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THE PEOPLE'S FORUM.

"THE COMMUNITY CHEST."
 Editor Tidings—Our Chamber of Commerce recently asked the residents of Ashland to vote as to whether or no the Community Chest plan was adopted to meet demands on us in support of various charities. The vote returned endorsed the plan, but by such a small majority that the Chamber's board of directors are in doubt as to what course should be pursued.

Our citizens will recall that two years ago we organized what we called "The Ashland Patriotic Fund" and there was actually paid into this fund over \$18,000, and the entire expense incurred in soliciting, collecting and disbursing this fund amounted to less than \$50.

Operating under the above plan, hundreds of dollars were saved that, under the "separate drive," we would have had to meet in connection with expenses of speakers, advertising, etc. Our citizens were spared the annoyance of repeated demands on them for subscriptions and, too, our public spirited workers were spared the work of making repeated soliciting trips. Reviewing the distribution of this large amount of money; there was at times some difference of opinion among the members of the board of directors, but these differences were honest ones and there was a conscientious desire on the part of every member of the board to do what was right and to use the money as its donors would approve. Undoubtedly some mistakes of judgment occurred but I think the subscribers to the fund very generally approved its distribution.

Operating under that "Community Chest" plan, the southern portion of Jackson county—the Ashland-Talent-Phoenix district—met all demands

promptly, and we are proud of the record we made.
 Now, what of the future? The war is over and there is no longer demand or need to support many of the activities we were called upon to help during the war period, but from time to time we will be called upon to contribute to the support of worthy charities. There is no question in my mind but that the people of Ashland and vicinity will respond to these calls in the future as they have in the past but what method shall be adopted for the raising of funds?

It is to be regretted that a larger percentage of the people did not express themselves through the referendum vote for a really decisive vote, either for or against the adoption of the "Community Chest" plan, which would have been interpreted by the Chamber's directors as instructions to be followed. Speaking individually, I have felt that Ashland should again raise and disburse its funds under the "Community Chest" plan and I feel reasonably sure that a large percentage of those who have given the matter serious consideration favor it, but I can only express this as my opinion and I do not know how we can go about it to arrive at a definite knowledge of how a majority of our people feel about it.

Of course we do not need to raise any such amount of money as we did two years ago, but all will agree that some provision must be made to meet the demands that will be made upon us in worthy causes.

A national campaign is now on for the raising of a fund for the "Near East Relief" and for the starving Chinese and surely this is an appeal that we cannot ignore. Mr. Edgar B. Piper, editor of the Oregonian, and M. A. L. Mills, president of First National Bank of Portland, have been named by President Harding to lead in the raising of Oregon's quota of this fund. Writing to us under recent date, Mr. Piper says:

"I trust that in considering the matter of contributing to this fund there may come to the people of Ashland and vicinity the same sensation that came to me when I was asked by the president to co-operate with Mr. Mills in making this appeal to the state. It is, to say the least, an unusual feeling to realize that the lives of thousands of men and women have been placed in your hands. It is a responsibility we did not seek, but it is one we could not refuse."

"I am sure that the people of the Ashland District will realize that favorable action in contributing to this fund means that many children will live while a failure to act would mean the death of many of those who can look only to us for life. Just as the people of the state, by their laws, can place in the hands of the governor the lives of men condemned to die, so the president has placed in our hands, and we in turn, yours, the lives of these condemned, through no fault of their own, to the most hideous of deaths."

We must meet this appeal for funds, shall we do it by a drive in behalf of this cause alone, or shall we attempt a reorganization of the "Community Chest" plan? We must take some action, and we should take it at once.

E. V. CARTER.

DIES WHILE DIGGING HIS OWN GRAVE

HAZLETON, Pa., April 1—Death from a stroke of paralysis prevented Frank Marterilli from completing the diggin' of his own grave. Friends said he often expressed fear he would not live much longer and two days before he died he began digging his grave in the Precious Blood cemetery. He was 74 years old.

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Ashland Post, No. 14
 ASHLAND, OREGON
 Glenn E. Simpson, Post Commander.
 H. G. Wolcott, Vice-Commander.
 Ralph Hadfield, Historian.
 Wm. Holmes, Treasurer.
 Donald Spencer, Adjutant and Legion Editor.

The Memorial is the most prominent question before the American Legion just now. It is interesting to note the splendid work of the various committees from all organizations represented. The interest displayed by the committees from the G. A. R., the W. R. C. and the D. A. R. and Chamber of Commerce with their timely suggestions and helpful and mature advice has been a source of inspiration and encouragement to our committee from the American Legion. The job is going over with a boom and it will be a permanent memorial to the kindly thoughts of all who subscribe to the fund needed for its erection. Saturday, April 2 and Monday, April 4 have been designated as donation days for this fund. Even if you cannot give toward it, your voice in its support will be appreciated. Talk it and think it for a week anyway.

Right along this line it will be interesting to note the work of the American Legion nationally. The National organization has started a campaign to raise the necessary funds with which to insure the proper decoration and commemorations of our graves "over there." Each organization has been asked to contribute at the rate of ten cents for each member in good standing on March 1, 1921, but not less than \$5 from each post. This fund will be handled by our national treasurer and will be proportionately distributed between the graves of France, Great Britain and Belgium, Italy and Germany. The American Legion posts in these countries will have specially designated committees to attend to this work in their respective countries. It is a noble work and a noble cause, and we heartily appreciate this opportunity to do our bit.

This work is all done by the Americans, but that does not take into account such beautiful tributes as are paid annually by our friends in France. A beautiful letter was received from France a short time ago, by one of our members who has a brother "over there," telling how they deposit flowers and tears of love and honor on the graves of our boys who are so far from home. Those people over there do not forget. It is to them a sacred duty and an honor for them to pay tribute to our dead for us.

Our monument for permanent Memorial of the Honored Dead, does not mean for the World War dead alone, but is builded to commemorate the dead of ALL our WARS, from the first up to and including the World War. While the American Legion is taking the active part of the preparations, it is only upon the advice and co-operation of all the other organizations that this action is taken. The privilege and honor of taking part in this great undertaking belongs to all alike, no soliciting is contemplated; it will be left to your own desires.

Ashland Post No. 14 has received a communication from Weed Post No. 71, of Weed, Calif., inviting our attention to the fact that they are going to stage a real celebration for July Fourth this year. They state that their celebration will be different from the old drift of such celebrations. It is to be sane, attractive and instructive, in every detail, with special attractions of interest to members of the American Legion. More detailed information will be given out at a later date. They are very much in earnest in their endeavor for an extra good one this year and have an extra good cause for which the hope to raise some funds with which to develop it. All monies gained from the celebration will be spent in the erection of a children's recreation park, in attendance at this celebration, which is most worthy indeed. A healthy change from our time ridden celebrations would be greatly appreciated by all. Weed Post has our very best wishes.

The ex-service men and the Civil Service positions are pretty thoroughly dove-tailed together. There is a law in effect at this time that protects the ex-service man where his work is good. We quote as follows:

"That in the event of reductions being made in the force in any of the executive departments, no honorably discharged soldier or sailor whose record in said department is rated good, shall be discharged or dropped, or reduced in rank of salary."

There is a pretty stiff little penalty attached to the law for violators of its provisions, which make it scarcely worth while to attempt it.

There is to be a special election held on the seventh of next June, (June 7, 1921), at which time it will be decided by the people of Oregon whether the wish to have the ex-service persons of this state paid a bonus of \$15 for each month of service between the 6th of April, 1917, and November 11th, 1919, and a loan from the state for the purpose

of purchasing a city home, suburban home, or a farm home. The loan feature grants a loan up to 75 per cent of the appraised valuation, not to exceed \$3000. This would be a very substantial assistance to a great many ex-service men and women, and tends to make for the very best kind of citizens—Home owners.

A home owner will naturally take more interest in the affairs of state than a non-owner. The state executive committee of the American Legion asks all ex-service persons in the community to donate 50 cents each toward a fund for pressing the issue before this election. These donations are to be paid to the local adjutants who will forward them to the state department at Portland. If you are interested read this section again, and then use your own judgment.

Do you know the present whereabouts of Lee Moore, formerly of the 75th Company, 6th Marines? Moore was last seen in Dallas, Oregon. Information is desired by the state headquarters and the American Red Cross Chapter in Portland. The Red Cross Chapter also wants to know where the following men are: They hold their discharges and cannot deliver them: Emmet Weston, Guy M. Russie, James A. Brown, James Kingston and Ralph Jackson Morris. Ashland Post wants to know where Charles Burdette is. He was last heard of at Hill, Calif. Any information that can be obtained regarding the above named ex-service men will be greatly appreciated by the American Legion.

There is many a slip between the

cup and the lip, and it slipped this time, but just temporarily. The adjutant neglected to collect the required four bits from each member signing the application for the Auxiliary, so it came back for the coin. Fortunately it was not greatly delayed, for one of the ladies most kindly put up the necessary wherewith and it has gone in again, so you can count up your eligible neighbors again and get ready to bring 'em all down to the Armory when the call comes for the election of your officers and the completion of your organization.

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