The Western World

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THE BONDING ACT

In Tuesday's Recorder John Nielson takes issue with Western World on the Bancroft Bonding Act, stating that our explanation was incorrect and misleading. Mr. Nielson quotes the law wherein it is "Provided, the right to take up and cancel such bond or bonds, upon the payment of the face value thereof at or after one year, with accrued interest to the date of payment, shall be and is hereby vested in the city issuing each bond or bonds." Said law, he says, also provides that the city may issue its bonds in convenient denominations not exceeding $500 each.

The theory of the law is alright; it reads correctly and to one who has not investigated the real workings of the measure, it is perhaps difficult to understand why there should be any trouble. But the theory does not work out as intended—at least not in Bandon.

In the first place, although the law says the city can make the bonds in small denominations and take them up as they come due, the man who buys the bonds has something to say about it. It is the experience of the local city officials as well as those of other cities in the state that the bond buyers in submitting bids on these improvement bonds stipulate the denominations they wish to buy and they will accept them only if made according to their stipulations. According to Mr. Kausrud they invariably call for denominations of $500; this is also true in the case of local purchasers. Therefore, in order to sell the improvement bonds without probably holding them a long time, and to sell them to the best advantage to the city and the property owners, the wishes of the bond buyers must be taken into consideration.

Secondly, the theory of the bonding act is alright, providing the property owners taking advantage of it, do not default in their payments. It might be explained here that when the property owner bonds he gives what amounts to a mortgage on his property to the city, the city in turn sells improvement bonds and gives what amounts to a mortgage on the property of the entire city. Therefore, when the property owner defaults, the city advertises and sells the property for assessment liens. This has been done several times, but only in a few instances has anyone bought the property for the amount of the assessment. Consequently the city has been forced to bid in most of this property itself. Now if the city could turn these tax liens over to the bond holders and let them get their money out of it the problem would be solved without affecting the city treasury. But the bondholders don't want this property for they have a mortgage on the whole city, therefore they demand that the interest be paid up regularly and the bonds be paid when due regardless of whether property owner defaults in his payments to the city.

The city cannot sell this property, because no one wants to buy it—such has been the experience in the past, therefore the city must hold the property and pay the interest on the bonds as well as create a sinking fund with which to eventually redeem the bonds. Where is this money to come from, unless it is taken from the general fund or some other city funds? Right here is where the hitch comes. The city must play banker for the defaulting owner, and to do so it must draw on its tax revenues for capital.

It might be argued that this property may be redeemed at some time in the future, in which event the city would get all its money back; that is true but then again it may not be. In the meantime where is the money coming from to carry on the transactions, to pay the interest on the bonds and to create the sinking funds?

In connection with the latter it might be said that it will hold true regardless of the size of the denominations of the bonds, for unless the property owners pay their assessments when due, the city cannot pay off the bonds when due no matter if they are in $5 or $500 denominations.

Western World does not wish to convey the impression that it is against bonding property for street improvements, it merely criticizes the way the Bonding act is working out in Bandon. Its results amount to nothing more than subsidizing street improvements, which in itself is forbidden by other legislation, and to carry it out will require additional working capital—meaning more tax money.

ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY

There is much talk of extravagance in conducting the affairs of the city, and at times the idea strikes most of us that we don't need this or that official, or this or that department. We therefore jump at conclusions and with the one idea of economy we want to eliminate that particular office or department at once. However, we do not consider that perhaps one transaction of that particular individual might save the city the total amount of his salary for a year. This point is clearly illustrated in the sale of the water bonds and in the purchase of the supplies for the extension of the system, which is now under way.

At the time the $48,000 bonds were offered for sale, the bottom had dropped out of the bond market on account of the war, and the best the council was offered was 95 cents on the dollar. It was necessary to complete the deal within a certain time and the water company finally agreed to take them for that, but before doing so Mayor Topping, through foresight and good business judgment, secured an agreement with the company that in case he could sell the bonds for more than that amount before the company could sell them, the city was to get the benefit. Mr. Topping then took the matter up personally with all the different bonding houses and he finally got an offer whereby the city received $1250 more than what it had already sold the bonds for to the water company. Thus Mr. Topping directly saved the city that much money in cash.

Several weeks ago Geo. Tranna, superintendent of the water department of Medford, was in Bandon and while here inspected the supplies purchased for the new extension, and learned the prices for which they were bought. He made the startling statement that by the fact that Engineer J. S. Sawyer and Mayor Topping understood the way of placing bidders in competition, the City of Bandon bought this material for just $4700 less than like material cost the City of Medford a short time previous. Thus having competent officials, the city saved more than the cost of the entire engineering department for several years.

In presenting these instances Western World does so to give due credit where credit belongs and to show that cutting off a salary is not always economy in the long run, for a competent official will sometimes save the amount of his salary in one transaction.

A COUNTRY GIRL'S CREED

(By Jessie Field, "The Corn Lady"; being a re-print of an article appearing in Portland Live Stock Reporter.)

I am glad I live in the country. I love its beauty and its spirit. I rejoice in the things I can do as a country girl for my home and my neighborhood.

I believe I can share in the beauty around me in the fragrance of the orchards in spring, in the bending wheat at harvest time, in the morning song of birds, and in the glow of the sunset on the far horizon. I want to express this beauty in my own life as naturally and happily as the wild rose blooms by the roadside.

I believe I can have a part in the courageous spirit of the country. This spirit has entered into the brook in our pasture. The stones placed in its way call forth its strength and add to its strength a song. It dwells in the tender plants as they burst the seed-cases that imprison them and push through the dark earth to the light. It sounds in the nesting notes of the song birds. With this courageous spirit I, too, can face the hard things of life with gladness.

I believe there is much I can do in my country home. Through studying the best way to do my everyday work I can find joy in common tasks done well. Through loving comradeship I can help bring into my home the happiness and peace that are always so near us in God's out-of-door world. Through such a home I can help make real life to all who pass that way their highest ideal of country life.

I believe my love and loyalty for my country home should reach out in service to that larger home that we call our neighborhood. I would join with the people who live there in true friendliness. I would wholeheartily give my best to further all that is being done for a better community. I would have all that I think and say and do help to unite country people near and far in the great Kingdom of Love for Neighbors which the Master came to establish—the Master who knew and cared for country ways and country folks.

THE VALUE OF A MINUTE

To what sort of profitable use do you put your leisure time? You have only a few moments each day to devote to self-improvement, but if you have the power to concentrate on any certain subject in which you hope to become proficient you will be astonished at the amount of knowledge you will gain from systematic study, well concentrated.

Because you have not been trained along this line, do not despair. It is as possible for you as for any other one if you "want to hard enough." It is not the amount of time we have to devote to study that counts, but how well we can shut out every other thought during the study period.

Be not like myriads of people who slide along with the least effort; for then you will find concentration the hardest thing in the world, and you can never get head and shoulder above the crowd. Get a broad view of what you want to be in life. Then find out what you need to get results. Divide your leisure moments and then "dig in." Don't let the grass grow under your good intentions. Cultivate the habit of concentration and make your leisure time profitable.

A THOUSAND DOLLARS

Young man, when you start next time to "paint the town red" and have a regular blow-out, suppose you wake up to how long it took you to earn that money. A very mild affair might cost you $10. But how silly to spend in one hour what it has taken you several days to work for, perhaps a whole week.

Often you have wished for a thousand dollars. The real value of that sum is what it will earn for you in interest.

Six per cent is about all you can hope for in straight investments. Sixty dollars a year, then, would be the interest on $1,000. You can remember double this sum that you have spent foolishly this year, and then do you realize that this is the earning power of $2,000?

Every time you spend a nickel you have thrown away a year's earnings on a dollar at five per cent. Start the saving game. It is an exciting fight and worth more than you put in.

A DAY IN JUNE

(By Walt Mason)

"O, what is so smooth as a day in June? Then, if ever, are flossy days!" So the poet sang with his lyre in tune and the subject deserved his praise. For a day in June is the slickest thing that ever the gods designed, and the man who doesn't then smile and sing has barnacles on his mind. Then the coltkins play and the calfkins romp, and gamboling are the lambs, and the bullfrogs toot in the lonely swamp, all happy as pickled clams. Then the grass is green and the skies are blue, as blue as the laws allow, and the blossoms gleam in the morning dew like gems on a damsel's brow. Man's bosom throbs with abounding life, he ceases to fear and fret, and he remarks to his smiling wife, "This world is the one best bet." It is the time of the blushing bride, the time of the graduate; and, Man, he tosses his grouch aside, and sees that his smile's on straight.

THE WAGES OF CAPITAL MUST ALSO BE PAID

It may be an unpopular saying, but nevertheless a true one, that the wages of capital must be paid quite as regularly and quite as fully as those of labor, if capital is to continue to perform its functions in the community. Those who have and invest capital will not continue to do so if their savings and investments are so affected as to yield them no returns. The great mass of the public appreciates the problem and sympathizes with the difficulties of those enterprises in which they are themselves interested much more strongly than in those which are to them only an abstraction.—Pacific Coast Manufacturers' Journal.

CLOSE OF (A JUNE) DAY

The day is dying.
Behind the western hills the sun
is sinking low.
The earth is sighing
And bids farewell to light and life
and golden glow.
The stars are peeping
Out from behind the quiet skies of
deepest blue.
The birds are sleeping,
And you and I clasp hands and
vows of love renew.

—Oswald C. Ludwig.

Odd Incidents In American History

WHEN LINCOLN WAS CHALLENGED TO A DUEL

The code duello was resorted to very generally during the early part of the past century, and very frequently for what appears to have been merely a trivial offense. The state of Illinois was no exception, and many duels were fought in that state.

Abraham Lincoln, who later became President, was one of the victims in an absurd duel which resulted in little more than bluff. The origin of his difficulty was politics. In an article published in the Sagamore Journal of September 2, 1842, Lincoln made a bitter attack on some actions of the state officials relative to the collection of taxes. The article was decidedly rough in language, and written in a jesting style apt to cut deep. Special reference was made to State Auditor Shields, who was held up to ridicule personally as well as officially. Shields, being of Irish blood, was very much aroused. Seeking the editor of the paper, he demanded the name of the anonymous writer o fthe objective article and it was given him. Shields sent Lincoln a note bristling with the desire to fight. Finally Shields dispatched a formal challenge, naming General Whiteside as his personal friend, to which Lincoln immediately replied, with Dr. Merriman as his representative. The two seconds met and secretly agreed upon some terms by which the hostile meeting should be avoided. Lincoln was called away on business and he left a memorandum in which he explained his connection with the article in the Journal. If this was not satisfactory, and a meeting could not be avoided, the arrangements of the fight were to be:

First—weapons: Cavalry broadswords of the largest size.

Second—position: A plank ten feet long and 12 inches broad, as a line between the contestants, neither to pass his foot over on forfeit of his life. Next a line drawn on the ground on either side and parallel with it, each at the distance of the whole length of the sword and three feet additional from the plank, each to fight in this limit on his own side of the board.

Third—time: On Thursday evening at 5 o'clock if possible, but in no case to be at a greater distance than Friday afternoon.

Fourth—place: Within three miles of Alton.

With later knowledge of Lincoln, one is tempted to perceive a joke cropping out in the position thus gravely described for the combatants, as it looks as though both were thus placed safely out of harms way, where they could beat the air with their trenchant blades forever and do no damage. But it might be well to remember in this connection the unusual length of Lincoln's arm, and feel some sympathy for his opponent.

However, Shields was determined to fight and all parties concerned left for the supposed field of carnage. But peace was already hovering in the air; and friends of both succeeded in harmonizing all difficulties and the ridiculous affair was ended without the exchanging of a blow.

Lincoln then made the explanation he had been ready to make from the beginning; avowing the one letter he had written, and saying that it had been printed solely for political effect, and without intention of injuring Shields.

Lincoln's quarrel with Shields was his last personal encounter. In later years it became his duty to give an official reprimand to a young officer who had been court-martialed for a quarrel with one of his associates. The reprimand was probably the most gentle on record:

"Quarrel not at all. No man resolved to make the most of himself can spare time for personal contention. Still less can he afford to take the consequences including the vitiating of his temper and the loss of self-control. Better give your path to a dog than be bitten by him in contesting for the right. Even killing the dog would not cure the bite."

There's a kick you want to make?
Don't.
There's a head you want to break?
Don't.
Do you feel you want to whine
Like a genuine canine,
And send blue streaks down the line?
Well, don't.
—Armstrong.

The most dangerous thing in the world is fear. Fear is produced more ways than has any other one cause; fear is also the root of most failures, scandals, suicides and premature deaths. Therefore, it is wise to look into all things and "hold fast to that which is good."—McIvor Tyndall.

A shrewd man is waiting at the door when he expects opportunity to knock.

MONEY FOR ROADS

O. & C. Land Sales will Give Coos County $565,142.50.

Coos county will receive a total of $565,142.50 as her share of the sale of the Oregon and California grant lands, according to figures computed on the entire holdings in this state. Curry county will receive about $31,603.00. The expenditure of the money will be left to the county courts by act of Congress and the county courts will have the power to say whether the funds or the income from them shall be spent for port construction maintenance or roads, or whether the fund shall be invested and the interest derived therefrom used as a continuing appropriation for the benefit of port and road construction or maintenance. $11,000,000 will be put into the coffers of 17 western counties, it is claimed by the act, of which the largest share goes to Douglas, namely $3,271,333 for her 616,843 acres of grant land still unsold. In this county grant land still unsold is placed at 106,563 acres.

Lodge Directory

BANDON LODGE No. 130 A. F. & A. M.

Stated communication Saturday after the full moon of each month. Sojourn Master Masons cordially invited.

W. A. Le GORE, W. M.
C. E. BOWMAN, Secretary.

L. O. O. M.

Loyal Order of Moose meets Every Thursday Evening in Moose Home. Transient Moose cordially invited. Something doing every Thursday.

W. A. Le GORE, Dictator.
H. E. HORNUNG, Sec'y.

W. O. W.

Seaside Camp No. 212, W. O. W. Meets first and Third Tuesdays in each month at 8 P. M.; Knights of Pythias hall. Visitors are assured a hearty welcome.

J. N. HOSKING, C. C.
F. H. COLGROVE, Clerk.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS

Delphi Lodge No. 64, Knights of Pythias. Meets every Monday evening at Knights hall. Visiting Knight's invited to attend.

S. Ralph Dippel, C. C.,
B. N. HARRINGTON, K. of R. S.

The Sanito Grocery makes a and fruits of all kinds. You can always feel assured that you can get anything on the market in that line, specialty of handling fresh vegetables as they handle a large stock. It