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WRITHES LIKE A WHIPPED CUR UNDER THE LASH OF HONEST CRITICISM

Coos Bay Gas and Electric Co. Replies To Request For Better Service With A Villainous Personal Attack On The Editor Of The Times

SOME PLAIN TRUTHS PLAINLY STATED

Seeks to Divert the Attention of the People by False and Foolish Charges and Personal Abuse—The Times or Its Editor Has Nothing to Retract and No Secrets to Withhold From the People of Coos Bay.

The editor of the Times asks the kind indulgence of the readers of this paper for engaging in a little personal talk. The editor of this paper does not believe in personalities in a newspaper discussion nor is he so egotistic as to think that the people of Coos Bay are interested in his private affairs. Seymour H. Bell, manager of the Coos Bay Gas & Electric Co., has thought it advisable to divert the just criticism of his corporation and its methods into personal channels by an unmanly and damnable false attack on the editor of this paper. He seeks to cloud the issue and throw dust into the people's eyes by this method instead of meeting the issue fairly and in a manly manner. The personal character of the editor has as little to do with the service that the Coos Bay Gas & Electric company render the people of Marshfield and North Bend in return for their honest dollars as the steamer "Flyer" has to do with the Japanese fleet. It is easy to see through Mr. Bell's little game. It is as transparent as glass. The very sun shines through it. If he can by duplicity, decoy the people from the single issue of an honest and efficient electric light and power service into consideration of personal abuse he will have gained his end. He builds his house of hope on the flimsy foundation that because the editor of the Times is a new comer, a stranger here, he is particularly susceptible to an attack on his personal character and his integrity. Because he is a stranger and because he is perfectly agreeable to a comparison of personal characters with Seymour H. Bell the editor of this paper will depart from a life long rule and talk about himself in the columns of his own paper. Because also he is in earnest in his efforts to prevent the Coos Bay Gas & Electric Co. from bulldozing and browbeating this community into accepting a fourth rate service for a first-class price he is willing that the people should know who and what he is so that they will understand when Seymour H. Bell seeks in a cheap and false diatribe to fool and deceive them by diverting their thoughts from the issue which is under discussion, namely the defective and deficient service of the Coos Bay Gas & Electric Co.

First that the public may have a fair and full understanding of the controversy we will briefly outline its inauguration and progress. Soon after assuming control of the Times the writer was impressed with the inefficient power and light service of Coos Bay. The linotype machines are operated by electric motors and often as many as three or four times a day the power would suddenly shut off leaving the men and machines idle. Several times at night in the business and editorial rooms candles were brought into requisition to furnish light. Every business establishment in this city and North Bend has had the same annoying, inconvenient and expensive experience. A mild protest against such service was penned and published. Mr. Bell says he does not object to "honest criticism." This criticism was both mild and honest. Now mark what happened. About noon the following day Geo. Blanche

stormed into the Times office and wanted to know what the Times meant by attacking the electric light and power service. He also wanted to know who was responsible for the attack. He desired further to say that the Coos Bay Gas & Electric Co. was spending \$300 or \$400 per year with the Times and that fact should entitle them to consideration. He did not think they should be criticised when they were willing to spend that much money in the columns of this paper. Mr. Blanchard's whirlwind attack was met with the mild assurance that there was nothing malicious in the criticism published and that it was the honest opinion of the editor who alone was responsible. He was also told that if he considered the criticism unfair that the columns of the Times were open to him free, without money and without price to answer the same. He was even invited to sit down and write it there and then and it would be published without cost. That doesn't sound much like graft, does it? There were witnesses present at the time. Mr. Blanchard, who is manager for Mr. Bell, met this with another storm of wrath to the effect that the money they were spending with the paper should entitle them to silence or compliments. He was then told in plain English that when he bought advertising he did not subsidize the paper and that as long as it remained under its present control all the money Mr. Hewitt and Mr. Bell possessed could not buy its silence on matters of public concern. He went away to return two days later and announce that the longer it was thought of the more outrageous it was considered by the Coos Bay Gas & Electric company that they should spend their money for advertising and then be criticised in the editorial or news columns of the paper and they proposed under such conditions to withdraw all their advertising and other patronage. This was plainly almost coarsely stated. A short time later Mr. Bell called a representative of the paper and discontinued the subscription of Mr. Hewitt. This withdrawal of patronage has been the only answer made by the Coos Bay Gas & Electric Co. to the honest criticism of the Times until yesterday when under the heading "The Coos Bay Gas & Electric Company Refuses to be Grafted" they printed in the Coos Bay News nearly a quarter page of vile and contemptible insinuations in a personal attack on the editor of the Times.

I am a firm believer in high thinking, right living and plain speaking. If Seymour H. Bell by insinuation and innuendo intimates what he dares not openly assert, that in any manner the criticism of the Times has been animated by other motives than that the people of Coos Bay should be given a good service, before all honest men in the world I brand SEYMOUR H. BELL A LIAR. That is a short and ugly word but it is the only one in the English language with which to designate an assassin of character whose ideals do not comprehend anything above the gutters of greed in which he wallows.

If Bell intimates that there was any effort to coerce the Coos Bay Gas & Electric Co. into advertising

he is lying and he knows he is lying and the man who wrote it knew it was a lie when he penned it. It is a barefaced, bold lie that bears its condemnation on its face, because the company was advertising regularly in the columns of the Times when this paper printed its criticism and it was only because it DARED TO PRINT THE TRUTH about the company's service that the advertising was withdrawn.

It is true that I have taken an option on the Times but it was an honest option, honestly and openly taken and is in a fair way to be honestly closed. When it is I will buy the Times with my own money honestly earned. I came to Coos Bay to honestly purchase and pay for what I secured. I did not come to cajole and coax and with booze, bluff and buncom wheedle out of the people franchises or anything else worth thousands of dollars for nothing and then give in return the poorest possible service.

I may not have the ability to edit the sort of newspaper that meets with the approval of Seymour H. Bell but I thank God I have sufficient ability to write my own statements.

The published statement that the Coos Bay Gas & Electric Co. never issued one dollar worth of stock that was not paid for in cash I do not care to discuss at this time, for I do not know, but I do know that this statement is widely at variance with well circulated and commonly accepted reports to the contrary.

I am not rich by comparison with Mr. Hewitt, whose man Friday Bell is and who could possibly buy all of Marshfield and have money left. Mr. Bell's charge that I am poor by such comparison is true. If lack of great wealth is a crime I plead guilty. But I never made any pretense to the contrary. That's one reason why I was careful in negotiating the purchase of the Times. I could not afford to be as reckless with my money as Mr. Bell is with his money at times. And so Mr. Bell because he found that I was not so constituted that "I would crook the pregnant hinges of the knee that thrift might follow fawning" would seek my destruction. Because I was poor as the people of Coos Bay are, individually, he would crush me. If I had taken an option on the plant of the Times he would discredit it and make it a poor investment by withdrawing his patronage and seek to influence others. If negotiations had gone too far he would further embitter the pill by other assaults on my character, credit and standing in the community.

So be it. Let the lines be fairly drawn. Let the people understand that Mr. Bell has not only capital, but seeks to make capital out of another's lack of it. Noble, manly trait in the good and gracious Mr. Bell. If he cannot control he will crush. Good? Why he is angelic. In fact he sleeps at night with his face in the pillow and cracked ice on his shoulder blades to keep the wings from sprouting. He is investing his money here for the benefit of the dear people. He does not expect to make any money for years but just to help out Coos Bay he will dump his money into the trade channels of this city with the reckless extravagance of a drunken sailor. His only desire is to help the dear people. How wrong it is that such a benefactor and such a corporation should be criticised. Why we should hold a weekly praise service just to give thanks for the kindly benefactions of this Pacific philanthropist. And the Times, why it should be boycotted and banished for daring to lift its voice in protest.

Mr. Bell calls the Times a cheap paper but thank God it is not as cheap as Mr. Bell and his corporation. It was not so cheap that he could buy its silence with his dirty dollars. If the editor of the Times is poor he is not so poor that all the money of the Coos Bay Gas & Electric Co. could purchase for one fleeting second his right to do his own thinking and speaking his own mind.

Mr. Bell says that his corporation is attacked by an "itinerant knight of the pen, who risks no capital and spends only his time." I am a stranger here. The people of Coos Bay do not know me. They have accepted me on trust. I would be false to every instinct of gratitude if I did not seek to merit such confidence by establishing my right to their faith in my honesty and honor.

When I came, however, I brought certain credentials from those who have known me almost my whole life long. I expected to use these in

(Continued on page 4.)

1908 CAMPAIGN IS OPENED

Women of Woodcraft Answers Challenge of Times in Form of Ball.

LADIES \$1.00—GENTS FREE

North Bend Organization Deserves Unstinted Praise for Its Support of "The Cause."

To the ladies of the Women of Woodcraft, Ottilia Circle No. 401, the Times respectfully begs permission to extend its deepest felicitations of appreciation and good will for their cooperation in making the initial move of the "Grand Leap Year Campaign" of 1908, for which the Times sounded the advance in its issue of Saturday last. Mayhap the cooperation was unconscious; if so the Times would further impose the indulgence of the Women of Woodcraft by paying a tribute to those powers of originality and perspicuity which their action in getting up the Leap Year ball denotes.

That this most novel and unique affair will be one of the long remembered events in Coos Bay socialdom is a foregone conclusion. February eighth, nineteen hundred and eight, is the announcement, which those so fortunate as to be honored, note on the front cover of the invitations. Further down is the place, Eckhoff hall, North Bend; but like all things feminine the gist and kernel is discovered in the most unlooked for spot. At the very bottom of the front inside page—giving one an involuntary impression that it feels a trifle shy at being the first harbinger of the new order of customs—is the notice, "Admission, Ladies \$1.00—Gents, Free."

The invitations caused much speculation among the ranks of the Coos Bay bachelor brigade yesterday afternoon. In one particular instance a bachelor was congratulating himself at being among the elect when a friend threw cold water on his happy feelings by asking him what young lady had selected his company. At the time of going to press this question remained unanswered. The bachelor it is said is in a state of profound study trying to figure out if the forms of feminine etiquette as applied to the males for 1908 render them liable to social ostracization if they appear at a dance without a female escort.

The Coos Bay orchestra will furnish music for the Leap Year ball. There are twenty-four dances scheduled on the program. The following ladies compose the floor committee: Mesdames, J. J. Burns, C. S. Winsor, N. G. Hames, and Miss Ida Gamble.

"BETTER ORCHARDS" COOS RIVER SLOGAN

Fruit Growers Have Started a Campaign of Pruning and General Cleaning Up.

The agitation started by the Marshfield Chamber of Commerce recently for better fruit, is manifesting results in the way of marked activity among the fruit growers. One accustomed to the negligent appearance of Coos river orchards would not recognize them now. A general pruning and cleaning up campaign has been in progress, completely changing the aspect of the orchards.

It was stated this morning that some of the orchards could even now compare in appearance with those of the famous Hood river. The new spirit among Coos river orchardists has called forth an urgent demand for the services of pruners. Today a fruit growers' meeting is in session in Myrtle Point and a number of growers from the Coos river district are in attendance.

MOVEMENTS OF THE FLEET

(By Associated Press.)
PUNTA ARENAS, Feb. 5.—The torpedo flotilla joined the battleship fleet at this port yesterday afternoon.

Yes, business is Good if your advertising is "good."

"ROTTEN U. S. SENATORS" SAYS FRANCIS J HENEY

FULTON STAYS IN WASHINGTON

Will Not Come To Oregon to Answer Charges Made By Francis J. Heney.

(By Associated Press.)
PORTLAND, Feb. 5.—A special dispatch to the Evening Telegram from Washington says Fulton has changed his mind about returning to Oregon to answer the charges of Heney. Numerous telegrams from the business interests of Oregon asking him to remain in Washington in the interest of legislation have caused the change of plans.

BRAVE GIRL AVERTS A BAD FIRE PANIC

Choking With Smoke She Saves "Glory For Me" While Audience Is Dispersed Safely.

(By Associated Press.)
DETROIT, Feb. 4.—Choking with smoke from a fire that crackled in the rafters and in front of her, in the Kercheval avenue Methodist Episcopal church last night Miss Eva Ludgate, a young woman evangelist from Chicago sang "Glory for Me" while the audience got out safely. Her calmness averted a bad fire panic. The fire was caused by defective wiring. Damage \$500.

OREGON TRUST TAKEN OVER.

German-American Bank of Portland Absorbs Defunct Institution.

(By Associated Press.)
PORTLAND, Feb. 5.—Circuit Judge Gantenburg today approved the absorption of the Oregon Trust & Savings Bank, which failed August 20, by the German-American Bank of this city. Hereafter the Oregon Trust will exist only as an open account in the affairs of the German-American and for the next two years Receiver Devlin will continue as custodian of this account.

THREE STEAMSHIP LINES FAIL.

U. S. Circuit Judge Appoints Two Receivers and Two Masters.

(By Associated Press.)
PORTLAND, Me., Feb. 5.—Receivers for the Eastern Steamship Company, the Metropolitan Steamship Company, and the Consolidated Steamship Lines of Maine, also two joint special masters were appointed by United States Circuit Judge Putnam today.

DECREE GRANTED NULLIFYING HER MARRIAGE TO THE EARL.

(By Associated Press.)

LONDON, Feb. 5.—Sir Birrell Barnes, president of the divorce court today granted the Countess Yarmouth (Miss Alice Thaw) a decree nullifying her marriage to the Duke of Yarmouth. The case was practically undefended. The countess was present but the Earl was not in court.

WHITE'S SLAYER IS NERVOUS.

President of Lunacy Commission Visits Him at Matteawan.

(By Associated Press.)
NEW YORK, Feb. 5.—Dr. Allan Ferris, president of the Lunacy Commission visited Thaw yesterday at Matteawan. He said Thaw was very nervous and excitable but that on such short notice it was impossible to come to any conclusion as to his permanent mental condition.

JAP DIPLOMAT IS ADVANCED.

(By Associated Press.)

TOKIO, Feb. 5.—The appointment of Viscount Sinzo Aoki, ex-ambassador to Washington, as privy councillor will be officially announced tomorrow.

U. S. ATTORNEYS DOING POLITICS INSTEAD OF DUTY

Says Former District Attorney Hall Conspired to Graft Land.

Government Prosecutor Makes Opening Argument in Trial of John H. Hall.

(By Associated Press.)
PORTLAND, Or., Feb. 5.—"United States Attorneys are doing politics instead of their duty and are appointed by rotten United States senators," is the way Francis J. Heney characterized some of the government officials in his opening argument in the trial of Ex-United States District Attorney John H. Hall today. Heney declared Hall had ample evidence on which to proceed against the Butte Creek company but failed to do so and he accused Hall of conspiracy with W. W. Steiwer, H. H. Hendricks, C. B. Zachary and others to maintain unlawful fence in Eastern Oregon.

COLONIAL BALL FOR LIBRARY

Progress Club Will Celebrate Birthday of George Washington.

For the benefit of the Marshfield public library fund the Progress club, Coos Bay's literary organization, will on the evening of Washington's birthday, February 22, give a Colonial ball. This step was decided on at the regular meeting of the club yesterday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Percy Levar. Though no details have as yet been arranged it was decided yesterday that all who attend the ball shall wear attire of the Colonial period. The same will apply in part of the dance program, the minuets and those other graceful steps of the days when knighthood was in flower. The following ladies were appointed to form a committee on arrangements and take complete charge of the preparations for the affair: Mesdames, E. G. Flanagan, H. S. Tower, M. C. Horton, D. Y. Stafford, G. W. Kaufman, J. W. Ingram, I. Lando, J. M. Upton.

Charles Lamb was taken as the subject for the meeting of the progress club yesterday afternoon. The feature of the meeting was the paper prepared by Mrs. G. W. Kaufman on the life and literary career of the noted English literature. The paper was a thorough and comprehensive review and denoted careful and deep thought in the preparation. Following this other selections from Lamb's essays and poems were read.

In honor of George Meridith's the celebrated English writer, 80th birthday the Progress club yesterday voted to send him a letter extending congratulations from an organization, whose literary interests form for it a link of common fellowship with the English author. The circumstances surrounding the extending of congratulations will render them decidedly out of the ordinary because of the fact that the Progress club of Marshfield is the most westerly literary club extant, Coos Bay being about three miles to the eastward of Point Blanco the most westerly point on the Pacific coast.

TEN THOUSAND ARE IDLE.

(By Associated Press.)

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 5.—Financial difficulties in all parts of the world resulted in such a curtailment of orders for locomotives that ten thousand employees of the Baldwin Locomotive Works are laid off. The full working force now is about 19,000 men.