

ROLLING STONES, WHILE NOT GATHERING MOSS, ATTRACT CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION IN THAT THEY DO MORE OR LESS BUMPING

Coos Bay Times

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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MAYOR ALLEN AND PROMINENT LOCAL MEN ARRESTED TODAY

Charged With Violating Ordinance Requiring Lights on Machines

A. H. POWERS AND DR. E. MINGUS ALSO HELD

Several Others Pay \$5 Fines For Offense—One May Contest Charge

MEN ARRESTED

A. H. Powers, Mayor F. E. Allen, Dr. E. Mingus, Tom Goodale, Chas. Bonebrake, Lynn Lambeth, Chas. Skerret, Hugh Sneddon.

The above is a list of prominent Marshfield men who were arrested today on the charge of violating the city ordinance which prohibits leaving automobiles standing in the street without lights and also prohibits operating autos or bicycles without lights. None of them were taken to jail, though.

Mayor Allen was one of the first taken in by Officer Richardson. He was charged with having hidden his bicycle last night without any lights on it.

A. H. Powers is charged with leaving his auto standing by the Chandler hotel last night without any lights burning. He informed Officer Richardson that he was guilty and would pay.

Dr. E. Mingus is charged with leaving his office on Broadway last night without any lights burning, while he went to the moving picture show. It is understood that he contends the lights went out after he left and that he will fight the case.

Hugh Sneddon admitted his guilt and paid his \$5 fine for leaving his machine on Front street without lights burning.

All are to be arraigned this afternoon. Two previous arrests for the same kind of offenses were Bill Bohrer, Western Union messenger boy, and Andy Erickson.

Allen Pays Fine

Mayor F. E. Allen was the first of the offenders arraigned before Recorder Butler this afternoon and entered a plea of guilty and paid \$5 fine.

Mr. Allen said that he did not have any good excuse except that the carbide would not work in the bicycle light and as he was anxious to get home, he thought that he would make it all right. He said that this was the first time he had been able to find an officer at night and was glad to see that they were doing their duty.

City Attorney Goss said that he wanted the Mayor to notice that the information was filed by the private officer hired by the citizens and not by a regular police officer.

City Recorder Butler wanted to know if this was the first offense and City Attorney Goss wanted to know if Mr. Allen had ever been arraigned before.

"No, this is the first time," replied Mr. Allen.

"Then you are not the F. E. Allen who was arrested in Albany some years ago for assault?" queried Mr. Goss, wanting to have a little fun with the city's chief executive.

"No, sir," replied Mr. Allen.

"Then the penalty will be the minimum, a fine of \$5," declared Recorder Butler.

"Can't the prisoner have the alternative of serving two and a half years in the city jail?" inquired City Attorney Goss.

"Yes," replied Recorder Butler.

But Mr. Allen did not want it and paid his fine.

The others were arraigned later.

RY TO ROB IOWA STATE SAFE

Two Watchmen in Treasurer's Office at State Capitol in Des Moines Bound and Gagged—Third Person is Suspected.

DES MOINES, Ia., Feb. 25.—An unsuccessful attempt to dynamite the safe in the State Treasurer's office was made early today, after the two statehouse watchmen had been bound and gagged. The safe blowers at the capital shortly before daylight with only \$5, which they took from the cash drawer in the treasurer's office. Two separate explosions were set off in the door of the safe and the men were about to be freed when they were interrupted. The watchmen who were overpowered were Mills Russell and George Carpenter. A. J. Gay, third watchman, who was held by the police for investigation, was found to have been "peacefully asleep in the Supreme Court room" while the attempted robbery was in progress.

WILL CONTEST VERNON WILL

Fred Housley Makes Serious Charges in Suit for Property.

Fred Housley, an adopted son of the late Mrs. Anne Vernon, of Shinglehouse Inlet, has begun suit through his attorneys, Peck & Peck, contesting her last will in which he was disinherited. The case promises to be of a rather sensational character.

Mrs. Vernon died in the Oregon State Asylum last April, having been committed a few months previously. She was quite old and had resided on the Bay for many years. Her last will was made shortly previous to this and in it she bequeathed \$1000 to Mrs. Lizzie Bowron, a neighbor, and the balance to a niece, Mrs. Barrows, who died on the Breakwater en route here with her husband and daughter. In consequence of her death, her daughter, Miss Barrows, the fiancée of Fred Pusley, of the Stafford Candy factory, received the inheritance. It is estimated that she left about \$7000 worth of property.

Housley claims that he and his brother, Frank Housley, were adopted by the Vernons and spent most of their lives with them, working on the ranch and looking after the property. He alleges that under the provisions will, he was made the heir to the property.

He charges that at the time of making the last will, Mrs. Vernon was of unsound mind and that she suffered from a strange delusion that he and his brother wanted her to die in order that they would get the property.

Housley makes serious accusations against Mrs. Lizzie Bowron and her husband, Jack Bowron, charging that they poisoned Mrs. Vernon's mind against him with the expectancy that they would be given most of the property if he was cut off.

The case will probably come up for trial at the April term of Circuit Court.

HOPES TO STOP OREGON STRIKE

Federal Mediator Hangar to Get Telegraphers and Railway Officials to Confer

PORTLAND, Feb. 25.—G. W. W. Hangar, federal mediator, held separate conferences with the officers of the Oregon-Washington Railroad & Navigation Company and the Order of Railway Telegraphers in a further attempt to prevent a strike. Although the results were not given out, it was learned that the mediator has so far sought only to become better informed and an attempt to bring about a joint conference between the two sides will not be made for some days.

RICH RANCHER NOW ACCUSED

J. Parker Whitney, Millionaire, Held for White Slavery in California

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 25.—J. Parker Whitney, millionaire clubman accused of violating the white slave law, was arrested today on his ranch in Placer county. When told he was charged with transporting Genevieve Hannan from New York to San Francisco for immoral purposes, he said: "I have been expecting this trouble for some time and am glad things have come to a climax. It is simply a case of blackmail."

LET US TALK IT OVER

LAST evening's interesting discussion at the Fellowship Club banquet developed the fact that there is a lamentable lack of information concerning the commission form of municipal government. Even the leaders of the debate confessed that they were not familiar with the subject and their subsequent talks substantiated the admission. The different speakers presented their views interestingly but scarcely convincingly. Senator Smith's presentation of the systematized and business side of the commission form of government being about the best argument of the evening. City Attorney Goss, who made the principal address on the negative side, exploded the old theory that "a Democrat is for the government," for Attorney Goss was decidedly with the government last evening. His talk was not on the merits or lack of merits of the commission form of city government, but—as Toastmaster Copple declared—an able and argumentative defense of the present city administration—which needs no defense. Now isn't that just like a lawyer—when his case is weak he talks about the splendid integrity and high character of his client.

It was to be expected that an attorney would lead in a debate against the adoption of a commission form of city government. Lawyers are naturally, inherently and unalterably bound by precedent. Our courts are so tangled and tied with the tape of precedent that justice is nearly strangled. They are no longer courts of justice, but courts of law, where opposing counsel argue learnedly and logically or ignorantly and insistently for precedent, and the judge decides not on the merits of the case at bar but as some similar case a hundred years ago was decided. That may be law but it is not justice.

Attorney Goss followed the same line of limp logic in his defense of the old city council form of city government last evening. It was the argument of a lawyer and a politician. His statement that because the present mayor and members of the city council were honest and capable, the present form of city government was sufficient, was, to borrow a legal phrase, "incompetent, irrelevant and immaterial." The time-worn argument of the politicians against the primaries and the initiative and referendum, namely, that Tom and Bill and Jim and Jack could get together in a caucus and choose just whom they desired to run the government, was also presented. Because everyone knows everyone else in Marshfield and because "we are all honest and honorable men" has not prevented some radical blunders and expensive extravagances under the present form of city government. Under this old form of government which Attorney Goss grows eloquent in eulogizing and defending, Marshfield has given away every valuable franchise it possesses. It has given away successively and successfully, almost without stipulation or regulation.

- The water franchise.
- The electric light franchise.
- The gas franchise.
- The telephone franchise.
- The street railway franchise.

That's several reasons why we need a commission form of government. It is true that not one of these franchises was given away under the present administration but they were all given under the present form of government. We have no assurance that we can continue the present capable and efficient officials and during their administration is the time to provide for the future.

Marshfield and all Coos Bay is on the threshold of important development. We should prepare to meet it in a modern and business-like way—and that way is the commission form of city government with a city manager.

It means centralized control and responsibility. It means a systematic and business-like handling of affairs. It means handling the business affairs of the city the same as a private individual, corporation or firm conducts business.

It means lower taxes, less extravagance and removes the possibility of graft.

It takes the city's affairs out of politics or private manipulation and places it on the plane of business efficiency and system.

The argument that Marshfield is too small for the commission form of government falls flat when it is known that San Mateo, Cal., with 4,284 population, has the commission form of government. So has Monterey, Cal., with 4,923. Anthony, Kansas, with only 2,669 people, has the commission form and also Council Grove, Kansas, with only 2,559.

Until last October more than three hundred cities in the United States had adopted the commission form of government and none has ever gone back to the archaic and outworn form of city councils.

Marshfield should join in the procession of progress.

FELLOWSHIP BANQUET IS BRILLIANT

Fellowship Club Holds Most Interesting and Instructive Session—Commission Form of Government Discussed.

BOWHAY AT THE BANQUET.

He was a famous banqueter
Chock full of stories bright;
For years he'd done, I here aver,
Banquets many a night.
A leading citizen, you see,
He met with others such as he.

They met at reason's feast (they said)
There was a flow of soul
And curious dishes, meats and fishes
And pure in the bowl.
The biscuits sweet and toothsome—
fine
The coffee, too, was right in line.

The toastmaster in merry mood
Regaled with joke and jest
Till 'twixt the laughter and the food
Unbuttoned was each vest.
And then we heard that musical moka
Arise and tell another joke.

The banqueters at last cried: "Do
But give us one more story;
If you don't we're in a stew."
So tell it, if with age its hoary."
The story told, we gasped for breath
For all had nearly laughed to death.

The question of the commission form of government and its adaptation to the needs of the city of Marshfield was the subject threshed out at the monthly debate of the Men's Fellowship Club, held last night.

W. A. Reid presided as chairman of the meeting. R. A. Copple acted as toastmaster. The affirmative side of the question, "Resolved, That Marshfield should adopt a commission form of government," was taken by Senator W. G. Chase, seconded by Senator I. S. Smith. The negative side of the question was taken by James Watson, seconded by Attorney John D. Goss.

Senator Chase opened for the affirmative and made a master argument in favor of commission government. He spoke in part as follows: "I do not intend by my remarks to cast any reflection upon the present City Council or any preceding City Council. The fact has been proven that specialists in any line are the best. Men engaged in the everyday walks of life do not profess to know anything about running a municipality. The proof of the success of commission government is proven by the fact that 311 cities have adopted this form of government. These cities range from 1000 to 333,000 population, New Orleans being the largest city using the commission form at the present time. The commission form of government was first adopted by Galveston, in the year 1901 and since then it has been adopted in twenty-four cities in Pennsylvania alone. There are no abuses to the commission form of government. If the men who are appointed or elected to serve as commissioners don't suit, recall them, such as was done at Des Moines. The elimination of the Common Council is something which is being sought all over by the people of the country at the present time.

Senator Chase concluded by reading an interesting paragraph from the current number of a magazine in which he set forth strong argument in favor of the affirmative.

County Clerk Watson, who was prevailed upon to act in place of Judge A. S. Hammond, read a paper from Judge Hammond and made many comments in favor of our

(Continued on Page Three.)

GOV. WEST WILL TRY TO GET COOS BAY WAGON ROAD GRANT

DEWEY'S TALE IS SUSTAINED

German Admiral von Diederichs Admits Issuing Order at Manila

BADEN BADEN, Feb. 25.—Admiral Von Diederichs himself admitted today that he had informed the British naval commander in Manila Bay at the time of the Spanish-American war that he would shoot any American officer who attempted to board a German warship "to make inquiry and establish her identity" in carrying out the orders of Admiral Dewey.

TALKS PLAIN TO VILLA.

EL PASO, Feb. 25.—A confidential agent of Carranza arrived last night and is reported to have done some very plain talking to Villa's officers. As a result two officers left Juarez last night on a special train to present Carranza's representations against the seeming policy of evasion.

BRITISH CONSUL ARRIVES.

EL PASO, Tex., Feb. 25.—Interest in the Benton case was centered in the arrival here of Charles Perceval, British consul at Galveston, who was expected today to make a thorough investigation.

MAY SEND FORCE TO MEXICO TO BRING BACK BENTON'S BODY

President Wilson and State Department May Use Force in Old Mexico Without Action by Congress.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 25.—Further representations were made by the American government to Villa, pointing out the importance of giving up the body of Benton. Immediately on receipt of word that Benton's body would be exhumed, a second request went to Villa asking that the body be turned over to the widow. His refusal has not met with favor with the officials here. The message received last night saying the widow and American representatives could view the body was the result of representations made by the United States that his attitude was not satisfactory. The United States will designate an army surgeon as one of its representatives.

The State Department is hopeful that through Carranza, Villa's superior officer, it can succeed in getting the body. Discussing possibilities, some officials said there was really no obstacle to prevent Brigadier General Bliss sending a force of cavalry to recover Benton's body, if it can be located. That such would be an act of war, which must be authorized by Congress, was denied by these officials. They pointed to the President's declaration that there is no government in Mexico. Such action would be somewhat similar to that taken in China during the Boxer rebellion.

Consul Letcher said that Villa had given assurances he would endeavor to locate the ten Americans whom he says he rejected as recruits for his army. Villa says he offered them a special train to Juarez, but they preferred to remain in Chihuahua.

EL PASO, Feb. 25.—Uncertainty still prevailed here as to what General Villa proposes to do regarding the request of the United States that he deliver to the widow the body of William S. Benton, the British subject whom he executed last week at Juarez. Consul Letcher at Chihuahua reported that Villa had declined to deliver the body, but he will permit the widow or other relatives to visit the cemetery with American representatives and for their benefit he will order the exhumation of the body, which is then to be re-interred in the same grave. Villa is reported as saying: "I will not give up the body out of respect to the dead. It was interred with all religious observances and a cross erected over it and I will not allow the sacrifice of its removal."

TRAIN BANDIT MADE GOOD ESCAPE

SNOW FALLS IN NEW ORLEANS

Southern City Today Has First Winter Storm in Eleven Years

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 25.—A light snow fell here today for the first time since 1903. The snow melted as fast as it fell.

CONFIRM REPORT OF EXECUTION

LAREDO, Tex., Feb. 25.—Official confirmation of the hanging of Clemente Vergara, an American citizen,

Wants 150,000 Acres Between Coos Bay and Roseburg for State

WANTS TO TAKE IT FROM SO. OREGON CO.

Claims That They Have Failed to Comply With Agreement to Build Road

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

SALEM, Or., Feb. 25.—Governor West announced he will leave Saturday for Washington, D. C., to confer with the Secretary of the Interior on land matters. Chief among the subjects to be taken up is a bill providing for the reversion of the lands covered by the Coos Bay wagon land grant. Another matter to be discussed is a bill providing for the exchange of 50,000 acres of scattered school lands in the state for a compact body of land in the forest reserve on Santiam. This latter measure has passed the Senate and been reported favorably by the committee in the House.

There are about 150,000 acres embraced in the wagon land grant. Originally the lands were granted to the state to be used in building a highway in southern Oregon and the state granted them to a company for the same purpose. The company has failed to comply with the conditions of the grant, and the government is now seeking to recover the lands in a suit in the Federal court. The Governor's plan is to have the Government convey the lands to the state and allow it to dispose of them, and use the proceeds in building roads in southern Oregon, one to be built from some point in Douglas county to Coos Bay, and another from some point in Jackson or Josephine county to the same place.

by Mexican Federals near Hidalgo, was received by United States Consul Garret at Nuevo Laredo. The report said that Vergara's body was still hanging three miles from Hidalgo. Garret immediately left for the scene.