

ST. JOHNS REVIEW

Devoted to the Interests of the Peninsula, the Manufacturing Centre of the Northwest.

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NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS.

Various Topics of Interest and Comment.

The great need of a bank is felt in St. Johns. The volume of business transacted here daily will amply pay such an institution, and the accommodation it would be to the business public would be immeasurable. A reliable institution would receive the support of the community.

Great inconvenience is experienced by the wage-earners who receive their wages in checks, and to get these checks cashed drained the business houses of change last Saturday. Until a bank is located here, some wide-awake business man might find it profitable to provide funds to cash wage checks on pay-days.

Some people, from a lack of information as to the true condition of things here, refer to the growth of St. Johns as a "boom." There is no "boom" on, the growth is natural, even gradual and not abnormal in any degree. A moment's thought, and a casual glance at the water front, lined as it is with mills, and factories, will convince the most skeptical that no "boom" is on. Building is not in advance of the demands.

It is a common expression of visitors, who have not been in St. Johns for some time, "How the town has grown!" Of course it has grown, is growing and will continue to grow and thrive. It is acknowledged by every conservative observing man that the peninsula is today one of the most important points on the west coast. Men of capital, both local and distant, recognize this fact, and as an earnest of their faith are investing money here, building factories, and securing eligible sites before a "boom" has a chance to strike us.

The new school house question is becoming a live issue in St. Johns. The present building, embracing eight rooms and basement, is entirely inadequate to meet the needs of the city school population. That something ought to be done to provide accommodation for the rapidly increasing demands, is certain. Another certainty is, speedy and prompt action should be taken and personal opinions and views of the matter should not be permitted to enter into the question to the detriment of doing something. The central and main idea should be to devise some scheme whereby the greatest good to the greatest number will be accomplished.

The refusal of the voters of the school district to endorse the proposition to issue bonds to the extent of \$10,000, for the purpose of enlarging the present school house, should not be construed as meaning that the tax payers are not in favor of providing more extended school room facilities. The negative vote did not mean that. Every elector and taxpayer realizes the necessity of the case, but differ as to the expediency of further expenditure at this time for making additions to the present building. It is generally thought that an additional school house is necessary, and the drift of public sentiment seems to be in favor of a new building, the location to be such as will accommodate the public to the greatest extent. The matter of location, if a building is to be erected, at a sufficiently great distance from the present building so as to be of the greatest advantage to all interested. The solution of this proposition should be dealt with by a mass meeting of the people of the district and let the majority rule.

The festive cow still promenades the streets without dread of the pound-master. Some of them are decorated with bells, the jingle of which is not the sweetest kind of music to many of our citizens.

D. S. Smithmeyer, the painter and grainer, is the oldest resident business man in St. Johns. He has resided in this locality for 35 years, and has always predicted a big future for the home of his choice. He has seen

St. Johns in all its various stages of incubation and growth, and insists that the present rapid development is only a forerunner of a great and powerful center of industry yet in store for St. Johns.

A very important feature in laying out town lots has been lost sight of in most instances in St. Johns, and that is to provide alley way through the blocks. The omission of this feature is one of the curses of Portland. Our real estate men should have looked after this and made the necessary provisions. It is well known how the public is inconvenienced in Portland by making the sidewalks loading and unloading places for all kinds of merchandise. For hours at a stretch many of the Portland streets are completely blocked. It is not too late to remedy this matter yet, if the matter was taken in hand by property owners. Both Seattle and Tacoma present striking examples of the value of alleyways. Every block in these sound cities have alleys, and the result is the streets are never blocked with merchandise so as to interfere with foot passengers. The alley question is as important one, well worth serious consideration at this stage of our growth. Alleyways in every block would be a valuable heritage to leave for posterity.

An enterprise that the Commercial Association might profitably interest itself in, is a ferry across the Willamette river. Quite a lot of trade from the other side of the river might be diverted to this point if a ferry line was put in operation. The expense would not be very heavy, and the enterprise would be a profitable one. If the project should be carried out, the franchise should be safeguarded as to rates of toll, so that extortionate charges for service would not be permitted.

Hold-ups, burglaries and petty thieving seem to continue without hindrance in Portland. House robbers and footpads know an easy mark when they see it—and our neighbor seems to be "it."

Next Thursday, November 24, has been designated as thanksgiving day, both by state and federal authorities. It's a sure thing that every peninsula family, almost without exception, can afford the time honored fowl on the dinner table that day. This fact of itself, is a big volume on the prosperity of our citizens.

"What is there in it?" Too often is this question asked when persons are asked to interest themselves in encouraging new enterprises. We do not mean that all do it for St. Johns contains many public spirited citizens who spare no time or trouble to give encouragement to any worthy enterprise. The "What Is There In It" are greatly in the minority, but there are some wide-awake (?) citizens of this kind in all communities, and they are always with us.

While the school question is a live issue, it would be in order for the people to know something about the condition and status of the fund bequeathed to St. Johns by the lamented James Johns, who died about sixteen years ago. About all that seems to be known about this gift is, the will was contested, the courts decided in favor of the beneficiary, but of the main question, the people have little information. An investigation and a public statement of the results of such investigation would be of paramount interest to the people at this time.

The electric railway people intend removing the rather unsightly car barns which occupy the most prominent location in the city. The company has sold the block to private parties. It would be an excellent idea for the city of St. Johns to secure this property for a public park. It could be converted into one of the most beautiful spots on the coast. A corner of it might be used for city hall purposes. With the natural trees thereon protected, nice walks built, flowers and shrubbery added, and perhaps a spraying fountain, would make

a lovely place. The ladies of the civic improvement league could have a perpetual monument to their activity and devotion to St. Johns' interests, if they would make an effort to secure this ground for this purpose. The ladies can do it if they will. All that is required is persistent effort, and such effort would receive a hearty second and substantial support. The scheme is not too big, and you can do it, sure.

PERSONAL MENTION.

E. Y. Young, Mrs. Ernest Elliott's father, from Lafayette, Ind., is here to locate.

Miss Georgie Hughes, of Multnomah, was visiting Mrs. Ed Stockton Wednesday.

Isaac Johnson, of Clackamas, has been visiting his uncle Councilman Beebe, here this week.

O. B. Rippey, Clackamas, Ore., was in town the first of the week looking for a business location.

G. H. Carlson returned Wednesday from a trip up the river in quest of logs and timber for the veneer factory.

Miss Lena Parker, who has won several gold medals as an elocutionist is thinking of starting a class in St. Johns.

Mrs. A. J. Gunderson returned home Tuesday, after a pleasant visit with her father P. Enge, at Puget Island, Wash.

H. I. Knox and Robt. Boy of the Prudential Insurance Co., were looking over the ground in St. Johns with a view to locating here.

Mrs. Swenson, of Puget Island, has taken a room with Mrs. Lillie Seal. She will remain for the winter and take medical treatment.

Mrs. Chase, of Vancouver, Ore., who has been spending a few days with her son and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Chase, Edison street, has returned to her home.

Mrs. M. Deagne, and Miss Maud Sykes, who have been visiting Mr. Sykes and family here, have returned to their home in Woodburn, Ore.

Mrs. A. V. Learned returned last week from ten weeks' visit in the east. She spent some time at the St. Louis fair, and then visited her old home in the state of Maine.

Geo. A. Dyson, of Eugene, Ore., is in the city for a few days. Mr. Dyson has invested in some real estate here. He was one of the original locators of the famous Lucky Boy gold mine in the Bohemia district, one of the best paying gold producers in Oregon.

Wm. Walker, auditor of the Regulator line of steamers, and Mrs. Walker, whose pretty home is at Stewart's station, have gone to Portland for the winter. Their many friends will miss them. Mrs. Walker was a useful helper in social and civic improvement work in St. Johns.

Orin D. Maltby and wife, of Los Angeles, Cal., arrived in the city this week, and so favorably impressed were they that they purchased a nice home in St. Johns Park, and are already located. Mr. Maltby is a contractor and builder, and will go into business at once.

Boring for Oil.

Prospect work has again been commenced on S. L. Ogden's place, adjoining St. Johns on the north side. A new man who thoroughly understands drilling, is in charge. The prospects get better as depth is attained, and from present indications, the promoters of the enterprise are confident a pay vein will be struck soon. This feature of natural resources deserves more attention than it has heretofore received. Mr. Ogden, assisted by a few enterprising gentlemen, has devoted a great deal of time, and expended considerable money in development work. Experts in the oil production line, have examined the location and surroundings, and give it as their opinion that oil exists in paying quantities, if the vein can be found. Surface indications in that vicinity have been observed for a long time, but Mr. Ogden is the only man who has had the nerve and enterprise to prospect with any degree of systematic work.

Serious Accident.

While engaged in hoisting and putting in place a part of the flour packing machinery in Jobs' new flouring mill, Walter Jobs met with a most serious accident, the result of which is yet in doubt. One portion of the machinery had been raised and placed in position, and the second piece was being raised by means of a rope. To put it in its proper position it had to be raised clear of all obstructions. The part was hoisted and for some reason swung around, colliding with the first piece, knocking it down, and in falling struck the young man knocking him down and he fell with the piece on top of him. The result was that his right leg between ankle and knee was crushed, three ribs and his collar bone broken. And, it is feared, he sustained internal injuries which may cause serious complications. The unfortunate was placed on a stretcher and taken to his home where surgical aid was summoned, and everything possible done to relieve his suffering. If nothing more serious happens, it will be some weeks before he will be able to get around.

W. E. Ernest, the foreman of the machinery department was caught between the falling part and a work bench, and his back severely bruised, but it is hoped no serious results will follow.

The First Brick Building.

It may appear somewhat strange, yet a fact, that the first business block to be built of brick, in the new St. Johns, is now in course of erection. The block in question is 25x50 feet, two stories, and is being built by L. B. French, a couple of blocks south of the school house. L. A. Crane is the architect and Messrs. Kelly & Plummer the contractors. The erection of this building is an epoch in the history of St. Johns.

No, We Don't.

The Review has been frequently asked whether or no the price of real estate is not too high, and whether or not the advance of prices and values has not been abnormal. The invariable reply has been: "No, we don't think prices are too high." Our reason for the reason is based on observations made elsewhere, in other growing towns. In the first place, few localities are favored with the same advantages, both as to location and adaptability for becoming so important in the commercial and manufacturing world; then again, where these requisites are found, the environments are such that the room is limited, so that comparison is hard to make. Values on the peninsula are on extremely reasonable basis. No suburb of Portland compares, even to a limited degree, in point of present and future commercial possibilities with St. Johns, yet real estate is held at higher prices than here. True, there are some very desirable residence districts around Portland, but none of them are more desirable for homes than the great peninsula, which has in addition a commercial, railway and maritime importance not to be found elsewhere. A little investigation along this line will soon give emphasis to our reply.

A Novel Entertainment.

The ladies aid society of the M. E. church, are arranging for a novel entertainment, to be held in Biekner's hall, the evening of December 9. It is to be called a season social. Four booths will be arranged, spring, summer, fall and winter. In each of these booths edibles and delicacies common to the season which the booth represents, will be sold, thus, strawberries and accompaniments in the spring, ice cream and cake in summer, pumpkin pie and turkey in the fall, oysters and fixins' in the winter. Each person will be supposed to patronize the booth representing the season in which they were born and will have to pay an amount equal in number of cents to the date of the month on which they were born. The idea is a novel one, and originated with Miss May Shepard, who is very enthusiastic in promoting the affair.

AN ENTHUSIASTIC MEETING.

The Commercial Club Holds An Important Session.

Though only a fortnight has passed since the initial meeting of the St. Johns Commercial Association, already good results are becoming apparent. The regular session was held Wednesday evening, attended by fifty representative citizens, and the enthusiasm displayed prives the commercial interests of the city are alive to the fact that much good can be accomplished by united action.

A number of new names were added to the roll, and after some routine business was transacted, the question of increased school accommodations was brought up, and discussed from various points of view. The principal of the school was present and upon request gave some very interesting pointers in regard to the present necessities. The total number of pupils enrolled is close to 250, and the attendance is increasing at the average rate of one pupil per day. He claimed that two additional rooms, with two teachers, were necessary to meet the demands. A committee, Messrs. F. A. Smith, T. J. Monahan and Chipman, was appointed to prepare and present a petition to the school board to call a meeting of the rate-payers of the district to vote on the proposition to either build or lease premises to meet the immediate demands for more room.

The proposition to vacate the lower end of Richmond street for the use of the Portland Steel Ship Building Co., brought out the fact that the meeting was unanimously in favor of recommending that the city council devise some legal way to grant the company the free use of the street for a term of five years, and a resolution containing such a recommendation was passed.

The question of the Jersey improvement was threshed out, and the fact developed that if the property owners along the street were permitted to make their own improvements, according to the plans and specifications of the supervising engineer, all objections would be withdrawn and the improvement carried out at earliest time possible. A resolution recommending that the council adopt this plan was carried through with enthusiasm.

An executive committee composed of Messrs. Shepard, Smith and Stockton, was appointed, and a most interesting and valuable session closed.

That the association is a success, and a magnificent success, is a question. In "union there is strength" was never more forcibly illustrated than in the illustration by the St. Johns commercial association. The perfect harmony, absence of bickering or bodes good. Every citizen is to join and assist in the good work which has been so judiciously started.

An Interesting Session.

The Royal Neighbors of America held an enjoyable special session of their camp in Biekner's hall, Monday evening. Eleven new members were adopted. The degree team of Marguerite camp, of Portland, was present and put on the work, which, it is said, was done in excellent style. The ladies of the local camp served refreshments, after the camp adjourned, and entertained the visiting sisters in a most enjoyable manner. The organization here is in a flourishing condition, and is rapidly increasing in membership.

County Road Work.

G. W. Simmons, superintendent of road division No. 5, has done some excellent work this summer. A considerable amount of grading and graveling has been done, especially on Willamette boulevard. It is the intention that the boulevard improvement will be continued northward to a junction with Columbia boulevard, which will make one of the finest roads and finest driveways in the county. Mr. Simmons understands his work, and the good results of his work, is evidence of the fact.