

**MES**  
 Editor and Pub.  
**DAN E. MALONEY, News Editor**  
 Official Paper of Coos County

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hot air constitute a majority.

When a man feels good he has an irresistible craving to go out and make a darn fool of himself.

**"WATCH NIGHT."**

**W**ATCHING the old year die and the new year come in to take its place is an old and worldwide custom. In pagan lands there used to be solemn fasts and auguries of blood, by which they sought to read the future. The Catholic Church holds high mass just at the hour of midnight, and the Greek church has similar observances. In pioneer days, when our own country was young at heart and full of faith, there was the sacred and never-to-be-forgotten watch night, the last night of the old year. Then it was that the people met for prayer and praise, and at the solemn hour of midnight, just when the old year vanished and the New Year came before them, then did they shake hands in loving friendship, beg forgiveness for unkind feelings or deeds of the past and promise amends for the future, consecrating all by mutual resolutions, by good thoughts and hope and faith. This old time watch festival was most solemn, beautiful and impressive and is still observed in many places.

**VARIOUS NEW YEAR'S CUSTOMS**

**E**VERYWHERE and in all ages we find the custom of visiting on New Year's day, and the student of folklore sees in this a beautiful meaning. For, as the coming year knocks at our doors, laden with gifts, so we should visit each other and exchange kind words and wishes. In Scotland this is called "first footing" and there is a fancy that good or evil comes into the house with the "first footer." In many parts of the world the first day of January is a favorite one for weddings, and many are celebrated then, but in Siam and other Asiatic countries it is the day of funerals. Those who die in the course of the previous year are, of course, buried in due season, but the funeral pomp is postponed for New Year's day and then celebrated with proper emphasis.

**WITH THE TEA AND THE TOAST**

**GOOD EVENING.**

The day returns and brings us the petty round of irritating concerns and duties. Help us to play the man, help us to perform them with laughter and kind faces; and let cheerfulness abound with industry. Give us to go blithely on our business all this day, bring us to our resting beds weary and content and undishonored. — Robert Louis Stevenson.

**OLD YEAR, ADIEU!**

Old Father Time, with visage grim,  
 Marks flin on another year.  
 His harvest he has gathered in;  
 The swath was wide both far and near.

The strife of battle rages round  
 The ranks of fighters in the van,  
 But clashing arms and shouts resound  
 Of victor and of conquered man.

The aged sire, with trembling hands  
 And hoary locks of silvery white,  
 Perceives the passing of the sands,  
 The sunset's glow, the clouds of night.

Mayhap there is a vacant chair  
 At home but recently resigned,  
 A loved one gone above to wear  
 The crown of bliss by angels twined.

The path to glory may not lead  
 With roses strown about the feet,  
 But hope and strive by word and deed  
 Some soul to cheer—the New Year greet!

—T. J. Dehey in Pittsburgh Dispatch.

Some Coos Bay men suffer from colds, but they are never too hoarse to sing their own praises.

**THE OLD YEAR.**

**O**LD year, you are through,  
 And you slip from us now,  
 While we look to the new  
 That is making its bow  
 With the hope it will bring  
 Us the joys that we crave  
 And the welcome bells ring  
 While you go to your grave.  
 Ah, what is this life  
 But a year when all's said,  
 Joy, anguish and strife  
 And the tears that we shed?

Old year, in your days  
 We have laughed with delight  
 And have danced in the haze  
 Of your glorious light.  
 Many songs we have sung,  
 And our dirges we've played,  
 And our hearts have been wrung  
 And our loved ones we've laid  
 Cold and still in the ground.  
 We have sorrowed and wept  
 As we stood by the mound,  
 But our trust we have kept.

Old year, in your days  
 There was happiness too,  
 On our varying ways  
 Blossomed roses and rue.  
 There were pleasures and pain,  
 There were struggles and strife,  
 There were both loss and gain  
 In the round of your life,  
 But in summing it up  
 As you slip from our hall  
 You poured in our cup  
 More of sweet than of gall.

A mixture of sweet  
 And of bitterness, too;  
 Some tasted defeat;  
 Successes some knew,  
 And that is our life,  
 When it's all said and done,  
 A portion of strife  
 And a portion of fun.  
 Oh, may it be chanted  
 Of me when I'm through  
 He lived and he planted  
 More roses than rue!

**FOR THE RED CROSS.**

Sister Susie's sewing shirts for soldiers,  
 Such skill at sewing shirts our shy young sister Susie shows!  
 Some soldiers send epistles, say they'd rather sleep in thistles  
 Than the saucy, soft, short shirts for soldiers Sister Susie sews.  
 —War Ballad.

**NEW YEAR'S WEATHER.**

**I**t Was Not Always Thought Well to Have Sunshine at Year's Beginning.

While we are naturally glad to have pleasant weather at any and all times, it would appear from many old proverbs that it is not a blessing in mid-winter, and the "wisdom of ages" admonishes us thus:  
 January warm, the Lord have mercy!  
 If you see grass in January  
 Lock your grain in your granary.  
 January blossoms fill no man's cellar,  
 January wet,  
 No wine you'll get.  
 Green New Year, full graveyard.  
 Weather indications have always been watched on New Year's eve and the signs believed and acted upon in good faith. Centuries ago our druid ancestors observed New Year's day by wonderful religious and mystical ceremonies, and the Saxons made of it a grand festival, with feasting and merrymaking and exchange of gifts. In England the day has always been one of gift making; tenants make presents to their landlords, loyal subjects to their sovereigns and friends exchange souvenirs, as we do at Christmas. The custom was brought to this country and many of us can remember when young men and maidens got up early on the first day of the year and went out in merry companies, from door to door, bearing lively greetings to the neighboring households.

**DAIRY OUTPUT OF COOS COUNTY**

**Figures Gathered on Butter and Cheese Here—Broad-bent King of Business**

The dairy output of Coos county the past year will probably show a material increase over all preceding years. The Marshfield Chamber of Commerce is gathering some accurate data on the butter and cheese sold during the year from the fifteen creameries and cheese factories in the county. A circular letter has been sent out to them and so far only a small number of them have responded with the desired figures. It has been estimated that the dairy products bring in about \$750,000 a year to Coos county. During the past year or so, the home consumption of butter and cheese and milk has been much greater than previously.

So far, reports have been received from the following creameries and cheese factories:

C. E. Broadbent's Myrtle Point plant produced 219,065 pounds of cheese and 16,381 pounds of butter.

C. E. Broadbent's Sunrise cheese factory produced 246,251 pounds of cheese and no butter.

C. E. Broadbent's Arago cheese factory produced 162,584 pounds of cheese and no butter.

The Mt. Anderson creamery at Bridge produced 14,147 pounds of butter and no cheese. The average price paid for butter fat by them was about 27 cents.

The North Bend Condensary produced 30,000 cases of condensed milk against about 21,000 the previous year.

C. E. Broadbent is a sort of butter and cheese king of Coos county. In addition to the large amount produced in his own plants, he buys the output of other plants.

Most of the Curry county dairy product has been shipped via Coos Bay and Bandon and when this and the output of the Gardiner, Reedport and Scottsburg plants and the Loon Lake creameries and cheese factories are added to the amount shipped by Coos county plants, southwestern Oregon makes a big showing in this industry. The Curry county dairy product this year was considerably larger than ever before.

**CUT OUT RED TAPE**

**Vessels Quickly Dispatched Through Panama Canal Now**

PANAMA, Dec. 31.—So much red tape has been eliminated by the canal officials that a ship's captain may now take his vessel through without having to sign a single paper, and without any waste of time. Heretofore the formalities were so numerous that it sometimes required 24 hours for a ship to complete her passage.

Shipping companies have been notified that hereafter it will not be necessary for them to appoint a shipping agent on the isthmus, for the reason that the Panama Canal is prepared to undertake all work in connection with the payment of tolls, purchase of coal, water and other supplies, they have been informed that all that is needed is to cable to Panama the probable arrival of a ship, the deposit at the office of the nearest assistant treasurer of the United States of the estimated amount of tolls, the probable supplies the vessel will need and other data and the officials of the canal will see that the ship safely passes through with the least possible delay and without the payment of agent's fees by the owner.

A few days ago a ship arrived at Cristobal, her owners having appraised the canal officials of her coming, no deposit had been made and she was ready to pass through the canal when the master appeared at the port captain's office for his papers. He was given his clearance papers, receipt for tolls, permit to pass through the locks, health certificate, and other necessary papers and was told to proceed into the canal. He was astonished at not having to obtain from various officials all these documents and further at the fact that not a single signature was required of him. His stay in the port of Cristobal was exactly one hour, while at Balboa there was no stop required beyond slowing up to drop the pilot in the outer harbor.

It is pointed out by canal officials that many papers at first in use proved to complicate matters and occasion delay. The bulky copies of the ship's manifest have been abolished, and the boarding officer of the terminal port now obtains only a short abstract.

For a time it was necessary for a ship's master to have the signature of not less than five canal officials before his vessel was permitted to enter the canal. This number has now been reduced to two, the captain of the port of entry and the health officer. These, however, the captain does not himself have to obtain but are affixed in the course of the regular routing of the port captain's office.



**5 Days PRE-INVENTORY SALE**

**Women's Department**  
 In order to clean up the stock before taking inventory, we will place on sale all Suits not specially marked at one-half price; all COATS not specially marked at one-half price; all Furs, one-half price. One-half price on all outside Skirts; one-third off on Knitted Underwear; Silk Underskirts and Novelties not specially marked; Hats for one-half the New York cost, as we are closing out all Millinery. This will be the biggest cut in prices ever made and we feel sure every one will appreciate the bargains.

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 \$ 6.00 values, now \$ 3.00  
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 \$15.00 values, now \$ 7.50

**Abstracts**

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