

COOS BAY TIMES

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Dedicated to the service of the people, that no good cause shall lack a champion, and that evil shall not thrive unopposed.

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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 THE CITY
OF MARSHFIELD.

Official Paper of Coos County.

PREVENTABLE TRAGEDY.

EXCEPT IN THE name of the ship and the personnel of the victims, the Czarina tragedy presents no features that have not been in evidence in many similar disasters along the Pacific Coast. Criticism that might be directed against Captain Duggan will be softened because he has paid the extreme penalty, but, unless the news reports of the tragedy are at fault, it would seem that this terrible affair might appropriately be classed with "preventable disasters," and Captain Duggan more than anyone else might have prevented it. A vessel at sea, hurrying for a harbor before a raging gale, might naturally be expected to take some chances in getting into port to escape possible danger outside. A vessel lying snug inside the harbor, while a gale was raging outside, would not naturally be expected to take such chances.

The Czarina, coal-laden, started seaward when the bar was very rough. Captain Duggan, whose faulty judgment cost him his life, undoubtedly believed that he could push his way through the breakers that were coming over the bar, jeopardizing the life and property in his charge. A more cautious man would never have attempted the feat, but it is one that Captain Duggan had perhaps successfully accomplished many times in his long career in and out of the bar harbors of the Pacific coast.

It is the old trouble of familiarity that breeds contempt for the dangers of the sea. Nearly every man in command of a steamship on the Pacific has faced death at such close range that it has lost many of its terrors. Some of them profit by their narrow escapes and exercise a caution that prevents disasters, while others continue to flirt with death until the crisis is reached, and another is added to the long list of preventable tragedies.

An exceptionally sad feature of the Czarina wreck was the loss of Harold Mills, a well-known young Portland man, who perished before the eyes of his father, who was powerless to help him. There are hearts that are breaking and a life-long sorrow left in the homes of the officers and crew who went down with their ship, but the families of these brave men, with the possibility of such a fate for their loved ones ever before them, are to a far greater extent prepared for the blow than the friends of the ordinary passenger, unfamiliar with the dangers, and totally unprepared for such a tragedy.—Oregonian.

THE COOS BAY WRECK.

THE WHOLE state is shocked with the news of the marine disaster off Coos Bay. It recalls the peril that always follows those who go down to the sea in ships. It is true that the great ocean liners, with water tight compartments and automatic appliances for closing port holes, have reached a degree of perfection in which danger is reduced to a minimum, but we have with us still all manner of sea-going vessels in which all the elements of peril still remain. We have further, as seems to be manifest in this latest

disaster, the fact that men accustomed to these perils become not only fearless, but over-hazardous. The coal miner, accustomed to the terrors that lurk in the low levels of mines, grows over-careless and that carelessness is frequently the cause of mine horrors that shock the entire country. Sea captains in the same way regard with more or less contempt the great power for death and destruction that is present in the turbulent ocean waves, a contempt that seems to have been manifested at Coos Bay in the case of the ill-fated Czarina. The testimony is that when the vessel made her last passage out over the bar, was the roughest at the time that it has been known in years.

Along with this, we have the insistence of twentieth century men that no time must be lost. We race against time on railroad trains, and attempt to conquer distance at the expense of safety. A wait inside the smooth harbor at Coos Bay would have been safety, but in the game of strenuousness we are playing, we gamble with our own safety, and match human lives against the few dollars to be gained by hurrying to sea regardless of wind and waves and weather. These are the factors that entered into the wreck of the Czarina, factors for which we cannot hold those in authority amenable, because they are the exact things we are all doing daily in this hurly burly age in which we stake everything in life in a heart-breaking struggle to gain a little time. The many lives sacrificed at Coos Bay are an awful toll to pay, and may perhaps cause us to pause a moment and wonder if the game is worth the candle.—Journal.

ANOTHER YEAR
OF CENTENARIES

IN 1909 THE centennial anniversaries of the births of Lincoln, Darwin, Gladstone, Holmes, Edward Fitzgerald, Chopin and Mendelssohn were observed. The centenaries which will be celebrated this year are not so important as those of 1909, but they will probably receive considerable attention.

Among the distinguished people born in 1810 were Theodore Parker, Margaret Fuller Ossoli, Cardinal McCloskey, James Freeman Clarke, Asa Gray, Elihu Burritt and P. T. Barnum.

Some persons have been disturbed by the frequency of centenary observances in the last few years and the large amount of space devoted to such matters in the press. The odd suggestion is made by Frederic Harrison that the centenaries of the deaths instead of the births of great men ought to be celebrated. The idea is that by the end of a century after their deaths there might be fewer whom the public would take interest in remembering.

But others have pointed out the fact that the observance of a death must partake more or less of a funeral character. The New York Post says that to pretend to mourn the death of a man, however great, who has been dead a hundred years would be almost as ludicrous as Mark Twain's weeping at the grave of Adam.

There are not too many centenary celebrations, though they come mostly in groups. That, however, can't be helped. The chief reason for holding them is that they are educative. They are held for the inspiration of the living and not merely to pay honor to the dead.

NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS.

Notice is hereby given to stockholders of the People's Cooperative Company that the semi-annual meeting of the People's Cooperative Company will be held at the firm's place of business at 8 o'clock p. m., Tuesday, January 25.

JOHN HAYDEN, Pres.

The Weekly Coos Bay Times will be out tomorrow with a complete story of the Czarina wreck and all the developments up to and including today's news. Only sufficient copies will be printed to fill orders. Place orders at once with Norton & Hansen Stationery Company, Hopson & Frizeen, or direct at The Times office. North Bend patrons may order of the North Bend News Co.

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