

COOS BAY TIMES

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SATURDAY EVENING THOUGHTS

THE GREAT CITY.

"What makes a city great and strong?
Not architecture's graceful strength,
Not factories' extended length,
But men who see the civic wrong
And give their lives to make it right,
And turn its darkness into light.

What makes a city full of power?
Not wealth's display nor titled fame,
Not fashion's loudly boasted claim,
But women, rich in virtue's dower,
Whose homes, though humble, still are great
Because of service to the state.

What makes a city men can love?
Not things that charm the outward sense,
Not gross display of opulence,
But right, that wrong cannot remove,
And truth, that faces civic fraud
And smites it in the name of God.

This is a city that shall stand,
A light upon a nation's hill,
A voice that evil cannot still,
A source of blessing to the land;
Its strength not brick, nor stone, nor wood,
But justice, love and brotherhood.

ANON.

A GREEK STATESMAN, when asked at a feast to play on a lute, replied that he could not fiddle, but he could make a small town a great city.

The writer visited a town a year ago in which he had lived for a few years, a half score or more years ago. He found this community depleted in population and its general appearance less attractive than in former times. This notwithstanding the fact that it occupies a superior location, had profited by the presence of flourishing and varied industries, and neighboring towns had made steady progress. The causes of this deterioration were at hand: The men who controlled municipal affairs and moulded the policies of that town were good fiddlers, but wanting in statesmanship and generalship. They were clever politicians and could promote successfully small interests of a personal kind; but they never swept the horizon of possibility with perceptible eye, nor rose to the dignity of unselfish service. One may read all this on the streets and public buildings, in the commercial and educational and moral life of their town.

In every considerable community there are men of the temper and energy of Themistocles, who, though they cannot fiddle, know how to make a small town into a city. Such men are characterized by large unselfishness, courage, generosity and fellow feeling. Be they rich or poor, they always count public service personal trust and not a private snap. They have the courage to add another mill to the tax list for the sake of more light, enlarged educational facilities, public parks, or purer water; to oppose the continuance in office of incompetent men for the sake of peace or popularity; to accept hazards for high and far-reaching ends.

Our city numbers among its citizens not a few men of this class. Since these men, like the commonality of our fellow townsmen, are making a beginning in private enterprises, they may suppose themselves too busy and meager in personal resource to invest their energies for the public weal. We must compel the city-builder into service, and then joyfully second his labors toward the creation of the great city.

Along this line of thought Frank Parsons, at one time professor in the Kansas agricultural college, at another time lecturer in the Boston university law school, and at present a public contributor of many important articles on current questions, has the following to say on the ideal city government:

"The first and fundamental purpose of the ideal city government in a free country is to establish real government by the people, with effective safeguards against boss rule, or machine government, or any other sort of despotism masquerading under the forms of democracy.

"The second purpose of the ideal city government is to secure efficient management of public affairs. It is not enough to get honest administration in the public interest. We must have efficient administration in the interest of the public.

"To accomplish these two objects fully the government should be such as:

"I. To awaken civic interest among the people and give it the means of effective expression and control of affairs.

"II.—To attract men of high character and ability into public life.

"III. To prevent the control of nominations and elections by party politicians, rings or bosses.

"IV. To secure for administrative and judicial departments the services of permanent experts and a personnel selected for merit, and party not reasons.

"V. To fix responsibility clearly.

"VI. To concentrate executive authority for efficiency, and diffuse legislative authority in order to secure full discussions and fair representation on behalf of all classes, interests and sections of the community.

"VII. To eliminate as far as possible the sources of corruption and bad management.

"VIII. To simplify the machinery of government and reduce the cost to the lowest point consistent with efficient service, popular sovereignty and the public welfare."

Our present form of municipal government is and always has been, a failure. It was wrongly conceived in the first place and the people have never had the courage to alter it.

It is a failure because it does not awaken the right sort of civic interest among the people.

It is a failure because the government is too complex. There are too many people who have a part in it, and none of them draw a sufficient salary to pay them for their time. Is indifference any wonder? Is it any wonder that men of high character and ability avoid the administration of city affairs? Would it not be better to reduce the number of administrators, fix their responsibilities clearly and pay them a just remuneration for their services?

Finally, it is a failure because too often one set or class of citizens, representing perhaps not the best element of citizenship, gain control of affairs and use their power to corrupt the administration and misappropriate the public funds.

What is needed now is a form of city government that will right these causes of failure. A form based upon the principle suggested by Prof. Parsons would likely do it. The great mass of the American people anxiously await the hailing of that day when it shall come.

AT THE CHURCHES

EPISCOPAL CHURCH.
Rev. W. HORSFALL, Rector.

Bishop Scadding will hold services in Emmanuel Church, Sunday, at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. In the afternoon, he will preach at North Bend.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE.

Services will be held in the Masonic Temple, Sunday, at 11 a. m. Subject, "Unreality." A cordial invitation is extended to all.

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH.

Rev. B. F. Bengtson, Pastor.
Lutheran Church, October 4th. Sunday school will be held at 9:30 a. m., sermon at 10:30. Evening service at 7:30. Special music.

CHURCH OF CHRIST DISCIPLES.

J. J. PORTER, Minister.
Meets in the Lutheran Hall (rear of the Lutheran church). Preaching First and Third Lord's Days of each month, at 11 a. m., and 7:30 p. m. Sunday School, 10 a. m.; Bible Class, Thursday, 7:30 p. m. Everybody is cordially invited to all of these services.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.

Regular morning service at 11 a. m. Pulpit will be occupied by Rev. W. A. Smith. Sunday School at 10 a. m. as usual. Young People's meeting at 7 p. m., and Union Services at 8 p. m., with discourse by Rev. H. H. Brown. Special music—solos, duets, chorus and congregational singing, with a welcome for every comer.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF NORTH BEND.

Rev. WALLACE ROSS.
Sunday School at 10 o'clock. 11 a. m., preaching service followed by Class meeting. 6:30 p. m., Epworth League service. 7:30 p. m. evening service. We are pleased to have with us our new pastor, who will preach for us both morning and evening.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN.

H. H. BROWN, Pastor.
Morning worship is held at 11 o'clock, conducted by the pastor. Subject of the sermon, "The Transformers of God's Voice." For the evening service will meet at the Baptist church, the two congregations uniting, and the pastor of this church preaching the sermon. The Sunday School meets promptly at 10 a. m. for Bible study. Classes for all ages. J. D. McNeil, superintendent. The Christian Endeavor Society holds its service every Sunday evening at 6:30 o'clock. Tomorrow night is the Consecration meeting and every member is expected to be present.

UNITED BRETHREN OF NORTH BEND.

R. G. SUMMERLIN, Pastor.
Preaching services Sunday 11 a. m. subject, "The Calling of the New Apostles." Evening services 7:30 p. m., subject, "The Home Life." Sunday School 10 a. m. Y. M. C. E. 7:30 p. m. Prayer meeting, Thursday 7:30 p. m. Strangers and the poor especially invited to all of these services.

ent. Tople, "Our Vows and their Fulfillment." Ps. 116, leader, Miss McNeill. The people of the Baptist church are cordially invited to unite with us at the morning service. Strangers are always welcomed among us.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NORTH BEND.

J. E. BURKHART, Pastor.
Morning worship at 11 o'clock. Subject of sermon, "Mighty With God." Evening worship at 7:30 o'clock. Subject of sermon, "Stoning Jesus." The Bible School meets at 10 a. m. Junior C. E. at 4 p. m. Y. P. S. C. E. at 6:30 p. m. You will find a cordial welcome at all of our services. Come and bring a friend.

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AFTER THEATRE.

Tonight at Odd Fellows Hall the Margaret Hes Company will play "The Counterfeiters." This is an A No. 1 comedy drama and it was certainly appreciated by the audience last night. It is a laugh from start to finish, besides having a beautiful story running through it. Seats are on sale at Lockhart-Parsons Drug Store, where they can be had for tonight and any Friday and Saturday night in the future. Next week the Hes Company plays the great labor drama "The Great Strike."

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