

### COOS BAY TIMES

An Independent Republican newspaper published every evening except Sunday, and Weekly by The Coos Bay Times Publishing Co.

Entered at the postoffice at Marshfield, Oregon, for transmission through the mails as second class mail matter.

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The Coos Bay Times represents a consolidation of the Daily Coast Mail and The Coos Bay Advertiser. The Coast Mail was the first daily established on Coos Bay and The Coos Bay Times is its immediate successor.

Official Paper of Coos County.

#### THE PORT OF COOS BAY.

**T**HE SUPREME Court has rendered its decision in the test case of Straw against the members of the Port Commission. It appears that the court below was affirmed in all particulars and it is established finally that the men who prepared the law were well able to perform the duties which devolved upon them. They and all who were connected with the enactment of the law as well as the people of Coos Bay who were vitally interested in it are entitled to credit. The Commission has all the powers which enable them to carry forward the great work of making a world harbor of Coos Bay. They can condemn land. They may issue bonds to secure indebtedness incurred in improving the harbor. They may acquire the tide flats which interfere with the full development of the harbor. They can police the harbor. They can provide a public wharf for each of the cities. They can prevent by proper regulations the building of islands in the harbor where they serve as an impediment merely. They can, so far as their powers are concerned, obtain title to and control the whole waterfront of the harbor and convert it into one of the most beautiful in the world.

Of course, the Port Commission is not intending to do anything that is not practical. The Times does not pretend to speak for the Commission but it does pretend to say what it believes the people want and should have. Now that the Port has power to bond itself for a term of years, it is well that the people begin to discuss the question as to how far they shall go in that respect. It will be remembered that the next session of Congress will convene in December of this year and it is regarded as certain that the matter of appropriations for harbors will be taken up. In order to get the large appropriations which we desire from the federal government for the improvement of the bar it is now time that the Port Commission should consider what its part is in the work of promoting the interests of the Bay in that connection. As Congressman Hawley said in his recent speech in the Opera House, Congress looks with favor on all projects where the people of the locality show sufficient interest to do something for themselves. The proper thing for Coos Bay to do is to have a project estimated for the improvement of the inner and lower bays at once. They should employ an engineer and when the project is ready, submit it to the people to be voted upon. That project should at least contemplate the extension of a continuous channel from Marshfield to the sea, two thousand feet wide and thirty feet deep. How much the people should vote for such a project depends on what it would cost. If they could go to congress and advise the committee on rivers and harbors that they had decided to spend five hundred thousand dollars it is an even bet that Congress would vote the Two Million Dollar appropriation which Col. Roessler proposed. That would insure a great harbor.

Whether the people are equal to this large development and the large figures which it involves, is a matter for some discussion. They alone can tell. But the Bay is a big proposition and if Congress appropriates a large sum for its development and the people vote half a million for its completion as an inside harbor, the money will all be spent here, and

### WITH THE TOAST AND TEA

GOOD EVENING.

If, in our human weakness we find that we have not succeeded, that we have erred or gone astray, let us not despair, let us not be discouraged, opportunities open like books on every hand.

#### THE STAGE DRIVER SPEAKS

There's an automobile on the old stage line—  
It chugged past me today,  
And me and this rickety rig of mine  
Are headed the scrap heap's way;  
We're bent and shaky, I will admit,  
And we can't go fast enough,  
So, we'll take the auto's hint and flit,  
Though yieldin' is tough, plum tough.

I've handled the ribbons, in early years,  
On the old stage coach and four;  
The bullets have whistled about my ears,  
And the redskins yelled for my gore;  
There wasn't a honk-honk on the road  
To waken the echoes then,  
And the only dust that was ever thrown  
Was thrown by old Box-seat Ben.

I thought I could finish the game out here,  
A-makin' just what I need,  
'Mong the mountains that stand out clear,  
Where the wild deer used to feed;  
But there's nary a place for a man to dream  
While the reins are slack in his hand;  
I'm out of the game—though it don't jest seem  
That the Lord can understand!

THE DRIVER.

"Actual surprises are really few and far between. Most folks know just exactly what is coming to them."  
—Topeka Journal.

Let us hope that the man who is responsible for the dredge leaving Coos Bay is one of them and that he will not be disappointed when he gets it.

A California man was found dead with a half-smoked cigar in his hand last week. Isn't the public entitled to know which brand he had been smoking?

It will result in such a progressive movement forward that Coos Bay will be the most interesting point along the whole coast for several years to come. What would be the expense to the people of this Bay if bonds should be issued? The mouth of the Siuslaw has already voted One Hundred Thousand Dollars bonds for improvement there, One Hundred Thousand there is much more massive in proportion than half a million on Coos Bay. The interest on One Hundred Thousand Dollars would be less than six per cent—probably five per cent. The taxes for the payment of interest would be only five thousand per annum more for a period of twenty years and if the port thought fit to provide for a sinking fund to pay the principal when due—of say, five per cent that would make five per cent for twenty years or ten thousand dollars for the entire proposition and its payment. Five hundred thousand would place a burden of about twenty-five thousand a year for interest and possibly the same amount for the sinking fund. But if the amounts were voted it is certain that values would increase so rapidly and so certainly that they would be multiplied by ten. It would be an investment which would bring returns which cannot be estimated both to the public and the individual. It would put all the labor on Coos Bay at work. It would make a deep sea harbor and nobody could ever say again that Coos Bay is a shallow bay. Now is the time for discussion. The Times would be glad to have communications from citizens on the subject as it is an extremely important one. It takes no stand at present as to what the Commission should do but feels that public sentiment should be developed along some advanced lines.

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### PULFORD ON LAND CLAIMS

#### ATTORNEYS FOR CLAIMANTS OF PROPERTY IN COOS COUNTY GOVERNMENT RESERVE EXPLAINS THE ACTION.

Editor Times: In regard to the Eden Ridge coal claim of Samuel D. Pulford, James H. Flanagan, Cecil C. Carter, Herbert Lockhart, Louise C. Lockhart, Alta E. Carter and others, more or less misleading statements have been published in regard to Land Department decisions thereon.

On November 9th, 1908, the Register and Receiver of the Roseburg Land Office decided that the land was not workable coal land, but found that the claimants took the land in good faith for the coal, as the appearance of the coal was such as to justify the belief that the coal beds were of a workable character. On August 2nd, 1909, the commissioner of the General Land Office rendered a decision as follows, after an eight page review of the evidence:

"As the record stands, the evidence preponderates in favor of the government's contention that the beds are non-workable for their coal and that the coal is not coal land, thus establishing the first charge.

Nothing is found on record to induce this office to disturb your findings and conclusions as to the good faith of these claimants in asserting their coal claims. They were not coal experts and, as the evidence shows, undoubtedly believed that the outcropping beds were practically coal through-out. The second charge is not sustained by the evidence adduced.

The third and last charge, in so far as it is different from or additional to the first, is material only as touching the motives or intentions of the parties in asserting their claims to the land and that issue is fully covered by the second charge and the finding thereon. The last charge, then, may be dismissed from further consideration."

The third and last charge referred to was "that the land is chiefly valuable for its timber." The decision concludes as follows: "The decision reached by you is accordingly affirmed. Should this decision become final, the several coal land applications will be rejected.

Give due notice hereof and at the proper time report.

Very respectfully,  
Acting Commissioner."

You will note that the decision as to claimant's good faith was made about nine months ago, and this point very clearly appears in this recent decision. Justice would have dictated that it should appear in the newspaper reports, which it has never done heretofore to my knowledge. At the time of the hearings, claimants were freely charged with "land fraud." Until a decision had been rendered, I did not feel at liberty as an attorney to publicly discuss the evidence, which incidentally covers about 1,800 pages. As these cases are still pending, for they are subject to appeal to the Secretary of the Interior, I cannot yet discuss the evidence, but I will say that it goes to show possibilities of other things connected with the matters involved in this case, on the part of persons other than the claimants, fully as serious as the lack of good faith with which they were charged and of which they were cleared. While these things were not mentioned in the newspapers, I do not believe these papers intended any unfairness to the claimants, but that some other parties have been unfair. Most of our opponents in these cases are of the highest honor and integrity.

In justice, this communication should receive as great publicity as given to the charges against claimants of bad faith a year ago, and before any decision had been reached on them.

Respectfully,  
S. D. PULFORD,  
Attorney for said six Claimants,  
Myrtle Point, August 21, 1909.

#### QUIET NEAR PITTSBURG.

(By Associated Press.)  
PITTSBURG, Aug. 24.—All is quiet in the strike zone at McKee's Rocks today. Several rioters who were killed Sunday night were buried while the bodies of the state troopers were shipped to their homes. No demonstrations occurred.

### FINANCIAL

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