

Coos Bay Times

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THE COOS BAY TIMES PUBLISHING CO.

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Marshfield Oregon

NOT POLITICAL.

When the statement of a very much respected reverend gentleman was quoted in these columns the other day, to the effect that Marshfield would increase its population to 10,000 next year, it was not intended, by mentioning that gentleman's name to connect him with any comments on the political situation which followed. It is a fact which all will appreciate, that no member of the clergy in this city is taking an active part on either side of the fractional conflict for municipal office. Nor was it intended to have any clergyman's name so associated, but the name of the gentleman whose words were quoted was used rather with a feeling of exhilaration at the encouraging prospect which loomed brilliantly before Coos Bay and its bracelet or shining cities.

Still, one can not help picturing the difficulties which stand in the way of a proper and happy realization of that prospect. With deficient municipal machinery and insufficient municipal methods it will be impossible to receive and wisely handle the crowds of good and of doubtful citizens which are knocking at our doors. Now is the time to prepare. Now is the time to get down to business. Now is the time to adopt a policy of publicity. Now is the time to get dignity and adopt forms which will inspire respect. Now is the time to make our laws known. Now is the time to find out just how the city stands financially. Now is the time to insist that the police force be composed of discreet and courageous men. Now is the time to place Marshfield in the ranks of up-to-date cities, not forgetting that her business interests are all to be recognized, and that she is a Western city, with liberal and broad policies every day in the week, but that she must be regulated so that the weaknesses and frailties of humanity are kept under proper control. The hour has struck and Marshfield must get down to a business basis or be ridiculous.

CUSTOM.

There is no question from a legal point of view, that the name of only one candidate has a right to be printed on the official ballot of the city. That is the name of J. M. Upton, for city recorder. The multitude of witnesses who stand ready to state on oath that no vote was taken on any candidate whose name was mentioned for mayor, are well corroborated by the city attorney whose version, given in the Campaigner, was to the effect that any name which any might offer would be accepted and placed on the city ticket. But the charter says the names shall be chosen by the majority. Many people who are acquainted with the customs and practice of "the last twenty years" give their evidence as to the manner in which this Section 15 has been at various times construed and such constructions have been as diverse as the peculiar requirements of the crowd that happened to get control. It has been the custom and practice of the last twenty years to put any construction on it which the crowd wanted.

But what has custom got to do with it anyway? Some people think custom makes law, but it doesn't except where no statute or express law exists, and not always then. The man who stole hogs in Posie county set up as a defense that it was the custom of the people of Posie county to steal hogs and he had therefore committed no crime. The Posie county justice looked at it the same way and the thief got off. But any court here. So it ought to be a held under Section 15 and the customs of twenty years in political

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Marshfield, it is not believed that any Posie county justice presides over any court here. So it ought to be a certainty that either Dr. Straw's name will not go on the ballot or that both Straw and Smith will have their names printed.

FIRST IN TWENTY YEARS (?)
The Campaigner of November 26th gives quite a statement of figures which may be regarded as the first financial statement of the city of Marshfield for twenty years. But is not this a departure from the rut which it was supposed would demolish that famous Caw Cus which Hon. Tom Hall has described in his Mark Twain specialty article published in another column? Can the people feel assured that in the future they will have a financial statement every two years should the present administration be perpetuated? And will the administration even then send out a financial statement if the situation doesn't change to require the publication of a "Campaigner?"
The records which the Campaigner shows with regard to police efficiency are not without their lessons. It is noted that on January 1st a fine was imposed for keeping a house of ill fame. That must have been January 1st a year ago and the people will rejoice to learn that because of the efficiency of the police there have been no such houses in the city since, or if there have been they have been so successfully kept in out of the way places that the police do not know it. It is remarkable that only a few arrests have been made in 1907 although it has been reported that several little incidents with clubs and billies have rounded out the record.

Can the mayor or recorder tell us how the town books stand? Let's see the books.

—Charter the launch Express.

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