

ST. JOHNS REVIEW

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

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NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Many Matters Noted and Commented Upon.

That matter of alleyways, which we referred to a couple of weeks ago, is, we are pleased to note receiving some attention. The people who are now or may be hereafter plat building lots, will hold a strong card if they can advertise alleyways through their property. The convenience of these little roadways are worth a whole lot to the homebuilders. They save piling wood and other household supplies in front of the house, and prevents the grocer, the baker, the laundryman, and sundry other regular business callers, from tramping over the lawns, crushing the life out of flower beds, plants, etc. The lot buyer should insist on alleys.

No where in the state has greater interest been shown in beautifying lawns, by planting roses, flowers and all kinds of ornamental and useful shrubbery, than right here in St. Johns. Of course, in most instances, the lawns are new, and the opportunities for growth and maturity has not yet been afforded by lapse of time, but in a few years St. Johns will be able to boast of some of the finest lawns on the coast. A great deal of the interest in beautifying lawns is the outgrowth of the agitation of the question by the Ladies' Civic League, augmented by the generosity of Harry Powers, of Thompson, Hartman & Powers. This gentleman gave about eighty dollars' worth of flower seeds, and offered something like one hundred and fifty dollars in cash prizes for the best results. The cash prizes were paid in all cases where the rules were complied with. The coming spring it is hoped the enthusiasm in this direction will be manifest in the continuance of the good work.

Just here, it might be observed, another proposition comes to the fore, and that is the "cow" question. It is claimed, and with no small degree of justification, that the running at large of live stock is a great impediment to the proper cultivation of lawns. There is no doubt but this is true, and the matter resolves itself into this question: Shall the city be made a cow pasture, or a city of beautiful lawns? We believe the question should be decided by a vote of the citizens, without any interferences by the legislative or police departments. The citizens favoring an ordinance prohibiting live stock running at large might petition the city council to submit the question to the electorate at the spring election. No reasonable man can object to such a course. If then, a majority is for such a law, let the council obey the mandate without interference from the outside, if a majority vote is polled against the measure, let the matter drop until such time as the majority favor it. This would be fair, and either side would, we are sure submit gracefully to the voice of the majority.

A suggestion has been made that the council pass an ordinance compelling all places of business, except drug stores, hotels and restaurants, to close on Sunday. Such a law would be wholesome, and, we believe, welcomed by a large majority of the business community. Life is too short to be compelled to toil seven days in the week. Six days is enough for any person to labor, aside from any moral question which may be involved.

The reform wave which has struck Portland has not come any too soon. The high-handed manner in which a portion of the community there has openly defied the laws and all rules of common decency, to say nothing of the morale of the city, is simply disgraceful and appalling. The responsibility for the deplorable condition of affairs is due to the "grafting" systems which have prevailed there. In recent years many of the men who have been elected or appointed to po-

sitions of trust have taken the view that incumbency of office meant a license to levy blackmail or "graft" at pleasure. This "system" even became so engrained in the body politic that even the city government recognized it as legitimate, and permitted the laws of the land to be set aside by the payment of stipulated sums of money, and this, too, from the very lowest and worst elements of its population. It is all the outgrowth of politics in municipal affairs, and the well-meaning people are equally responsible with the lawless element for this condition of affairs. As long as the political partisan will vote for the "yellow dog," if he belongs to "my party," so long will city governments be administered for the benefit of the few instead of the whole people.

The developments in the Tanner creek sewer scandal at Portland, while they show a lamentable state of affairs, especially in the city engineer's office, are not without some good results, and not the least important one is the awakening of the people to the wholesale debauchery of some of their hired servants. Another good result is the demand that thorough investigation be made into all public contracts and works. This latter will be hailed with delight by the overburdened taxpayer of the "city of roses," if the shedding of the light of day upon the thieving and jobbery which has no doubt long prevailed, will have the effect of providing a remedy and putting a stop to further dipping into their pockets to satisfy the greed of the avaricious contractors and their cohorts, the official "grafters." It is to be hoped so. Good resolutions will no doubt be made, and a determination expressed to stop the jobbery, but the people too often forget. Somebody said "the road to hell is paved with resolutions broken," and it is not unlikely that Portland reformers will help lengthen the pavement.

We note from our Southern Oregon exchanges that typhoid fever is quite numerous in some localities. Besides numerous cases of fever, Grants Pass has a case of small-pox, and the Observer of that city has some pretty plain things to say about sanitary conditions. Of course, we are sorry for our friends of the South part, but still very thankful that this district has not a single case of typhoid or other contagious disease. The peninsula is, we verily believe, one of the healthiest localities in the world. True, we are blessed with pure water, excellent natural drainage, being on tide water, and the purest of atmosphere, in addition to getting the benefit of the salt water breezes which are wafted up the Columbia river from the Pacific ocean.

The trend of events as they are transpiring in this district, would indicate that some big transportation scheme is on foot. The fact that a party of surveyors have recently been at work, and parties are now at work securing a right of way for a railroad along the northwest boundary of the city to a point on the Columbia slough, is taken as a strong indication that some big enterprise will soon be established there. The parties engaged in this work are very reticent about the matter, but it is generally understood they are working in the interest of the O. R. & N. railway. Whatever it may be, one thing is certain, any railway line or industry established on the peninsula will be of great benefit to the whole district, and should receive the hearty endorsement of all concerned.

To our brethren of the press throughout the state, we extend our thanks for the many favorable references to The Review, as well as to the editor personally. The writer has spent many years in close business relations with the publishers of Oregon and Washington, and pleasant relations they were, too. In the past, however, our position was always on the opposite side of the desk, and perhaps, we were not so close in sympathy as our present position will bring us. But we're in the harness, now, boys, and will no doubt appreci-

ate what the "close of our fiscal year" letters of the type founder and paper man mean to the feelings of the publisher with a large list of delinquents, and the "poor collection month." We were always full of sympathy, and our story that the "manager ordered us to do," etc., became a kind of second nature to us. We'll know how it feels, now, boys.

Mayor Williams declines to carry out the expressed wishes of the Portland city council in regard to the removal of City Engineer Elliott, until he gets more evidence, just as though the odor of the Tanner creek sewer was not sufficient to cause the whole town to move.

After the committees are through investigating the bridge contracts in Portland, wouldn't it be in order for Chief Hunt to report what he found out about the "gambling graft?" We outsiders are interested in all these smelling committees.

By the way, the odors now prevailing in Portland are sorely in keeping with the name "The Rose City," is it? It don't strike an outsider that way.

The daily Journal, although somewhat tinged with the "yellow" variety of journalistic productions, maintains a fair standard of excellence in its support of moral and reform movements, and deserves credit for keeping the "gang" on pins and needles, anyway.

The Commercial Association.

There will be a regular meeting of the St. Johns Commercial Association next Wednesday evening. The last meeting was largely attended, and "done things" which for real benefit to the city amounts to a vast deal. It is urged that more of the business men turn out and take part in the discussions. While the membership of the association is open to every wide-awake citizen of the community, yet its interests demand that the men engaged in active business pursuits should become more prominent in the work. Their personal interests are at stake, and it will be time well spent participating in the business meetings. The meeting will be held in Peterson's hall.

Serious Accident.

Henry Schultz, of Latourelle Falls, son of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Schultz of this city, while cutting wood at Donahue's camp, met with a serious accident. A steel splinter from a wedge flew into his right eye, and although he immediately went to Portland and was operated on at the Good Samaritan Hospital, it was found impossible to save the sight. He is getting along all right now, but will never recover the sight. He has the sympathy of many friends here.

THE SCHOOL MEETING.

Will Be Held Friday Evening, December Seventh.

In response to the petition of the taxpayers of school district No. 2, the school board has posted notices calling a meeting of the householders to discuss and vote on the question of providing more room for the accommodation of the pupils. The meeting will be held at the school house next Friday evening, December 7, at 7:45.

Finally, the financial interests of the district are surely not furthered by a condition which discourages many families to move in and help improve our town. We are permitting six teachers do the best they can with more pupils than our next door neighbor, Portsmouth school, with eight teachers and less pupils. This condition is not to our advantage in any light in which a reasonable man would consider it. It is hoped the people will turn out in good numbers, and vote their sentiments on this question.

A bit of school law may be interesting. On page 39, of Oregon school law is the following passage:

"If authorized by a majority vote of the legal voters present at any legally called meeting, they shall purchase, lease, or build school houses,

buy or lease land for school purposes, lights and apparatus."

This passage makes it evident that 1. A legal meeting of the taxpayers of this school district is necessary, before the school board can take any steps to relieve the overcrowded condition of our school. 2. That a majority present must vote for such measure as called for in petition. 3. That it is useless to blame the school board when legal voters block the way as in the past.

The Electric Franchise.

Considerable interest has been manifested this week over the statement that the franchise granted the General Electric Company of Portland, had lapsed by their failure to comply with the terms of the contract. Section 2 of the ordinance provides that "in consideration thereof, the said grantee shall, within ninety days from the passage of this ordinance, extend its present line of poles and electric wires so as to connect the town of St. Johns with the power plant of said company, and shall within thirty days file acceptance of said terms." From this it would appear that the company is not compelled to furnish light and power within any stated time, but only have the line erected within the ninety days which appears to have been done. If the council made a poor bargain, which is generally conceded, they will have to abide by it. The franchise is not exclusive, and any other company has the privilege of supplying light and power, and the council has the right to grant a charter therefore.

THE JOBS' FLOUR MILL.

Another Important Manufacturing Enterprise in St. Johns Nearly Completed.

The Jobs' flour mill, equipped with the most modern machinery, is about ready to begin operations. Manager Jobs assures the Review that the burrs of the mill will begin to buzz in about three weeks, an adequate force of men being now ready to take their places as soon as the work of installing the machinery shall have been completed. W. B. Jobs is the manager of the mill. He is a thorough mill man and has long enjoyed the reputation of turning out a quality of flour unexcelled anywhere in the country. Another man with an important position in the operation of the mill is Superintendent William Ernest. Long experience has enabled him to acquire a degree of efficiency in the work equalled by few flour-mill men on the coast.

The mill building proper is a modern structure four stories high. The plant will have a capacity of 300 barrels per day and it is confidently expected by the management that it will be operated to its full capacity every day as soon as the machinery is put into working condition. The plant was furnished from the well-known Nordyk & Maimon works—the best in the world.

The site of this mill is 120x160 feet. It was purchased by the Jobs Brothers soon after they came from Spokane and extends to the river. These enterprising gentlemen have expended many thousands of dollars already in St. Johns, and have not yet finished the work of making extensive and expensive improvements. They will employ from twelve to fifteen men.

Remember Their Employees.

It has been so often repeated that "corporations have no souls," that the phrase has almost become recognized as a cold fact. However that may be, it is not the case of one corporation, at least, in St. Johns. We refer to the Peninsula Milling Co., which on Thanksgiving eve presented each of its married employees with a twelve pound turkey, while the bachelors all received \$2.00, big silver dollars each. This generous act on the part of the managers of the company was highly appreciated by the recipients. It is safe to say where this feeling exists between employer and employed there is little danger to be apprehended from strikes and labor troubles. The expense of this generous act was no mean item, when it is considered that the Peninsula Co. employs 175 people.

PERSONAL MENTIONINGS

About People Who Have Come and Gone Last Week.

Chas. E. Bailey, of Wisconsin, arrived Wednesday, and has taken a position with the St. Johns Land Co.

Bob Capels, of Woodburn, Or., spent a few days visiting relatives here, returning home Saturday evening.

Mrs. John Shaw and her two youngest children, left Tuesday evening for a visit with friends at Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

Mrs. H. C. Stack, of Ashland, Or., is the guest of Dr. and his aunt Miss Marion Hicks, at their home, St. Johns Heights.

Mrs. W. A. Edgerton returned Saturday evening from a three month's visit with her children and other relatives in White County, Illinois.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Johnson of Petaluma, Cal., who have been attending the national grange session, were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Blackburn on Monday.

J. E. Williams, the father of Mrs. M. L. Holbrook, arrived in St. Johns Wednesday, from Wisconsin. Mr. Williams is an old newspaper man. He will locate in this city.

Messrs. E. R. Shepard, W. S. Calkins, A. S. Shadduck, of this city, and Chas. Glass of Goddard station, left last night on a land hunting expedition in Eastern Oregon.

Miss Rosy Schaer and brother, of San Francisco, Cal., spent a week visiting their sister, Mrs. C. D. Edwards. They all left Monday for Mountaineer to visit their parents.

Mr. and Mrs. M. N. Trout, of Fayette, Iowa, are visiting Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Calkins. They all took in the grange excursion to the beach last Friday, and had a fine trip.

G. R. Perival, of Vancouver, Wash., was in the city Monday, looking after his interests here. Mr. Perival was one of the first cash subscribers to The Review and takes a lively interest in the city.

Gen. H. B. Compton, of Portland, was in the city Tuesday. Gen. Compton bears the proud distinction of having platted the first tract into building lots in Oak Park Addition, all of which were sold a year ago.

Rev. J. M. Cole, formerly pastor of the Adventist church here, but now in charge of the Salem, Or., congregation, was in the city this week visiting his mother. He preached at the Adventist church Sabbath last.

Al Southmayd, of Tillamook, Or., was in the city visiting relatives for a few days on his return from Sheridan, where he attended the funeral of a brother who was recently shot and killed. He left for home Saturday evening.

Misses Bessie and Lillian McVicker, who are teaching school in Washington county, one at Hillsboro and the other Cornelius, spent Thanksgiving with their parents, Rev. and Mrs. E. E. McVicker, returning to their school work Monday.

Miss Pearl Beebe, from Seattle, spent her Thanksgiving at home with her parents, Councilman Beebe. She left for Seattle Saturday. Mrs. Mattie Hatch of Castle Rock, another daughter of Mr. Beebe's is very ill with typhoid fever.

While Mrs. W. C. Walker has, for personal business reasons of Mr. Walker, moved to Portland for the winter, she is just as enthusiastic in behalf of St. Johns as of yore. She makes frequent visits, being here Tuesday and is heartily greeted by her many friends.

Rev. W. B. Scott, son of J. C. Scott, of this city, arrived here with his family Sunday morning, having just returned from a three years' stay in Europe. Rev. Scott was in Edinburgh, Scotland, most of the time, where he was working in the interest of the Pacific Press, a prominent publishing company of Oakland, Cal., run in connection with the Seventh Day Adventist Church. He will remain here for awhile, and his family will reside here.