

**ST. JOHNS REVIEW**  
ST. JOHNS, OREGON

J. 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, December 9, 1904

**THE PROPOSED CHARTER.**

In last week's Review was printed the draft of the proposed new charter. It was not entirely complete, and a few sections are yet to be added, and will be published when ready. Some features find opposition, but taken in its most vital parts, is generally regarded as being a very good civic constitution. It may appear somewhat extensive in its provisions, and provides for some governmental contingencies which do not exist at present, but with the growth of the city, will be required and at no distant day. However, it is before the people, and they have the right to offer suggestions as they may see fit. It is hoped the business interests of St. Johns will manifest an interest in the matter, and not allow charter tinkers and street corner politicians to shape the fundamental law for the government of a future great city.

**"BARKIS IS WILLIN'."**

Of course Portland is the "Barkis" in this case. Since St. Johns has shown great activity and development, and is assuming an importance second to no manufacturing center on the west coast, some people in Portland are quietly agitating the question of acquiring this district and annexing it to the city of Portland. That some talk of this kind indulged in by our neighbor on the south is not at all surprising, in face of all the facts. With a depleted treasury, brought about by a wasteful extravagance, and the pursuit of a policy that means nothing short of municipal bankruptcy, unless checked, it is quite natural that they should cast about for some new source of revenue. What is wanted is more prolific "producers." St. Johns will have an assessed value at the next assessment of something near a half million dollars, and with a city tax levy of eight mills, would bring in a snug sum, and very materially add to the cash assets of our neighbor. The city tax in St. Johns has never exceeded three mills, and by provision of the proposed charter, the levy can never exceed seven mills. The bonding limit of Portland is 10 per cent of valuation, while the bonding limit of St. Johns under the proposed new charter is limited to five per cent of valuation. The reason for a desire on the part of Portland to annex this growing district is very apparent, and the reason for the residents of St. Johns to oppose such a move is equally apparent, and we don't believe will be given serious consideration for one moment. St. Johns has nothing whatever to gain and everything to lose by such an alliance. The attention, such as public improvements, fire protection, given the outlying districts of Portland, is not such as they are entitled to, and in no sense commensurate with the taxes paid by such districts. They are simply neglected, and the appropriations to which they are rightly entitled diverted to other channels. No, St. Johns tried the annexation proposition once, and to its sorrow, and will not soon repeat the error.

**THE PARK MATTER AGAIN.**

The Review notes with approval the generous expression of Mr. Holbrook as reported in last week's issue; concerning his willingness to permit the town to buy the park block, upon which the car barns of the City & Suburban Railway Company now stand. This willingness on Mr. Holbrook's part to forego the profit, which would undoubtedly come to him through the ownership of this block, and to set aside any plan which he may have for utilizing the block, is magnanimous indeed, and shows a high degree of public spirit. The property will increase rapidly in value and to turn the property over to the town is a sacrifice on the part of Mr. Holbrook. The Review believes, however, that Mr. Holbrook's reasoning is somewhat misleading, where he holds the town might better invest its funds in street grading and sidewalks at the present time, than to buy this block for park purposes. We must admit that sidewalks and street improvements are much need-

ed and must be had in the near future. They are not, however, the only things that are necessary. A town hall will perhaps be equally essential with street improvements, and the town must, therefore, obtain some place for a town hall. If this site is obtained now money can be saved. If we wait it will be almost impossible to obtain a properly located site for a town hall and the prices will have increased. But even if we were not to use this block for a site for a town hall, but were to use it only for park purposes, we must be constantly looking to the future of the place. We must appreciate the benefit to the town which would come from the beautifying of this plot of ground in the center of the city where it must meet the eye of every one who visits the place. We must realize the effect which such a beautiful spot would have upon the newcomer who might be thinking of locating in St. Johns. The appearance of a town is of vital importance in bringing a good class of people to live in the town. We are constantly being compared with other suburbs. If, therefore, St. Johns will be chosen as a place to live. If, then, it is desirable that the park be obtained we must realize that it can never be obtained unless secured at the present time. Never again though the town grow to a population of 20,000 people, will there be an opportunity to establish a beautiful wooded park in the center of the business district, while the street improvements must be taken up, and will undoubtedly, be begun in the near future and carried on as long as the town may endure.

**MUNICIPAL ELECTION.**

Although the city election is four months ahead, already there is some talk of prospective candidates. Under the new charter being prepared, it is designed to divide the city into four wards, with two councilmen for each ward. It is also proposed that only the mayor, city recorder, treasurer, attorney and councilmen be elective offices, the remainder to be appointed by the mayor, subject to the approval of the council. This, as the city is at present constituted, is deemed a wise provision, as any officer so appointed can be removed for cause, at the will of the mayor and council. As to the men to be chosen, they should be men who are permanently interested in St. Johns, progressive and enterprising, broadminded and business-like, men who are well known and substantial citizens. Politics and politicians should be given a wide berth, as we are sure they will be.

The business interests should be given good representation in the council. While not criticising, yet it is noticeable that the present council does not contain a single man engaged in business in the city. It is too early yet to name candidates but it is well enough to keep the matter in mind, and clip the wings of the over-ambitious would-be ward politicians.

**'Tis True, 'Tis True.**

An up-country editor says that "one coyote will hang around a camp at night and create the impression that a pack of at least twenty big wolves are looking for a chance to eat the campers. But investigation will reveal the fact that the single coyote is lean, hungry, and cowardly, and that he does not weigh over 15 pounds. Likewise one kicker in a town will create the impression that there is much indignation against every respectable citizen and measure."

A more flagrant instance of blind partisanship has never been exhibited than that displayed by the Columbian of Vancouver, Wash. We refer to its criticism, or rather sarcastic reference, to the Spokane Review for having the temerity to make suggestions to governor-elect Mead, of Washington, in regard to what the Spokane paper thinks would be for the betterment of conditions in state affairs. It happens the paper referred to did not give the new governor its support in the recent election, therefore the Columbian ridicules the idea of its presuming to suggest anything. We thought governors were elected for the benefit of the people of a state, not only his political supporters. The Spokane Review is a great newspaper, it is a representative paper of a great inland empire, and if the influence it is permitted to exercise is to be measured by its support of this or that successful servant of the people, just better turn the whole thing over to the dominant party, and ignore the taxpayers and people of the opposition. The Columbian's criticism is a species of political buffoonery that is unworthy of a much less intelligent editor who is supposed to publish a

newspaper for the good of the people as a whole, not the particular partisans of any political creed alone. But such is partisanship of the "yellow dog" variety.

**USEFUL INFORMATION.**

**A Few Questions Propounded and Answered.**

For the information of many distant readers of The Review, who are desirous of getting reliable information about this district, the following questions are answered correctly and honestly as possible:

Question—Where is St. Johns?  
Answer—In Multnomah County, Oregon, seven miles north of Portland.

Q.—Is it an incorporated city?  
A.—It is, and has a government of its own.

Q.—Are taxes high?  
A.—No, the last levy was only two mills.

Q.—What is the population?  
A.—Over 2000 people.

Q.—Is it on the ocean?  
A.—No, it is located between the Columbia and Willamette rivers. All vessels entering Portland harbor must pass St. Johns docks.

Q.—Are the rivers navigable?  
A.—Most certainly they are, from 50 to 100 feet in depth. The largest ships that float, from all parts of the world, load and unload their cargoes with safety and dispatch in our harbor.

Q.—Are there any railroads?  
A.—Yes; the O. R. & N., a part of land, and the O. R. & N., a part of the Southern Pacific system, traverses the water front for several miles, and the Northern Pacific is on the opposite side of the Willamette river, besides we have an excellent electric line that one can ride to any part of Portland for a five-cent fare.

Q.—What lines of business are there?  
A.—See the advertising columns of this paper.

Q.—Is business overdone?  
A.—No; there is room for more substantial business houses.

Q.—What supports the town?  
A.—The large mills and factories. There are three sawmills, one veneer factory, one box and basket factory, two shipbuilding yards, one large dry dock, one porch and column factory, one flour mill, one woolen mill, and several other smaller factories.

Q.—What is the pay roll?  
A.—About \$20,000 per month.

Q.—How about school and church privileges?  
A.—One large school house (the second one contemplated) and three churches. The university is about a mile from St. Johns.

Q.—How about the prices of property?  
A.—Prices are most reasonable. Business property from \$15 to \$50 per front foot. Good residence property from \$4 to \$10 a front foot.

Q.—Any saloons?  
A.—No, and not likely to have soon.

Q.—Any other industrial enterprises in prospect?  
A.—Yes; several mills and factories, and a meat packing house.

Q.—To whom can I write for further information?  
A.—Secretary Commercial Association, or the editor of The Review will answer all questions.

**MRS. M. L. ROWLAND**  
DRESSMAKING

A Share of the Trade Solicited.  
Corner Jersey and Leavitt Street  
St. Johns

**D. C. ROGERS**  
REAL ESTATE DEALER

will sell you  
A lot in Point View for \$80.  
One in St. Johns Park for \$275, overlooking the river.  
One in James Johns Second Addition for \$350 near Woolen Mill—and other equally good—equally cheap.

**NOTICE!**  
**ANDERSON & ALLAN**

OF THE BOSTON HOME BAKERY  
Solicit your order for all goods in their line. Special attention given orders for plain and ornamental cakes for the holidays. We have constantly on hand a full and fresh supply of all baker's goods. Parties wishing cakes for Xmas please send in orders at an early date. . . . .  
Phone Scott 3101 St. Johns

**OUR FAITH**  
IN  
**ST. JOHNS**

Is best expressed by our guaranty of 20 per cent increase in value of property during the coming year

This guaranty provides that in case the property you purchase does no increase in value at least

**20 per cent** during one year from date of purchase we will refund your money with 6 per cent interest.

This same guaranty we have been offering since we first undertook to get industries at St. Johns, something over three years back and up to date no one has ever asked for his money back.

**Lots and Acreage**

ON INSTALLMENT PAYMENTS.

**Hartman, Thompson & Powers**

3 Chamber of Commerce  
Portland, Oregon

O. L. CHAPEL Agent at St. Johns

**Bickner Brothers**

Department Store

All Goods Sold at Portland Prices!

Keep a large stock of General Merchandise, including Dry Goods, Boots and Shoes, Groceries, Hardware, House Furnishings, Feed, Etc. In fact everything. Their Prices are right. Don't waste your time going to Portland, but come in and see our stock and prices.

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Corner Jersey Street and Broadway

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**Edmondson Company**

Hardware, Plumbing and Tinning in All Its Branches

Jersey Street, Near School House

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