

ST. JOHNS REVIEW

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

VOL. I.

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NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Various Topics of Local and General Interest Briefly and Tersely Treated.

Timely Matters Dealt With and Interspersed with Timely Suggestions on Local Affairs.

The resources of the northwest are attracting the attention of the capitalists throughout the land, and every day some new development is taking place. A writer has said: "It does not require a prophet nor the son of a prophet to discover that the Pacific Northwest is destined at no distant day to be the arena for gigantic operations in industrial expansion that will put our greatest enthusiasts out of commission and will cause our splendid achievements of the past to pale into insignificance. This is not the roscate dream of a professional boomer, but the echo of opinions expressed by the wealth-builders of the world."

It has been some three years since the O. R. & N. railway first laid its tracks along the water front. Since that time St. Johns has increased in population from 250 to over 2000 people, and the question is would it not be reasonable that the company should build a freight and passenger depot, and give St. Johns the benefit of local freight and passenger service. As it is at present and has been, unless freight was consigned in earload lots it cannot be handled by the O. R. & N. It may be urged that the traffic will not justify such a course. This may to some extent be true, but let another railroad with trancontinental connections enter St. Johns, or even show certain indications of coming here, it would not be long before the O. R. & N. would find reason enough to justify it in giving such service as the conditions now demand. It is truly wonderful what an impetus to trade opposition gives, and it is true of transportation companies as well as in the lesser lines of trade. The conditions, the growth, the development and the time, all warrant the O. R. & N. in considering this matter.

The suggestion in the first issue of The Review, as to the desirability of a building and loan association, has met with favor among many citizens, and it only requires that some live man should take hold of the matter to make it a success. There is no question about the usefulness of such an association, especially among the wage earners. It would enable many men to build and pay for homes who do not care to go into debt on the usual trade plans. Small weekly installments would suit them better. It is hoped that some of our "live ones" will take hold of the matter.

It's all a mistake. What has always been taken as a notorious gambling house, the Portland club turns out to be a wholesome resort of the Y. M. C. A. order, if the testimony taken in court last week is to be believed. If the keepers of such places can make juries believe their tales of woe, and they seem to be able to do so, it works a handicap on a conscientious officer who endeavors to do his duty in enforcing the laws. Portland, since public gambling has been closed, which is coincident with the time courageous Tom Word assumed the duties of the sheriff's office, has been just as prosperous, and more so in many instances, as it ever was. The howl and cry that it requires gambling (which means it requires the laws to be defied and broken) to make business good and the city commercially lively, is the veriest rot and humbug. It is false, and the reasonably decent people who give vent to such rot stultify themselves and blacken the good name of the favored metropolis of Oregon. The gambler is a leech, who lives by sucking the life-blood of women and children who depend upon the husband and father for the necessities of life. If Multnomah county and Portland had more of its offices filled by Tom

Words, a more wholesome condition of affairs would prevail, and the county ridged of many of its parasites. The decent people of the county uphold the sheriff, because he knows his duty and dares perform it.

A number of people interested in St. Johns have prepared a booklet, giving valuable statistical and descriptive facts concerning St. Johns and the peninsula. The pages will be finely illustrated and altogether is valuable and reliable as setting forth the resources and information of this district as a desirable place for investors. The copy is in the printers hands, and will be out and ready for distribution in a few days.

It has never been quite clear to us what benefits are to be derived from party strife in selecting municipal officers. Oregon City is now in the throes of a red hot municipal campaign, in which the republicans and democrats are in battle array as though some great national issue was dependent upon the result. We don't think any good can come to the municipality which indulges such methods. The business, commercial and moral interests of Oregon City are certainly not decided on political lines, and how the affairs of that city, or any other city, for that matter, can be administered to the best advantage of the people as a whole, by either political party, is a conundrum. It seems to us that politics about reach their limit in state affairs, and for a blessing, party prejudice is being ignored to a considerable extent even there, but to bring the abominable "critter" into minor city governments, is carrying the joke too far, entirely.

If the money spent in carrying on partisan political fights in some of the smaller cities of Oregon was turned into a common fund to help along some needed local improvements, it would be of some purpose. You know it requires the "sack" to run both sides of political fights, and the contents of the aforesaid "sack" are generally distributed where it does the most good for the wardheeler, and the least good for the community at large. In fact, it not infrequently happens that the real sentiment of the community is often thwarted by the biggest "sack." No, party politics in municipal affairs is "a demmed barren idealty."

Manual training in the public schools has just gone into effect in Portland. Those who have struggled so valiantly for this long cherished end will soon have the occasion to feel thankful that they persisted till their efforts were crowned with success. Now our \$250,000 school of technology at St. Johns, would be one of the blessings of the age for the youth of the land, and an imperishable monument to their benefactor. Laugh not, but aid all you can in having this materialize. May Portland's experiment prove all that its noble and ardent advocates have hoped for.

"Perjured Peter" is the pet name applied by a prosecuting attorney to a witness who testified in a gambling case before a court in Portland the other day.

It is a very encouraging fact, that the class of buildings already erected, and in course of erection, throughout the peninsula, are in most instances of a most substantial character, and creditable to even older communities. This is a feature upon which the district is to be congratulated. It demonstrates that home-builders realize and have faith in the future greatness of the peninsula. They have come to

stay, and participate in the benefits which are sure to accrue as a result of the establishment of great industrial enterprises, and at the same time comfortable homes in one of the most healthy and agreeable places on the Pacific coast to live.

A correspondent wants to know if St. Johns has good schools, churches and opportunities for the exercise of the social privileges which go to make a home here desirable for families. Of course, it has. No more cultivated and high-minded social, educational and religious condition exists anywhere. Another feature, which may appear somewhat remarkable for a factory town, there is not a single saloon on the entire peninsula, and the peace officers have little or nothing to do. Think of a city of over 2000 people, and not an arrest for drunkenness or disorderly conduct in three months. This is a record which ought to satisfy the most exacting moralist.

Not satisfied with the Chinese, gambling and saloon "graft" which is cut off temporarily, Portland is now developing a "sewer graft," somewhere and somehow, and we don't know but what a sewer is just as acceptable to the Portland "grafter" as anything else.

St. Johns is indeed fortunate in having so few "knockers" in its midst. There are a few, however. But we suppose this specimen of the genus homo is a necessary evil in all communities. There is one good thing about this type of characters, they are easily discovered and soon found out. They are ear marked so that the stranger does not have to be told who he is, or have him pointed out. He bobs to the surface like a cork, and "butts in" at every opportunity and thoroughly exhausts the batch of pronouns in a jiffy. No, thanks to whom we know not, St. Johns has only a few, but this few could easily be spared, and their places would soon be filled with men who would benefit the community.

There is another class, not numerous either, who exists here, known as the "smart alecks." They bear a close resemblance to the "knocker." In fact, many people versed in such matters, say they are both "chips from the same block." But whether this is true or not, The Review man don't know, but does confess they bear a striking resemblance. They are both parasites, and known by nearly the same spots. St. Johns can well spare both of them. But after all, they don't do much harm. They are like water, soon find their level, and float off into sea oblivion.

As a rule, however, the business and industrial community of St. Johns is composed of men of sterling qualities, honored and respected at home, and a credit to the district when they go abroad. They stand well in the commercial world outside, and were lost to their former communities with feelings of regret.

Our old-time friend, E. H. Flagg, of the St. Helens Mist, is getting a move on himself with the view of getting up a splendid display of Columbia county products at the Lewis and Clark fair. As usual, his demands, as commissioner for his county, is modest. He asks for a ton or two each of apples, "spuds," corn, wheat, pumpkins, etc. Hope you'll get them, Bre'er Flagg, the coming winter promises to be a stunner.

A gentleman, well known here, and a staunch friend and believer in St. Johns, called Tuesday and handed us a check for five subscriptions to The Review, with the request that the papers be sent where the editor thought they would do the most good. This act was unsolicited, therefore the more appreciated, far above the mere matter of dollars and cents. The fact that this gentleman substantially appreciates that a live local paper is a benefit to the community, goes a long way to spur the publisher on to greater efforts.

N. O. Gee is building a home for John Oliver in St. Johns Park.

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE

About People Who are Going and Coming to and From St. Johns.

Other Local News Matters—A New Bank Building—The W. O. W. Masquerade Ball.

Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Blackburn returned Monday from a visit to friends at Kalama.

Miss Muzetta Hamilton, of Vancouver, returned home Saturday, after a week's visit with her sister, Mrs. L. Flint Chase.

L. C. Slater, of Sherwood, is now a citizen of St. Johns, having removed his shoemaking outfit to this place Tuesday.

Miss Goldie Rowland, who is teaching in St. Johns school, seven miles north of Vancouver, spent Thanksgiving with her parents in this city.

T. W. D. Dunbar and Mr. Jones, both recent arrivals from Greeley, Col., have purchased lots in St. Johns Park addition and will build homes at once.

James McClellan and family have arrived in the city from Buffalo, N. Y. Mr. McClellan will build a good residence on lots purchased at Point View.

Dr. G. E. Watts, a prominent surgeon of Portland, spent Sunday in St. Johns and vicinity and expressed astonishment at the rapid growth of the city.

J. M. Stone, millwright at Jones' new planing mill, has purchased lots at Point View, and will build a fine residence and locate in St. Johns permanently. His former residence was at Oregon City.

Chas. Bredson, returned from Browning, Montana, where he has been engaged in work for the government on the Blackfoot Indian reservation. He is at home on a thirty days' term of absence.

P. M. Shaddock, of Fort James, Cal., was in the city, and left for home a few days ago. While here Mr. Shaddock purchased lots in St. Johns Heights, and will return here in a couple of weeks with his family, and build a home, becoming a permanent resident.

The singer, Rev. T. R. Smith, who was to assist through the special services at the Evangelical church, was taken sick, so it was not possible for him to participate during the past few days, but we hope he may be able to render some assistance later on if his health will permit.

Frank Livermore has a fine camera, and will furnish The Review with views of many of the prominent buildings and factories about the city, which will be reproduced in these columns. Mr. Livermore is one of the old-timers of St. Johns, and is full of enthusiasm over the future prospects of his chosen town.

James Oliver and wife, originally from Ohio, but have spent some time in Idaho and Washington, are recent arrivals in the city and are building a home in St. Johns Park. Mr. and Mrs. Oliver say that of all the places in the west where they have been St. Johns strikes them as the most favored spot, and they will make this their future home.

A. B. Wooley, of Wasco, Ore., is a firm and true friend of St. Johns, and has given evidence of a warm niche in his big heart for The Review. Tuesday's mail brought to this office a letter with five new subscribers, and the cash for to pay for same. We appreciate this act of our friend Wooley, and whenever he comes to St. Johns he will find The Review latch-string on the outside, and a warm welcome awaiting him within.

More School Facilities.
A petition circulated by the committee appointed at the last meeting of the Commercial Association, was numerously signed and presented to the school board of District No. 2, asking the board to purchase, construct or rent suitable rooms, and fin-

ish the same, to temporarily accommodate the large number of school children of this district who are now deprived of the full benefit of school privileges, and to take proper steps to spend a sum not exceeding \$1000, or such less sum as may only be necessary. The school board will meet this evening to take the necessary steps to put in effect the prayer of the petitioners.

The First Cloth.

It is expected the first piece of cloth will be turned out at the woolen mill some time next week. The preparatory stages of fabric making are all in operation, and it will be only a few days before the rattle of the shuttle will be heard, and the fruits of the loom become a reality in St. Johns. The mills, of course, are not attempting to operate anywhere approaching their capacity at present, and the processes now going on are more of a testing character. Flannel cloth and blankets will comprise the first products.

The W. O. W. Masquerade Ball.

The masquerade ball given by the Woodmen of the World, at Bickner's hall, Wednesday evening, was well attended, and certainly a most complete success. About forty couples were enmasque and the characters represented presented both the sublime and the ludicrous. The grand march started about 9 o'clock, at which time the ball was crowded with spectators. Excellent music was furnished by the W. O. W. orchestra. The affair was well-conducted, the committee, W. Coon, chairman, P. Holman and G. B. Mallett, sparing no pains to have the arrangements perfect, and the evenings' entertainment satisfactory to participants and spectators.

ANOTHER BRICK BUILDING.

A Fine Two-Story Structure for Bank Purposes.

St. Johns is rapidly assuming metropolitan importance, and needed additions to the business community follow close on one another. It is definitely given out this week that Cochran Bros. have about closed a deal with eastern capitalists for the sale of the lot cornering on Broadway and Ivanhoe streets. It is the intention of the purchasers to erect a substantial two-story brick building, to be used for banking purposes. Plans are being drawn and the work of building will commence about January first.

The parties interested in this enterprise are men of ample capital and experience, and propose to establish a bank with facilities to accommodate the future as well as the present demands for such an institution. The pressing need of a bank here, based on a sound and safe foundation, is apparent to every business man, and we have no doubt it will receive general support. Some local capital will be represented in the concern, but to what extent is not definitely known at this time.

A longshoreman, who came from Vancouver with the steamer Dispatch last Friday, fell from Jones' dock to the deck of the vessel, a distance of about forty feet. The force of the fall was broken by his striking a deckhand who was standing on the deck. He sustained no serious injury beyond the breaking of three ribs. He was taken to the hospital at Portland.

Ed. L. Stockton sold his home in St. Johns Park addition to W. R. Pettigrow, a recent arrival from Oil City, Pa. Mr. Stockton will build a new home at once in the same locality.