THE GREAT CENTRAL R. R.
A Project Which Means Much to Coos Bay.

In writing of Coos Bay, its prosperity, and its prospects, it is only the sim-
ple truth to say that the greatest single factor in the present ad-
vance movement, all along the line, has been and is the great Central Railroad pro-
cut. That Coos Bay was prosperous before the Central was thought of is true. Coos Bay was always a good place. It was always prosperous. The old settlers here think they have seen hard times at different periods, but that is an erroneous impression arising from the desire to compare. There have been years that were hard—compared with other Coos Bay years—but of these times as the expression is usually understood in other places, this section has never had a taste. The county is rich in resources, and the people here, in their hardiest strait, have been better off than the inhabitants of many other sections in their not prosperous times.

Business was good here a year ago; the the organization of this company came
where the Wall street financial jour-
nal gave it attention; the enlarged Ex-
change was opened and sent east to
the country in the first place. The

The effect of this newspaper talk was
that that tens of thousands of people,
throughout the United States who had
heard of Coos Bay before, were interested in its existence, and that it was
one of the best heard of on the Pacific
cost, and the west beyond San Francis-
cisco. The world now was the out-
let to a section rich in natural resources,
and that it was about to become the
terminus of a transcontinental railroad.
The result of all this advertising was
that it was at once apparent. In the office of this newspaper it was noticed that letters of
inquiry were coming in. Coos Bay
with all its splendid possibilities was
going along in the same old rut.

The Great Central Railroad Company was organized for the purpose of build-
ing a railroad from Coos Bay to Salt
Lake and to make at this harbor, so pre-
eminently well fitted for it, the terminus
extremely disagreeable, the title of travel
has slackened but there is not the en-
thusiasm but the opening of Spring will
see a string of vehicles and travel flowing in here that will simply swamp all
inhabitants, for feeding and lodging
rooms, hotel accommodations are
even greatly increased.

Work on the Ranger townsite was pro-
gressed for many weeks after the same
season set in, and when grading opera-
tions were conducted at a great dispar-
tage. Finally it was demonstrated that
grading a townsite in the Winter was an
immensely slow and expensive operation,
and it was finally decided to shut
the work until the opening of Spring, when the expenditure of the
same money and effort would accom-
plish much more.

The view of the head of this article
describes a part of the Ranger townsite
which much work was done. The view
is taken from the Marshall-Empire
wagon road and shows the main street
to do it. He has a market energy,
courage which never quails before diffi-
culties, the gift of language to place his
project to an attractive light before men of
capital, and reputation for integrity which
causes him to demand the
observance of my duties. Like others of
his stamp, he has been up and down.
He has been fortunate and lost them.
The last few years he had spent in Alaska
were by no means always pleasant
among the other white men, and once in a
while in the course of business, he
enjoyed the freedom of a
view on Bangor Town Site.

of a transcontinental line. Following
people were prosperous, and Marsh
field, at least, was growing. The lumber
market was good, coal was in demand, the
building was lively and dashing was
profitable.

All this is true. Yet the prosperous
year ago was only for the steady but
slow growth which has left Coos Bay a
quarter of a century behind her oppor-
tunities. Few settlers were coming
now. No outside capital was seeking
investment here. Railroad transac-
tions were few and far between. No one
from the outside was looking for a nom-
inal location here. No new manufactur-
ing enterprises were talked of. No
letters of inquiry were coming in. Coos
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