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C. F. McGeorge Points Out Important Phase of Coos Bay Railroad Situation.

Editor Times:-

VICE PRESIDENT O'BRIEN SAYS LINE WILL BE BUILT RAPIDLY At a banquet held at the Chandler Hotel Friday Evening, Sept. 22nd, in Honor of J. P. O'Brien and

Party, Where 119 Representative Citizens of Marshfield Chamber of Commerce Were Seated

"Before this large and most rement that the proposed line from Eugene to Coos Bay will be started this fail and will be rushed to completion as rapidly as economical business judgment will permit." "This was a most satisfactory an-

nouncement to all present. Mr. O'Brien did not ask us to sanction the building of a bridge across the lower Bay nor did he ask for the control of our most valuable asset, the WATER FRONT FRANCHISE.

"We have already given the fran-chise to a combination of men most honorable and most interested in Coos Bay's development for the sole purpose of protection to any and all railroad companies that might in the future wish to enter the Coos Bay territory on equal and equitable

"Today we are confronted with a new proposition through Mr. C. J. Millis, assistant to President Sproule of San Francisco, asking the people of Coos Bay to sign a petition to the War Department at Washington, D. C., sanctioning the bridging of Coos Bay and also asking that we give them a franchise on the Waterfront Coos Bay Terminal Railway Co., that they will protect us against any one railroad company getting control, thereby shutting out other railroad companies from entering and control. companies from entering and operat-

Bay is the terminal of some Trans- Smith on the Bay? continental railroad company that tion to compete with Portland or San Not until we are offered Terminal Rates can we expect to FORGE AHEAD with our neighboring port cities. We can never become a dis-tributing point of any great importance until we are granted terminal We must, as we do now, deupon Portland and San Francisco for our supplies of provisions, produce, factory supplies, etc. Give Coos Bay Terminal rates that we can compete with Portland and San Francisco and distribute our car lot shipments to the interior of Oregon, then motto "WATCH COOS BAY GROW" and with the improvement of our HARBOR so that we can cater to the Panama Canal's cheap water rates and distribute to the interior.

"Will Mr. C. J. Millis give to the people of Coos Bay a GUARANTEE of terminal rates over the proposed Coos Bay-Eugene line? It is not consistent to expect that the Southern Pacific company will, until another railroad company comes into Coos Bay, then the Southern Pacific will be forced to give terminal rates in competition with others, but if they can keep other railroad companies out of Coos Bay, by control of our water front it will be to their liking. as they have hundreds of millions of dollars invested in Portland's waterfront which they have control of, as well as franchises and, it is almost impossible or highly expensive for any other railroad company to tempt competition in their STRONG-HOLD territory Portland. It is also a well known fact that the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul R. R. Co. are unable to enter the city of Portland, from the fact of the Southern Pacific control—"The toll is too great,"
"COMMON USERS' CLAUSE: Do

not lay too much stress upon that clause, while the State Railroad Commission have the power of the people, and can pass upon rulings and give orders. They have not the pow-er invested in them to enforce their orders, therefore cannot control the Southern Pacific or other railroads. If the Commission could, why not in the case of the C. M. & St. P. R. R. Co. at Portland? I have had a case before the Michigan Railroad Commission. They ordered the company to comply and exhausted all the power they were invested with. Did the railroad company comply with the Commission's orders? NO; while they did not refuse to comply, BUT

COOS BAY'S ASSETS: The possibilities of a GREAT HARBOR none equal it between Puget Sound and the Golden Gate. Why should we be so anxious to give it away? Southern Pacific ask it because it is valuable. Should we give it to them or any other railroad company? NEVER! Some day we may be bottled up; think of it one moment The Southern Pacific company own the east side of the Bay, and they want us to give them the west side ing of the Bay. Let us hear from of the Bay, as well as give our concent to their BRIDGING the lower The Southern Pacific can't control the ebb and flow of the tides, but are asking unmolested non-conditional control of everything else we have

"Don't forget the motto of the

WILLIAM GRIMES AND DR. MIN-GUS EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS AND, SAY PETITIONS ARM MERELY TO SECURE PUBLIC SENTIMENT.

The statement made in The Times of Thursday in refeence to the petitions being circulated as to the bridging of the Bay by the Willa-mette Pacific Railway company might imply that there was a breach or ignoring of a direct act of the executive committee of the Chamber "Before this large and most representative gathering of Coos Bay business men, Mr. J. P. O'Brien, vice president and general manager of the Southern Pacific Railroad company of Oregon, reiterated the announcement that the proposed line from Europe the line from Europe that the proposed line from of Commerce which met April 16 to consider a report of the railroad comcommittee investigate public opinion and further ascertain by all means at hand by engineers or otherwise what objections are or might be urged against the same. This was unanimously carried. Subsequently to those believing that there was only one way of ascertaining public sent ment and that was to place the pet-tions squarely before the public to ascertain the standing of the com-munity on that subject, and for the information of the public up to this time, would say that over 80 per cent of the people to whom the petitions have been presented have signed; of the other 20 per cent there is likely two-thirds of those that have no objections to bridging the Bay if it will secure to us a railway outlet, but for political reasons, the awaiting of Mr. Smith, etc., they would not sign at this time. Now I want to say to those critics who seemingly are supporting and giving aid to the local Terminal Railway company in their overzealous ambition to build and occupy the streets of Marshfield at this particular time or immediately after the Southern Pacific officials companies from entering and operating on Coos Bay without paying heavy tribute to their competitors.

"LET US CONSIDER: First the GREATER CITY of Coos Bay will be rightfully so, to be given Mr. Smith? built only from the fact that Coos Bay is the terminal company, why not await the arrival of Mr.

I want to say to the public at the will give Coos Bay TERMINAL time that I am as much interested, RATES that we will be in a posiminal Railway company likely as any Francisco in the matter of freight person connected with it, and that rates to and from the Eastern points. anything you may do to cause it to anything you may do to cause it to earn profits or force it to be sold at a good figure I will "get mine."

But I do not believe that is the spirit of the company or any of its members to do so. I would hate to see it so; as the people of this community are too anxious to be connected with the outside world with modern transportation to have the matter delayed by selfish methods. WM. GRIMES.

DR. MINGUS' VIEW

Editor Times: A terrible hubbub seems to have been stirred up over circulating a patition relative to the matter of bridging Coos Bay. That petition does not recommend or disprove the granting of a bridge. The purpose of the petition is to bring this much disputed question to a final issue. If the War Department is going to grant it, let us know it; if they are not going to grant it, let us know that also, then we know where we stand in ref-erence to the matter. There is nothing in "stalling" the matter any longer, force it to a final issue and ascertain definitely what is going to be the result. If we are going to be hung, go up to the gallows like men and brave citizens and take our medi-If we are going to be granted freedom from the presence of a bridge, let us shout hurrah! Let us know however what is the verdict so that we can stop this worry, an-xiety and loss of sleep. No one but a business coward wants this matter put off any longer; it is a constant disturbance of business relations and industrial enterprises; let us have it settled in a business like manner and leave it to those who are competent to pass upon the situation and who will protect the interest of naviga-

Southern Pacific company: "Tax traffic for all it will bear." meaning the public.

"Dr. Bartle at the North Bend meeting asked Mr. Millis: "Providing North Bend would give the Southern Pacific a Water Front Franchise through North Bend, and should Marshfield refuse to give them the franchise, would the Southern Pacific company commence operations from this end of the line within 60 days as promised?" Mr. Mills replied that they would be bound to do so as per agreement. With this assurance why should we get over anxious to throw what assets we have in the BONFIRE?

'Don't get over anxious to tie what we have up in one bag. Consult the wishes of the C. A. Smith Lumber & Manufacturing company, the largest interest on the Bay. They are largethat we now have, as well as the most concerned regarding the bridgthem; then there is plenty of time to act.

"We want the Southern Pacific to come to Coos Bay, but upon the same terms that we are willing to offer any other railroad company: that they give us TERMINAL RATES.

Respectively submitted, —C. F. McGeorge."