## THOWING AWAY OPPORTUNITY.

## Mankind loves its chains. All human progress is slow and all changes and inno-

 vations are stubbornly resisted.The establishment of post boys met violent resistence
days long since gone by. Then came the stage coach, that had the same opposition to overcome. Following Every useful invention, designed to work economy
the cost of production has had the same reception. Th the cost of production has had the same reception. The
spinning jenny caused riots, the linotype, strikes, and so on down the list.
The pages of history are filled with repetitions of oppo-
ition to progress. Occasionally, in the life of nations, the sition to progress. Occasionally, in the life of nations, the
conservative triumphs and fastens the existing conditions as the irrevocable law of the land. Then progress endsas in India and China.
It is this conservation, born of ignorance due to isola-
tion, and commonly called mossbackism in Oregon, this tion, and commonly called mossbackism in Oregon, this
resistance to progress, that has retarded the growth of the state. It is strongest in old communities. It is strongest in Southern Oregon in Ashland.
Every innovation and attempt at progress has had to
fight its way at Ashland. A sewer system was only sefight its way at Ashland. A sewer system was only se-
cured after a violent struggle. Paving made such a battle cured after a violent struggle. Paving made such a battle
that an attempt was made to recall the mayor who had fathered the movement.
Small wonder then that when an application for an interurban electric line franchise is made by responsible parties, the franchise is rejected. It would disturb exist-
ing conditions. It would bring in new blood that would ing conditions. It would bring in new blood that would
endanger the control of the small coterie that rules Ashland financially and invest the profits elsewhere. It would
mean a degree of development the mossback majority mean a degree
does not want.
The conflict between the progression and the retrogres-
sion exists everywhere. If the state is worth fighting for, sion exists everywhere. If the state is worth fighting for
progressives are bound to win in every American community. If it is not, the place is abandoned to its leathargy Opportunity has knocked unbidden at Ashland's and been refused admission. Ashland must now seek op portunity, and will be lucky if opportunity does not reply "But they who doubt or hesitate,
Seek me in vain, and uselessly implo,
I answer not, and I return no more."
$\square$

| By Aic. C. Howlett |
| :--- |
| Sheriff Jones and wife passed rich bottom land of Little Butte creek, |




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