation which might be remedied by a word in the right place and the right attitude on the part of those to whom it is addressed, I shall not hesitate to give the matter the privilege of this column.

My attention was called today to the fact that this is considered throughout the state a poor barber town. The businessmen of Ashland, I am told, keep their small silver very closely guarded and shave themselves. I have yet to hear that they have eliminated the hair cut with the aid of friend wife and the mush bowl, but it seems that they are exceedingly wary of the coins that are permitted to slip into the hands of the barber for professional services.

Now these merchant gentlemen are carrying on at this time a trade-at-home campaign which is a logical thing, exceedingly praiseworthy if backed by genuine enthusiasm for the home product and sincerity in dealing with the other fellow.

I doubt if any of the merchants who are supporting that movement that by their failure to patronize the barbers of the city they were starving a local, legitimate business, and possibly losing dollars and gaining pennies by the transaction. For the barber who finds that his business neighbors will not accord him their patronage is exceedingly likely to make up an order three or four times a year and send it flying away forever to the mail order house. And there is no logical reason on earth why he shouldn't.

But the merchant, who is really a good fellow after all, loses more on a suit of clothes ordered out of town than his barber bill would amount to in a year. There are some petty economies which are good, but there are others which are the worst of extravagances.

Benton Bowers is being discussed as a possible candidate for the legislature. There will likely be three republican candidates—Thomas of Talent, Sheldon of Medford, and Bowers of Ashland. There will be two to elect.

It is astonishing what a large and enthusiastic crowd you can get out to a lecture, which otherwise would be poorly attended, by serving four thimblefuls of tea and two saltines to each guest.

The National Guard can be successfully used for defense in case of war, merely by asking permission of forty-eight governors and state legislatures every time an order is issued.

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