

Looking Forward

THE CITIZEN of a community, state and nation whose chief concern in life is the accumulation of material wealth, who watches every turn of the road and every opportunity to gain an undue advantage and to wrest from his fellowmen and the community of which he is a part that which he may hold by stretching the legal statute, but could not claim according to the moral code, may force the community to recognize him for the influence that is his, but he is by no manner or means a good constructive citizen.

Such citizens are usually the leaders in the community improvement opposition, pleading the cause of the overburdened taxpayer, taking good care that their own surplus holdings in the community remain sufficiently dilapidated to hold their assessed valuation at the lowest possible figure.

Portland's waterfront presents a case in point. When the city of three hundred thousand people was as little dreamt of as the present city dweller can fashion Portland a few years hence, a city of a million people, waterfront property along the Willamette had but little value and was acquired for little or no consideration by anyone wanting space for any kind of waterfront commercial purposes.

With the city's growth and development Portland's waterfront holdings have increased in value until every foot of ground represents fabulous figures in point of value to the city and no less in dollars and cents to those whose miserable shacks and dilapidated docks continue to adorn the very breast of the city, an eye sore to the citizen who is looking forward anxious to make amends for past mistakes and to prepare for the future as well as to all those who enter the city through the harbor.

The Laurgaard waterfront plan is a step in the right direction. The only real opposition is voiced by "the interests" holding waterfront property on the east side of Front street.



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Officers

H. J. Langoe, President

B. G. Skulason, Sec-Treasurer

Board of Directors

G. B. Hegardt

B. G. Skulason

H. J. Langoe

Phone Broadway 6600

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