

**COOS BAY TIMES**

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COOS BAY DAILY TIMES,  
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WORKING FOR A PURE WATER SUPPLY.

**T**HE necessity of the effort which The Times has been making in behalf of a pure water supply was shown in the analysis of the Oregon State Board of Health printed in last evening's paper. The facts there presented will crystallize public sentiment in favor of this important municipal measure. A newspaper, when it can touch the public conscience, is all powerful, as it molds public opinion, creates unity of purpose and bands together all the strong elements of society. The public weal is the one thing to be sought if success is to crown newspaper work.

This splendid result of arousing public interest comes from the city council committee of North Bend which is working in connection with a similar committee of the Marshfield council, planning ways and means looking toward the great end to be desired. It may take a little time to decide definitely on the proper course to be pursued but the efforts of these joint committees and the mayors of North Bend and Marshfield should solve the problem of furnishing Coos Bay a water supply second to none for purity to be found in the state. Let the public wait a reasonable time and then if success is a matter of doubt they could come forward as a community and assist those engaged in the good work.

**WHEN WE GET PUFFED UP.**

**O**CCASIONALLY, when we get unduly puffed up about our own particular importance and our achievements, it does us good to get out of doors beneath the star-studded heavens on a clear night and there ponder a bit upon the marvelous blueness of things that are outside of and beyond ourselves and this earth. Astronomers have recently given us new figures on the immensity of the universe to overawe us. Prof. Simon Newcomb in his latest work tells us that modern telescopes have detected out there in the skies, tremendously far beyond what we can comprehend as beyond stars or planets so remote that it takes not less than 4,000 years for a ray of light to travel the distance to this earth. Now recall from your school days this fact, that light travels at the enormous speed of 186,000 miles per second. Can you estimate how many miles away those recently found stars are? You must multiply 3,600 seconds per hour by 24 hours per day by 365 1/4 days per year by 4,000 years by 186,000 miles to get the distance, and you must write the result in figures that

stretch out into the quadrillions. When you have written them, are they not almost impossible of true comprehension? And beyond this enormously distant star there are others still farther from us and the space between is filled with worlds of which no man has even dreamed.

In contrast with all this, our whole planetary system, the sun with all its attending worlds, becomes insignificant, the earth itself becomes as almost nothing and men upon the earth, even we who sometimes feel puffed up and important, as less than nothing. It is no wonder that the psalmist wrote as he contemplated the heavens in the days when he knew little of their immensity:

"When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which Thou hast ordained; What is man, that Thou art mindful of him; and the son of man, that Thou visitest him?"

**OBSERVATIONS.**

If you cannot on the ocean  
Sail among the swiftest fleet,  
Rocking on the highest billows,  
Laughing at the storms you meet,  
You can stand among the sailors  
Anchored yet within the bay—  
You can lend a hand to help them  
As they launch their boats away.

**T**HAT was an interesting and valuable discovery made by Fire Chief Traver that the Coos Bay Home Telephone was charging the city \$5 per month for telephone service in violation of its franchise agreement. The question now is, "Will the Telephone company refund what has already been paid and if not why not?"

By the way, I wonder what that old watchdog of the city treasury, ex-Councilman Nelson was doing when that first bill was presented and allowed for Nelson was then a member of the city council.

With germs in the water, meat under suspicion, paving full of blow holes and the harem skirt, I wonder what the world is coming to.

Mary Louise McArthur was probably one of the happiest little girls in Marshfield this week. Her joy resulted from receiving a beautiful pair of snow white carrier pigeons sent her by a friend from Sacramento, California. E. D. brushed up his knowledge of architecture and constructed a cote for them. As carrier pigeons are exemplars of the Roosevelt theory on race suicide E. D. expects to have several pair of these pretty birds before the season is over.

My, how the times do change! Tacoma recently voted at a special election to make it an offense to ask a friend to have a drink and carried it, too, and it's only been a few years since it was as much as your life was worth to go into a Tacoma saloon and call for a drink without inviting everybody in the house to join you.

I notice some of the Willamette Valley papers brag about the peach trees of that section coming into bloom and intimate that the valley will produce an abundant crop of peaches this summer. Why, dear boys that isn't anything to brag about; Coos Bay has 'em the year around, and they're some peaches, too.

**THE SCARLET THREAD**

**J**OSHUA'S spies in answer to a request for protection from Rahab, the harlot, with whom they had taken refuge and from whose abode they had been let down by her so as to escape their pursuers, replied: "Behold, when we come into the land, thou shalt bind this line of scarlet thread in the window, which thou didst let us down by." Thus did the scarlet thread become the sign by which they should know her, but it also became her protection.

The problem of the scarlet woman is as old as civilization. From the standpoint of a municipality it is not a question of morality but of social economy. No studied evasion, hypocritical modesty or fanatical Pharisaism will make it any less real or dangerous.

Marshfield for some time has abandoned the restricted district and assumed a virtue it did not possess. The result has been that the evil has spread into many parts of the city. Today a small segment moves from South Broadway. Where? To North Broadway. This is only temporizing with the evil. This removal was absolutely essential and necessary and was delayed too long.

The Times has no apology to make for handling the question boldly. There is no more reason for approaching the subject with ambiguous language than there is for speaking softly in the presence of the dead. Its insistent recurrence shows its imperfect solution. To say, "Thou shalt not," and then bind the phylacteries of our own virtue upon our foreheads and cover our eyes with the face veil of our own mock modesty, does nothing to cure the evil.

Legislation never could and never can make halo-encreled saints out of everyday men. Man in his native state knew no sex restrictions save fear of greater strength. In fact, all society, we are told, is founded upon the wants and fears of individuals, and in the progress of civilization each one has learned to sacrifice a part of his natural liberty, that political liberty may be the more assured.

Civilization traveled far down the centuries before monogamy became a virtue. It traveled much further before open concubinage became a forbidden practice. It was not until the fourth century that marriage became a church rite. Notwithstanding this, society today is a unit in declaring polygamy an evil and prostitution an abomination—both calculated to undermine the home and degrade mankind in body, mind and soul.

But all advances in science, in morals or religion have not made men and women one whit less male and female than were Adam and Eve in their marriageless honeymoon in the Garden of Eden. Neither is the matter of sex any less divinely ordained today than then. It is in its prostitution, as the prostitution of any other faculty in a manner not intended by the Creator, wherein it's the wrong.

Elbert Hubbard, with all his fearless battling down of the senseless superstitions which have grown up about the great and beautiful wall of truth, in a recent issue of his magazine made the mistake of pleading for the setting aside of all legal marriage ceremony, because it interferes with men's natural liberty. To advocate such a doctrine is to court government suicide. It is impracticable; it is illogical. The matter of property rights, as well as innumerable questions of parental duty to educate and support their offspring, raise insurmountable barriers to any departure from the present law.

That history abounds with famous affinities whose relations were crowned with the highest of idealism are exceptions that prove the rule. Conventionality may not be necessary for great souls, but like a beaten trail through a new country, beset with wild beasts and dangerous pitfalls, it is best for all to follow, both strong and weak. Marriage—monogamy—is absolutely necessary if governments are to live and man not degenerate to the brute from whence he came. The atavistic predilection is very strong under the greatest degree of intellectual development—it is nothing short of alarming in the lower planes of civilization. There may be legal regulations adequate to control such an abolition of "ethical restraint," as Mme. Negri recently advocated, but they have not yet been discovered or suggested. But these pleas for freedom, coming as they do from great intellects, can but give a hint of those tendencies which actuate the less responsible, despite all legal restraints and restrictions.

Here are the cold, ugly facts. There is not a city in the United States without its houses of ill-fame more or less openly conducted. A spasmodic reform like the Portland raids, though actuated by the highest motives, serves but to stir up the evil, sending the poison into every highway and byway, every artery of the city's life.

Well-meaning reformers periodically demand that "the laws be enforced" as to the social evil. It takes courage, moral and political, for any executive to admit that there are insurmountable barriers and that segregation is the only solution. Executives lacking this courage are soon impelled by cries of "temporizing with sin," "trafficking in vice," "palliating wrong" to hasten to promise reform, well knowing its futility.

The physician called in to treat a case of systemic blood poisoning, resulting from a pin scratch, knows that if he can localize the poison and keep it from the patient's heart, the battle is half won; for there he can watch, treat, and ultimately eradicate it. The comparison is obvious.

The plan suggested of having a restricted district is not a compromise, but a reaching out for a practical and effective handling of the greatest evil of modern times.

Marshfield's abolishment of the restricted district has not eradicated the evil. It is true the former district was too public and too prominent. It should be so located that its vice cannot be flaunted and that property owners cannot complain of depreciated values. There, houses may be occupied and police surveillance and medical inspection be of the strictest and most compulsory nature.

In addition, it would be well that liquor selling be absolutely prohibited in this district under penalty of immediate revocation of license. Let the inmates be known for what they are, but let the protecting arm of the law be the scarlet thread which shall stand between them and blood money. Let the district be known as such, so that those who frequent the locality must assume the penalty of publicity. Let that penalty be the absolute social ostracism of the good women of the city who, aside from questions of morality, do not care to welcome to their homes men who have not risen high enough in their mental and ethical development to be masters of themselves.

As for the inmates, what can be said? Whether it be natural tendency, loose moral ideals, early environment, broken vows or bitter, sordid necessity that brings them to these depths, the result is pitifully the same. Society has spoken—the thumbs are down—the law of the Medes and Persians was not more inexorable.

The remedy suggested may be practicable, it may be the final solution; but as for the unfortunate women—God help them.

**Has Scarlet Fever.**—The Vasey home on South Fifth street, near Hall avenue, was quarantined today, their little son being ill of scarlet fever.

Sedentary habits, lack of outdoor exercise, insufficient mastication of food, constipation, a torpid liver, worry and anxiety, are the most common causes of stomach troubles. Correct your habits and take Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets and you will soon be well again. For sale by all dealers.

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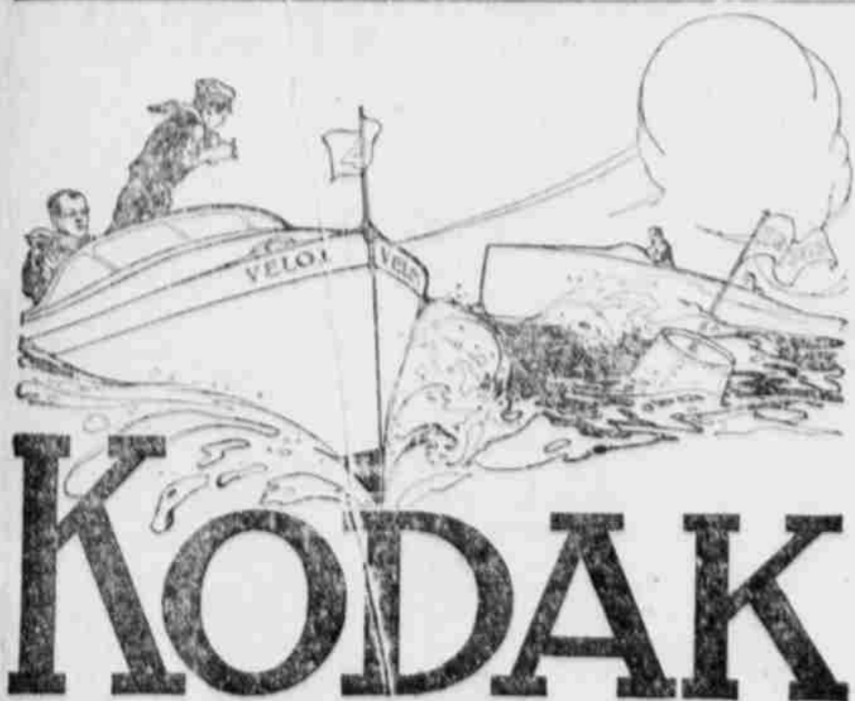
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