

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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With Medford Stop-Over

MASKED TRAIN BANDITS FATALLY SHOOT PORTER

NEW ORLEANS, La., April 11.—Two masked men, one a negro, held up an Illinois Central passenger train, near Tangipahoa, late last night and shot and fatally wounded Isom Allen, a train porter. Luke Anderson, a negro passenger, attempted to escape but fell between two cars and was crushed to death.

Irving Kent led other passengers in an attack on the bandits who fled without obtaining any loot. Bloodhounds were put on the trail of the two men today.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH SERVICES EASTER SUNDAY

An unusually interesting musical program has been arranged for Easter Sunday at the Christian church, under the leadership of Miss Florence Hazelrigg, as follows:

- Morning Service Prelude, Doxology, Invocation, Hymn, 121. "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" (Klein), Ladies chorus. Communion Hymn 319. Offering. Anthem—"Alleluia to the King" (Clemens). Announcements. Solo—"Hail Joyous Morn" (Cadmán), Miss Coffin. Scripture Reading. Quartet—"The Magdalene" (Warren), Miss Hazelrigg, Mrs. Wold, Mr. K. Beach, Dr. Howard. Sermon. Hymn 128. Postlude.

Evening Service At the evening service the musical numbers will be: "Hail Mighty Victor King" (Fillmore). "Alleluia to the King" (Clemens). Also congregational singing. D. C. Keilens, who has charge of the Bible chair in the State university at Eugene and one of the leading ministers of the Christian church has been secured for the occasion and will preach both morning and evening. A special invitation is extended to all to worship with this congregation.

COMMUNICATION

An Appreciation

To the Editor: I have already expressed in person what I think of your very excellent paper, but wish to do so by way of an Easter greeting, by letter, what I still think of it. Let me congratulate you on your splendid editorials, none better anywhere, and which are worthy of more pretentious sheets. I admire your bold, fearless, independent stand on the great questions now before us, and even when we do not agree I credit you with being honest, sincere and your viewpoint is always sane, open and above board, and ever anxious to help your readers to a better understanding of what you discuss.

Your views relative to the present administration, the Hearst's papers and even those on the temperance question have pleased me very much. Medford has in your paper one that should have larger circulation, as it is a great educator on whatever pertains to the best interests of the city and valley, and the life of those who have come into our midst to make it their home. In Mr. B. Sheldon you have a close competitor in the things which make for a better, richer and more desirable place for those who have pitched their tents within our gates.

Here is wishing you greater prosperity and joy and peace than ever, with kindest regards, Yours faithfully, J. L. HILL, Medford, April 10, 1914.

MICHIGAN AND OREGON

UNDER the caption, "There's Money in Fruit in Michigan," a Saginaw Valley paper publishes several columns of matter setting forth the alleged superiority of Michigan as a fruit-growing section over the fruit belts of the northwest. It is claimed that not only apples, but peaches, cherries, grapes and other products can be more profitably produced than in the Pacific coast country, and that the fruit is of better quality.

An interesting and misleading "comparison of orchard costs" in Michigan and the northwest, compiled by the Western Michigan Development Bureau, is printed as follows:

Table comparing orchard costs in Michigan and the Northwest. Columns include: Price of un-planting orchard land per acre, Interest on Borrowed Money, Cost of Labor per day, Labor Supply, Cost of Irrigation per acre, Cost of Materials, Yield per Acre, Quality of Fruit, Freight Rate, and Length of Shipping Season.

These statements, we suppose, refer to apples. They would be interesting if true, which they are not. Success in fruit raising, east or west, depends so much upon the personal equation that blanket comparisons are almost impossible. The best comparison would be the record of fruit exchanges for prices received and acreage output in both localities. Any corner grocery in the east will tell the difference in selling price.

The cost of land east or west is dependent largely upon quality and location. Conditions being equal, there is no such difference in suitable orchard land as made out by the above table. The higher priced western land is much of it adjacent to cities and includes the water right, which is frequently of more value than the land. In any case, the value must be governed by the possible return on the investment.

Labor is cheaper in Michigan than in the west. This, however, is an advantage to the small western orchardist who supplements his income by selling his surplus hours.

The advantage of irrigation consists in crop insurance in dry years. A drouth not only ruins the year's crop, but kills the fruit buds for the following year. Irrigation doubles the output and makes fruit a dependable yearly crop instead of an uncertain biennial crop, as in the east.

The average annual output of the northwest orchard is heavier than for the Michigan orchard, not only because of better care, but because of superior climatic conditions. The quality of northwest fruit is superior, as testified by the higher price it brings, higher colored, better keeping, and finer flavored. This is the only reason why a box of northwest apples brings a higher price than a barrel of Michigan apples—and yet the Michigan "comparison" rates them of the "same market value."

There are many other misstatements in the "comparison." Iceing charges are unnecessary for the bulk of the northwest apple crop, and the shipping season lasts until long after Michigan apples have gone the way of all apples. The co-operation practiced west in marketing is unknown in the east, as is the official inspection and enforced cleanliness of orchards.

The industrious orchardist can make good in almost any place—but the natural and created advantages of the northwest fruit belts are so many that no one familiar with conditions in Michigan, who has once felt the lure of this promised land, cares to suffer the hardships of fruit-raising in that winter-swept region when he can bask in the smiling sunshine and verdure-clad hills of Oregon.

THE "COUNTRY LIFE" SCHOOL

E VANS VALLEY is to have Jackson county's first "country life" school—the first consolidated rural school. Its advantages are so many that the example should be widely followed in the near future.

The one-room, one-teacher district school is doomed. Good roads sounded its knell by enabling pupils from several such schools to attend the central school house with several rooms and as many teachers, which is replacing the district school.

Throughout eastern states, where the consolidated rural school has made the greatest progress, and even in Washington, to the north of us, and California on the south, the consolidated districts provide transportation for the pupils to and from school. A carry-all and in some cases an auto-stage is sent out daily to gather up the children and take them home. The cost to the district is slight and the attendance more than doubled.

The consolidated rural school affords the country child all the advantages of the grade schools of the city. Many of them offer special courses in manual training, agriculture and home economics. They add much to making country life attractive.

THE NEW AMERICAN CITY

A Resume of the Recent Movement in Municipal Politics and the Salient Features of Civic Reform.

By Benj. C. Sheldon, Secretary Medford Charter Commission.

IV.—THE SHORT BALLOT PRINCIPLE

Ask one hundred students of American municipal government, familiar with the typical city's conditions and needs, what one element in the great reform movement sweeping across the country is of first importance, and ninety-five answers will be "the short ballot principle." The other five might answer, "popular control," but to that the ninety-five would reply, "In the short ballot principle lies the only method of obtaining real popular control."

Growth of Long Ballot

To understand its significance one must consider the growth of the evil which it seeks to remedy. They may be variously expressed: "Lack of popular control," "unresponsive officials," "a lack of popular interest," "party rule" or "boss domination." Their growth has been natural. It has come with our development from a nation of towns to a nation of cities. As the duties falling on government became heavier and more complex, more officials were added, and, in keeping with the common estimate of democracy, they were largely made elective. The ballot grew. Fewer votes were cast intelligently. While the public became more clumsy in its use of the ballot the necessity for its intelligent use became more urgent as governmental functions became more delicate and intricate.

The Politician

Hence the rise of the expert in political affairs, "the politician." His introduction was the necessary outgrowth of the people's inability through the mass of details to which they were called upon to give attention, to do their duty as electors. The expert attended to the details. It became his business, and in many cases a most lucrative one.

From the politician grew the political machine. The system naturally developed that organization to supply the function which the people could not supply—attention to details. A certain amount of order was necessary. The machine furnished it. Hence the ready-made ticket. Nothing succeeds like success. The machine became powerful and grew, from almost a necessity into a public menace and the most potent factor in corruption and misgovernment. There is not a voter of mature years in America who has not, to some degree, allowed others to do a part of his choosing. President Eliot of Harvard, the "ideal citizen," confesses that he does it. The most prominent of our public men admit that they do. It is a typical and universal American attitude. In Philadelphia it even went so far as to elect an imaginary man.

Voter Not to Blame

Don't blame the voter, but the long ballot. With it the individual simply cannot cast an intelligent vote. He cannot gain a discriminating knowledge of the candidates' merits. In a large city the newspapers cannot inform him if they would. In a recent primary election in Chicago there were over 6000 nominees. How could the papers inform the citizen as to the merits of the individual in this army of men? Under such an arrangement the ready-made ticket becomes a convenience, and the power of the machine waxes strong. It can only be dislodged by the building of another machine.

The Short Ballot

The remedy is the short ballot, in other words, in a real democracy. A real democracy means a method whereby the will and judgment of the great mass of the people may be given expression. That is impossible with blind voting. But it follows naturally and inevitably the use of a ballot short enough to receive, all of it, the study and intelligent judgment of the citizens. The short ballot principle means that only those offices should be elective which are important enough to deserve and attract public attention. It means centering authority in those few officers and their appointees, and then watching them. In fact, the keynote of the principle is the word "conspicuous." Conspicuous candidates, conspicuous officers after election, conspicuous responsibility.

Under the old system the people delegated large powers to many officers whom, after election, were but dimly seen in the gloom of the insignificant character of their offices. Invisible officers are those who can and do misuse their power. Under the short ballot, every public servant is constantly visible or is responsible to those who are. They

John A. Perl UNDERTAKER Lady Assistant MR. S. HARTLETT Phones M. 47 and 47-JB

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