

The Parting of the Ways



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THE TOWNSEND PICNIC

Those who think the Townsend movement is a mere flare-up that will blink and go out will have another think coming if they attended the picnic held in Lithia park last Sunday that was sponsored by the Townsend clubs of Jackson county.

Every club was represented and there was a large attendance. The speakers, H. E. Wirth of Medford, Judge Jefferies of Portland and Ernest Rhoads of Grants Pass, proved their points with deep reasoning and argument and without any appeal to passion.

It is useless for opponents of the plan to class the Townsends as unfair, as self seekers, as trying to get something for nothing. Their plan is not selfish. It is patriotic. It would lift this country from the depths of debt and put it where it rightfully belongs as the land of opportunity. It would end unemployment and uncertainty.

The picnic here, the enthusiasm, the basic arguments, are symbols of what is taking place in every part of America. Townsend clubs are growing in number and in membership. Loyal they are, and true. The movement is founded upon a rock.

It is not a movement, as some opponents are so dense as to claim, of old people. It is a youth movement as well, because the young are beginning to realize that without it the days of opportunity are gliding swiftly into the past. Youth must be served, but it doesn't propose to be served with husks and rinds.

THE CITIZEN'S CREED

"My town is the place where my home is founded; where my business is situated; where my vote is cast; where my children are educated; where my neighbors dwell and where my life is chiefly lived. It is the home spot for me.

"My town has the right to my civic loyalty. It supports me, and I must support it. My town wants my citizenship, not partisanship; friendliness, not dis-

sension; sympathy, not criticism; my intelligence, not indifference.

"My town supplies me with law and order, trade, friends, education, morals, recreation and the right of a free-born American. I should believe in my town and work for it."

—Atlanta Kiwanian.

SCHOOL DAYS ARE HERE

"School days, school days, dear old Golden Rule days." They're here again and the good old town seems brighter. They're not only here, but they're just about everywhere all over this big country. And the whole big country seems brighter.

Remember when they called it "The first day o' school?" And remember how you trudged a couple of miles to the country schoolhouse with your reader and jography and 'rithmetic under your arm and a lunch bucket in your hand?

Many a statesman, many a scholar, many a man whose name is written large in history, trudged to a district school for his start in education. Now we have graded schools except in outlying districts. But the spirit of school is just the same and the facilities are much better.

CONSTRUCTION FUNDS

More than \$30,000,000 in construction funds will flow into Oregon if all new applications for loans and grants from the Public Works administration are approved, it was revealed by C. C. Hockley, state director of the PWA. Approximately 150 applications came in, considerably under the number anticipated by Hockley.

The total amount involved in the applications is \$30,990,282.72, of which \$12,615,648.43 will be in the form of loans and \$13,950,411.39 in grants. The fact that the federal government will give a grant of 45 per cent, outright would indicate a higher total for loans, but in many cases the units applying are part of the work on which the loan would be applied, and hence have not requested loans.

"The thing that stands out in my mind," said Hockley, "is the final last minute awakening of the state that it could have 45 per cent grants if it could furnish 55 per cent and that it had real need."

The latter fact was evidenced, he pointed out, by the fact that 31 of the applications were for water systems, meaning that 31 communities would get away from polluted water; 15 were for sewer systems and 51 for schools. The remaining 50 are divided between dams, irrigation projects, power systems and public buildings, with one private loan of \$5,000,000 to the Portland Traction Co. The traction company application is for a loan, with no gift grant.

School Fund Of Jackson County In Good Shape

The public schools of Jackson county, including Medford and Ashland, have a net cash balance, over and above warrant indebtedness, of \$86,944.59 as of June 17, 1935, compared to being in the red \$60,221.42 in 1933, according to figures compiled by County School Superintendent C. R. Bowman.

This is in spite of the fact that the sales tax, designed to "save the schools," was defeated.

The improved financial condition, according to Superintendent Bowman and Superintendent of schools, E. H. Hedrick, is due to improved tax payments.

In 1934 the cash balance was \$565.70, resulting from a warrant indebtedness of \$138,491.89 and a cash on hand of \$139,057.59. In one year, according to these figures, the cash balance has increased from the \$565.70 in 1934 to \$86,944.59 in 1935, or a most healthy improvement. Part of the improvement is due to curtailed expenditures, school officials said. This year the total warrant indebtedness is only \$75,609.80, compared to \$138,491.89 in 1934. Cash on hand last year was only \$139,057.59 compared to a cash on hand this year of \$162,554.39.

The financial condition of the districts, and of the entire county school system, is considerably better now than it was last June, at the close of school, officials said, because tax payments have continued to improve. Exact figures are not available to give comparative figures of the present date. Medford district, however, is now on a cash basis, Superintendent Hedrick reported, all bond payments having been met.

As for the high school districts of the county, they, too, show a great financial improvement. Starting in the banner year of 1929-30, when money was flowing freely, the net cash balance was \$114,496.48 for the high school districts. In 1930-31 it dropped to \$101,960.14; in 1931-32 it went down to \$39,675.65; in 1932-33 it went in the red \$68,451.92, in 1933-34 it was less in the red, but still in \$16,288.17, and in 1934-35, (last year) it came out into the black again with a net balance of \$52,053.70. The net balance is determined by subtracting warrant indebtedness from cash on hand. The figures do not include bonded indebtedness.

If you can appreciate alpine flowers at their best, motor up to Legion Camp or Camp Cloud Cap this week-end and hike over the Eden park or Coopers Spur-Glacier meadows sections of the new Timberline trail. Tilly Jane creek, from the wooden bridge at Legion camp, is now an alpine garden.—Hood River News.

Press photos of a picnic, showing Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt Jr., drinking coffee with a spoon in the cup are smart political publicity, but who's going after the saucer-blowing vote?—Detroit News.

Brad's Bit O' Verse

By CLEM BRADSHAW

BLAZING THE TRAIL

Sometimes we walk untrodden ways
Where drifts are cold and deep;
Sometimes we toil with halting step
O'er pathways rough and steep;
We leave the pleasant fields behind,
We scorn the peaceful vale,
And through long miles of desert gloom
We blaze the onward trail.

What matters that the road is rough
Or that the way is long?
Our eyes are ever to the front,
Our hearts are brave and strong.
We toil not for ourselves alone,
But for the coming years;
And they that follow in our steps
Will bless the pioneers.

The path that we are making now
Will soon be smooth and wide;
For other feet will dare to climb
The track that we have tried
Then other hardy pioneers
Will strive new trails to blaze—
And thus the world goes toiling up
To higher, better days.

Sometimes we walk a lonely trail
And weary of the quest;
Sometimes we long to be content;
We sigh for peace and rest;
But still we strive, and still we climb,
And still we forge ahead,
To make the path less difficult
For other feet to tread.



S'MATTER POP

By C. M. Payne



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