

ASHLAND TIDINGS

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—by—
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Best R. Greer, Editor

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THE TIDINGS IS THE ONLY NEWSPAPER IN SOUTHERN OREGON THAT PUBLISHED NEVER LESS THAN EIGHT PAGES AN ISSUE.

The Tidings has a greater circulation in Ashland and its trade territory than all other Jackson county papers combined.

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REFLECTED GLORY

As you hear of the amazing exploits of our soldiers in the Argonne forest, it seems pretty grand to be an American. Our hearts swell with pride, so that people feel almost as if they had done these things themselves.

Those who sent their own boys suffered as much as the soldiers. They are entitled to the most reverent honor. The rest of us who stayed at home endured minor discomforts with a patience that was creditable. But the sufferings of most of us will seem rather petty looking back from future years. The stay-at-homes have not yet qualified as heroes.

There is a tendency to take on reflected glory from the things done by our neighbors and other representatives, and substitute it for our own achievement. It is easier for young men to admire the prowess of athletic heroes than to acquire athletic skill themselves and bring back honor to their town and school. Also it is easier to feel pride in the achievements of those who built up the home town, than to take hold ourselves.

It is well to feel pride in our glorious soldiers. But let not our enthusiasm evaporate in mere admiration.

Many of us have faith to believe that the experiences of this war have lifted our people to a higher level, so that they will be readier than before to assume the responsibilities of citizenship. They must do so, or cut a sorry figure when our boys return.

One is not asked to cut any barbed wire in the deadly Argonne. One is called on merely for the safe and easy tasks, the sometimes they seem onerous. Let us assume with more energy and spirit the duties of community life and citizenship, with a desire to do worthy things ourselves, instead of resting satisfied with the achievement of others.

CIVIL SERVICE JOBS FOR SOLDIERS AND SAILORS

The United States Civil Service Commission is perfecting arrangements whereby men who are about to be discharged from the Army or Navy may receive first-hand information concerning opportunities for employment in the Federal civil service. The Commission has received authority from the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy to appoint its representatives at all establishments where enlisted men are assembled in considerable numbers. These representatives are now being appointed. They will be prepared to inform the men fully concerning positions which are open, to supply them with application blanks, to assist them, if necessary, with the execution of their applications and to advise them relative to civil-service matters generally. It is the plan of the Civil Service Commission to entrust this work to educational directors of welfare organizations already operating at the camps, cantonments, etc. The representatives of the Commission who are appointed from the personnel of these welfare organizations will have the benefit of the advice and assistance of the Commission's local boards of examiners at nearby cities, in addition to the instructions received from the Commission.

SAYS LAMB IS ONLY

LEGAL COUNCILMAN

A subscriber telephones the Tidings that when all is said and done, and we get down to real legal brass tacks we will find that A. L. Lamb, who does not even claim now to be a part of the municipal administration, is the only real legal councilman in Ashland. In fact, the subscriber says, Lamb is now the whole administration. He was the legally elected councilman two years ago, has never resigned, but refused to become a candidate in the last illegal election, therefore he is the only member of the administration who has the right to hold over under the constitutional provision that his tenure continues "until his successor is elected and qualified."

Well, we will admit it is an awful mess. There seems some virtue in Lamb's claim to the office. However, the whole matter can be cleared by holding a legal charter amendment election at which time a special election is called to elect a complete city ticket. The present illegal city officers could place their resignations in the hands of the city recorder to take effect immediately after the vote at the city election is counted and certificates of election issued to the newly elected members. This will be done unless Lamkin and Banta are afraid to risk their jobs. Of course they would be candidates to succeed themselves and if the people are still with them they would be elected and become the legal representatives of the city in the administration. But, we think Banta and Lamkin are afraid of their political hides and will make an effort to cram down the throats of the electorate a charter amendment ratifying the illegal election of last fall so they will be sure to hold their jobs. If they do and the people desire it, either the charter amendment can be voted down or a recall can be called by initiative. We think the latter would be a more fitting rebuke to officers who have no more regard for legal procedure than these gentlemen have evinced during the past year.

A CONSERVATIVE VISION

In 1915 the writer lit his pipe and had a vision. It was a pipe dream, no doubt superinduced by smoking "Lucky Strike." Anyhow, it appears now to indicate slight overenthusiasm.

From a good and mirthful friend, we received Friday thru the mail a clipping of that editorial accompanied by a slip of paper upon which was written: "Found this in an old hat." The editorial advised readers to "cut this out and paste it in your hat," so it would be remembered. Well, the only thing we can see wrong now with that pipe dream is that we inadvertently set the time limit to three years. At that time the greatest enthusiasm and co-operation we have ever witnessed in any community existed in Ashland and the vision was based on possible results from that enthusiasm and co-operation. We opened that editorial by saying "we were neither a prophet, nor the son of a prophet." Had we been a real prophet like Jeremiah we might have seen popular enthusiasm quickly waning and all kinds of dissensions, bickerings, recalls, political jealousies, suspicions and the like planting themselves squarely in the path of the prophe-

sied development and hindering it so that, while still in sight, is far away.

Then there was the war that came to America two years ago discouraging investment and development and with it all we admit that the results have fallen far short of our vision. Yet, we did not give it up. Again cooperation among citizens is apparent, most of the bickerings from jealousy, crinations and recriminations are laid aside and Ashland is now housing more tourists than it has ever enjoyed before. We are rapidly approaching that happy day and it will surely come to pass. We think, had community spirit continued as high as it was then already the vision would be realized.

No, we will never give it up. There is latent force enough in the springs enterprise to produce that happy result and we are betting, within five years, barring lethargy and lack of foresight on the part of citizens it will come to pass. The full force of the city administration, the park board, the newspapers and the citizens must be centered on it and there must be no bickering over nonessentials. How soon the vision comes true will depend on the citizens of Ashland. If it never comes true, it will be our fault, not that of the enterprise.

HOME TOWN FEELING

Some people play a lone hand. They do not form much attachment to the place where they live, and do not particularly regret leaving it if they have to move. And no one weeps any tears when they pack up and go. They respond to no call for co-operation. And no one feels any particular desire to help them along. The community gains little from their presence. And a town made up of that kind of people is a dead one.

Then there are those who feel an intense loyalty to their home town and all the people living there, to all its undertakings and enterprises. It is partly sentimental affection, partly a keen sense of the practical business value of co-operation and team work. Ashland has a lot of these folks. Its progress is due to them. They feel a cordial interest in all our townspeople. You can depend upon their hearty support for any community project. Every local enterprise has their backing. In so far as that idea prevails, the town will realize its possibilities.

When this spirit exists, it is a genuine pleasure to give preference in all business dealings and purchase of material, to anything that comes from the home town. If a suit of clothes sold here is just as

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good for the same money, always buy it. One might well buy it, even if it was a little inferior. But thanks to our splendidly stocked stores, that sacrifice is rarely necessary. It is poor community spirit and deficient team work to buy stuff out of town unless we know from investigation that it is not to be had at home.

When a town has this unified, co-operative, reciprocity spirit of team work, you can't stop it. The compact mass of people working for common ends, will beat out a greater population whose energies are divided and scattered.

SEVERE PENALTY METED OUT TO TAX-DOGDERS

How does Uncle Sam deal with tax-doggers? This inquiry was prompted by the severe penalties provided in the new revenue bill, has brought from Commissioner Daniel C. Roper a frank statement as to the internal revenue bureau's attitude toward those who attempt to evade taxation:

Any person who deliberately conceals tax liability, or who falsifies a return in order to evade or reduce any internal revenue tax, or who deliberately abets such concealment or fraud, finds arrayed against him the entire strength of this bureau pressing for the full civil and criminal penalties. This is the attitude toward the tax-dogder, expressed in one sentence. Whether he is a moonshiner, a stealthy trafficker in habit-forming drugs, or juggler of income figures, a delinquent in making the sworn return the law requires, or a revenue violator of any other kind, the bureau is charged with the duty of hunting him out and exacting the full punishment provided in the law. Towards the taxpayer who means to comply with the internal revenue laws, fully and honestly, the bureau

extends a helping hand. Cooperation with the taxpayer is our watchword and objective.

These two contrasts—the teeth of the law for the tax-dogder and the violator, and the aid of every lawful agency for the voluntary taxpayer—are policies necessary to the administration of tax laws under modern conditions. One of the most difficult of the many problems in tax collecting is to classify those who fail to fulfill the obligations imposed by law. The bureau is obliged to maintain a large staff and to use the utmost discretion in properly labeling these cases. Even-handed justice is a heavy responsibility and only thru careful siftings can delinquents be classified.

There are three distinct classes of delinquency with which we have to deal. First, the taxpayer who had reasonable cause, brought about by exceptional conditions beyond his control; secondly, the fellow who didn't look up or didn't realize his obligations; and thirdly, the person who wilfully evaded compliance with the law.

KLAMATH READY TO RAISE MILLION FOR GOOD ROADS

Because they wish to capitalize the tourist travel, the citizens of Klamath county are ready to raise \$1,000,000 to build a road from the California state line to Crater lake, according to the Oregonian. The success of the enterprise depends on how the people of Oregon vote in the special election June 3.

"If we are given the opportunity to tax ourselves 6 per cent of the assessed valuation of the county for road purposes," explained State Senator George T. Baldwin recently, "there will be instead of 3500 automobiles going to Crater lake in a year, a parade of 15,000 machines."

"All that is necessary to cause automobile tourists to swarm to this greatest piece of natural scenery in the world is a good road to it."

Senator Baldwin had just one object in attending the 1919 session of the legislature, and that was to have put up to the people the proposition of permitting the counties to tax themselves up to 6 per cent of their assessed valuation for roads. He would like to have made it 10 per cent and three members of the committee in the senate were friendly to the plan, but Senator Ira C. Smith of Coos Bay threatened to fight it if 10 per cent was insisted on. The measure passed the senate by 27 votes and went thru the house almost unanimously. The measure is referred to the people for approval.

"There isn't a county in central Oregon that will not boost this measure on the ballot," continued Senator Baldwin. "They want roads and are willing to tax themselves to get them. In Klamath county we have a road association with 600 members and they are anxious to see the people approve the measure."

"We have assurances from California that if we build from the state line California will build out from its highway to connect with our road. If this is done, there will be an all-year road between California and eastern and western Oregon, for other counties will connect up, and a machine can go, if it desires, thru central Oregon to Bend and thence to the Columbia River highway, or it can go around by Medford and up the Pacific highway to Portland. We will spend a million, if we are permitted to; that is what the people in my country think it is worth to the community. It is 30 miles from Klamath Falls to Crater lake. We would also like to build a first-class road from Klamath Falls to Merrill, which would pass thru the finest alfalfa land out of doors."

"The government will pave around the lake and, as the proposed road runs up the forest reserve within which the lake is located, it is possible that the government can be induced to build the road thru the forest reserve, which would save us some money. Anyway, there is in prospect the building of a standard, high type of road right up to the lake, and when this is realized the people of the nation will begin to discover that Crater lake cannot be described in words."

"There is no reason why the voters should not approve of the measure, for if a county does not wish to avail itself of the privilege it does not cost a cent, whereas it will enable such counties as wish to help themselves to do so."

OWNING A HOME BRINGS PECULIAR SATISFACTION

There is something about owning a home that is hard to explain; some restless fundamental craving that meets; some magical change it effects in the character. It is inbred in us to want an abiding place, one of our very own. Almost any one who can pay rent



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can buy a home, and usually he can get a better house than he rents. I do not mean that he can buy a house for the same price he rents; nor that it always figures cheaper to buy than to rent. But the home owner gets more. The things he is adding are things the renter dies without.

Anyway, figures do not tell the story. A man can show figures to prove that it is cheaper for him to pay \$30 a month rent than to buy a \$4000 house and pay seven per cent for the money. It is—and yet if he buys the house, nine to one, in five years he will be worth \$2000 more than if he had kept on renting. There are lots of people sorry they used bad judgment in buying or in building, but very, very few are sorry they own their homes.

It does not take much money. The trouble is most people postpone it until they can get just exactly what they want—and that usually puts it on the other side of Jordan.

If you have found a place you think you want and wish to give it the final test, try to sell it. Get an option at the lowest figure you can, an agreement that the owner will sell it to you at a certain price within two weeks. Then advertise the place for sale at fifty dollars more than your option, and take out every inquirer. You will be asked questions you never thought of, and will hear objections that you never imagined.

Is there a light on the back porch. Are the studdings two-by-fours? Are the joists braced? Can mice get into the pantry? Why aren't the front steps wider? Why did you ever have it painted that color? Do you think anybody with a spark of pride would live in a house across the street from THAT? If the hall had only been placed two feet farther east, or if the fire-place was in the other end of the room, or if there was any place in the chamber for an extra folding bed, or if the registers were in the wall instead of the floor—

Realizing the triviality of these objections, you will be convinced that even if it is not a dream of a house it is far better than a rented house. You will buy it.

There may even then be some risk—there is in crossing the street, or just in living. But it is worth all the risks, all the economics, all the sacrifices to have some place at the close of every day to which you can turn, and when you see the light in the window, feel that peculiar thrill of "It is my own."—William H. Hamby in the March "Sunset."

LUMBER CUT OF MILLS IN OREGON AND WASHINGTON

Lumber census reports received up to February 24 by District Forester George H. Cecil, Portland, show that 321 large mills in Oregon and Washington cut five and one-half billion board feet during 1918. This is a slight decrease from the cut in 1917.

The reports by states are as follows: 116 mills in Oregon report 2,115,676 M. board feet cut in 1918, which is 33,208 M. feet less than the cut of the identical mills reported for 1917. Two hundred five mills in Washington report 3,383,312 M. board feet cut in 1918, which is 121,598 M. feet less than in 1917.

The returns available are as yet incomplete, but the data indicates that practically all of the larger mills have reported. Because of the expected increase in demand for lumber from these two states, the officials in charge of gathering this data are anxious to make the census as nearly complete as possible.

Operators in the district are furnishing excellent cooperation with the Forest Service, according to Mr. Cecil, and it is believed that reports will be received from practically all the mills of the district that were active in 1918. It is specially desirable that these reports come in promptly, so they may be included in the final tabulation of lumber cut for the year.



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