

COOS BAY TIMES

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Official Paper of Coos County.

CITY IMPROVEMENTS.

THE COUNCIL of Marshfield is to be commended for its adherence to business principles in the conduct of civic affairs so far as it has gone and The Times is moved to say so, because it is remarked all over the city by men who are watching the course of the council with shrewd interest and drawing clever deductions from what they see.

The inauguration of city improvements is something that will meet with almost universal approval and is in line with the forward movement so necessary to the city's advancement.

We believed when the present council was framed up, that this would be the case; and to date there has been nothing to detract from the assurance then formulated. It is a good thing for the gentlemen themselves as well as for the city. More business and less politics, has been the saving policy for many a city in this broad land, and we are glad to count ourselves in the category of the sensible communities that are turning the logic of such a policy to account.

THE FAKING CURSE.

EVERY COMMUNITY in the land with an atom of attractiveness or commercial promise, has had to bear the curse of the faked real-estate addition; the glittering sham of valueless and dishonest schemes with which the landmarks have been glutted, to the derogation of decent properties and compensating values, and to the ultimate discredit of the whole section in which they lie, by reason of the natural wrath and voluble reproaches cast upon the community by the outraged victims, who, for a life-time, will curse the snare by which they were undone, is related or contiguous. They are creations of the boom; insidious, deliberate, truculent, shameless forms of bunco, high-blinding, and sheer dishonesty, that are disgraces to the really business, and retroactive impediments to the future expansion and upbuilding of the town and country they disparage.

Coos Bay has had its share of them, as has every other city in the northwest; but the sting and mischance of many of them here have died down and the worst of the imposition and counterabuse have passed and the snares forgotten in the main; but there still remain some holdings that will yet be a cause for abounding reproach when the "buf-faloed" owners come to realize what they have purchased. Luckily these are few. The property at large about this city, now under platted record and on the market, is either immediately responsive to use and rational returns, or will be at an early day; and will stand the test of crucial examination at the hands of people who bought it without inspecting it. And it is to be hoped the county court, will take deeper interest in the propositions submitted to it for record hereafter, and bar the snide and dishonest programs that are fakes upon their faces. The court should never lend its authority to the advancement of these unwholesome things, and the people will be glad to note the direct interest the court shall take in down-ing all such frauds.

LET'S GET TO WORK.

HERE IS BUT little time in which Coos Bay may properly prepare for the reception of the Oregon-Idaho Development Congress which meets here on August 20 and 21. It is but eight days away and it is time something substantial was doing.

The several committees of the Chambers of Commerce and the Young Men's Commercial Club are doubtless at work and will report progress in due time but the time is getting short. The "clean up" committee is the one with the greatest task ahead and one that should be hard at it. The Elks gathering follows closely on the heels of the Development Congress and the two events will bring hundreds of strangers into the city who will receive their first and most lasting impressions from the appearance of the city, its streets, waterfront, stores and homes. Coos Bay should don her "best bib and tucker" and put her best foot foremost.

It is an opportunity that we cannot afford to miss. We do not want to half do, either, as the credit of the city is involved in making the occasion a red letter feature of the year.

All that is needed is a good start, and the start is due. It will take all the time left to qualify for the engagement and carry it out successfully. Let's get to work.

HIGH COST OF LIVING.

IT IS BECAUSE the cost of living in the United States is already high that the average man wished to have the tariff revised downward. The fact that the schedules have been lowered but slightly, if at all, means that there cannot well be any lowering of prices to the consumer.

According to Bradstreet's latest index number the prices of staple goods in the United States are again at about the figures at which they stood in the autumn of 1907, says the Oregon Journal. They were then at the highest figures known in the history of the country. It then took \$1.31 to buy the same quantity of food, clothing, fuel, metals, lumber, chemicals, house furnishings and kindred staples that could have been bought for 89 cents in 1897. There are omens that seem to foreshadow a still further advance in the living cost. High prices are an invariable accompaniment of active commercial and industrial conditions, and there is promise that such an activity will soon be at a maximum. The new tariff bill has been signed and such dampening effect as it exerts on the country's business will at once disappear. The schedules of this bill, according to the statement of Senator Cummins and others, will not reduce the cost of living, but are so framed as to open the way for further inflation of prices.

In addition the world is pouring gold into the channels of trade in quantities never before known. From Alaska to South Africa, and in all gold producing countries between them, the output is in a volume surpassing the wildest dreams of man. The inevitable effect of the abundance is the lowering of the purchasing power of money, and the corollary of the increased prices for products. There is no sign that this flow of gold from the bowels of the earth into the channels of trade will decrease, but many indications that it will increase. A consequent reduction of money's purchasing power and advance in the price of products is to be expected.

In the meantime the man of moderate salary and the unorganized laborer on an humble wage must have concern for the future. The salary of \$100 per month will buy but about two-thirds what it would procure 12 years ago. The laborer must have nearly \$3 a day to maintain the same standard of living that prevailed in his home in 1897. The farmer must have \$1.50 for the products that he marketed a dozen years ago at \$1 in order to profit as much now as he did then.

Mrs. Mary McCoy, who was said to be the oldest postmaster in the country, having been in office more than forty years at Sheakleyville, Pa. She was appointed by Andrew Johnson as his term was drawing to a close, and for the first few years of her service brought the mail from Meadville in addition to performing the other duties of the office. Mrs. McCoy has just passed her eighty-sixth birthday.

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Helps In History.

We all know of Leonidas,
Who made the Spartans stare.
Leonidas,
He held a pass,
And so he paid no fare.

Then there was old Diogenes,
Who discoursed from a tub
Set out before
A Grecian store
Along with crates of grub.

And there was handy William Tell,
The king of marksmen stars;
Good William Tell,
Who shot so well,
He won all the cigars.

And there was Alfred, called the Great,
And sometimes called the Good.
He was the man
Who watched the pan,
But burned the breakfast food.

These fellows all were famous men.
Remember well should we
Just how each won
A place upon
The scroll of history.

Pay no attention to a fool; laugh at him.

The signs of a love affair are as unmistakable as the symptoms of mumps.

Some think that it may be the lazy worm that the "clean up" committee has got.

There are mighty few Coos Bay people willing to leave the punishment of a sinner to the Lord.

Between sleeping sickness and the lazy bug the loafer has a better chance for excuses than formerly.

Some Coos Bay men are industrious by choice, while other men are industrious because of necessity.

A man who has owned a piano a good many years is amused at the man who is interested in buying one.

Among the other rights that a single man gives up when he marries is the decision as to what he can or cannot afford.

There are two uses for a girl's locket. One is to hide the hollow spot in her neck, and the other is to put his picture in.

"Young Corbett," the puglist, has been married and says he will retire from the ring. But that does not necessarily mean he will quit fighting.

A cobbler has invented a flying machine and thinks \$20,000 would help perfect it. But the money would doubtless fly better than the machine.

Don't blame your grandparents because they built houses without closets. In your grandparents' day the clothes were either on their backs or in the wash.

"If I were the dining room as well as the nursery," said a jealous Coos Bay father, when the baby cried to go to its mother. "It would cry to come to me, too."

Schoolteachers are rarely regarded as "good company;" people think they are always looking for examples of bad grammar, and for a chance to tell how hard they work.

Statisticians are neglecting an important branch of their work in failing to trace the origin of a woman's wrinkles. We have little time for such research, important as it is, but what little work we have done in that line reaches this conclusion: That 30 per cent of a woman's wrinkles are caused by wondering what her husband is up to now, and 70 per cent are caused by worrying about her belt and skirt in the back.

FINANCIAL

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