

COOS BAY TIMES

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF COOS COUNTY.

THE THEATRICAL JOSH AND THE EDITORIAL SUCKER.

THERE IS A TRANSPARENT and ancient trick resorted to by strolling theatrical managers and traveling men to boost business that was worked very successfully in North Bend last week. It was the time-honored and hoary headed chestnut of complimenting one town with an odious comparison with another. There is at once a subtle tribute to a man's local pride and an appeal to his prejudice in this method of flattery that was at one time rather effective, but it has come to be recognized as such a regular thing that it is now generally accepted as a stale joke that only elicits a rather mirthless laugh. The trick is turned all the way from Broadway, New York, to Market street, San Francisco. In New York it is Hoboken and Jersey "over on the Jersey side," that are made the subjects of ribald jests and jeers, in Chicago it is Aurora and Elgin, in San Francisco it is Oakland, in Marshfield it is North Bend and in North Bend it is Marshfield. It is a joke that actors and managers never grow weary of. The manager of "The Bell Boy" company that played here last week, baited his hook with it at North Bend and caught the biggest sucker in that town when he landed our old friend Archie Whisnant, editor of the Coos Bay Harbor. Archie swallowed hook, sinker, line and pole and became so worked up that he unburdened himself with a column of editorial bitterness and bile against Marshfield because the "joshing" manager of "The Bell Boy" company told his North Bend audience in a certain speech that some one in Marshfield said that there was "nothing in North Bend but a postoffice and two stores." Of course, no one in Marshfield ever told the manager of the "Bell Boy" such a silly story but it was worked into his curtain speech for theatrical effect just like the electric lights and the red fire. But it worried Whisnant. He went home and brooded over it. The result of his brooding is something fierce. It is worse than anything that ever issued from one of these patent brooding machines. He started out with a soft pedal but it was quickly changed to the full fan flare of the big bass drum. The article is so funny because of the earnest sincerity of the writer that The Times gladly gives it space even at the risk of adding another clipped editorial to its record. Here is what Archie thinks about it:

"It is difficult to understand the attitude of some Marshfield people who are either woefully ignorant of what North Bend contains in the way of people, push and pay rolls, or are influenced by motives wholly of a selfish nature, when they lead strangers in the city to think that there is nothing here but a 'post-office and two stores,' as the manager of the 'Bell Boy' said before the curtain Wednesday evening when thanking this city for a \$200 house.

The remark, whoever made it, was unkind and uncalled for, or was the result of an ignorance so profound that there is no plummet which can sound its depths.

There are men in Marshfield who are so ignorant of the city to the north of them that they believe it is inhabited by savages, night prowling varmints whose shaggy hides have never been carried by the hand of civilization.

There is nothing in the world so sad as ignorance, there is nothing in the world so fatal to a community as the ignorance of any one section over the advantages of another.

It is amusing to have Marshfield men speak slightly of North Bend, her resources and her people. Having lead the old gray horse out of the wilderness and in the initial spurt having been passed by them, they now think North Bend is out of the race. Poor old Marshfield, when she has those thoughts they are relics of moribundism, a disease, which thank God, has never afflicted North Bend.

It is not the policy of North Bend to crow of what she has, but it might not be amiss to call attention to a few facts that may be news to the citizens of the Metropolis about the jungle of North Benders.

Compare North Bend's public wharf with the disgrace to the Bay called a water front at Marshfield.

Compare North Bend's 80 foot street with the trails in that city. Compare the 14 foot walks of the former with the 6-foot ones of the latter.

Compare the \$33,250 per month pay roll of the mills of this city with all the industrial pay roll of that.

Compare the 600 pupils of the public school with the 700 they possess. Not such a great difference.

Compare the increase in school census for 1908, almost 100 in the jungle and less than a score in the Metropolis.

Compare the progress that has marked North Bend since her advent on the map five years ago with the rule of moribundism of Marshfield for the past thirty years.

Compare the townsfolk of the one with the townsfolk of the other. There are thousands of comparisons, but they are unnecessary.

"While North Bend, independent of Marshfield and every thing she possesses, stretches out the right hand across the barrier and says, 'We will work together with you for the glory of Coos Bay,' the other's citizens refer to her as a 'postoffice and two stores.'"

"It is hard to understand."

Ain't it awful, Archie?

Great Gawd! How can such things be?

"A postoffice and two stores."

Wow!

I don't blame Archie for wanting to "eat 'em alive."

I agree with him that "it is hard to understand."

It is always difficult to understand the impossible.

It is like trying to analyze the result of an irresistible force meeting an immovable object.

"It is difficult to understand why a man should make a remark that was never made."

Of course, there are knockers in Marshfield. There are also knockers in North Bend. North Bend knockers knock on Marshfield. They also knock on North Bend. The same is true of Marshfield knockers, but no Marshfield knocker was ever guilty of this. It was simply the theatrical man's "josh," and to think that Archie took it seriously.

It is to laugh!

Truly "there is nothing in the world so sad as ignorance."

WITH THE TOAST AND TEA

GOOD EVENING.

Books are life-long friends whom we come to love and know as we do our children.

S. L. BROADMAN.

MARY'S LAMB.

Mary bought a roast of lamb, It made the butcher laugh, For when he asked, "Which quarter, ma'am?" She said, "I'll take a half."

It came to table thirteen days, And Mary did her best To serve it up in various ways, With different sauces dressed.

"I didn't know you loved lamb so," Her doting husband sighed; "I hate it worse than aught I know," Discouraged Mary cried.

"I didn't know lambs ever grew To such a horrid size; There's still enough for Irish stew And several mutton pies,

"I wish you'd take the rest away And bury it from view; If it's around another day I don't know what I'll do!"

And so her husband took it out, And hid it in the ground; And now when Mary is in doubt, She says: "A half a pound."

ANON.

Chicago papers say that under the proposed Payne tariff bill "stockings will be too high," and a naughty Oregon editor rises to remark "show me."

The Atlanta Journal suggests, as a revenue raiser, a tax on every aspirant for office. That would keep a lot of fellows from getting into the hands of their friends.

"I forgot something," said the husband.

"Yes," pouted the wife, "you forgot to kiss me."

"That may be, but what I came back for was my umbrella."

The daughter of Gov. Haskell, of Oklahoma, was the recipient at a "shower" of fifty-four pairs of stockings of divers hues, illusions and utilities and an exchange suggests that she will now have fifty-four different reasons for wishing it would rain oftener in Oklahoma.

Mrs. Ferguson (trying on another spring hat)—"George, what do you think of this one? You didn't like the other."

Mr. Ferguson—"Well, if you are limited to two styles, the inverted waste basket and the inverted coal scuttle, my choice would be the coal scuttle. We need another one at home, anyway."

Cosy Corner Flashes.

Never size her up by the size of her sighs. Sighings is an acquired art, not a lapse of reason.

There is nothing that brings a proposal to head quicker than a deftly guided discussion of modern furniture.

Marry a cooking school graduate if you want to; she'll forget her lessons in time.

Isn't it awful, when you're feeling sentimental, to have some one begin beating rag time on the piano.

After marriage she forgets to frizz her hair and he forgets to shave, so it's an even break.

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J. H. SOMERS, Marshfield, Ore., April 9, 1909.

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