

# THE COMING ELECTION

The Following Article from Coquille Business Men Is Submitted to the Times For Publication

In the last issue of the Coquille Herald there was printed a communication from H. M. Branham, wherein the writer makes a personal attack upon every man who signed the petition for the election to be held on the 3rd of June next. The undersigned wish to protest against the wholesale slander contained and implied in that article and to point out some of the misstatements contained therein. The local option law says:

"If petitioned therefor the first election shall be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in 1924, and thereafter only on the first Monday in June of any year." "If any election shall have resulted in a majority vote for prohibition in any county as a whole, no election shall be had in said county on said question before the first Monday in June in the second calendar year thereafter." "If at any time an election hereunder shall result in prohibition for any subdivision of county as a whole, or any precinct of said county, no election hereunder shall be held within said prohibition territory, except an election for the entire county, before the first Monday in June of the second calendar year following." "When such second election results against prohibition, the court shall enter an order setting aside the previous order enforcing prohibition."

This language is not modified or controlled, in any way, by any other part of the local option act. It is so plain that it would seem no discussion is needed upon this point. The local option law does not fix any period within which "dry" precinct shall remain dry. It simply provides when an election may be held; and when an election is held, every part of the county is controlled by that election. If Coquille precinct votes "dry" it goes dry. If it votes "wet" and the county votes wet, then Coquille goes wet. Mr. Branham thinks that Coquille will remain "dry" notwithstanding the result of the election. But it is not so. Coquille precinct, like any other precinct

in the county, will be "wet" or "dry" according to the vote on the 3rd of June next. The Supreme Court in the decision in the Baxter case a few weeks ago said West Coquille precinct must remain dry until a vote of the people set aside prohibition, and that such a vote must be at an election held for the whole county, if held before two years. In other words, the last vote controls, and a vote can be had every year unless the county as a whole votes "dry," and then a vote cannot be had until the second year thereafter. But this county did not vote "dry," so an election can be held this year. There is no possibility for mistake about it. The people, by their votes, govern, and every time there is an election the whole question is decided over again. All lawyers agree as to these facts. Mr. Amos, who says "That any precinct that went 'dry' in your county a year ago must remain dry for two years, in spite of any action on the part of the county," has not read the local option law, or he cannot understand the English language, or he deliberately states what he knows to be untrue. Rev. Branham says this election was called by the saloon element, but "the devil has overshot his mark." He also insinuates that the signers of the petition for an election are aiders and abettors at all kinds of crime. This is certainly very unkind in Mr. Branham, as he should remember this is a free country and that the citizens of a town, like the citizens of a State, are entitled to their views as to its governmental policy.

Now we claim to be the true temperance people. We believe in, work for and practice that which is for the best interests of temperance in all things. We believe that the best way to manage the drink evil is to place the dispensers of liquor under strict regulations. Considering that our town lies between two towns where saloons are licensed and where liquor can be had at all times in all quantities, we believe in licensed saloons rather than unlicensed saloons. We claim that prohibition has caused

more drinking among boys in Coquille than was ever known when saloons were licensed. We charge that prohibition engenders contempt for law. That it tends to make law-breakers and sneaks. That under prohibition taxation is increased and trade diverted to other locations.

In short, we claim that partial prohibition in a county and so far as our town is concerned does no good and much harm. We further claim that this is a free country, and notwithstanding what Mr. Branham has said, we have the right to maintain our views as regards this local situation. We stand for a square deal. We are willing that the majority shall rule.

Our town has been injured, taxation doubled and the town treasury emptied by prohibition; but if the people of Coquille want these conditions to continue, we are willing to submit. City taxes have been doubled in Coquille since prohibition went into effect.

The levy this year is 10 mills as against 5 mills in Bandon and 4 mills in Marshfield.

The records of the recorder's office show that the number of arrests have greatly increased in Coquille since the saloons were closed. The number of fines imposed in the recorder's court during 1906 was 15, while in the first five months of 1907, when saloons were closed, the number of fines imposed was thirteen.

The records of the Circuit Court show that the expenses of the court and grand jury while investigating crimes committed in Myrtle Point and Coquille have doubled since saloons were closed. These are facts and speak louder than Mr. H. M. Branham.

One word more in regard to Mr. Branham. He says that what he is pleased to term "the saloon element" has "imposed" the burden of this election on the County; but at the same time he says they will vote on this question again next year. Who are going to petition for an election next year? Is it Mr. Branham and his friends? Why is it an "imposition" for one side to ask for an election any more than for the other? The local option law says: "Whenever a petition therefor, signed by not less than 10 per cent of the registered voters of any County be filed with the Clerk an election shall be called." The law says "registered voters"; it does not say the signers of such a petition must be prohibitionists. The law seems to recognize that the rights of all are equal. No

## COOS BAY BRIEFS

TIMES' TELEPHONES  
Editorial Rooms - - - - 1331  
Business Office - - - - 1331

**Repair Wrecked Engine.**—Engine No. 1 of the Coos Bay, Roseburg and Eastern Railroad, which was precipitated in the ditch a few days ago, was brought into the shops yesterday on a flat car. The engine is badly battered up and will not be ready for the road for about three months.

**Redeck Flat Cars.**—Two flat cars are being redecked at the car shops and will be out in a few weeks.

**Coal Drill.**—A diamond drill, to be used in prospecting for coal, which has been in the local car shops for some time past, will soon be ready for use, probably by the end of this week.

**Rock Quarry.**—Masters & McLain yesterday established a camp on the Steven Rogers place up Coos river, where they are to work a rock quarry this summer to supply the crusher in this city. There are seven men and a cook in the party.

The local option law is so drawn that it produces precinct prohibition when it is not voted for. Let the majority rule.

The voter should also remember this: When you vote for county prohibition, you vote for prohibition in your precinct, even when the county as a whole goes "wet."

The local option law is so drawn that it produces precinct prohibition when it is not voted for. Let the majority rule.

- |                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Robt. R. Watson, | Walter Culin, M.D. |
| H. W. Dunham,    | J. W. Leneve,      |
| L. H. Hazard,    | J. M. Nye, Jr.,    |
| A. S. Hammond,   | Geo. E. Peoples,   |
| E. D. Sperry,    | J. A. Collier,     |
| D. H. Johnson,   | A. J. Sherwood,    |
| John Kroenberg,  | N. Lorenz,         |
| H. J. Crippen,   | W. H. Schroeder,   |
| T. J. Little,    | W. C. Rose,        |
| W. Sinclair,     | W. H. Mansell,     |
| W. T. Kerr,      | E. C. Barker,      |
| F. S. Slagle,    | H. N. Lorenz,      |
| T. H. Mehl,      | Frank Morse,       |
| A. W. Johnson,   | L. Harlocker,      |

The first scow of rock for the new crusher, recently erected by Masters & McLain, has been brought down from Coos river to the plant and will soon be converted into street surfacing material. The crusher has not yet been tried.

**China Pheasants.**—W. C. Rose, of Coquille, recently set five dozen China pheasant eggs under four hens and they are now beginning to hatch out. Mr. Rose will turn the young pheasants loose in the woods for the purpose of increasing that variety of bird game around the Coos Bay country. The specie is rare around here, but is abundant in the Willamette valley. The birds multiply rapidly.

**Art Club Meets.**—The members of the Ladies' Art Club will hold their next meeting with Mrs. Lando next Friday afternoon. The annual picnic given by these ladies will be given some time in June, the exact date to be decided at this meeting.

**Enlarge Hospital.**—Plans for an addition to the Marshfield General Hospital have been completed, and will be submitted to contractors for bids. [The hospital is to be made large enough to take care of at least twice the number of patients that can now be accommodated there. A new operation room is also included in the plan for the new part of the building.]

**Postponed Meeting.**—The City Council will meet Friday night instead of tonight, as had been planned. The change was made owing to the fact that today is a legal holiday.

**Memorial Day.**—The banks will close today as is the usual custom on a legal holiday. They will be closed the entire day. Among the many launch ride picnics that will be given today will be one to Charleston Bay on the launch Gasgo. The launch will leave Marshfield at 6 o'clock this morning and will be gone the entire day.

**Club Rehearsal.**—The members of the Chamaine Club met last evening for their last rehearsal before the concert to be given next Wednesday night in the Masonic Opera House. The rehearsal was held in the Opera House.

**Office Force Move.**—The office force of the C. A. Smith retail lumber yard has removed from its former quarters in the old Dean store to the new retail office building on Broadway. The new office is quite

an improvement over the old place, as well as being much handier to the yard men.

**Mrs. Farrin Removes.**—Mrs. E. L. C. Farrin was removed from her home yesterday to the Marshfield General Hospital for treatment.

**To Alaska.**—W. A. Reed, who has been in Marshfield for some weeks visiting relatives and friends, will leave on the Alliance Saturday for Alaska via Portland. He will probably be accompanied by his wife, who has been visiting with her parents for some weeks.

**Repairing Building.**—The building occupied by the Pioneer market and grocery on Front street, is receiving extensive repairs and an addition. The old front is being torn away, to be replaced with a new one. A second story is to be added which will furnish a good room for lodge or other like purpose. The present sidewalk in front of the property will be replaced with a new one which will be raised to grade, making quite an improvement in that side of the street. The plans for the second story are being drawn by C. M. Himebaugh.

**Increase Capacity.**—The barn at the C. A. Smith retail yard is being enlarged to accommodate additional live and rolling stock.

**McDerby Wanted.**—A State warrant is out for the arrest of F. E. McDerby, for stealing personal property. McDerby is quite well known around the Bay, having for the past several months been in this locality playing the violin for dances and in saloons. McDerby was leader of the Irish Orchestra which has played at so many dances during the past winter. Although officers all over the State are on the lookout for the man, no one has yet landed him behind the bars.

**Coquille Flourishing.**—G. E. Peoples, manager of the O. K. Creamery at Coquille, was a business visitor in Marshfield yesterday. Mr. Peoples reports everything in a flourishing condition in the Coquille Valley, and among other things that he has had more business so far this year than ever before since he went there, three years ago. Quite a lot of building is reported by Mr. Peoples.

SEATS ON SALE NOW FOR THE Chamaine Club Concert at W. J. Butler's 5-30-1

WANTED—Quarrymen to work at the McLain & Master's rock crusher in Marshfield. 3-30-3

# BAY PARK

Has been on the market two weeks and at the end of the

## FIRST WEEK

Contract had been let for three houses and the Marshfield Land Company had let the contract for a walk and car track to run from the deep water on Isthmus Inlet to the east street of Bay Park. Can you name another property that has accomplished that much the first week, now instead of three houses we have six that are to be erected as quickly as possible that is at the end of our second week.

Everyone is Delighted with the Property

Call and let us show you the lots on which to build your home.

# Edgar L. Wheeler

16  
1/2  
1/8