

Coos Bay Times

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CONSOLIDATION.

The cities of the peninsula are growing rapidly and each is acquiring a distinction which it is feeling proud to advance. There are political differences which are becoming more marked as time rolls on and it is a question whether, if consolidation is not effected within a year or two, it will not take twenty or thirty or even fifty years to establish that union which has been deemed certain to occur some time. The name of North Bend and the name Marshfield are not particularly attractive and neither name has become anywhere as famous as the name Coos or Coosbay. In fact one of the obstacles to the proper presentation of any question which affects the welfare of Coos Bay is that there appears to be several cities and a division of strength and population. While this division is really imaginary yet it may as well be true as it is so treated and the world falls in extending the confidence to the divided community which it would most certainly give the consolidated city of Coos or Coosbay.

There is no question that the union will come some time. It is equally well understood that if it should come now it would remove many confusions from the minds of both investors and prospective residents. It would result in the cities acquiring the full advantage of the famous name which is so widely known. It would unite the now divided strength of a growing and promising community which, in view of its importance and the greatness of the mission which devolves on it as a sea port, needs all the strength it can get to properly regulate its affairs. It has the same harbor, the same extended water front, the same question as to improvements of the bay, the same purposes and the same hopes. It is impossible for one to thrive without communicating its activities and benefits to the other. They have the same tributary country, the same resources, the same shipping interests, and, interchangeably, the same people. They are only three miles from center to center and it is most likely that the water front street which Marshfield has extended to Plat B will be met by similar street construction from North Bend to Marshfield. When the new street construction is done it will be only a few minutes auto ride or even walk from one city to the other. With both cities united under one name and government the progressive work which has been so well inaugurated will be carried forward with vim and permanency. Other streets besides Front street will be pushed through. The outside world will no longer be puzzled to know where the railroad will strike the city. One great Chamber of Commerce will do four times the work that two little ones can. One great name will be blazing through the land and Coos will be the metropolis of Southwestern Oregon. More than this, IT WILL ALWAYS BE THE METROPOLIS.

There is now a crying need for new charters in both cities. Absurd limitations, designed to save pennies and lose dollars, have placed both in straight-jackets. North Bend can not bond itself or incur indebtedness greater than \$7,500. Marshfield can not increase its indebtedness beyond \$25,000. Every wise and conservative community places some limitation on the use of the public credit but usually in an elastic form so that it can meet the exigencies of growth. Their method is to fix the use of the public credit within a limit of about five per cent of the assessed valuation. Then if the city does not increase in wealth and population but is at a standstill its inhabitants must reduce the public indebtedness before it can further pledge its credit. But it is not thought possible that a

city can supply its needs and accomplish its purposes as a city unless it shall provide the common municipal necessities. North Bend and Marshfield are bound in their legal swaddling clothes that they can not stir, in a public sense, and it is not surprising that they have been charged with having an almost total lack of public spirit.

The need of new charters is not confined to the one objection referred to. There are others only a trifle less glaring. But the point is that at this time when new charters are so much needed the two cities could take time by the forelock and unite under one name and government. Not long ago a townsie on the other side of the bay adopted the name Coos Bay City and the people of Marshfield and North Bend both protested to the postoffice department against the assumption of the name asserting as a sufficient reason that the two cities were about to consolidate and adopt it. Was this a cry of wolf which having fooled the department once will not be heard again when the same locality shall renew its petition and point out the neglect of the peninsular cities to make good?

THAT FIRE ORDINANCE.

It has been understood for a considerable time past that the city council of Marshfield had under consideration an ordinance which was intended to give the men who are erecting large and substantial buildings in the city and constructing them of cement, brick or fire proof material, some protection against the erection of fire traps in their proximity. How long the city council has to have a proposition of that description "under consideration" before they enact it into a law is a matter which only the council can say. But the men who have put their money into substantial buildings have a right to protection. It is unfair and unjust to withhold it. They build of material which will appeal to the insurance companies to reduce the rates of insurance and men who put themselves in a position to pay heavy taxes by improving the city ought to have the advantage which lower rates give. But before they complete their work they often have the chagrin of seeing a fire trap go up next to the costly building which they have built and the danger of fire which they have sought to avoid returned to the same locality in an enlarged form. It is a mistake. Especially is this so when the value of the locality for the business which is to be carried on in the fire trap or wooden structure is largely created

by the very structures which it endangers.

It is important for the people of Marshfield to realize that such a protective measure as the council have under consideration and have been considering for a long time, means that capital will be far more ready to invest in building up the city than where such protective measures are absent. Some of the people think different at this time but we believe they are few and that they do not understand the demands of modern progress. The argument that concrete and brick must be imported from a distance and that it is costly to make use of such materials does not help the contention that the fire ordinance is untimely. At least five buildings of large dimensions and costly construction are either being constructed or are in actual sight. The Bennett and Flanagan bank building on Front street, the Rogers building on the corner of A and Cedar, the bank building on the corner of C and Broadway, the Williams building on the corner of Queen and Broadway are in process of construction and the work on the large \$75,000 hotel will commence before ten days. The men who have put their money into these buildings are progressive and are all in favor of the ordinance and back of them the sentiment of the citizens is strong. They want the ordinance passed.

It is proper to state here that many little things which will incommode nobody and which require little consideration and no loss of time are pressing for attention and ought not to be delayed any longer. The comments of the people on all sides are becoming sufficiently strong to be recognized. It would be a simple matter for the council to adopt a more rational system of numbering or naming the streets of Marshfield. The crowds of newcomers as well as the old time citizens who throng the streets want to know where they are and wish to be able to give clearer directions to one another. The street names are not only mixed, but ridiculous and when a newcomer discovers how confusing they are he cannot fail to look on the whole system with derision and contempt. These latter matters do not need discussion and it would not consume any of the time of the proper authorities to correct the deficiency at once.

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Physician and Surgeon.

Office over Sengstacken's Drug Store,
Phones—Office 1621; residence 783.

Lawyers.

J. W. BENNETT.

Office over Flanagan & Bennett
Bank.

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Francis H. Clarke Jacob M. Blake

Lawrence A. Liljeqvist

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TIME TABLE.

Subject to change without notice.

No. 1. Daily, ex. Sunday

No. 2.

Lv. 9:00 a.m. Marsh'd Ar. 12:30 p.m.

..... Junction

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Ar. 10:20 a.m. Myrtle Pt. Lv. 10:45 a.m.

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