

Coos Bay Times

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DREDGING.

It is understood that the proposition to dredge the bay is by no means sleeping and that vigorous action will be commenced in a few days. It is not necessary to remind the people that this is the most important matter which the people of the Bay cities can take up. They know that and know it well. It is on account of the bay and its possibilities that cities have grown up on this peninsula. It is on account of the bay that large industries have been established and that many more are expected to come. The future of this community is brighter because ships may come in from the ocean and find a safe haven and a market. It is therefore the first and last duty of the people who own property on the bay and its navigable streams to make it a great harbor.

There are two ways to get the bay dredged so as to provide a channel capable of receiving ships of large size. The first is to have the United States government do it and from past experience it is reasonable to suppose that by waiting several years more—say twenty—the people may have the satisfaction of seeing the government expend on it or on some other place a large amount of money. The second and best way is for the people to do it themselves. In the latter case they can hope to see it done in this generation. More than this. If they make the bay important by rendering it a commercial center, population will assemble here to do business and the government will no longer be able to ignore its demands.

It will be some time before the Port of Coos Bay can be legally organized. It is probable that the only way to proceed for that purpose will be either to initiate a general law which will authorize the creation of ports and port commissions and have it referred to the people to be voted on at the next June election, or to wait for the legislature to enact a general law to that end in 1909. It seems that "ports" as legal entities are unknown to the law of this state except in the single case of the Port of Portland which was created by special enactment before the amendment to the constitution prohibited special legislation by the legislature. The supreme court in the Port of Columbia case just decided, has held that the legislature can not create such corporations by special enactment. It is therefore up to the legislature to provide at its next session by a general law, for the creation of ports or for the people to do so through the initiative and referendum. It is understood that the committee of the chambers of commerce of the two cities will make recommendations on this subject to the two chambers in due season. In the meantime the dredging of the channel from North Bend to Marshfield will have to be undertaken by the people on some such plan as has been already proposed and it is much to be hoped for the credit of the cities and of those who have been boosting them on the strength of their harbor advantages, that the new-born and splendid public spirit which is "doing things" on the bay will push this best and most useful of all undertakings to a success.

NEW TRIAL COURTS.
 At the last session of the legislature that body proposed for submission to the people under the referendum provisions of the Oregon constitution an amendment to Article VII. of the constitution relating to the judiciary. So necessary does this amendment seem and so important are its terms to the people, that all should take pains quite early in the discussion to become acquainted with them. Heretofore the laws of

the state have been regarded as inelastic and unsuited to a rapidly developing commonwealth. The court system is especially inefficient and is so recognized by the judges, lawyers and people.

The amendment upon which the voters are to pass does not provide, as many have supposed, for new local trial courts, but only that there shall be chosen for a term of six years by the qualified electors, in districts composed of one or more counties a sufficient number of circuit judges who shall hold court in the counties of their respective districts. The law-making body will be effective to carry out the provisions of the amendment. This does not necessarily change the old law, but it simply makes it possible to rearrange districts and make suitable provision for such courts as the changed or changing conditions may demand. In any event it will be necessary to await the action of another legislature to change the present system.

OLD WORLD IMPROVEMENTS.

Not many years ago the European mechanics and skilled workmen who came to America were inclined to assert their superiority over American mechanics and skilled workmen and took especial pride in their thoroughness. For a time there seemed to be merit in the contention, but in a few years the world awoke to realize that American skilled labor was producing machinery, fabrics, cutlery and other manufactured articles which excelled anything of the kind in the world and that Europe was not in the competition. It transpires now that while the tables are not turned exactly Europe has, by adopting American methods, reached the point of competition once more. This is so especially in Germany. Even when America was booming with newfound prosperity in the early years of this century, Germany was gloomy and dull. Now her prosperity is unparagoned that the workshop efficiency is extraordinary. High class machinery is still imported from the United States, to some extent, but most of the time and labor saving machinery with which America made her superiority felt is being made in Germany. It is stated on high au-

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