

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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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF MARSHFIELD.

Official Paper of Coos County.

GROCERIES AND THE COST OF LIVING

A NEW YORK grocer, interviewed on the subject of the higher cost of living, attacks the popular notion that it is due to an advance on goods in their line. Some kinds of canned goods are lower than they were a year ago, salmon being the only notable exception, and the general run of supplies handled by grocers is selling at the prices of a year ago. One dealer quoted by the New York Journal of Commerce remarked:

"Take out butter, eggs, cheese, poultry and meats and the cost of what goes on the table is really less than a year ago. When you come to analyze all this talk of high prices of living you cannot fail to find that people now are calling for a higher grade of goods, and are using more of the luxuries than they did five or ten years ago."

One of the grocers expressed the opinion that careless buying has a good deal of answer for in the assignment of reasons for the high cost of living. The cost could be materially reduced, he thinks, if purchasers of household supplies would look over the price lists and select the articles which are to be had on the most attractive terms. Instead of that, they get into ruts, and insist on having certain things, no matter what their cost. When an advance in one article of food is more than offset by a decline in another that would be a good substitute for it, the actual cost of living might be reduced if buyers as a class, following the example of seamen who set their sails according to the wind, would alter their menus to take advantage of the market. Instead, the average buyer orders without reference to fluctuations of the high cost of living.

There is a lesson in this for those who care to learn.

CONCERT OF PARTY ACTION

"CONCERT of party action" is a phrase much used in the demand for an assembly. But, is it "concert of party action" that is desired? Is it not rather the "concert of action by a clique, or a part of the party" that is the object aimed at?

"Concert of party action" is only to be obtained when the whole party participates in selecting candidates. If a few make the selection and thousands are not permitted to take part in the proceeding, it is not party action at all, but action by a few of the party. The convention, or as they style it now, the assembly, will, if held, present the same old faces and the same old names. Those who have held office, those who are in office, and those who want office, or their friends, together with a small sprinkling of those who get into the sacred circle by accident will be there. They are the men who are loudest now in clamoring for the convention plan. Some of them have been beaten for office under the direct primary plan, and for that mar-

think they ought to be permitted to do the whole business for the party. They think that unless they do the whole business, it is not properly done. They think that when they do the whole business, it is "concert of party action." In short, their mistake is in assuming that they are the whole party, and that the many thousands of ordinary Republicans who do not go to the convention, never saw a convention, and never hope to be permitted to sit in one as a delegate, are mere voting automata, whose participation in the business of selecting candidates destroys "concert of party."

The fact is the direct primary law was enacted by the Republican masses and others in order to secure "concert of party action" that would be a concert by the whole party, and not a concert by a few office holders and office seekers. It was framed and adopted for the express purpose of getting rid of "concert" by the few and installing "concert" by all. It has served that exact purpose and the Republicans of the state have "concert of action by the whole party" and are rid of the convention squabbles, the convention riots and the convention disgraces that the few got into when all the power of running the party was entrusted to them. Unless the whole party takes a hand in the selection of party candidates, there is no "concert of party." When a few insist that the masses of the party haven't sense enough to select fit candidates, and that only a special few shall do it, that is not "concert of party"; it is concert by a clique, a ring, a machine or a class, and is the old story that the few are superior and should rule the many—the many whom the few claim are inferior and incompetent.

MUNICIPAL BONDS.

MUNICIPAL bonds are always a favorite form of investment with those who wish to make their dollars work for them. Though they rarely pay more than 4 1/2 per cent there are some that pay between 5 and 6 per cent.

Whenever a city, town, or village desires to make any improvements, such as paving streets, laying sewers, building bridges, erecting school houses, establishing public parks or playgrounds and the like, those officials in charge of the finances of the community issue bonds for the amount required. These bonds are commonly called municipal bonds. As they are, in reality the promissory notes of the communities, given for a definite period of years, varying from five to twenty—called maturity. Often they are so issued that part of the principal is to be paid in five or ten years and the rest in twenty, and such issues are known as 5-20s and 10-20s.

The money with which to take up municipal bonds when they mature is obtained from taxes on real and personal property in the community issuing them. Thus the municipality putting out bonds is able to anticipate the taxes for a given number of years and to begin the desired improvements at once, without waiting till the necessary funds have accrued from the taxes.

The amount of bonds which may be issued by a municipality is limited by law, usually 10 per cent of the assessed valuation of the real and personal property of its inhabitants.

It is the difference between the debt limit of the community and its assessed valuation that determines the safety and desirability of the bonds. This assessed valuation, however, varies in different parts of the United States. For instance, in Massachusetts, property is assessed at almost its marketable value, whereas in the west, the assessment is seldom more than one-third, often less.

In order to provide the money to pay for the bonds upon maturity, all municipalities have what is called a sinking fund in which is placed, each year, a certain percentage of the money collected from taxes.

The municipal bonds issued by large cities are often considered more safe than those issued by small towns and villages, yet this by no means follows. For, just as the poor man is careful not to burden himself with debts that he cannot pay when they fall due, so are the officials of small towns or villages careful not to undertake any improvements that cannot be paid from the taxes. Usually the bonds issued by small municipalities are in amounts of \$100 and are, therefore, particularly desirable for those who have only small sums to invest.

While the soundness of any municipal bonds should be explained to the prospective purchaser by his banker, there are certain general points in addition to the assessed

WITH THE TOAST AND TEA

GOOD EVENING.

To do your work because you must, to do your work as slav-very, and then, having got it done as speedily and as easily as possible, to look somewhere else for enjoyment, that makes a very dreary life. — Phillips Brooks.

Shadows.

"Coming events cast their shadows before."—Old Proverb. Somewhere—in the misty distance—Spring is lurking by the way; Somewhere birds are getting ready To fly north and make their stay. Spring is coming—coming—coming— Gentle Ann my spirit leads, Can't be far off; it's the season Of the "ads" for garden seeds.

Wintry winds may blow and bite us; Snowbirds roost beneath the eaves; Trees may quiver, sway and crackle, All devoid of buds and leaves. But there's something sort of grips me; Romance sweet my soul-fire feeds; And I'm glad—know spring is near— Reading "ads" for garden seeds.

Hicks may say, "Here comes a blizzard, With an earthquake on the side— Freezing weather on the tapis— On the tempest's wings 'twill ride."

Cuts no ice with Uncle Dudley— Hicks' words he little heeds. He is happy, happy, happy, Reading "ads" for garden seeds.

UNCLE BILL SAYS:

"Maternity an' cards parties Iz a good deal alke in this re- speck—somebody's allus draw- in' the booby prize."

Wonder if the cannibals are in on this meat boycott?

Coos Bay's gate is always open. Come in and see our town.

In Greek mythology Janus, for whom January was named, was two-faced. There's a reason.

The artistic temperament does not make a good family pet. Howard Chandler Christy, the artist, and Richard Harding Davis, the novelist, are both having marital troubles.

Some families we know of having taken to eating gruel through straws and topping off the meal with a couple of prunes apiece. This is known as the "Hetty Green menu."

The Walla Walla chicken fanciers urge the substitution of eggs (40 cents a dozen on the nest) for beef (10 cents a pound on the block). Let us pray.

In the excitement over the new comet, the meat boycott and our prospects for a new railway everybody hereabouts seems to have forgotten that there is such a thing somewhere as the lithia cart, and that either on board or lying by the roadside in its wake—perhaps perishing of thirst—are many of our loved ones.

valuation and the sinking fund, that should be given consideration: Whether or not the municipality has ever defaulted in its interest payments; the character of its population; the personnel of the officials in power and if its administration is in the hands of a ring of politicians; if its industrial or agricultural prosperity is frequently upset by strike and, finally, the probability of the city or town decreasing in population."

Prometheus was the first Friend of Man and he paid the penalty. He brought the gift of fire to humankind according to fable, and thereby incurred the wrath of Zeus who had him bound and left in torment upon a barren shore. The coal barons and the timber barons and allied interests would like to see such a fate handed out to Gifford Pinchot. Some think they already have him down. But wait and see.

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