

Coos Bay Times

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FRED PASLEY, EDITOR. REX LARGE, BUSINESS MANAGER.

The policy of The Coos Bay Times will be Republican in politics, with the independence of which President Roosevelt is the leading exponent.

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PROGRESSIVE OREGON.

NO State in the American Union has greater resources, or is more fruitful and delightful than the State of Oregon, and no Pacific State can claim superiority over Oregon in most of these things, which make for greatness. But—and this but is painful because it knocks the wind out of a vital part of our organic anatomy, so to speak—there is no State in this Union north of Mason and Dixon's old line, and only one or two south of that line, which has discovered so slight an inclination to progress in some very important matters as this State. This view is expressed with the fact in mind that the initiative and referendum is a part of our organic law; but the initiative and referendum never was known, in any country, to be other than an appeal to conservatism, and while one of the best of enactments, it has little to do with progress in its largest and best sense.

For some reason Oregon has not, until this century began, presented a very attractive front to the world. A self-satisfied attitude, an indifference which did not permit change, affected the inhabitants and kept the wheels of progress moving slowly. Therefore the public domain was stealthily absorbed by a few enterprising speculators; her extensive areas were almost roadless and trackless, in spite of the expenditure of large sums to construct roads; her coast line was neglected and her atmosphere smelt of moss. As for her laws and her legal system, nobody has ever doubted that they were and still are rusty. One would think that Confucius was the prophet of Oregon—for its institutions are written all over with the evidence that "No change" is its motto.

The constitution of this State is, of course, a venerable and musty document. Adopted in 1857, it still retains such absurdities as "No negro, Chinaman or Mulatto shall have the right of suffrage." This is only a sample. No other State in the Union has neglected to expunge this ante-bellum provision from its fundamental law. The code system, the court system, the fee system and almost all the departments of legal enactment and legal procedure, are equally antiquated. It might be supposed that to place difficulties in the way of litigation, discouraging all who have claims from having recourse to the courts by making litigation very costly, would tend to harmonize society. But it doesn't. It makes people discontented and inclines them to suspect that injustice is the rule, so that they fall in appreciation of good citizenship. The fact is, Oregon needs a new State Constitution and a radical revision of its codes, and until such new constitution and codes are adopted, its modern and admirable spirit of progress will be hampered and held back.

THE COLLISION.

EVERY year has its record of casualties, and it always seems as if the record of the last year was worse than all its predecessors. The terrible collision which has sent many travelers by sea—some of whom were going home—some of whom were leaving home; some of whom were perhaps sailing on the sea for the first time—all of whom had confidence in modern skill, modern prudence and civilized appreciation of the value of human life, has been shocking and heartrending, not only to the friends of the lost ones and the survivors, but to every person who has an imagination to picture the awful scene and a heart to feel for human suffering. It is easy to believe that the unfortunates who were overwhelmed in their berths, were swept into death instantaneously, but that the instant of realization was equal to a day of torture.

These events always stir the thoughtful mind to an effort to find some remedy for such disasters. Why can they not be avoided? Why should two ships which have a space of three thousand miles in which to keep apart and pass each other, collide? Was it accident? Was it carelessness? Was it the fault of some impetuous officer, vain of his ship's record, anxious to make unusual time, stubborn to maintain a profitless right to a particular channel, negligent of the trust which human beings repose in his skill and prudence? If carelessness, there is no remedy. The dead will never receive back their lives, quenched forever by the cruel and heartless sea. Shall the careless ones be punished? There is nothing to be gained, except to deter others by the example which punishment affords. The ocean is not the only destroyer. Railroad accidents—accidents in the peaceful and quiet walks of life—accidents in the gentle waters of little streams—death is everywhere and the consolation seems complete, after all, when we think that not they alone, but we also must go, too. Still, all these accidents should be fully investigated and the blame placed where it belongs.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

ABOUT THOSE NEWSPAPER PENS (Spokane Review.)

Admiral Yamamoto is entitled to the thanks of the American newspapers for the estimate which he places upon their influence, even though in his words of appreciation there may have been a rebuke to those which run too much to agitation and sensationalism. His knowledge of the disturbing effect produced by the jingo press in his own country no doubt led him to address a body of newspaper men in Philadelphia the other day in these words:

"But it depends upon your pens, gentlemen. I want to impress on the editors of newspapers that they can not be too careful with what they write about the two countries. I want to impress on them that they must understand the conditions of the two countries thoroughly before they write. There are many sensational newspapers in both America and Japan, and it is a pity that they do not understand conditions before they attempt to write. I want to impress this thoroughly, that they must understand conditions in the two countries. I believe that the editors of the American papers are very honest and intelligent."

The storm which certain factors in Japan and the United States sought to create seems to have passed away. The friendly relations between the governments of the two countries are a strong guarantee of peace. But there is always reason to fear that, as Admiral Yamamoto intimates, the sensational papers may stir the passions of a portion of the people of both countries to such a pitch that the maintenance of peaceful relations will become exceedingly difficult. The conservative press, seeing no cause for hostility on either side, is doing what it can to keep the true situation prominently in view.

IT MIGHT PAY ON COOS BAY. (Walla Walla Bulletin.)

Walla Walla will give a street carnival or harvest festival during the last week in August, and it is now up to the residents of this city to make it a success. The Commercial Club is back of the proposition, which insures its success from the start. The purpose of the festival is to raise money for the Commercial Club to furnish its quarters soon to be available in the new city hall. It prefers to secure some of the money this way rather than by subscription papers. The committee which has the carnival in charge will have hard work, and plenty of it, and it should be encouraged all possible. The festival will be one to be long remembered and every citizen of Walla Walla should get in and boost it. It will pay.

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MARSHFIELD, - - OREGON



W. H. T.: "Not for me."—Rogers in Harper's Weekly.

MR. HARRIMAN VERSUS OREGON (Portland Journal.)

Notwithstanding Mr. Harriman's attorney-in-chief in Oregon told the interstate commerce commission that central Oregon was "not worth scrapping over," it appears that Mr. Harriman keeps a very close and jealous watch over that region, not necessarily with intent to build through it himself, but to prevent anybody else from doing so. Which perhaps is one reason why some people up there are so enthusiastically friendly to Mr. Harriman.

THE LATTER IS MORE STABLE (Bellingham, Wash., Herald.)

President Hill, of the Great Northern, came, looked at Bellingham and went away without making any startling announcements. We would have enjoyed having him start a boom, but we should be satisfied, perhaps, because he is inclined to improve the system thoroughly in this part of the state.

WHEN WILL IT BE CANCELED (Portland Oregonian.)

Oregon contributed no inconsiderable share towards the \$700,000 has just paid for a new residence, but the obligation will be cheerfully canceled if he builds a line through the central part of the state.

FOR PAYING HOMAGE TO LAW (Boise Statesman.)

To put a quietus upon "mashers" the city of Alton, Ills., has put on some female officers. One of these seized a man the other day who sought to flirt with her and haled him into court. The law was in-

sulted and it proceeded to get into action quickly.

HE'S LUCKY TO HAVE THE PURSE (Del Norte Record.)

The county jail is as empty as a country editor's purse. All the prisoners are reported to be making good wages.

WHAT WOULD NEBRASKANS THINK? (Morning Artorian.)

An Indiana school teacher has been 11 years memorizing all of Bryan's speeches made up to 1897—and she has gone stark crazy in consequence. But why should Indiana folks regard it as "a strange case?"

MOVING PICTURE SHOW DRAWS MANY PEOPLE

One of the best crowds thus far attended the moving picture show at the rink last night. The feature film is "Daniel Boone, or Pioneers of America," which gives a very vivid and thrilling description of the life of our forefathers.

The picture is extremely exciting and interesting. A series of comedy pictures are also shown that provide much merriment.

A beautifully illustrated ballad is rendered by Prof. Cundiff, and his rendition of the selections from the opera of "The Prince of Pilsen" are meeting with the approval of the most fastidious music lovers. There will be a complete change of program tomorrow night.

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