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Coos Bay Times

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THE BOROUGH SYSTEM.

The borough system of government is a very simple one and can be easily understood. The suggestion that it be applied to the peculiar needs and conditions of Coos Bay has caused much discussion both in North Bend and Marshfield and is being regarded with much favor. Some few have been heard to voice the old notion that one or the other city will lose its identity and be unable to manage its local affairs if consolidation is effected. Such a loss would be impossible. The borough system proposes that North Bend, for instance, be divided into a number of districts, each district to have one member on the borough council. The council will elect its president and this council with its president will have about the same authority as the mayor and aldermen. It will provide for the granting of liquor licenses, the repair or opening of streets and such matters as are purely local.

As for the central government, mayor and aldermen of the greater city of Coos Bay, it may have no power except to regulate the interborough relations, such as street car traffic, police and fire protection matters and the regulation of the harbor. It would be a limited power which could not trench upon the individual power of each separate borough. The particular purpose of organizing on the plan mentioned is to place the whole harbor under the united control of the cities and the harbor commission provided for by the charter would be a body whose administration of harbor affairs should be impartial. No difficulty need be apprehended in carefully preserving all rights which the different boroughs may now have or claim. The matter of the government dredge which the last congress provided for Coos Bay affords a good illustration. When the dredge ar-

rives there must be money raised to operate it. How will that be done? The cities of North Bend and Marshfield are prohibited by their charters from incurring debts except within narrow limits and are not authorized to raise money by taxation to improve the harbor. Under the system proposed then central government of Coos Bay can levy a tax on all property on an equitable basis and the money for operating the dredge can be raised. The dredge, it is stated, will be offered to Coos Bay by the government some time next summer. But if Coos Bay is unable to show that she can operate it the government officials will send it north and it will be years before it can be recovered. This should make it plain that the necessity for a Greater Coos Bay and a harbor commission is imperative.

MONEY AND WATER.

Harriman says "Money is like liquid. The moment you place an obstruction in front of it, it causes a diminution of the flow." This is regarded as a new aphorism in financial circles. It is truly a novel simile. It would be interesting to learn what Mr. Harriman had in mind when he spoke of money and liquid. There are several kinds of liquid one of which flows freely at many of those promotion banquets where, after a feast of dividends, railroad stockholders enjoy themselves eating, drinking and speech-making. Another is where the stockholders of some wrecked company sit down in sackcloth and ashes and weep salt tears of anguish. Still another is water. There is a liquid that diminishes when you obstruct it in some ways. For instance, water in Coos Bay would diminish if you obstruct it with a bridge across the bay. Again, water in stocks and bonds, diminishes and after disappears before the obstructions of grand juries. Is it not a mistake to compare money with such liquids?

But what is an obstruction? Is it the law against rebates which was allowed to go on the statute books because it was conceded to be right? Is it the moral law which says, "Thou shalt not steal"? Is it punishment by fine or imprisonment imposed on men who admittedly have broken both the statute and the moral law? The fact is that few obstructions have been placed in the way of the flow of money except in dishonest channels. Men who have been stealing timber are being prosecuted. That surely is not the obstruction which has caused a diminution of the flow of money. The Standard Oil company of Indiana was fined after the court found as a matter of fact that it had accepted rebates in defiance of a well known law. Was that one of the obstructions which Mr. Harriman was evidently objecting to? So far as Mr. Harriman is concerned, let it be said that he is probably up to the standard of financial honesty in his class, but it is suspected that he feels that the determined effort of the government to enforce the law is putting some of Wall street's methods under the ban. It would be a terrible criticism on modern civilization if people concluded to be careful of their

money and withhold it from use when they were being surrounded by greater safeguards. No! No! Mr. Harriman. Such an excuse for money stringency is too slim. It must be very fleeting. If the people are holding their funds it is not because they are afraid but because they are busy at court prosecuting the criminals whom the law has apprehended and proposes to punish. When court is over their confidence will be renewed and redoubled.

TIMBER IN THE PHILIPPINES

More Than Forty Million Dollars' Worth in One Tract.

Major George P. Ahern, chief of the forestry bureau of the Philippines, is reported from Berlin as stating to the German authorities that the value of the timber on the public lands of the archipelago is enormous. On one tract on the island of Mindanao he estimates that the "ripe" timber, ready for removal, is worth \$44,000,000. This value, it may be assumed, is for the timber delivered to market. If there was a government stumpage to the value of \$44,000,000 the Philippine government would be "on velvet." Such available cash resource would be better than a plush-lined box set in the floor. Taxes could be abolished, government railroads built, the harbors put in shape and properly harbored.

The value of the Philippine forests—or rather of the Philippine lumber when got out of the forests—is well known. There is a great variety of hard woods, said not to be liable to serious checking, of beautiful appearance and capable of receiving a high polish. Many of the varieties are wholly unknown in timber markets, but are certain to become known, at least to those who delight in handsome furniture and are able to buy it. Hitherto, unless improvements have been recently made, the cost of getting lumber out has been extremely high. There are no forests of one kind of timber, but many kinds grow together indiscriminately in a tropical jungle. When a wood cutter got an order for a certain kind of timber he went into the forest, found his tree, cut it and sawed it up by hand, over an old-fashioned saw pit, into sizes which a couple of buffalo could drag through the brush to the bank of a stream, where it was loaded into a boat and floated down. Most of the wood is too heavy to be floated except in boats. Profitable lumbering in the Philippines involves a large outlay. When a tract is attacked proper roads must be made and all the ripe timber of all kinds which has commercial value must be cut at once—the government will not permit growing timber to be cut. Modern sawmills must be built and the output marketed on a large scale. At present, the woods being mostly unknown to the trade, there is no market except for trial lots. Consequently there must be capital to carry a large stock until markets are made for it.

Spain, being a backward country, never adopted the plan of giving away its forests or the timber they contain. The wood cutter—"poor

man" though he might be when he had painfully dragged the timber to the stream, would find there awaiting him the official scaler, and a good stiff price must be paid before the timber could be loaded. Substantially the same policy is followed by the Philippine government. The Spanish government did sell timber land, but, as few desired to buy it, most of it is public land still. There is great potential value in the Philippine forests, but large capital is required to get it out. Lumbering in the Philippines is not an occupation for a poor man.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Organizes Bandon Bank.

(Bandon Recorder.)

It has been commonly thought that a new banking company, known as The Bandon Trust and Savings corporation, has been organized for some time, but faint rumors could not give any definite satisfaction as to the reliability of such information. But this week we learn positively that such a corporation has been organized, and since the location for a building has been purchased, they will no doubt do something in the very near future toward building.

The corporation was organized on July 1, 1907, and the articles of incorporation have been filed with Secretary of State, F. W. Benson. The authorized capital stock is \$25,000, and the incorporators are M. C. Horton, Wm. Grimes and Henry Sengstacken. The articles of incorporation were filed August 16, 1907. Inquiry of the State Bank Examiner does not show that the bank has been granted a certificate to transact a banking business in the State of Oregon as provided by an act to define a bank and banking business. The officers of the corporation are not yet known.

The two former incorporators are not known in Bandon, but Mr. Sengstacken is well known all over the county.

Some time ago the "flat-iron" building changed hands, Judge Topping transacting the business. At that time it was not stated who the purchasers were, but it was thought to be some person interested in the banking business, as this is the best site for that purpose in Bandon. The building is now occupied by Chas. Dally, who holds a lease that will not expire for eighteen months yet.

Whether a new banking company in town will pay remains to be seen. We are growing and all branches of business are being increased. It stands to reason, however, if we continue to prosper here, and there is no reason why we should not, that there will be room for another such institution.

Returns From Umpqua.
Mr. Wiley Tindolph returned yesterday from the Umpqua river where he has been for a few days to attend to business affairs. He was at Gardner and says he was much taken with the clean appearance of that little city. On his trip he saw the whale which was lately washed ashore near Ten Mile creek, and gave it as his opinion that the whale was at least 90 feet in length.

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