

# COOS BAY TIMES

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## Let Us Talk It Over

THERE IS AN OLD proverb which says: "Good Intentions will not help a man on his way if he takes the wrong road." I am strongly reminded of this by the action of the Marshfield city council Tuesday evening in refusing to ratify Mayor Straw's appointees, G. W. Carleton and W. R. Haines, to fill the vacancies on the town board. The Times does not hesitate to say that this action, all things considered, was reprehensible and unwarranted either by precedent or politics. Whatever of justification Councilman Coke and his conferees may have had in their objection to and rejection of W. R. Haines because of his alleged pernicious activity in the late municipal campaign, to place the seal of disapproval on G. W. Carleton because Mr. Coke as he stated, did not know him, was a gratuitous and uncalled for insult to a gentleman who has done as much for advancing the interests of the city of Marshfield during his residence here as any man within the municipal confines. Mr. Coke as a city official should be more familiar with the men who are helping to build the city. Mr. Carleton contributed \$500 to the dredger fund when it was sorely needed to secure and hold that important improvement for Coos Bay and the work of which has added value to every dollar worth of property on Coos Bay including Mr. Cope's. It was evident from the concerted action, and Mr. Coke's impromptu talk that the council was not so much concerned with the fitness or the unfitness of the appointees as it was with administering a rebuke to Mayor Straw.

Now, it is known of all men on Coos Bay who know enough to know that the city has a mayor that The Times is not a personal or political friend of Mayor Straw. It has criticised him freely and unreservedly at all times when it deemed his public actions made criticism necessary. "To err is human." Mayor Straw is human, very human. He has made errors of judgment and I think he will not deny it. But because a man may have made mistakes is no reason that he should be pilloried and pounded and the city made to suffer for deeds that have passed into history. In the present instance Mayor Straw has made an honest and honorable effort to serve the city fairly. He chose two well-known and prominent business men to act in the capacity of councilmen. The Times is not a companion or a champion of either of these men but it believes they had the qualifications to serve the city faithfully and efficiently. In any event more substantial reasons should have been advanced for their rejection than those given by Mr. Coke. As previously stated, Mr. Haines' attitude in the late campaign might have been such that the Citizens' League could not endorse him but until he had by unworthy action disqualified himself he should not be rejected solely on that ground. According to Mr. Coke the reason they turned down Mr. Carleton was because they did not know him and the reason for rejecting Haines was that they did know him. It was a clear case of damned if you do and damned if you don't. Mr. Coke's claim that Mayor Straw did not consider the candidates, that he (Coke) urged for appointment, has nothing to do with the case. Mayor Straw acted within his rights when he made the appointments without consulting anyone. Even then the evidence tends to show that the mayor was not discourteous, but having previously tendered the positions to Messrs. Carleton and Haines, he could not well withdraw them until they announced their decision.

The important fact in the whole unfortunate controversy is the evil effect that the council's action will have on the present complicated situation. To place the matter plainly before the people The Times would like to ask Mr. Coke a hypothetical question. If on his way home tonight Mr. Coke should happen upon an unfortunate man, who because of over-indulgence in liquor and his own carelessness had fallen and broken an arm, would Mr. Coke call for assistance and send the man to a hospital or would he give him a lecture on the evils of intemperance while the poor man groaned in pain on the roadway? The Times has too much confidence in Mr. Coke's sympathy and humanitarianism to give but one answer to that question. Even if the man got his liquor at the Millecoma Club The Times thinks Mr. Coke would first assist the man and talk to him later. Now Marshfield has a fractured financial leg and is going on crutches. The first thing to be done is to try to heal the injury and not permit the city to lie and languish while the physicians quarrel about the methods by which the injury is to be treated. It does not concern the property owners and taxpayers of Coos Bay a tiny tinkers damn whether a councilman belongs to the Citizens' League, the Presbyterian church, the Democratic party or the Evergreen Whist Club, just so long as he helps straighten out municipal affairs and will earnestly endeavor to aid in giving the city an economical and progressive administration. It is not economy to stop every sort of public and street improvement but on the contrary is the worst form of extravagance. The progressive and wide-awake citizens of Marshfield including the Citizens' League, will not endorse and do not want a "do-nothing" policy adopted under the false and fictitious form of retrenchment and reform. There never was a time when harmony and concerted action was so needed as at present. It is not necessary to sacrifice any principles. We are all alike interested in the progress and development of Marshfield. Nothing, however, can ever be accomplished if the men who should be the leaders of the progressive movement sit down and refuse to let the game go on because they cannot choose the players on both sides. The Times is not pleading for Mayor Straw, it is pleading for Marshfield, the city of which we all are or should be proud; pleading for its progress; pleading for its prosperity. Gentlemen of the city council a grave responsibility rests upon you as well as upon the mayor in this crisis. Petty personal matters should not be considered. The politics or organizations or lodges to which a man may belong have no more to do with his fitness and ability to serve the city than the color of his hair.

Haven't we had about enough of boy's play? Now, let's get down to business.

## WITH THE TOAST AND TEA

### GOOD EVENING.

No man can live a life when he has genuinely learned that it is half a life; the other half, the higher life, must haunt him.  
ANON.

### REAL GOOD LUCK.

I bought a little god one day; They called him Billikin. While he is in the house, they say, Misfortune can't come in. I was a scoffer for a while, But now I'm wonderstruck. He has a horseshoe left a mile At warding off bad luck.

I've had no slump in bonds and stocks I have not had the gout, I've lost by flames no brownstone block, No tires have blown out.

No office I've been beaten for; I've paid no rebate fine, I've not been made a senator, Nor bought a western mine.

No touch of mal de mer I've had; No duels I have fought; I have not felt T. Roosevelt's gad Nor with the goods been caught. Thus has the grinning idol slaved For me like any brother And when the money I have saved I mean to get another.  
ANON.

Otto Frankforter was arrested in San Francisco for passing bogus checks. In the chain of evidence against him, we understand not a link was missing.

"A man can be a liar without knowing it," declares an eastern college professor. No doubt. But he has to be a smooth one on Coos Bay to keep his friends from knowing it.

### Knockers.

Since summer in the winter time has come to stay with us, we hear the knockers fuss and fume and tear their hair and cuss. Despite the balmy April air that wafts its fragrant breeze and tempts the tiny buds to burst upon the apple trees, despite the fact that coal is high and fires are running low, the growling knocker gets the floor and howls, "I told you so!" He says we need a lot of sun; that things are damp and wet, and "all the bulbs I sowed last fall will freeze and die, I'll bet." "What will the farmers do?" he cries, "when everything is dead? And all of us will starve to death if none of us are fed!" "I know the churchyards will grow fat. I see the danger sign of having summer all the fall and in the winter time!" Ah, thus he rails from morn till night all up and down the town. I wish, for one, that he would go away back and sit down!

### Unanswered Questions.

Why is it— That Frank Parsons eats Rich foods and all of that— The starchy things, the fatty meats And still does not grow fat, While I, who fletcherize my fare, And live on crusts and tea, Possess a hundredweight to spare, And can't be thin as he?  
D. Y. STAFFORD.

Why is it— That Charlie Howard can smoke Fifteen cigars a day, And call tobacco-heart a joke For foolish folks' dismay, While I am warned by wise M. D.'s (Who charge a lordly fee) Unless in Charon's boat I'd squeeze, To let tobacco be?  
R. E. F.

Why is it— Doc Straw can jest With everyone he meets And make them laugh with hearty zest At fresh things he repeats, While if I use familiar ways And say familiar things, A snub that leaves me in a haze Is all such effort brings?  
DICKS.

Why is it— That when lots go down I have just made a "buy," And when Boosters in sorrow frown I cannot leave a sigh? Why is it, too, that he and you Are just the same as I, And of each thing you cannot do You ask the self-same "Why?"

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