

THE PEOPLE'S FORUM

The Times will be pleased to publish letters from its readers on all questions of public interest. Each letter must be signed by the writer and so far as possible be limited to 200 words. In publishing these letters it must be understood that The Times does not indorse the views expressed therein; it is simply affording a means for the voicing of different opinions on all questions affecting the public welfare.

THE SCARLET WOMAN.

Editor Coos Bay Times:
There has been much discussion of the white slave evil, its growth and ramifications, and many express surprise at its magnitude; but it seems to me that, considering the opportunities that have been offered by the general lack of publicity and the disposition of the public to ignore it, as has heretofore been the case, the surprising fact is that it has not gained an even wider foothold.

Much has been said of the exploiters of girls and women and stringent laws have recently been passed for their punishment. Many unsuccessful attempts have been made to banish these women and by exorbitant fines to force them out of business but all of this does not seem to have the desired effect.

But how about the men who patronize them?
Very little has been said and nothing done. It is apparent that to successfully stop any business, it is necessary to stop the purchase, by law, and with sufficient penalties attached, to render it effective. Stop her income and the scarlet woman would practically cease to exist. It seems to me that her crime against society is not so great as that of the men who patronize her, and contract disease and infect their loving wife or marry innocent girls and either infect them or produce defective children.

Therefore it seems to me that men are almost invariably responsible for the fact that there are lewd women and they are the only means of supporting the wretched business and are prime offenders and should be punished as such. So when you arraign the fallen woman and hold her up to scorn, remember that if I were not for the financial support of the men, she would probably be a true woman and a happy mother instead of a despised wretch. Please save some of your scorn for the men who are her patrons and give her the benefit of some of your sympathy. Overlook her shortcomings as much as you do those of the men who patronize her, who have no excuse to offer for themselves save miserable brute passion whereas the lewd women at least earn their miserable livelihood.

A READER.

FARMERS AND THE SINGLE TAX

Editor Times:
The Minneapolis Farm, Stock and Home, writing on farming interests cites the single tax as follows:

"There is no reason for fears or the part of the farmer that his interests will suffer. In fact, the reverse is likely to be true, and he is apt to find after a fair trial of the single tax that he would not wish to go back to the present system. Put in the simplest form possible the single tax provides that all taxes shall be levied on the bare land, exclusive of improvements. Thus, if a man has a half section farm, with a good set of buildings up on it, he is taxed no more than the man who holds it idle—the half section adjoining. In other words, he is not taxed because he has been industrious, but because he holds for his own private use a certain part of the soil. If the man whose land lies idle objects that he cannot afford to pay the tax the answer is that society cannot afford to have him hold out of use a half section of land needed by the community, which creates the value of the land to which he holds title. Every community has at least one example of such idle land enriching its owner without his raising his hand to help the neighborhood. It is the barns and houses and schools and tilled fields about him that have made his acres valuable, and the single tax proposition is that society has a right to that which it has created—in other words that it will not allow him to enrich himself at the expense of his hard-working neighbors. By taking the net profits on land as a tax the single tax would drive the speculator into land cultivation, or out of the land-holding business, altogether. As a matter of fact the common practice throughout the country district leans toward the single tax idea. The writer knows whole townships where the absentee owner is taxed 'all the traffic will bear,' and where the assessment, on live stock, buildings, and other property, is cut to as low a point as possible. This is a recognition of the working principle of the single tax. And it has as an object the use of the land by resident farmers. Rather than working a detriment to the agricultural interests of the country, Farm, Stock and Home believes that a just application of the direct tax on land values would largely improve farm conditions by forcing into use the idle lands now held for speculation purposes—lands that ordinarily do not bear any fair proportion of the tax burden, and directly in the degree to which a man was a farmer and not a land speculator such a tax would benefit rather than harm him."

This same land speculator (working much harm to the entire country and every community wherein he is located with such deadly and retarding effect on its progress is the same supposed farmer with his controlled allies who is making some real farmers of land wonder why the Grange in some cases appears to op-

LOCAL OVERFLOW

WEDS IN CALIFORNIA

Mrs. Myra Hurd and George Drews Married at Riverside

News has reached here that Mrs. Myra Hurd, sister of A. B. Campbell, and Ray P. Campbell, of this city, and one of Marshfield's former school girls, was married on Sunday, Sept. 1st, to Mr. Geo. Drew at the home of the bride's mother, Mrs. M. F. Campbell of Riverside, Calif. Mr. Drew has been employed for many years as a pressman on the Daily Press of Riverside. The only attendant was Mrs. Hurd's little son, Ralston.

Immediately after the ceremony, they departed for a short honeymoon.

SCHOOL NOTES.

Marshfield public schools will open Monday, September 16th.

Grade pupils new to the school can enroll any afternoon this week at the superintendent's office in the High School building.

Parents will find it to their advantage to attend to this before Monday, September 16th.

High School pupils and commercial students will do well to confer with Mr. Barker and Mr. Morris at the High School building on Saturday afternoon, September 14. Former pupils of the High School whose enrollment was completed last June, need not come unless changes are desired.

The commercial department will enroll students from North Bend, Bandon, Sumner, Cooson and Curry county, as indicated by applications for admission.

The compulsory school law applies to all pupils from the eighth to the fifteenth birthdays.

Children under six are not admitted to the school.

The school has semi-annual promotions. Beginners classes are organized in September and again on about February 1.

ACTION BY COUNCIL.

Routine Proceedings of Monday Night's Session.

Among the routine matters to come before the council Monday night were the following:

The council allowed a large number of current bills, including \$85 for the monthly support of the Marshfield Public Library, and \$150 for the Coos Bay Concert Band.

An invitation from the California Municipal League to have a delegate present at the convention in San Diego was read but no action was taken towards sending a delegate.

An ordinance declaring the intention to construct a sewer on South First street and South Front street near Hall avenue and Broadway was read. J. W. Watt, F. A. Golden and O. S. Torrey were named as voters to apportion the cost.

The assessment for improving Seventh street from Flanagan to Golden was read and approved. The assessment is \$1.76 per foot front, exclusive of intersections, which will cost about \$275, the total cost of the improvement being about \$1,296.

City Recorder Butler was ordered paid \$25 additional for his services during the month of August. The new ordinance fixing his salary at \$125 per month does not become effective for awhile and the council decided that he was entitled to the advance at once, so made the special appropriation.

The Coos Bay Water Company last evening presented bills for about six months water service to the city. Why they were held back the council did not know, but they were finally ordered paid.

NORTH INLET NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Heisler are rejoicing over the arrival of a baby girl.

Dr. Pope Howard of Everett, Wash., returned on the Breakwater, Monday, after a brief visit with his brother, William Howard.

Captain Olson of the Schooner Daisy Miner came over from Bandon to visit his family over Sunday. He was 17 days on the trip from San Francisco to Bandon.

Mrs. Rena Travers of San Francisco and Mrs. Alice Archer and daughter of Raymond, Wash., are visiting their mother, Mrs. J. W. Judd.

Cranberry growers in this section are busy harvesting their crops. P. H. Pinkerton has been ill the past week.

The last Sunday afternoon meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Emily McFarland. The next meeting will be held at Wm. Howard's. T. S. Small made final proof on his homestead last Saturday. E. L. Robinson and Reuben Lyons were his witnesses.

pose the single tax. Owners of idle wild and uncultivated lands in large quantities will fall under the single tax. Is your farm and lands worth less than \$10,000? The single tax will decrease your taxes and your title to its private ownership will remain intact as it ever has, regardless of what "knockers" and paid hirelings may tell you.

C. H. McLAUGHLIN.

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