

Coos Bay Times

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CITY COUNCIL TAKES STEPS TO FORCE ADEQUATE WATER SERVICE

City Engineer to Collect Data to Present to Railway Commission.

CITY ATTORNEY SAYS SEVERAL WAYS OPEN

Believes Company Can Be Forced to Act Under Present State Law.

Steps to force the Coos Bay Water company to make the necessary improvements in its supply and system to furnish Marshfield with an adequate supply of pure water for domestic use and with sufficient pressure for fire protection were taken by the Marshfield council last night.

Resolution to this effect and instructing City Engineer Gidley to make an investigation as to the improvements that will be necessary so that the matter may be taken up with the Oregon Railroad commission for agreement was introduced by Councilman Cople and adopted.

This action was taken after a rather lengthy discussion of the water situation and reports by City Engineer Goss on the means of remedying the city.

The proposition of the Coos Bay Water and Power company to dispose of the Clear Lake water rights to the city for municipal purposes was read and the proposition was that the city would turn the water rights over to the city for the actual money expended in acquiring and improving the water rights, now \$4,650, about a cent for interest.

The proposition was presented to the city by Chairman Ferguson of the special committee appointed at the previous meeting to take steps to acquire the water rights.

After the reading of the report, Councilman Cople moved that the matter be referred to the city attorney to ascertain whether the water rights, title, etc., were all that was needed. He said that it had been reported that others claimed rival rights to these and that before the city would buy them he would like to have it settled.

Councilman Powers stated that when Reed of Gardiner had recently informed Arno Meehan that he had water rights on the upper end of Clear Lake and that he intended to apply the town of Gardiner from there.

Councilman Albrecht said that he thought that Mr. Reed's filing on the Clear Lake water rights was subsequent to those of the Coos Bay Water and Power company and further, that he did not believe that Mr. Reed had done the amount of development work necessary to retain the rights.

Councilman Powers wanted to know more about the Clear Lake water rights and what would be necessary to acquire to protect it.

It was stated that the water shed on one side drained back for about two miles and a half and that the estate and Simpson Lumber company have some big tracts of timber within the water shed.

Goss Makes Report. City Attorney Goss made a rather detailed oral report of his investigation as to the means the city has of acquiring the water company under the existing franchise and state laws to furnish pure water and adequate protection. He said that besides the original franchise, there had been several other ordinances regulating the matter but he thought these were legally enacted so that the only means of action would be on breach of the contract by the company.

He said that the original franchise provided that the company should furnish "wholesome, fresh water" but he said that he wasn't sure what interpretation the court might place on the meaning of "wholesome."

He said that it certainly did not mean that the company should furnish water that was a menace to the public health but that he did not know whether it would prevent them from furnishing muddy, looking water that was not contaminated. Under this and the fact that the company does not furnish sufficient pressure for fire protection, he thought that action might be commenced in the courts for breach of contract and have the franchise annulled.

He said that another peculiar provision of the franchise is that the company cannot be compelled to lay its lines outside of the original town of Marshfield which comprises a very small section of the present city.

However, the present city charter has provision enabling the city to require certain extensions and if the city charter, that was in effect when the franchise was granted in 1888, had the same provision, he thought the city could compel the company to make necessary extensions regardless of the franchise.

In connection with the pressure, Goss said that he found considerable correspondence between the city and the water company relative to the

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CITY POLITICS IS WARMING UP

R. A. Cople Announces Platform—Straw to Return Tomorrow, Probably.

Marshfield city politics are warming up considerably today and the campaign is assuming definite lines.

R. A. Cople's supporters expect to meet this afternoon and make plans for an active campaign. It has been suggested that their slogan shall be: "Marshfield shall own the waterworks, instead of the waterworks owning Marshfield."

Mayor E. E. Straw is expected home on the Breakwater tomorrow and is expected to announce his platform then. His supporters have been very active today lining up affairs for the campaign.

The city election will be held Tuesday, December 5, two weeks from yesterday.

Cople's Platform R. A. Cople today announced his platform as follows:

To the People of Marshfield:

Since I have been named as a candidate for the office of mayor, I desire that my position concerning some matters of vital importance to the city should be clearly understood.

1st. I favor the city owning and controlling the water system. The health of the community is of too great importance to be placed at the mercy of any private corporation in which the consideration of cost and profit must have so large a part. We have had an example of this within the past year. According to the report of our health officers, the health of our people was jeopardized and yet no move of any consequence was made to remedy the foul condition.

Large parts of our city are absolutely without fire protection and with no promise of relief from the Coos Bay Water company unless the city will give a fifty-year franchise with a greatly increased water rate.

Another consideration is the tremendous advantage the city would have under a municipal system in the way of being able to offer an abundant supply of water at a low rate as an inducement to manufacturers. In a large measure, the growth of the city depends upon the accomplishment of this. With the private corporation the question of profit has the first and almost only consideration.

In view of all of this, I am strongly opposed to granting any franchise or the extension of any franchise to the Coos Bay Water company or any other company.

To bring about municipal ownership, I favor the purchase and improvement of the present system if it can be had at a reasonable price. I am, by no means, satisfied that \$160,000 is a reasonable price. In addition to this, I favor securing water rights from some other and larger source as a supply for that larger city which we believe is to be. Until such time as we can bring about the purchase of this system, if elected, I will see that the city attorney utilizes every means, which the law guarantees to us to compel the Coos Bay Water company to live up to its contract with the city and to furnish an adequate supply of pure water for domestic purposes and for fire protection. This action is long past due.

2nd. No man can believe stronger or go further in the matter of securing good, permanent street improvement than I and I promise, if elected, the city shall go ahead as rapidly as is consistent with its welfare in this respect. At the same time I shall stand for a square deal for the property owner and shall insist that all street improvements shall cost no more than their actual worth. And in no case will I permit a contract to be let for more than the engineers' estimated cost, which means that there will be no more deficit assessments.

In a word, if elected, my policy shall be a sensible, progressive business administration; giving every man the full protection of the law and insisting that every man who enjoys the protection of the law shall obey the law: Its motto: "A square deal for all."

R. A. COPPLE.

Don't forget the Turkish Baths PHONE 214-J.

ORDER YOUR ENGRAVED CARDS FOR PRESENTS—now.—RED CROSS Drug Store.

AUTO supplies at The GUNNERY

FOR MAYOR

THERE is too much that is personal in Marshfield municipal politics. Too much is said about men and too little about measures. We are "honoring" men too much and "employing" public agents too little. Personality is an indispensable element in human affairs. No abstract merit ever attracted attention until somebody embodied it in an attractive personality. But it will not do to get wholly overbalanced. It is, after all, the end to be attained rather than the agency through which it is attained, that counts.

A great deal of gossip is going the rounds about Marshfield's next mayor. But how much is being said of what Marshfield wants a mayor for. This is a turning point in the affairs of this city. How much is being said about what men can do for Marshfield, amidst all that is being said about what some men have done for themselves or for their friends to create a political obligation.

The Times is not fighting for the personality of any man in this campaign. It is fighting for a principle. The principle involved is the municipal ownership of waterworks and an adequate supply of pure water. In this principle is involved the health and happiness of every home in the city. Mayor Straw has publicly expressed himself as unalterably opposed to the city ownership of waterworks. He stands for private ownership and the granting of a franchise to his friend, Joe Bennett, or to the men that Bennett may sell to.

R. A. Cople has publicly expressed himself in favor of municipal ownership as quickly as it may be arranged for. He stands for a dignified, economical and business-like administration of the affairs of the city. E. Don McCrary stands as the representative of the Socialist party. He stands for their platform and their principles. This includes municipal ownership but it involves and includes so many other matters that are not practically applicable at this time that The Times has no hesitancy in advising and advocating the election of R. A. Cople.

Why is Woodrow Wilson today a national figure? Because he was elected governor of New Jersey? Most certainly not. New Jersey has had governors by the score whose names are forgotten even in New Jersey. He is today a formidable presidential possibility because he took the governorship of New Jersey as vantage ground for the accomplishment of something for good government; because office meant to him not a reward but an opportunity. In three months under Woodrow Wilson New Jersey has made more progress than in any previous twenty years in its history.

That's the place that Marshfield occupies at this time. It is at a critical and crucial period in its history. Mayor Straw, who has been honored for three terms as mayor, has certainly received sufficient honor and support of his personal ambition. Today, he asks the voters of this city to elect him again that he may prevent the municipal ownership of waterworks. R. A. Cople on the other hand stands for the city ownership of the water system at the earliest possible moment. He looks upon the position as an opportunity to render service to the people and not as a brokerage game for the distribution of favors.

Marshfield needs next term a mayor in the larger sense—a leader in the progress of our times. Why should Marshfield be content to merely mark time, puddling about in the political leavings of other municipalities, making mock serious over things others have discussed, passed upon and moved by? That is the road to recognized mediocrity.

Now is the time to be talking not of what this or that man has done to make himself solid for mayor but to be considering what the right man can do to give Marshfield a place on the map that its great resources are entitled to, and to elect him. Of what importance is it to the citizens of this city which one of the three men is accorded the gratification of personal ambition and sign vouchers for the salary. In any one generation not more than twelve or fifteen can be mayors, at best. Why then, become wrought up over the claims of the individual, particularly when he has already been honored three times.

There is a growing impatience among the people toward the old order of politics. Already this city has given away nearly every valuable franchise. Even the water franchise has been given away and the present fight is only to perpetuate it. To extend a favor already granted. Is it not time to stop this gratuitous extension of public favors?

The coming two years are to be important ones in Marshfield's history. They are to be years of new alignments. The people are not in mood to accept much on authority. There is a call for performance. There is a call for men of action. There is a call for men who move with the progress of events and who wish to place their city in the forefront of modern municipalities. Spokane, Seattle, Portland, Eugene, Los Angeles, all own their own water systems and enjoy a cheaper and better service in than Marshfield. Let Marshfield join in the march of progress. This may be done by electing a man who is pledged to municipal ownership of the city waterworks system and that man is R. A. Cople.

ROCKEFELLER NOW ACCUSED

Witness Before Steel Trust Investigators Makes Severe Charges.

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22—With a bitterness that lent emphasis to his utterances and at times fairly besides himself with pent up rage, Leonidas Merritt told the Stanley Steel Trust Committee today a personal narrative of his dealings with John D. Rockefeller and how the latter had forced him out of business in Minnesota. Merritt declared it was after he had turned down a proposition from Rockefeller which he characterized as "stealing" that Rockefeller called on him to pay a million dollar loan and brought about his own downfall. The proposition, Merritt said, came through Rev. Dr. Gates, Rockefeller's almoner.

"I listened in amazement to it," said Merritt. "It meant that several men were to be thrown out of the company and their stock taken from them. I turned to Gates and said, 'Mr. Gates, you come from John D. Rockefeller. Go back to John D. Rockefeller and tell him that when I steal for a living, I will steal for myself.'"

At one time during the remarkable recital of his dealings with Rockefeller an encounter between the witness and George W. Murray, counsel for the Standard Oil magnate, was narrowly averted. Merritt said Gates told him that Rockefeller was "hard up." He believed it for a time but today he said Gates "had lied."

During the controversy between Attorney Murray and the witness, Chairman Stanley said "Mr. Rockefeller ought to be summoned here and will be summoned."

BEATTIE WILL HANG FRIDAY

Virginia Wife Murderer Maintains Innocence and Says He Will Not Confess.

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

RICHMOND, Va., Nov. 22—"I am innocent," Henry Clay Beattie, Jr., who is condemned to die Friday for wife murder, announced through the Rev. Dr. J. J. Fix, one of his spiritual advisers, today. He declared he would make no confession. In a formal statement, Dr. Fix told of Beattie's declaration. "I have to die sometime, and it might as well be now," the prisoner exclaimed. "I reckon there is no use putting it off. It would just make it harder for the old man."

CLAIMS IT WAS PACKED.

John Mitchell Explains Attack on National Civic Federation. (By Associated Press to the Coos Bay Times.)

ATLANTA, Ga., Nov. 21.—Vice-president John Mitchell sprang a surprise on the convention floor of the American Federation of Labor when he made the charge that the Columbus convention of the United Mine Workers, which passed resolutions directing its delegates to request the retirement of the federation officials who were officials of the National Civic Federation, was packed with delegates who did not belong there.

ELKS ATTENTION!!! You are invited to witness the installation of the mayor of the city that is the farthest west in the United States, tonight at Masonic hall.

By order of W. C. TIPPETTS, Secretary.

UNITED STATES TROOPS WILL PROBABLY HASTEN TO CHINA

BRYAN'S SHIP IS ON ROCKS

Noted Democratic Leader and Wife and Grandchild on Vessel in Danger.

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

NEW YORK, Nov. 22—The steamship Prinz Joachim of the Hamburg-American Line which left here Thursday for Kingston, Jamaica, is ashore on the rocks off Samana Island, two hundred miles north of Hayti. William J. Bryan and wife, and grandchild with a party of 25 tourists, are on board. The steamship is in no immediate danger, but requires assistance.

PASSENGERS ARE RESCUED

People Aboard Stranded Ship are Transferred to other Vessels.

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

NEW YORK, Nov. 22—The eighty-seven passengers in the Prinz Joachim will be transferred to the Ward Line steamships, Seruranca and Vigilancia, according to the announcement of the Hamburg-American Line officials. The Seruranca is now alongside the stranded steamer and the Vigilancia is on her way from Nassau.

AID IS SENT

Revenue Cutter to Assist Vessel on the Rocks.

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22—Cable instructions have been sent to San Juan ordering the revenue cutter Algonquin, now at that point, to the assistance of the Prinz Joachim.

SUFFRAGETTES GO TO PRISON

English Women Refuse to Pay Fines For Causing Disturbance Near Parliament.

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

LONDON, Nov. 22—Unrepentant suffragettes to the number of two hundred and twenty three, many of whom are still in their teens, appeared at the Bow street police court today and were sentenced to fines or alternate terms of imprisonment varying from a fortnight to several months. The women invariably chose imprisonment instead of the fine. The women were arrested yesterday following a disturbance in Parliament Square.

TO LOOK INTO PERJURY CASE

Lorimer Investigating Committee Threatens to Prosecute Offenders.

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

CHICAGO, Nov. 22—Definite recommendations as to possible perjury charges in connection with the testimony given before the senatorial committee investigating the election of William Lorimer as United States senator may be made after the committee concludes its sessions in Washington. That the committee considered the subject was made known today but it was said the committee considered it improper to take any initiative until after all the evidence is closed. The committee ended its Chicago hearing today and adjourned to meet in Washington, December 5.

CARBIDE at The GUNNERY.

A TURKISH BATH will do you GOOD. Phone 214-J.

Expect That Fifteenth Infantry Will Be Ordered to Proceed From Manila.

WILL TAKE COMPLETE ARMAMENT FOR WAR

Report That Rebels Have Surrounded Imperial Forces at Nanking Today.

(By Associated Press to the Coos Bay Times.)

MANILA, P. I., Nov. 22—The Fifteenth infantry is due to arrive here December 1 and probably will be sent at once to China. The soldiers will arrive on the transport Thomas and it is expected that they will leave for China on the same boat. The regiment will be reinforced to the full strength and will be accompanied by a hospital corps, engineers, signal men, field artillery and possibly cavalry.

REBELS ARE VICTORIOUS

Imperialists Said to Have Suffered Heavy Losses.

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 22—The Chinese revolutionaries engaged the outposts of the Nanking defenders at the village of Goo Shee near the besieged city, driving the imperialists back with a loss of several hundred killed and wounded, according to a Shanghai cable today to a local Chinese paper. It is believed the fight occurred last night.

SURROUND IMPERIAL ARMY

Chinese Rebels Said to Hold Upper Hand at Nanking.

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

LONDON, Nov. 22—A dispatch from Tien Tsin says the imperialists at Nanking under General Chang are surrounded and are short of food, with retreat cut off. The fall of the city before the revolutionists is apparent. The Manchus in Peking are fostering anti-foreign propaganda.

PLANT BURNS AT PORTLAND

Durable Roofing Company Sustains \$60,000 Loss in Blaze Today—Boiling Tar the Cause.

(By Associated Press to the Coos Bay Times.)

PORTLAND, Ore., Nov. 22—The plant of the Durable Roofing Company was destroyed by fire early today. The loss is \$60,000. The boiling over of a vat of oil caused the blaze.

In New York City a kidnaper has been sentenced to the penitentiary for one day less than twenty-five years. By the time he gets out the kids of this generation ought to be grown up.

TO MAKE COOS BAY SUB PORT

PLAN ON FOOT TO MAKE LOCAL PORT OF ENTRY MERELY BRANCH OF PORTLAND CUSTOMS OFFICE—WILL BE OPPOSED.

That the plan for making the Coos Bay port of entry a subordinate station of the Portland Customs office has been revived, became known here today. The Coos Bay port of entry, known as the Port of Empire, has been independent with Malor Tower as the collector of customs.

It is claimed that if the port is made a support of the Portland office, it will seriously affect Coos Bay's claims for terminal rates when the railroad reaches here. Besides, it will detract from the importance of the harbor in public estimation. It is claimed.

Special Agent Watkins of the U. S. Treasury Department, has been here gathering data about the matter.

It is likely that the Chamber of Commerce will meet and take steps to have the Congressman Hawley oppose any such a move.