

Coos Bay Times

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Marshfield Oregon

RIP VAN WINKLE OR TWENTY YEARS AFTER.

Section 15 of the charter of Marshfield has the following provisions: "All laws of this state regulating and governing the general elections and proceedings and matters incident thereto shall apply, as far as applicable, and govern elections under this act, except as herein provided, or except as otherwise provided by ordinance of said city of Marshfield; Provided, that nominations for the several offices shall be made at a meeting or a caucus which shall be called by the council, and shall be held not less than ten days nor more than 20 days preceding such election, and the NAMES CHOSEN AT SAID CAUCUS BY A MAJORITY OF THE LEGAL VOTERS OF SAID CITY WHO SHALL ATTEND SUCH CAUCUS AND TAKE PART IN SAID NOMINATIONS SHALL BE PRINTED UPON THE BALLOTS, AND NO OTHERS, BUT AN ELECTOR MAY WRITE IN THE NAME ON HIS BALLOT." The above is an exact copy of the charter. Mr. Farrin, city attorney, claims that it is a section which gets inspiration from the old New England town meeting, which he calls the true democratic form of government. Mr. Farrin has got the New England town meeting and Tammany Hall mixed. He has also read out of the section referred to the words "BY A MAJORITY OF THE LEGAL VOTERS." Will he explain how the section which requires the nominations to be made by having "the names chosen at such caucus by a majority" can be construed to mean that one man could under that democratic form name a candidate and have his name placed on the ticket? But everybody who was present at the so called caucus knows very well that the above section was not not complied with. There was not a candidate chosen at that meeting. Not a vote was taken on any name. It would be interesting to learn how the gentlemen who ran that caucus interpret the word "chosen," and whether they consider that they have as much freedom in such interpretation as they took in running the caucus? Then again, who are the "majority" of legal voters by whom such candidates are to be CHOSEN? The Times called attention to this section of what Mr. Farrin is pleased to refer to as "the much abused charter" and was very mild in its comments. It ought to have said that it was a most intolerable piece of stupidity or else a wicked stroke of trickery, to have such a travesty on "the New England town meeting" inserted in the charter. Anybody can see with his eyes shut that some unscrupulous future chairman will sometime rule that the caucus must as a matter of law VOTE on candidates and that the same majority may VOTE for the candidates of every faction and vote down anybody it doesn't want. When the city has doubled its population again there will be a lot of "strangers" who, by virtue of a six months residence in the state, and ninety days' residence in the city, will imagine they have a right to interpret this provision of the charter. If they do not happen to hear of the practice of ignoring the language of the provision for "twenty years" they are apt to say that a candidate is not chosen unless he is voted on and that in 1907 there was not a candidate for any office legally on the ticket.

THE SAVIOR OF HIS COUNTRY
J. Pierpont Morgan—It is a name to conjure with. Whenever the government at Washington, which rests on the shoulders of some eighty-five million eagle screaming, proud, royal American kings and queens, finds

itself in financial straits, this great and good man comes to its rescue and kindly offers to take its bonds and dispose of them. If it is fifty million he is equally as generous. If to take them. If it is a hundred million he is equally as generous. If it is a hundred and fifty million he does not hesitate. And his commissions are never more than the most he can safely take. But in this year, 1907, J. Pierpont Morgan has been especially considerate. In 1893 President Cleveland is reported to have gone over to Wall Street to see Mr. Morgan and there were commissions and dividends galore. But in 1907 Mr. Morgan goes over to Washington to see President Roosevelt. The commercial and industrial head and capital of America is in Wall Street. Everybody concedes that Washington only represents the heart of the nation. It is refreshing, to see that the head has concluded to recognize the heart. Yes! Wall Street is lost in wonder at the condescension of Mr. Morgan. They appreciate and applaud his self-sacrifice. They are overcome with feelings of reverence for the man who had it in his power to wreck his country and instead of doing so saved it. Of course Wall Street knows that the American people are a set of dunces to let J. Pierpont Morgan or anybody else have such unlimited power, or to support a system of finance which plays eternally into the hands of Morgan, Rothschilds, and their kind. But that is the theory on which financial systems are based so, let us lift up J. Pierpont Morgan, like a serpent in the wilderness, and let us join his devotees.

APOLOGIES RECEIVED.
A little paper called the Campaigner was received at the Times office last evening and read with interest and amusement. It was a neatly printed little sheet which was and is evidently intended as a special effort to show that the Times, in denouncing indecent English, and the flaunting of disorderly houses on the most prominent part of the most prominent street of Marshfield, was an attempt to connect the present city government with those abuses. It is true that some things have been done in Marshfield as intimated, and in some instances admitted, by the "Campaigner" which are not altogether defensible, but no member of the present city government needs to become a martyr on that account. There is yet time, dear friends, to correct some of these abuses which your predecessors in office were guilty of, even before the polls open next Tuesday. Call the council together quietly, let the people wake up some morning and find that you have decided to place the city's houses of shame in some more secluded quarter, and also order published the statement of the city's financial condition which has been in careful and diligent preparation for two years past. You can do these things and should. Invite the people also to some one of the council meetings by giving ample notice in advance. But—get down to a business basis and do business on business principles. No question is made or will be made that Mayor Straw intends to do what he thinks is the right thing, but his epigrammatic style of speech does not necessarily inspire confidence and tenderfeet who might otherwise invest money in Marshfield really are liable to misunderstand him. If the Marshfield city government will get down to business and prepare the city for its great future, apologies like the Campaigner will not be necessary.

THE TIMES' COLUMNS OPEN.
The gentlemen who are managing Dr. Straw's campaign have charged that the Times would not publish their communications. That is a mistake. All communications which the writers will sign their names to and which are not political will be published free, if not too lengthy and otherwise proper. All political matter will be published at the usual rates and this charge will be made on either side. It costs something to publish a paper and the Times Publishing Company considers the regulation no more than night. The supporters of Dr. Straw may use the space of the Times on exactly the same terms that the supporters of Mr. Smith may do so.

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