

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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Official Paper of the City of Medford.

GEORGE PUTNAM, Editor and Manager.

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SOUTHERN OREGON SETS THE PACE.

Southern Oregon sets the pace for Oregon. It is developed far ahead of any other section of the state outside the metropolis. It has more enterprise, more hustle and more progressiveness than any other section.

In municipal improvements and growth, Medford has set a pace hitherto unequalled. Its post office business showed an increase of over thirty-three per cent in 1909 and in January, 1910, the gain was 54 per cent. In bank deposits, the increase in 1909 was 49 per cent and in January, 1910, was 48 per cent over that of the previous January. In 1909 three-quarters of a million was spent in public improvements in Medford and in 1910 nearly as much will be spent for paving, approximately 15 miles of street paving having been petitioned for.

The buildings planned for Medford in 1910 include two four story hotels at a cost of \$75,000 apiece, a \$75,000 four-story office building, a \$50,000 three-story department store, a \$60,000 apartment house, a \$40,000 Masonic temple, a \$50,000 railroad depot, a \$40,000 hardware store and numerous smaller structures.

The year 1910 will see the completion of the Pacific & Eastern to the timber belt and the extension over the Cascades underway. It will see timber manufacture commenced upon a large scale. Construction will be begun upon an interurban trolley line to connect the various cities of the valley. The erection of a smelter for the Blue Ledge mine will be begun and construction commenced upon the projected railroad to the mining district. Work will be started in earnest upon the Crater Lake boulevard.

The famous old orchards, whose products have won world-wide fame, are being subdivided and sold in small tracts, so that many families will have their homes where a few now live in luxury. An immense irrigation enterprise is under construction to bring into cultivation thousands of acres of uncultivated lands. Coal mines are being developed within sight of the city and a revival of gold mining is under way.

In public spirit and enterprise, the citizens of southern Oregon lead the state. Ashland started the movement for a greater commercial club by securing a membership of 412. Medford followed with a membership of 572. Roseburg has caught the fever, and is aiming at 500. From the energetic south spreads the fever, inoculating the northern mossbacks as it travels.

From Medford has come an initiative petition to amend the obsolete constitution so that counties may issue bonds for a good roads system. Ashland and Grants Pass have each mapped out a paving program for the coming year, setting an example for the rest of the state.

In every line of improvement and development southern Oregon leads, and is far ahead of the rest of the state.

"A PETITIONER" TELLS OF HIS SIDE OF THE SNELL RECALL

ASHLAND, Or., Feb. 4.—(To the Editor.)—It would be hardly fair to tax the patience of your excellent paper to air the grievances of the citizens of Ashland touching the proceedings of Mayor Snell's recall, but inasmuch as your correspondent from here has not taken the pains to inform himself of the facts, or has willfully disregarded them, it seems only proper that the matter should be presented as it is.

The statement that a "large number of Socialists, every well-meaning but unenlightened mossback and every avowed obstructionist" signed the petition is far from the truth. This correspondent had access to the petition and should have informed himself without going to Mayor Snell's friends for his information. This of itself would surely lay his statements open to the charge of prejudice.

The writer has been in Ashland several years and personally knows every signature on the petition. There are three signatures of men who claim to be Socialists on the petition and either one of them owns more taxpaying property than your correspondent, and his charges as to the remainder of the petitioners being mossbacks and obstructionists are no more truthful than his statement as to the Socialists.

As to the attitude of the people opposing Mayor Snell, they are not only favorable to substantial and permanent improvements, but their chief charge against him is his lack of disposition and ability as an executive officer to carry to comple-

tion projects which would put Ashland at the head of the civic improvement column among all the cities of Oregon. He has made such egregious blunders along these lines the past year, and by the appointment of committees has outlined so much more destructive policies for the current year, that all that seemed left to be done was to take steps to get rid of his incumbency. He has been the means of antagonizing or discharging the most competent supervisors placed in charge of these municipal improvements, and in several instances has secured the services of cheap and incompetent help that cost the city hundreds of dollars, because their work had to be torn up and done over again at double the expense.

It is not Socialism, mossbackism or lack of progressiveness that is the part of these petitioners. It is the unprogressiveness and incapacity of the present mayor to take up and carry forward in a practical way any improvement of magnitude.

The recall, instead of being an obnoxious provision, seems to have been a blessing in disguise, obtruded, as it were, upon the citizenship of Oregon. While the petitioners and those interested in the movement regretted to have to resort to this extreme measure, there is no fear entertained as to the successful termination of it, and there is no doubt expressed but that Ashland citizenship will put in his place a mayor whose conduct of affairs will soon cause the people to bury these recollections with the dead things of the past. Yours respectfully,

A PETITIONER.

Just received a complete line of enamel ware and kitchen furnishings. Compare our prices. Medford Hardware Co. 277

A SMALL INVESTOR AND STOCK IN LIFE INSURANCE

Under the caption, "Your Savings," the Saturday Evening Post in its last issue gave some very valuable advice concerning life insurance. In part it follows:

Nearly every man with any sort of income carries some form of life insurance. If he is uninsured it is not the fault of the agent, who is everywhere. During the past 25 years various great life insurance companies have become rich and powerful, and have piled up vast reserves and surpluses. Here, then, is a business that touches all the people and is, according to the general belief, very profitable. The question naturally arises, Why should not life insurance stock be a good investment? The answer not only explains a somewhat uncommon means of employing money, but also provides, in view of certain developments of the past five years, a helpful lesson for the small investor with savings.

You cannot measure the life insurance company as an investment medium by most of the standard forms, such as railroads and industries. An insurance company is a sort of public institution supervised by the state. It cannot earn money like an ordinary corporation because in many states its investments are restricted by law. Likewise, it is unable to distribute widely its profits because statutes provide that funds be laid aside for the protection of the policy-holder. In addition to these distinctions there is still another important one, namely, that there are different types of companies: the mutual companies, like the Mutual Life of New York, the New York Life or the New England mutual, which are conducted for the profit of the policy-holders; the stock companies, like the Prudential, the Metropolitan or the Travelers', which are conducted for the stockholders, and sometimes apportion a share of their earnings among policy-holders; and the combination stock and mutual companies, like the Equitable, with charters providing for mutualization.

Before taking up the stocks of the long-established companies it is more important and timely to consider the present wide sale of stocks in new companies. The approach to it is interesting. Everybody remembers the celebrated insurance investigation of 1905, when abuses of power and alliances between certain old companies and Wall street interests were revealed. These revelations provided an opportunity for the slick exploiter of stock. He immediately began to form or project life insurance companies and to unload the stock on the public. Between 1905 and 1908 nearly 100 new companies were organized, mostly in the west and south. The appeal of the majority of the promoters was the same, and it was very effective. They pointed to the immense amounts of money amassed by the old companies, to their stocks which were selling at big prices, and paying large dividends, and to the disclosures of the Armstrong hearings, and said: "Why send your good money east to be abused in Wall street? Keep it at home; have your own insurance company and gather in its profits." They held out the promise of dividends on the stock which ranged from 15 to 40 per cent. Men and women with savings began to buy this stock, and they are still buying it. They have not, in most cases, stopped to investigate the kind of company that was being formed, its prospects or its field for making money, or the character, integrity and experience of the men behind it. They have only seen the luring promise of dividend, and thus they have violated a fundamental investment rule.

Now, when the promoters of the new companies used the argument that the old companies had waxed fat they were, of course, speaking the truth. But they did not and do not say that their present prosperity and their rich record of dividends are the result of long years of upbuilding; that many of the people who now hold big blocks of this very valuable old stock got in at the start, had faith in the company and backed it through years of loss or financial embarrassment. In other words, like all other really good things, the average man did not get in on it, and it was not hawked about. The same thing might happen in time with a company projected today; but it is a speculation at the present time, and the man or woman with savings cannot afford to take this chance.

CY YOUNG ON HIS WAY FRISCO TO PORTLAND

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Feb. 5.—Danton "Cy" Young, veteran of veteran pitchers, left San Francisco today for Portland, Or., where he will visit a farmer brother who lives near McCredie's town, before starting for Hot Springs, Ark., to get his arm into shape for his twenty-second season in

Telephone Service

We have let the contract for the erection of a brick building in Medford, which will be used to serve our subscribers in Medford, Central Point, Jacksonville, Phoenix and the territory adjoining.

We are ready to make contracts in the vicinity of Eagle Point, Butte Falls or any part of the Rogue River valley on a definite payment basis, giving night and day service, including Sundays and holidays. It will not be necessary for subscribers to purchase telephones, build lines or care for same. We do all that for a low monthly charge.

We shall be pleased to explain our system, which is modern, up-to-date, and of the selective ringing type, so it is unnecessary to listen for signals, as the bell rings only for the party wanted.

Call or drop us a line, and we will gladly explain full details.

The Home Telephone & Telegraph Co. OF SOUTHERN OREGON.

Temporary Office, No. 18 N. Grape Street, Medford.

Arriving Daily

New Spring Suits and Cloaks

FOR LADIES AND MISSES

Also select lines of Silk and Lawn Waists and Silk Petticoats. In fact our Suit Department is full of good things to wear while our shelves and counters are groaning under their weight of the choicest selections of Wool, Silk and Cotton Dress Fabrics and Novelties, with suitable trimmings for each and every line.

Embroideries

We are selling more Laces and Embroideries than was ever before sold in Medford. Why? Because the line is complete and prices are right. Come and see for yourself. Best goods at lowest prices.

MADAME ROOT Portland - SPECIALIST - Oregon

Demonstrating at our store every day next week, one of the greatest preparations for beautifying the skin—Bloom of Roses—the skin beautifier of the age. Madame Root has met with great success while staying with us. Invitation is cordially extended to all. Full line of hair goods always in stock.

H. C. Kentner Co. The Big Department Store.

CORNERED BY POLICE, MAN SHOTS HIMSELF

WALKER, Miss., Feb. 5.—After being besieged in a fortified house for two days, Walter McDonald, who shot and mortally wounded Howard Sexton, committed suicide today just as a posse of deputies were preparing to storm his barricade. The defense of McDonald was spectacular. Pursued by deputies

GARDEN HOSE SAVES THE LIVES OF ENTOMBED MEN

SAN BERNARDINO, Cal., Feb. 5.—A garden hose which had been used in syphoning water from the Rhyolite mine near Doble, was the direct means of saving the lives of Robert Wade, George Phillips and

Henry Cummings, miners, who were entombed in the mine by a cave-in, according to news reaching here today.

The men were re-timbering the shaft when several tons of earth fell and blocked the tunnel. Death from suffocation would have been only the matter of an hour had not the workmen outside forced fresh air through the hose. The men were rescued after being imprisoned seven hours.

Don't fall into the rut of "taboo monotony" in your home. Nine tenths of the "grouches" of your home circle can be permanently cured by introducing new ideas and new variations in "eatables." Study the ads for a while.

The woman's auxiliary of St. Mark's church will meet Friday afternoon at 2:30 at St. Mark's church. Valentines, big and little, elaborate and simple, at The Merrivold Shop.