

ST. JOHNS REVIEW
ST. JOHNS OREGONJ. C. CROME, Editor and Publisher
Published Every Friday Evening.Subscription rates, \$1.00 per year in advance.
Advertising rates, \$1.00 per inch per month.
All advertising bills payable first of each month.Job Printing executed in first-class style.
Bills for Job Printing cash on delivery.
All communications should be addressed to
The Review, St. Johns, Oregon.

Official Newspaper of the City of St. Johns.

FRIDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 25, 1904.

THE PARK QUESTION.

For some time back the Women's Civic Improvement League has been considering the utilization of the block on which now stand the street car barns and the council chamber for the purpose of a park. The barns will soon be removed and this block if not so developed will soon be covered with business blocks. The block is probably the most conspicuous for this purpose in town, lying at the end of the car line where all passengers to St. Johns leave the cars. In addition to this the block has growing upon it some very fine trees, which make it especially attractive for park purposes. The development of this block as a park would do more to beautify the town of St. Johns than anything that could be devised and if it can be so utilized it will have a great influence in defining the character of the town. If this block were carefully leveled off, nicely fenced, seeded down and prepared with flower beds, and perhaps later on provided with a fountain, it would have more influence in impressing people in favor of St. Johns than years of advertisement or argument. It would at once raise the place to the dignity of a well matured town. It would go a long way toward making it one of the most beautiful places on the coast. If the citizens fail to take advantage of the possibilities which this block offers they will never cease to regret it and posterity will blame them for failing to act. This block is very valuable property. The Review, however, believes that the citizens of the town should raise money enough to buy the property. It will be necessary to get it on time, but the Commercial Club and Women's Civic Improvement League by joining together should be able to so present the matter to the citizens of the town that their public spirit would be aroused and they would contribute sufficient to make at least the first payment upon the purchase price. Soon it will be necessary for the town to have a site for its own town hall. When the new charter is granted by the state legislature it will have authority to raise money for the purpose of purchasing such a site. No more suitable place could be found than this block for such purpose. It has been suggested that the town hall be placed in the southeast corner of the block, leaving the park and the beautiful trees occupying the ground between the town and the hall and the street railway, with paths running across the park to the entrance of the building. Instead of purchasing other property the council could devote the money it would appropriate for this purpose to paying on the purchase price of this park block and the balance of the money could easily be raised from the taxes without inconvenience to any one. The Review understands that this block has recently been purchased by Mr. M. L. Holbrook. We presume his intentions are to use the block for business purposes. We know, however, that Mr. Holbrook has always had the interests of the town at heart and presume that some arrangement could be made with him by which he would turn the property over to the city if the cost of the property were returned to him. The success of the town does not depend alone upon the number of its manufacturing interests or the size of its population. Its individuality is shown by its appearance. This is as true of a city as it is of a man. The question of this park block is the most important question of its kind that has yet presented itself. To the hard working women of the Civic Improvement Society it means much work but is well worthy everything that may be done, and if the project is seconded by the newly organized Commercial Club there can be no question of success. Every man, woman and child in St. Johns should aid in obtaining this block for the city.

THE PROHIBITION LAW.

At the recent elections twenty-three counties in Oregon voted either in part or as a whole on the prohibition question. The returns show that only five counties in favor of the

proposition, and in these the majorities are very small. In every case the majorities were obtained in two or three precincts in each county, and these precincts in the more rural portions of the county, the large towns giving majorities against prohibition. In all of the counties which voted against it, some of the precincts gave large majorities in favor. This condition has led to the conclusion that the question should be made entirely a precinct issue, and the prohibition workers have about determined to prevail upon the next legislature to amend the law accordingly. It is clear, notwithstanding the state declared in favor of local option in June the voters of Oregon did not want prohibition in October.

VALUE OF A LIVE NEWSPAPER.

Already the seed sown by The Review is bearing fruit. In our first issue it was suggested that a building and loan association would prove a good thing for St. Johns. Monday the editor received a letter from a prominent gentleman and capitalist, stating that he had received the first issue of the paper, and noticed that, among other things, there was an opening for such an institution and wanted fuller particulars, which were promptly furnished, and the probabilities are St. Johns will soon have a first-class bank in connection with which a building and loan association.

Several letters of enquiry have been received at this office from parties who got their first idea of the importance of St. Johns from The Review. A live paper in a live town is a good investment for the business people, and they should see to it that the paper is supported, both by their patronage and influence.

YOU DON'T DO YOU?

We mean you don't go away from home to purchase articles of people who have no interest in your town if you can buy them of your neighbor, the home dealer. If you have the proper amount of appreciation, we know you don't. You do like all reasonable people should do, spend your money where you derive the greatest benefit by its going back in improvements to build up the town where you live, and where your interests lie.

Touching on this subject we find in an exchange the following, which applies to this place, as well as elsewhere:

"With the opening of conveniences of transportation, the competition of the outside merchant is felt in every spot accessible to the mails. But this does not mean a revolution of business. There must always be convenient places for the distribution of goods. It never pays to take a trip on the railroad to buy household goods and clothing, when one figures up all the items. It always requires a good big credit to 'a good time,' to balance the account.

"Good articles of manufacture are the same everywhere, and about the same price. A railroad journey, or a sight-unseen mail-order purchase may only prove that cheap substitutes for standard goods are a poor investment.

"It is the business of the home merchant to select goods that are made on honor, and sell them at a fair profit. Some trade must go away, because the demand for some lines is not extensive enough to warrant the home merchant in trying to supply it. But that amounts to nothing in comparison with the big trade that can be kept at home by carefully selected goods, methods that win the public confidence, and active efforts to accommodate the home buyer. The strong card of the home merchant is that he can be depended upon—that he is a friend serving his friends in the selection of goods that they need, helping them with his experience in judging and buying."

The conduct of the prosecuting attorney of Multnomah County excites considerable surprise, and the citizens of the outlying districts, and even in Portland, view with distrust this official's actions in connection with the prosecution of the gambling cases. The only conviction so far, was that of Blazier, the notorious, in the prosecution of which case Henry McGinn figured most prominently as representing Sheriff Word. Not that the evidence was any stronger, but that the case was handled with that vigor which the people have a right to expect, when they foot the bills. Mr. McGinn was at once dismissed from the case by Mr. Manning, but not till after the vital points of the evidence had been gathered and placed before the jury by Mr. McGinn. It may be

right, or it may not be, but true it is, the people, the taxpayers, look upon recent events in the peoples' court house with grave suspicions that some of their hired and paid servants are permitting personal animosities, if not worse, to interfere with the work they were hired to do. The prosecuting attorney may be acting in these cases within his rights and honestly, but it is not so apparent to the people.

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BUT ST. JOHNS LOOKED GOOD TO US, FOR WE SAW ITS FUTURE.

WE WERE FIRST ON THE GROUND, CONSEQUENTLY WE BOUGHT OUR PROPERTY CHEAP—BOUGHT THRIVING ST. JOHNS PROPERTY AT SLEEPY HOLLOW PRICES—AND AS IS SO OFTEN THE CASE UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES BOUGHT MORE THAN WE CAN AFFORD TO HOLD.

SINCE WE BOUGHT CHEAP WE ARE IN POSITION TO OFFER YOU THE VERY LOWEST PRICES. IF YOU WRITE US WE WILL MAKE THIS VERY CLEAR TO YOU.

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