

Ashland Tidings

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AS THE VISITOR SEES US

This is an age of tourists and touring. People keep their eyes open as they pass through towns, anxious to see what refinement and civic spirit they can find. A town that beautifies its public streets and that has attractive residence grounds draws interest from all over a state.

Towns ought to take the greatest pains to beautify the streets through which this stream of motor travel is passing; also to clean up neighborhoods through which railroad tracks run. When motorists find dilapidated buildings, ill-kept grounds, stables decorated with circus posters, etc., they carry away a disagreeable impression. This also is true of farm houses along the road.

The view from the railroad car is usually one of tumbled down chicken coops, piles of ashes and rubbish. Property owners perhaps say to themselves that the strangers that pass by won't know who it is that keeps such a looking place. All the same, they know the name of the town. And in the country good roads and trim farms attract folks and increase land values.

Many towns, realizing the importance of the effect produced on travelers, take pains to make little park spots near railroad stations and along main streets. It is astonishing what a change can be made in a dingy square by planting a few trees and shrubs.

Every town should have a committee to look specially after the appearance of these arteries of travel. The owners of property abutting on them should be urged to cooperate in a general clean up and beautification movement.

If a railroad won't clean the rubbish out of its right-of-way, the townspeople could better afford to do it themselves than to let it remain. If a screen of trees could be planted along the back yards adjoining railroad tracks the traveler in a few years would get a wholly different impression of the place.

THE CITY BEAUTIFUL MOVEMENT

Someone remarked the other day, when a certain proposal of local improvement was being discussed, that "beauty is a luxury. We can't afford it." Was he right?

Here is one plain fact, and any experienced real estate man can verify it from his own observation. Take a street of plain, simple houses, with no attempt whatever at ornamentation of any kind, just naked wood, bricks and cement. Suppose some morning this spring the residents should get together and decide that the street looked too bare and commonplace.

Suppose they all agree to spend \$50 in planting shrubs and trees, grading and sowing grass seed. Let them also agree to spend a few hours a week in keeping the place neat and in planting and tending flowers.

What would be the effect? Complete results, of course, would not show the first year. The second season the hard angles between earth and walls would be softened by a nest of flowering shrubbery. In a few years more the young trees, particularly if well selected with some quick growers, would provide some shade and green.

The selling price of those places would pick up as soon as the shrubs got started. When the trees got a little bigger, the whole character of that street would have changed. It would suggest culture, care, refinement. People from other districts would look at it longingly and would snap up empty houses. Eventually a place that cost \$3,000 would be likely to sell for \$3,500 to \$4,000.

because of the reputation and desirability of the neighborhood for residence.

People who say that beauty is a luxury know very little about human nature or business. A beautified neighborhood is accepted as a sign of a higher scale of living. People feel that in moving into it they are improving social station, not to speak of the pleasure to the eye which beauty always gives.

Is not the city beautiful movement a good business investment?

BEING "BROKE" IS AN AMERICAN DISEASE

We do not know just what the per capita wealth of the United States may be, but did it ever happen to strike you that most Americans are chronically "broke"?

In spite of all the optimistic reports of the savings banks and the postal savings institution and the building and loan companies, most Americans are always "broke." The majority of savings banks and postal savings depositors are foreigners. Foreigners have cultivated intensive living. They have conserved the energy of agricultural lands; they have intensified their habits of living; they have an inborn faculty for thrift. And why? Because the necessity of saving has been beaten into them in a stern schooling—poverty!

In the homes of many native Americans thrift is scorned because it is considered a sort of neighborhood disgrace to be poor. If Willie Jones' papa gives him a dime any time he wants it, Johnnie Smith's daddy has just naturally got to do the same. Willie and Johnnie straightaway exchange this money for luxuries and repeat the "touch" the next day.

The thoughtless expenditure of small sums of money is one of the chronic symptoms of the American disease—of being "broke."

And being "broke" is not a vocational malady; it attacks the man-in-business-for-himself just as it fastens itself upon the humblest wage earner, only that its effect is not comparative. Somehow, it seems that the middle-class worker—and we cannot deny that in democratic America we deliberately cultivate a certain class distinction, determined by one's earning (and spending) capacity—is the victim of this disease.

Great honors await the scientist who discovers the germ of improvidence and a curative serum therefor.

RURAL CREDITS BILL

Both the senate and house have passed a rural credits bill. The two bills will possibly be turned over to a conference committee, where the differences will be compromised and the bill will undoubtedly soon become a law.

There are many differences between the senate and house bills to be adjusted. The senate measure would capitalize each farm loan bank at \$500,000, the house's at \$750,000.

The senate would authorize loan associations with unlimited liability, the house would not. The senate would limit loans to 50 per cent, with no recognition of improvements; the house proposes to grant 600 per cent on land values and 20 per cent on value on permanent insurable improvements.

The senate proposes that no loan shall be made if the three members of the local committee are not unanimous in their appraisal; the house would require a majority report of the committee. The senate makes the minimum loan \$200; the house, of \$100. The senate would charge borrowers 10 per cent interest on all defaulted payments; the house would charge only contract rates. The senate would require local associations to make good all defaults within 30 days after notice from a land bank; the house would provide a special reserve to protect associations.

The senate bill requires advance payments on the principal in sums of \$100 or multiples and the house \$25 and multiples. The senate makes the actual earning power of the land a principal factor and the house makes the agricultural value the principal basis of appraisal.

Under the senate bill local associations would be required to hold 25 per cent of net earnings as reserves and might refuse to declare any dividends to borrowers, while the house would require all net earnings to be paid to borrowers as dividends.

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The People's Forum

Favors New Commission.

Editor Tidings: I read with interest in your last issue the article in regard to the park and springs water commission. I think there is a great deal of merit in the suggestion.

The success of our springs project will only be accomplished by harmony, co-operation and determination. It is true all men do not see alike, and differ very widely in opinions. There is no reason why one should call the other a knocker or kicker if their opinion is justly based, but before opposing an idea or issue it should be carefully considered and something better submitted. If the opposer suggests no practical remedy he has done nothing but talk. The world is full of talkers.

I agree with the writer in the last issue in regard to having an election to establish the control, maintenance and promotion of the mineral springs resort. It will be absolutely necessary for the success of the project to have Lithia Park and the springs maintenance and promotion under the control of one board with enough money each year to maintain as a resort.

I will cite you, for your consideration, things as they will be in a few days. We have put practically \$200,000 in our springs project. We have a springs water commission, composed of three members, one elected each year, whose duty it is to maintain and keep the mineral waters coming to the park. We have a park board composed of five members, one elected each year, whose duty it is to maintain the parks of our city. Now we have the springs commission, bringing in the mineral waters and distributing same at the fountains. We have the park board mowing grass, sprinkling lawns and hoeing flowers. Neither party has money or authority to develop the project.

Now we are starting out to make a resort on such a proposition. The first thing we know, instead of having health-seekers come we will have curiosity-hunters.

Let's have an election, amend the charter, elect a commission, give them control and money, and get back of them with a determination to win.

A TAXPAYER.

Need of Proper Publicity.

Editor Tidings: Recently, in the Portland Oregonian, there was an item the matter of which was furnished by a gentleman who had been in Ashland, telling of what had been done by the way of developing Lithia Park and of the bringing in of the waters from the various springs. The item was in an inconspicuous place in the back part of the paper. On the front page of the same issue, or of one preceding it by a day or so, there was a telegraphic item under the Ashland date line, which told how a petition was being circulated here for the recall of Mr. Greer from the springs water commission.

The latter item was sent from here as a matter of news about a question that is of little interest outside of this city except that it intimates the possibility of the downfall of a man, and is of no value to this community although it will be read by hundreds, while the former item, contributed by one who felt an enthusiasm that

should be an inspiration to your people, will be read by one.

It is an opinion commonly expressed by visitors to this city that Ashland is destined to profit on account of its waters, in the same manner as have other cities where the waters of medicinal springs have been developed. They tell of places which depend upon the meagre supply from a single spring, situated miles away from a railroad; where the climatic conditions and the surroundings are far inferior to those here, that have developed into resort places visited by people counted by the hundreds of thousands yearly.

Ashland, with its superior advantages of waters, climate and locality can surely profit as other places have profited, but what nature has done must be supplemented by the work of the people who should herald its merits to the outside world as they deserve. Get them on the front page so that people will know about it and will come here and locate.

Do not wait for the passer-by to do it for you, but do it yourselves.

VISITOR.

Would Elect All.

Editor Tidings: I would like to have you print a few lines showing my ideas regarding our different commissions, etc.

Why not amend the city charter, abolishing the park commission and also abolishing the springs commission when they have completed the physical plant, and, instead of appointing, allow the people to elect the following: Street superintendent, water superintendent, park superintendent, chief of police, night police, and electrician?

Street superintendent to have charge of all street work as at present.

Water superintendent have charge of water works, including our mineral water.

Park superintendent have charge of all park work.

Electrician to have charge of all electric work.

The same with the chief of police, all to work under the supervision of our mayor and council.

But whatever we do, let's boost first, last and all the time.

I am just a common laborer, but pay my share of taxes without knocking or kicking.

I would like to see others write short articles on this subject, and, like the person who wrote the article in Monday's paper, say, "Come out and declare yourself." But please don't write anything that you are ashamed to sign your name to.

F. H. CROWSON.

Whither Are We Drifting?—The Troubles of a Capitalistic Church.

(By Henry G. Gilmore.) Startling facts, which by no means paint an enviable picture for the contemplation of sober-minded people, have just reached me from the effete east, where the inroads of "high society" and, with it, the dominating influences that follow in the wake of accumulated wealth have asserted themselves with a poignancy that sets one reflecting whether, after all, there is any true religion in the land.

With the thought that the average individual is drawn to church for the purpose of being musically and intellectually entertained, plus all that may follow in the way of effecting social and commercial alliances, one is staggered at the sight of such scripture texts as follow—and all they imply—prominently suspended sometimes from the walls of the sacred edifices themselves: "God is a Spirit and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth," "The Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth keep silence," and other like passages. These clearly set forth that a meek spirit, contrite heart and devout reverence for the great Creator of the universe should be the chief motive for the assembling of ourselves, to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at His hands and other acknowledgments of His gracious will and favor. All of which is in striking contrast to the worldly situations continually confronting us in the public services of the church and private devotions in the home.

Recent occurrences at the aristocratic Episcopal church of Newark, N. J., suddenly throw into the limelight the humiliating spectacle of a rector being reproved by his vestry

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for preaching the gospel unreservedly to his congregation. The rector believes that a spirit of vital religion and not the distractions of downright worldliness should pervade his assembled flock. A rupture along these lines has just started in this New Jersey capitalistic parish, with the promise that before the healing process has been reached there will be abundant reasons for that sarcastic exclamation generally couched in these terms: "How those Christians do love one another!"

The Rev. Dr. Johnson has said, "I have been making the fairest trial possible in a capitalistic parish in a capitalistic community to find out whether it is possible for a minister of Jesus Christ in this century to preach unflinchingly the gospel with all its personal application. My attempt has proved a complete failure." This candidly confesses that the "man of affairs," in too many cases, has little need of the gospel message, and that empty form and ceremony, with a liberal sprinkling of pulp oratory and mundane subjects, and brilliant music added to tickle the fancy, furnish all the nourishment needed for his social adjustment and spiritual edification!

Another vexatious phase in this unhappy church affair is set forth, in uncompromising plain language, when the Rev. Dr. Johnson reported "that a member of the vestry had said to him that the church should be run as a grocery store is run—to please his patrons—and that since there were nine sinners in the church to one saint, it was the duty of the minister to please the majority rather than to irritate them."

If there be further comment upon this subject it consists in suggesting that, as rational beings, we recognize the potency, in the most forcible terms, of all that is summed up in the words of St. James the apostle, viz.: "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this: To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction and to keep himself unspotted from the world."

Capitalistic churchmanship should, everywhere, be frowned upon as a serious and wicked disturber of that peace "that passeth all understanding" and which brings such endless comfort and consolation to the human race at large.

THANKS SUPPORTERS

Dear Editor:

Having been confined to my bed and room for the past 10 days from the effects of a political frost that developed into a severe case of tonsillitis, I take this means of advising my friends that I am still in the land of the living.

Drs. Boslough & Jarvis have the tonsillitis well under control but informed me that there is nothing known to medical science or modern surgery to relieve political ills. I am also grateful to sympathizers for their generous offer to furnish all kinds of life preservers for my trip up Salt River with the rest of the defeated candidates. In closing I wish to thank my friends throughout the county for their support at the primary election and ask that they give my successful opponents the same support at the general election that they would me had I been nominated.

Respectfully,
BENTON BOWERS.

Ashland, 5-29, 1916.

Roseburg News: Mrs. J. F. Gaylor and son, Fred, and Dr. Bertha E. Sawyer, left this morning for Ashland, after attending the grand lodge session and Strawberry carnival in this city. Mr. Gaylor will remain in this city for a short time until the automobile in which they motored from their home at Klamath Falls is repaired. It was broken in a collision with another car Saturday and repair parts from Portland are being waited.

The Carranza government is arranging to buy up all of its paper money. They must have heard of the high prices being paid for scrap paper in America.

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