

## INDEPENDENCE ENTERPRISE

CHARLES EDWARD HICKS

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## FOR A GREATER INDEPENDENCE

With this issue the ownership of the Independence Enterprise passes into the hands of Henry E. Browne, who for more than seven years past has been identified with the publication of the Silverton Appeal, he having purchased the plant, subscription list and good will of the paper from Mr. Chas. E. Hicks.

In presenting this number we must admit that it is not attended with our greatest anticipations or our highest expectations. Time and co-operation on the part of patron and publisher are the requisites by which we may hope to reach great achievements. We trust that the time and attention we purpose to give this light of civilization in the future may merit the co-operation of every business man and every private citizen. We are not going to make a long column of promises to be broken soon, but will simply say we have come to do our very best as a citizen of Independence to enthrone public sentiment in the direction of a Greater Independence in every sense of the term. We have watched the development of the city for more than ten years with a marked degree of interest. We have observed its prosperity and its adversity and take up the work perhaps not fully conversant with the extreme conditions, yet not entirely a stranger.

During the past twenty-four years we have learned many important lessons, chief among which is, perhaps, that a public servant is not capable of pleasing everybody. He may at all times work for what he believes to be for the betterment of the public in general regardless of frown or favor. This we expect to do conscientiously and persistently. The great success of the city and the paper in this undertaking may depend upon your loyal support and good will and we hope that our efforts along this line may merit universal good will if not unanimous support.

From a political standpoint the new publisher is a republican and believes in those grand old party principles. However we are in sympathy with the great American demand for the "square deal" for every man which has become insistent as it never has been before, but these questions have been settled for the present and by the time other issues are before the public conditions may so change that the few voices now pleading for fair treatment will become a chorus almost universal in the demand for fair play in the financial, industrial and political world. While the Enterprise may not meet every requirement along this line we trust that our faults will not retard the success of the paper on other important topics of great interest. We are not too old in experience to learn nor so conversant with the conditions to be above just criticism. On the contrary we solicit criticism that is given for the purpose of bettering the general conditions of the town and vicinity and for the purpose of building a Greater Independence.

In conclusion let it be said we need your assistance in making the paper reach the expectations of the publisher. Until we become more familiar with the town and with the people it will be indeed difficult to get the news, and we will most certainly appreciate your every effort in this respect. We want a live correspondent in every town and valley tributary to Independence and we expect to have one. As soon as the business will warrant it we will enlarge the paper and increase our efforts and capacity to meet the requirements of the Greater Independence which we expect to see in the near future. Help us, get busy, and let this be our slogan: "A Greater Independence in 1911."

My labors end as editor of the Independence Enterprise with this issue. It is needless to say that the sanctum sanctorium of the Enterprise is vacated to my successor, Mr. Henry E. Browne, with all confidence in his ability to do better by you than I have. I am deeply sensible of my shortcomings as an editor and it is with pleasure that I recommend Mr. Browne to you, believing in his ability to unite Independence in an undivided support of the Enterprise. I trust that you will be content to claim me as a resident and that the pleasant relations which have existed

heretofore will continue between us.  
CHAS. E. HICKS

## THE NEED OF GOOD BOOKS

The business and political problems that confront American citizens are continually becoming more intricate.

Their ~~great business and political~~ and more knowledge and wider information of the world and its people. If our nation is to have competent citizenship it must have an ever broadening system of education, and happily the towns and cities are growing into it every day. Our common schools have been our main safeguard against ignorant suffrage, but their work is too narrow to meet modern needs. Our district schools are run at a great expense to teach the children how to read, chiefly, and then leave most of them to get their future reading by chance. The few years of school life would be worth vastly more if the training was only preliminary to a life-long education wrought from good books by mature minds.

Our growing system of school libraries is giving young people a desire for good reading, but how shall they gratify it? In some cities in Oregon this problem is being met by free public libraries whose increasing number and usefulness is a happy omen for their future. But how about our farming neighborhoods, our hamlets and small villages? Hundreds of such communities have tried to provide themselves with permanent libraries and have almost invariably failed. They have raised money by entertainments or by private subscriptions and have bought books with high hopes of continued success, but unfortunately they nearly always bought volumes too difficult for the first needs of their people, and the few entertaining and worthy books are quickly read and the public interest ceases. Here is where the need of a traveling library is reached in the country places.

## JOIN WITH US

While a newspaper may print column after column of matter eulogistic of its town, the very brightest saying will be received with a grain of doubt if its advertising columns do not bear the impress of enterprise. The outside public has become well used to the patriotic utterances of the western press, and now when an eastern man takes up a western paper he turns first to see for himself what enterprises are represented in the town. If he finds advertising columns well filled he knows at once that the paper is published in a well established, prosperous community, and he next proceeds to examine reading matter to gain special information. He knows that so far as reading is concerned an elegant paper can be published in a plain shanty, but to him the advertisements are indisputable evidence of actual development. A newspaper to be a real benefit to a town, in the way of attracting investors, must be the joint production of the publisher and the local business men. That's what we want to make the Enterprise and we have faith enough in the home business men to believe they will join with us in this undertaking.

## OUR SCHOOL BUILDINGS

A handsome school building is not merely an ornament to a town, but a necessity for the best of school work. Only those who have been obliged to stay for years in a cold and poorly ventilated building can fully appreciate what the Independence schools mean to our young people and to coming generations. Pure air is a necessity for clear-headed work. The same is true of proper temperature. A room which is either too warm or too cold will cause physical discomfort which will in turn detract from mental energy. Crowd into a room twice as many pupils as it was intended to accommodate and you have as bad a state of affairs in a modern school house as existed in the old one. The fault is not in the room, but in the fact that there are not enough of them. This, however, has been overcome in this city and the future welfare of the pupils in Independence has been well thought of in the construction of the new school building. The school system is a credit to any place and the people of this enterprising community are deserving of great credit in their efforts to improve the opportunities for education.

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