Bandon Recorder

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RICHARD B. SWENSON, Manager

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PEACE RECESSIONAL

(Apologies To Kipling)

Goddess of Fortune, known of old,
Fate of our thin brown battle line—
Beneath whose kindly hand we hold
The love of Peace from palm to pine;
Goddess of Peace, make us aware
Should we prepare? Should we prepare?

The tumult and the shouting dies
The peace ship sails to foreign shores
We hear the thundering protests rise
We watch the flag which proudly soars
Goddess of Peace, hear thou our prayer,
Should we prepare? Should we prepare?

If deaf with din of war we lose
All thoughts of bitter sacrifice,
Or miss the greater good and choose
A golden calf to canonize,
Goddess of Peace, do thou declare,
Should we prepare? Should we prepare?

THE DEAD TOWN

Did you ever go into a town and, as you stepped from the train, have it strike you suddenly that the town was dead? Have you ever had a town described to you as a "dead" town? Have you ever stopped to analyze just what is meant by these words "dead town?" In the last analysis they mean just onething—and that is that the merchants of the town don't advertise. A dead town has certain positive aspects of demise which are as bald as a piece of crepe hanging on the door of a private house. The stores seem to be merely existing. Their shelves are covered with apparently unsaleable goods. The merchants seem to be vying with each other to see which will win the first prize as the town grouch. If you talked with them they knocked the town, they knocked business, they knocked the mail order house. They were continually complaining that other people did business and made money but that they didn't seem to be able to sell anything They guessed it was the town. Yes, that was it,—the town. If you asked that merchant if he advertised, he would have looked at you with amazement. What was the use of advertising when business was so bad? People who had money to spend, he would tell you, were sending it to the mail order houses. No, he would say he did not advertise! He would not throw good money after bad. On the other hand, go into a live town and what will you see? The merchants have attractive displays in their stores The daily or weekly newspapers are filled with big announcements of special sales or low priced goods. They are not afraid of the mail order houses because they have the same means to reach the people—advertising—that makes the mail order house great. The merchants have their local association for mutual help, and behind the association the local newspaper is pushing pushing pushing. Everybody is working and everybody is happy and boosting. If you want a live town get behind the newspaper and the newspaper will do the rest. Forget the timeworm arguments that the paper is a lead one. The paper is alive enough if the people are alive. The surest test of a live town is a live newspaper and a newspaper can't be alive unless the town boosters do their share.

SHOPPING

She screamed in terror when her purse
Was snatched from out her jeweled hand,
And hurled a modest semi-curse
Toward the fleeing, bold brigand;
And when the copper caught the thief
She seized the purse with anxious air,
And breathed a sign of sweet relief
To find her treasures all were there.
A penciled note
Her fellow wrote,
A sugar plum,
A wad of gum,
A hair-pin (bent),
A copper cent,
A button hook
With broken crook,
A safety-pin,
A curling tin,
A powder rag,
A sachet bag.
These were the treasures which she bore
Around with her from store to store
While on a shopping tour, to see
The many pretty things which she
Would love to buy if she but had
The cash, and with a smile so glad
It almost made the copper sneeze
She thanked him, and with sprightly ease
Tripped on to seek another store
Or two where she could shop some more.

News of Earlier Days

From the Recorder, Jan. 3, 1896

The Parkersburg saw mill started up after their holiday vacation.

Cap. H. W. Dunham of Marshfield was in town looking after his business interests.

Material for the light house fog signal had arrived and was transported across the river to be put in position.

Will Langlois of Cape Blanco was in the city on his way to Heckety heads where he was to be assistant keeper.

The young ladies of Bandon were to give a leap year ball on the 29th of January.

J. L. Coke of Empire city was in town a few days this week on his way from Curry county where he went to look after matters connected with the wreck of the Bawnmore.

A landslide occurred at Prosper which shoved the cook house down close to Pershbaker's.

The black sand miners of the Lane mine were meting with good success.

C. L. Rosa, Chris. Lohg and S. Danielson sold their interests in the schooner R. J. Long and Mr. Rosa started for San Francisco to close the transaction.

A New Years evening event was a quiet wedding at the home of Thomas Lewis by which their daughter Emma became the wife of Burt Harrington. The latter came here some time ago to work in the woolen mill. This is the 8th person working in the woolen mill who has found a wife or a husband since the mills were built. The event was celebrated New Year night by a social dance.

The Recorder's Forum

Where our readers may talk on topics of mutual and general interest.

Another Talk on Mail Orders And Taxes by John Nielson

Editor Recorder:—Again referring to the article on mail order talk noticed in the last Western World, wish to state that I still take some exceptions regarding the matter wherein the editor states that certain percentage, (the difference between the cost and the selling price) which in the first case, makes millionaires out of the individual stockholders of the mail order concerns and builds up great cities in the east; in the case of home trading remains in the community and pays rents, clerk hire, taxes, supports churches, schools, libraries, etc.

Regarding this matter, wish to state that the people who send their money away, get their goods at about the same price that the merchants pay for their goods when buying at wholesale quantities, consequently about the same amount of money goes out, as stated in my former article; whether the merchant sends it out or the people, and the difference between the cost and the selling price, mentioned by the Western World, remains in the pockets of the consumers, instead of the merchants, which is the only difference that I can see. And, in fact, I do not see how it can be figured out that it will make any difference as far as the going out is concerned.

My editor friend seems to have on his mind that the merchants make the town. How would a merchant live if there were no people? This in itself goes to prove that the people make the cities and towns. It is the numbers that count. Therefore it depends upon the number of producers that build a town when their business as a whole is centralized.

If we had five times as many mills and factories together with other industries and they were all within the limits of Bandon, the business that would be centralized and created here would be a great deal more than what it now is. If Bandon had five times as many people there would undoubtedly be a far greater number of houses and consequently the value in property would be higher but I can not see how you can give the merchants the credit for the difference there would be in the value of the property or the increased business that the difference in the number of producers would make and create.

The merchants as a whole, compared with the population of a city would be a small percentage. If Bandon had five times the population and there were enough industries to support this difference in the population, and this population sent their money away for their necessities, I can not see where it would make very much difference to the town as far as increasing its improvements, schools, etc. Of course, I will have to admit that every business adds to the growth of a place; but the profit that the merchant puts in his pocket just takes that much away from the producer which evidently will make him poorer and the merchant richer, and if the producer could keep more of his money to spend on himself, it is evident that he would have more money to spend on luxuries for himself, and the moremoney the people of the town or community make the better their living conditions and schools, libraries, houses and numerous other things. If a few merchants extracted all the money for profits and the masses had barely enough to live on, could better living conditions be expected? Let the masses earn more money and other conditions will take care of themselves, which has been proven time and time again. If a man were able to earn $4. per day, it is evident that he would have more of the comforts and luxuries of good living but if he earns only two dollars a day how in the world at the present time can he have those comforts?

Whenever the home merchant makes prices wherein there is too much difference the consumer naturally will buy where his dollar will buy the most. This is human nature, taken from a business standpoint, and any reasonable person will undoutedly admit this.

Another thing to consider in the making of towns or cities wherein there are high taxes. This is not conducive to the building of towns. Investors usually look where the taxes are lowest. In order for us to make conditions favorable for investors, it depends principally upon the citizens to have such a government whereby their taxes are far cheaper than we have or we will have to catch them on the run. What have we to offer to industries here? Industries can save a bout one third of their taxes by building outside of the city limits, consequently how can you expect them to come and bear an excessive burden when it should not be necessary to have such conditions. When we expect to interest investments, let us make it attractive by keeping down our taxes instead of increasing them contiunally.

Why is it that California and Washington have a larger population than we have. One of the most suitable answers that I can give is the difference in taxation, principally. Our worst fault is trying to make cities out of towns and trying to run them on the same scale. **If your income is a dollar don't try to spend five and expect to keep out of debt.** No one has been able to work this method successfully yet and I do not see why we should start in.

If our system of town government is so complex as stated by the editor of the Western World, why not make it so that it can be readily understood by all? The best way is to call a thing by its name and not try to call it by some name that no one knows what it is.

No one wants to get out of paying his just taxes but it is very evident that neither I or any one else wants to pay of what we care for necessary conduct of government affairs, be it city, county, or state. I am tested too to live in my home and figuring 8 per cent interest on the cost of the property together with insurance, I figure that it costs me about $25 to $26 to live in my own home whereas I can rent what I consider good enough for me for $15 a month. Is this any inducement to own city property? The 1915 taxes will evidently amount to about 60 mills and the occupation tax on the assessed valuation of my property will amount to nearly 10 mills and I have some property bonded on which the interest amounts to ten mills and this will bring the total up to about 130 mills that I am charged on some propery that I own in this town in order to own it. Is this any inducement to own property and have to pay 13 percent in order to have the priviledge of keeping it. Can one expect a city or a town to grow when such conditions exist?

Last year taxes hit the people pretty hard in the county as well as in the towns, and many of them had to pay their taxes in two installments and a number did not pay their taxes at all.

This year the earnings of a majority of the taxpayers is far less than it was last year and owing to this fact do you blame a good many of them for kicking about their taxes? I feel that I am better situated than a great many but I do not have the money to pay my taxes unless I can borrow it and if I am situated in this way, how about the majority? As stated in my former article, taxes usually go up when the conditions are bad. There must be a reason for this. At least I should think so. It is evident that if our towns and counties did not try to do too much business in good imes with the expectation that the times were to continue indefinitely and the officials were foresighted enough to begin to curtail expenses when the hard times began to be evident, taxes would be less. In other words, if our municipalities and counties ran their business as any other private business should be conducted, our taxes would be in proportion to the conditions; but a majority of the officials appear to believe that hard times are never coming while they are handling the people's business and seem to not to be able to realize what the conditions are until the people begin to kick. It is evident also that thew are in better position to know hese facts than the ordinary layman.

As an example the town just recently advertised bonds for sale to the amount of $80,000—$40,000 to take up general fund warrants and $40,000 to be used for the improvement of the water system. The $40,000 to take up the general fund warrants I would consider all right as we are paying the same interest on the warrants, but instead of having the bonds mature in one, two, three or four years, we have to pay interest on them for twenty years and if they were so that a certain percent could be taken up every year, we could make a big saving on the interest. What you save is what counts and not what you spend. Regarding the water bonds, would have thought that the city would have advertised $40,000 bonds and when they were used up, advertise for more, and by doing this we would be saved the payment of interest on what we do not use. If the money is on hand for say two years, we would have to pay two years interest for the pleasure of knowing that we have the money. Personally, I consider this very great business judgement. This is an example of why taxes increase and presume more could be cited.

It puts me in mind of the $440,000 that some of the business men of the county wanted the county bonded for to build roads, and in order to get the use of this money had to pay $528,000 interest. In other words had to pay $1.20 to use $1.00 of borrowed money.

Some people seem to think that after your property and mine are mortgaged and we get the money, our troubles are all over with. There is where they are mistaken. That is just the time the trouble commences. When you mortgage your property yourself you begin to realize the fact that your trouble has just commenced. Such is the case when we bond a municipality or county. It means more taxes to take care of a sinking fund to pay these bonds together with the accruing interest.

I don't want it understood that I condemn the building of good roads. Far from it, as any reasonable citizen realizes that good roads rae the best investment that can be made, but let us get the most for the money to get the use of more money than the roads cost. I presume that the county is spending upward of $200,000 each year on roads and what have they to show for this expenditure? It is evident that if we used more of this money for permanent roads we would get far better results and eventually would begin to have something to show; but as it is, we have no more to show this year than last, and consequently what are we getting for the money?

When conditions get to this point, my editor friend, there is something wrong and it is about time to find out what it is. Whitewashing accomplishes nothing and we had better have the facts and find out what is the matter and the sooner the better.

JOHN NIELSON

LODGE DIRECTORY

Masonic.

Bandon Lodge, No. 130, A. F. & A. M. Stated communications first Friday after the full moon of each month. Special communications Master Masons cordially invited.

W. A. LeGORE, W. M.
C. E. BOWMAN, Sec.

Eastern Star.

Occidental Chapter, No. 45, O. E. S. meets Friday evenings before and after stated communications of Masonic lodge. Visiting members cordially invited to attend.

JULIA PAPE, W. M.
MARY GALLIER, Secretary

I. O. O. F.

Bandon Lodge, No. 133, I. O. O. F., meets every Wednesday evening. Visiting brothers in good standing cordially invited.

GEO. H. SMITH, Secretary.
L. I. WHEELER, N. G.

Rebekah

Ocean Rebekah Lodge, No. 123, I. O. O. F., meets second and fourth Tuesdays at I. O. O. F. hall. Transient members cordially invited.

MARY C. BARROWS, Secretary
MARIAM WILSON, N. G.

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