COOS BAY TIMES

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KNOCKING AT DRAIN.

Notwithstanding the dirty work of the army of miserable knockers in this vicinity, several real estate deals have actually been made here recently. The town can not hope to grow much, however, until the knockers are knocked in the head with a telephone pole—or something equally as effective.—Drain Nonpareil.

COOS BAY MUST HURRY.

Grants Pass people are interested in a project of building an electric line down the Illinois river. G. A. Collins, a promoter, is working up the scheme, and states that the dirt will be flying by September on the grade for the new line. Coos Bay will need to get in and hustle or southern Oregon will have an outlet to the ocean at Wedderburn before Coos Bay is connected up with that section by railway. The preliminary survey was to be completed this week.—Myrtle Point Enterprise.

IMPROVEMENTS.

The magnitude of the building operations on Coos Bay during the past year are apparent even to the casual observer, and there are comparatively few towns throughout the country that can boast of such wonderful progress in so short a time. By our united efforts we have become a factor to be reckoned with in the future advancement of the Pacific coast, but in order to retain the prestige we have so deservedly won it is incumbent upon us to take advantage of every possible opportunity and strive to still further promote the interests of Coos Bay, and incidentally our own.

There is still work, and much of it, to be done. Contemplated improvements should be pushed to a speedy completion. Property owners, who are not deriving any revenue from their unimproved holdings, will find it to be a source of profit to them if more modern homes are erected. The supply does not equal the demand and at the present prices of building materials a saving of at least 50 per cent can be made on improvements of this character. The lumber market is rapidly becoming more firm and within a few months the same rates which prevailed during the year 1907 will again be established.

The period of business apathy is now past. Conditions in every line are improving throughout the country, and with this favorable outlook we should enjoy a still larger increase in the volume of business transacted.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

The common council of the city of Marshfield, Coos county, Oregon, will receive sealed bids up until 8 o'clock p. m., Friday, August 14, 1908, for the improvement of the portions of streets in the city of Marshfield, as given below, according to the plans and specifications therefor prepared by the city engineer and filed in the office of the recorder and open to the inspection of all persons interested therein.

'B' street from the west line of Fifth street to a point 42 feet west of the east line of Seventh street.

Seventh street from a point 18 feet south of the north line 'B' street to a point 18 feet south of the north line of Prospect avenue.

Prospect avenue from a point 18 feet east of the west line of Seventh street to the center line of Davidson street.

Chestnut street from the north line of Third street to the north line of Prosper street.

Bids will be considered separately for the grading and for the wood work of each improvement.

A certified check for at least 5 per cent of the amount of each bid must accompany same and the council reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Dated this 5th day of August, 1908
J. M. UPTON,
Recorder.

WITH THE TOAST AND TEA

GOOD EVENING.

REASON.

DIM as the borrowed beams of moon and stars
To lonely, weary, wandering travelers
Is reason to the soul, and as on high
Those rolling fires discover but the sky,
Not light us here, so reason's glimmering ray
Was lent not to assure our doubtful way,
But guide us upward to a better day.
—John Dryden.

THE SOUL OF MAN.

THERE is no wind but soweth seeds
Of a more true and open life,
Which burst, unlooked for, into high souled deeds
With wayside beauty rife.

WE find within these souls of ours
Some wild germs of a higher birth,
Which in the poet's tropic heart bear flowers
Whose fragrance fills the earth.

ALL that hath been majestical
In life or death since time began
Is native in the simple heart of all,
The angel heart of man.

AND thus among the untaught poor
Great deeds and feelings find a home
That cast in shadow all the golden lore
Of classic Greece and Rome.

O MIGHTY brother soul of man,
Wherever thou art, in low or high,
Thy skyey arches with exulting span
O'er roof infinity!
—James Russell Lowell.

August Forecast

It was August the third,
And quite soft were the skies,
And it might be imagined
Bill Taft was likewise;
Yet he played it that day upon Bryan
In a way politicians despise.

When they met on the train,
As all candidates will,
And they wagered a dinner
In test of their skill—
The winner to make the best pun on
The homely cognomen of Bill.

"I suppose," Bryan said,
Stirring ice in his tea,
"That in view of the times,
As between you and me,
The smaller the bill is the better,
The which any one will agree."

"Very clever," said Taft,
Here is mine: "I've a hunch,
You are not very strong."
(And he gave him a punch)
"For they don't like a long overdue bill!"

• • •

And the Peerless One paid for the lunch.

August was named for Augustus Caesar, nephew and adopted son of Julius. August was every bit as great a man, but his uncle had a better press bureau. When the Black Band got Julius, his nephew was but 19; but he had already worn the toga virilis and shot a bear. Mark Anthony tried to get him out of the way by making him a sort of vice-president, but after Augustus had beaten him 5 up and 2 to play on the green at Modena the big drawing card of the Roman chautauqua was glad to marry the young man's sister and be a kind of Nick Longworth around the Roman White House.

The Augustan age was the glory of Rome. Like Mr. Roosevelt, Augustus showed fight all the time, and the empire enjoyed peace. There were no reformers, and times were good. The emperor liberally patronized literature, and even wrote verses himself. Poets like Horace and Virgil had their own enameled gold chariots with liveried alligator bait on the job behind, and instead of having the cruel circus games of Nero, the populace met in the colliseum and wrote limericks for prizes. It is said that Augustus found Rome a city of brick, and left it a city of marble. He was a very proud man, and in order to make his month as long as anybody's, they took a day from February and added it to August, which originally had but thirty. Augustus deserves to be better known, and it is not his fault that he is not. He tried everything from divorce to race suicide. He had three wives and one child, a daughter Julia. He beat Antony and Cleopatra 9 to 0 in the famous engagement at Actium, enough in itself to have left his name upon a 10-cent cigar; but he stood about the same chance against the luster of his immortal uncle as Miss Ethel Roosevelt stands to share the limelight with her sister Alice.

The dog days will return to paint
The pond like Erin's isle,
And the boys will navigate the scum
In good sea-going style;
Reform will dig a few more pits
For brewers and distillers,
And the office seeker pass around
His bum alfalfa fillers.

The bullfrog will essay his lay along the winding creek, and the dude will bite the summer girl upon her damask cheek; the sun will burn the festive tramp clear through his undershirt, and Carrie Nation will give tongue, and kick up sod and dirt, the while her ladyship pursues the new directoire skirt.

The candidate will buzz around before the voter's door, and all the babies will get kissed and snuggled up some more; the mother will say, "Ain't he nice!" with every kiss and hug, but the father will declare he is a dern old kissing bug.

The Anna-mosity which Prince Helie de Sagan and Count Boni de Castellane bear one another will cool a little, and about the 10th they will get together and shoot dice for the Gould children. The fleet will continue to banquet across the Pacific by easy stages, and upon reaching Manila, the stomachs of the officers will be put in dry dock and scraped.

The baby calf will try his legs
In meadows soft as silk,
And when he bawls his loving dam
Will rush the mother's milk;
And meanwhile she will smile to think,
With many modest blushes,
How Moses could have ever lived
In nothing but bullrushes.

After the 21st, August will be under the zodiacal sign of virgo. This will make chatauqua crowds restless and outdoor orators will have to follow them around through the woods and talk to them when they will stand. It will also cause Mr. Rockefeller to get busy on that story of his life he is going to write for one of the national monthlies, and monopoly will get so nervous it will have to have a trained nurse and take nourishment through a funnel. Mr. Roosevelt will meanwhile call a special meeting of the Cabinet at Sagamore Hill, and will issue a proclamation declaring that the best way to catch lions is to set up a sand seive on the desert, shovel the sand in, and take the lions out of the seive.

Persons born under Virgo have domestic tastes, and know how to hold a baby. They are very bright, and know what the presidential issue is. They are sanguine in temperament, and believe the worst is over. They abuse their stomachs, and will eat anything that doesn't bite them first.

The presidential campaign will be confined to a few social functions. On the 19th Mr. Roosevelt will give a lawn fete at Oyster Bay in honor of "Sunny Jim" Sherman's whiskers, and the guests will be given an opportunity to hear the sea breeze blow through them. On the 26th Mr. Bryan will give a corn-silk party at Fairview, in honor of his running mate, Mr. Kern. Everybody will wear corn silk whiskers, and a year's subscription to The Commoner will be given the guest wearing the best duplicate of Mr. Kern's. The planet Mars will be evening star until the 22d, and the moon will be full on the 11th, the Anti-Saloon League willing.

And then September will return
With autumn breezes cool,
And the tearful boy will cuss his luck
And hipper back to school.
Ganderbout.

The steamship City of Panama will leave Marshfield for SAN FRANCISCO, SATURDAY, AUGUST 8. For freight or passage apply at Breakwater dock, L. W. Shaw, agent.

Steamer Breakwater sails for PORTLAND, 6 p. m., SATURDAY, AUGUST 8.

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