

# COOS BAY TIMES

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF COOS COUNTY.

### MUNICIPAL LIGHT PLANTS.

MANY NEWSPAPERS have recently published articles of a semi-news character narrating or intimating the failure of a municipal ownership of electric light, gas, or other public utility plants. Such articles are to be read with caution and suspicion, because in many cases they are inspired and put forth by private corporations controlling public utilities. An important and significant case in point is that of the municipal electric light plant of Chicago, regarding which a recent dispatch to various newspapers stated that its cost was found by investigation to be the high figure of \$81.64 per arc lamp per year. Mr. Edward W. Bemis, a well-known investigator of municipal problems, states in the Public that this press report as published in many newspapers "totally misrepresented the situation," and "gave an incorrect and unjust treatment of municipal ownership."

The facts are, according to Mr. Bemis, that the cost from 1903 to 1907 inclusive was \$81.46 per arc-light per annum, but it is estimated that the cost for 1909 will be only \$60.56 per lamp, and ultimately will be only \$42.17. These facts were suppressed in the dispatch sent out to the press. This estimate of \$60.56 for this year and \$42.17 in the near future is made by B. J. Arnold, a well-known electrical engineer, and Arthur Young, a certified public accountant. In view of this estimate, and of all the facts in the case, Mr. Bemis says that "it is clear that there has been no failure whatever in the municipal electric light plant of Chicago, handicapped though it has been by its legal inability to furnish commercial light and power."

Mr. Josselyn, president of the Portland Railway, Light & Power Company, in a recent statement said that the charge of his company, \$58 per arc light per year, was much lower than that in New York, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Boston, and other cities, and this seems true, says the Portland Journal; but it is to be remembered that most of those cities are run by corrupt political machines, that exact an enormous toll from the people, dividing with the utility corporations. And even the figures that Mr. Josselyn gives show that the municipally owned Chicago plant furnishes cheaper light now than several of the cities he mentions, and the estimate of future cost is far below the lowest one he mentions and nearly \$16 per lamp lower than the charge now made in Portland.

It is true that Mr. Josselyn's price, \$58 per lamp, seems reasonable as compared with the charges made in the boss-controlled and ring-ridden cities he mentions, but the point we make is that Chicago, even with no right under an absurd law to sell any power, will soon be able, according to reliable estimates, to furnish light from a municipal plant far more cheaply than a private corporation furnishes it to any large city in the country, and what Chicago can do other cities can do, some of them even better and at less cost, because water power is more available.

### NOT ABNORMALLY QUIET.

THE CURRENT COMMERCIAL quietude here, and everywhere over the country, is nothing abnormal, and presents no strikingly untoward, or dangerous elements.

Coos Bay is no worse off, in a business way, than tens of thousands of like communities all over the land. And she is, fundamentally, better off than thousands of them. What industries she has are all under way, steadily and successfully, even if the scope of business and profit is abridged somewhat. Coos Bay is a clean, healthy, prosperous, promising place, with plenty of irons on the fire and the fire burning brightly. We Coos Bayites are at times inclined to deprecate and underestimate our own resources and advantages. Just as all home-people do with the things they are tiresomely familiar with; but, to the friendly and disinterested outsider, she puts up a cheerful face and prospect and invites cordial and commendatory comment.

All we've got to do in this good year of 1909, is to carefully nurse our own interests and our own levers.

There's nothing more the matter with Coos Bay than with any other normal, well-poised and wide-awake, community in these United States!

### JAMES J. HILL AND THE FARM PRODUCTS.

James J. Hill the great railroad magnate, is especially interested in the agricultural development of the west. And he has given such deep thought to the subject that what he says contains a lot of good, sound common sense for the mental digestion of the people. But the one trouble is that he is so absorbed in his own view of the subject that he does not consider the same subjects from other standpoints.

A year or so ago he warned the country that there was not enough land under cultivation to furnish the people of this country with the food products which were needed, and he urged that inducements be made by the government to cause the people to seek the agricultural life and aid in the development of the idle acreage of the west. He was not content to preach alone, either, but he put into practice some of his theories and along the line of his railroads are many communities of farmers created through the aid and encouragement of Hill and his companies. Now, he is again to the front with another warning. He says that the farmers are not getting the highest returns from their lands. He thinks they could be educated to inductive farming that would result in the care and attention to the soil which

would bring the greatest result in products and at the same time have the vitality restored to the soil through treatment and rotation of crops that the ground would never become exhausted of food for plant life. Hill claims that the growing population of this nation demands that each acre be made to produce the greatest amount possible.

There is much help in the counsel and suggestions of Hill. But he might have gone a little further, although this would not necessarily apply as a criticism to the railroad policy of his companies. But he might have called attention to the fact because of illegal and selfish methods on the part of the railroads and the trusts that at least one-third of the crops of this country never reach the market.

For instance because of prohibitive freight rates and combines of middlemen at various times the fruit crops are allowed to rot. Because of the cotton trust forcing down the prices to the producers the latter burn much of their crops. This is true in other lines and remedy is vitally needed in that direction as well as along the lines suggested by Mr. Hill.

### GRAFTING WAX AND SPRAYING MATERIAL at the RED CROSS

For the LAND'S sake. See F. S. DOW FOR FERTILIZER.

### WITH THE TOAST AND TEA

#### GOOD EVENING.

Grant us, O Lord, the grace to bear  
The little pricking thorn;  
The hasty word that seems unfair;  
The twang of truths well worn;  
The jest that makes our weakness plain;  
The daring plan o'erturned;  
The careless touch upon our pain;  
The slight we have not earned;  
The rasp of care, dear Lord, today,  
Least all these fretting things  
Make heedless grief, oh, give, we pray,  
The heart that trusts and sings,  
ELIZABETH L. GOULD.

He was a dog  
But he stayed at home  
And guarded the family night  
and day.

He was a dog  
That didn't roam.  
He lay on the porch or chased  
the stray—  
The tramp, the burglar, the hen  
away;  
For a dog's true heart for that  
household beat  
At morning and evening, in cold  
and heat.

He was a man  
And didn't stray  
To cherish his wife and children  
fair.

He was a man  
And every day  
His heart grew callous, its love-  
beats rare.

He thought of himself at the  
close of day  
And cigar in his fingers, hurried  
away

To the club, the lodge, the store,  
the show,  
But he had a right to go, you  
know.

He was a man.  
—New York Globe.

Take a friend's advice and keep  
the umbrella within easy reach for a  
week or two longer.

Why wouldn't it be a good plan  
to organize the Coos Bay Knocker's  
Club—object, to knock anybody that  
knocks Coos Bay.

The Illinois preacher who declared  
that flirting in church is harmless  
has no doubt already noticed an in-  
crease in the Sunday collections.

There is something radically  
wrong with the man who doesn't  
find the world bright and beautiful  
after he gets over an attack of in-  
digestion.

The Massachusetts man who was  
sent to an insane asylum one hour  
after he was married evidently man-  
aged to keep out of that institution  
just a bit too long.

That girl student in Waco, Tex.,  
who hugged a teacher so hard that  
she fractured three of her ribs will  
always have plenty of admirers  
among the opposite sex.

A Vermont man suffered a stroke  
of apoplexy while watching a game  
of basketball. Presumably he was  
unaccustomed to anything more ex-  
citing than lawn tennis.

"Why will not doctors write bet-  
ter English?" peevishly asks the  
New York Sun. We give up. What  
puzzles us is why doctors will not  
write better prescriptions.

"An ordinary piano," says the  
Houston Post, "contains a mile of  
wire string." The very ordinary  
piano, we have noticed, also causes  
a good many suffering listeners to  
become unstrung.

Governor Stubbs of Kansas says  
"every man ought to read his Bible,  
his ballot and his newspaper with-  
out assistance." Yes; and he can  
get the ballot for nothing, while  
anyone will be glad to loan him a  
Bible, but he really ought to pay  
for the newspaper.

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