

Ashland Tidings

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Ashland, Ore., Thursday, Oct. 19, '16

THE ISSUES OF NOVEMBER.

The first duty of the national government is to make and administer laws as to promote and facilitate the work of the people. Therefore the relations of the government to the business community become perhaps the most vital issue that the voters have to determine at presidential elections.

The so-called "prosperity argument" is often attacked as an appeal to sordid motives. But less superficial thought shows that "prosperity" is most vitally related to the advance of the people. All progress stands on a bread and butter basis. Industry is fundamental in any community. If the factories are closed or idle part of the time, there can be no social or economic gain.

It becomes, then, the first duty of government to encourage enterprise. The very foundation of all business prosperity is confidence. If business men feel that the government is hostile, or oppressive, or ignorant of commercial conditions, they become fearful of the future. They become too alarmed to risk their money in the ordinary ventures of trade, and they curtail operations. When any considerable number of producers do that, the result is a panic or industrial depression such as characterized the first eighteen months of the Wilson administration.

At this time of disaster unemployment reached the highest level for years. The sufferings of the poor were pitiful. Conditions were relieved only by the breaking out of the war, bringing a flood of orders for munitions and all kinds of supplies. Not merely was there material loss from this prostration of business, but all kinds of public and philanthropic enterprises suffer in such times.

Vices due to idleness appear. One of the worst phases of the depression is the harm done to child life. Parents depend more than usual on the earnings of their children, who are taken out of school to help prematurely in family support.

In these and many other ways a hard blow was dealt to social progress by the business chaos that prevailed during the first part of the democratic administration.

JAPAN FIRST.

The same old tale, issuing from the Department of Commerce, makes its monthly appearance with respect to July: Importations from Japan continue to increase; July, 1915, they totaled \$9,000,000; July, 1916, they totaled \$52,000,000; for the seven months period ended July, 1916, they totaled \$95,000,000. Our exports to Japan for the two periods, respectively, were valued at \$25,500,000 and \$57,500,000. We gained \$22,000,000 on the Japanese market; Japan gained \$42,000,000 in ours. A large percentage of our exports to Japan consisted of war material for manufacture and sale to Russia; Japan's exports to us consisted wholly of peace products. Japan got her goods into our market practically duty free; we got our

goods into the Japanese market after paying a high tariff. Japan brought all her goods to us, and then some, in her own ships; she took about all our goods to her ports in her own ships.

The natty little tallors and the nimble little shirtmakers of Japan send their salesmen to this country and they measure all of us for suits and shirts. Secretary Redfield preens his oriole whiskers and brags about our increased exports of textile machinery to Japan or China; the salesmen mail their measurements and orders to Japan, and the natty little tallors and the nimble little shirtmakers make up the suits and shirts from cloths woven on machines copied from those purchased in America. Eighty per cent of the employes working on the Japanese looms are women, receiving from 12 to 24 cents a day. The suits and the shirts are shipped to the United States and pay the ridiculously low duties required by the Wilson-Underwood tariff law, and some more American labor is denied its wage. We don't miss it now, of course. We are making up uniforms, overcoats, socks, blankets and shirts for blood-crazed Europe. But what is going to check the ever-increasing volume of Japanese imports if the end of the war finds us still operating under a tariff pelley which even the democrats would like to repudiate, if Wilson would permit them? Hughes and protection, Mr. Voter! It is the only way if we want the "Made in America" label on our merchandise.

DEMANDS FOR FEWER LAWS.

Many candidates for legislative offices are promising to enact no new laws, but to repeal some.

Public sentiment and business interests are demanding more and more a let-up in the volume of legislation.

Still many political conventions adopted platforms pledging candidates to enact new laws if elected.

If all the measures promised are brought before the state law-making bodies, there will be a perfect deluge of new legislation, and lawyers and courts will have the time of their lives in giving it logical interpretation.

The statute book of every state in the Union is burdened already with more laws than are needed, and amendment of existing statutes, with a view to avoiding contradiction and promoting uniformity, is most essential of all. Business is throttled or hampered on all sides by conflicting and contradictory laws and regulating commissions.

In the language of Thomas Jefferson, that community which is "governed" least is governed best. It is the fashion with the thoughtless to judge of a legislator's value by the number of bills that he introduces, and with too many legislators to think they are neglecting their duty and not earning their salary unless they propose a new act every day. The truth is that the country would in many instances be better served and would save money if its law-makers were paid for doing nothing at all.

The People's Forum

Pickens Boosts.

Greensboro, Ala., Oct. 6, 1916. Ashland Tidings, Ashland, Ore.

Dear Sirs: Pleast find enclosed check for \$2.50, for which renew my subscription and send the attached club offer No. 6.

The Tidings beats Whittle as a correspondent—just a little, so for that "little" I must have it to keep in touch with the wonderful improvements transpiring there. I rap these sleepy-heads on their lack of enterprise and quote Ashland, what it has done, is doing and will do. They hear so much from me about Ashland that I hope some of them will go out to see for themselves—that will suffice.

W. C. PICKENS.

The lumber company at Brookings is erecting twenty additional cottages. It has \$1,500,000 invested in its plant. Everybody at Brookings is looking forward to the completion of the Southern Pacific coast line railroad between Coos Bay and Eureka.

Heard and Overheard

(By Lynn D. Mowat) Strictly Nonpartisan.

Won't the junk men reap a fortune when they gather up and sell the tin buttons from both sides after election!

After hearing P. J. Neff and E. E. Kelly call each other names during the bootlegging trial in this city and now observing how the two of them are hobnobbing around the country together hoosting for Wilson, we have come to the conclusion that lawyers have awful forgiving natures.

Local democrats are muchly peeved because through somebody's mistake they had to listen to some ladies who were real talkers, tell them a thing or two about national conditions. They paid the visitors the compliment of hearing them out at any rate even after they found they were going to hear some red-blooded talk instead of hearing Mrs. Vanderbilt tell what kind of perfume she used on her lap dog, Mrs. Gould tell the shade of pink which best becomes her, and other like subjects of tremendous national interest, as they had been led to expect.

We'd Seek a Divorce.

Roseburg Review: G. W. Ryan, a well-known resident of this city, called at the office of Dr. E. N. Hoover late Wednesday afternoon suffering from pains produced by a pin which had lodged in his throat. After making a careful examination of the patient the doctor decided that it was not necessary to extract the pin at the present time. Mr. Ryan informed Dr. Hoover that he was eating some biscuits prepared by his wife when he discovered a pin which penetrated the roof of his mouth. This pin he threw to the floor, but continued to partake of the delicacy. Another pin which he overlooked lodged in his throat and caused him to seek medical attention.

During a recent suffrage parade a man carried one of the banners for his wife, who was not able to march. She sat in the grandstand and watched the parade go by. When they reached home the husband said: "Well, Mary, how did I march? Did I do the job right?"

"You carried that banner in the most disgraceful manner I ever saw," replied the angry spouse. "You dragged it in the dust all the way. What did you mean by doing that?"

"Did you see what was printed on that banner?" he asked.

"No, what was it?"

"Well, on that banner was printed this sign: 'Men can vote. Why can't I?'"

After reading sixteen columns of jokes in about twice as many papers, we pass these three on to you as the best of the bunch:

A penitent-looking man was on trial for vagrancy and disturbance of the peace. The judge seemed inclined to be lenient with him.

"What was the prisoner doing when you arrested him?" he said to the policeman.

"He was having a very heated argument with a cab driver, your honor."

"But that doesn't prove that he was the worse for liquor," the judge said. "Many sober people have arguments with cab drivers."

"So they do, your honor," said the policeman, "but in this case there was no cab driver."

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Dr. Jarvis likes dogs. He has some of his own, but apparently likes other people's dogs as well. Anyway, he invited Jack Beagle's big hound to go riding with him. The dog sat up in the front seat beside the doctor as dignified as could be until Mr. Jarvis stopped the car in front of a patient's house. When the doctor returned after a brief visit he found the cushions and upholstering on the front seats all chewed to bits. If we could talk dog language we would ask that hound if Jack feeds him enough. Dr. Jarvis's faith in strange dogs is ruined. So are the cushions. Now Doc has bought a baseball mask, or some kind of wire contrivance that he puts on the face of the dogs he invites to ride with him.

A group of Ashland's young ladies journeyed to Central Point not long ago to participate in a "slumber party" at the home of a certain Miss Stratton, which is as near as we dare come to telling who was in the party. All went well at the party until someone suggested a flashlight picture. There were sixteen of the girls. The camera's focus demanded that they all get on one bed. There was not room. Four got under, twelve on top. Just as the camera snapped the bed broke down, precipitating twelve upon four. The pictures are not for sale.

O. F. Carson says: "By the time you have run a Ford as long as I have you will carry a pair of pliers too."

A noted scientist of the University of California announces his belief that Mars' inhabitants have large areas of that globe under cultivation, and that irrigation is extensively practiced. The way these district men are going after irrigation, the Rogue River valley will catch up with Mars yet.

Perhaps you read the news stories in the big city papers about the lynching in Kentucky last Monday. Howard Barrett was reading the account the other day at luncheon. When he came to the description of how the negro was fastened onto a rope thrown over a limb and attached to an automobile he remarked: "Well, it wouldn't be so bad if it was a Packard, but I'd hate like thunder to be lynched by a Ford."

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