

ST. JOHNS REVIEW

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NOTES AND COMMENTS

Various Topics of Local and General Interest Briefly and Tersely Commented Upon.

Numerous Matters Which Are Before the Public for General Discussion

It sounds strange to hear a man say that any particular factory or manufacturing enterprise which may be established here is not of benefit to the city. However strange it may seem, there are a few people here who talk that way. Take the woolen mill as an example. An old resident was actually heard to say that instead of a benefit it was a detriment. Yes, really a detriment. The listener was dumbfounded. He did not think it possible that the man meant what he said, and had him repeat it and give his reasons. The reasons were flimsy, trivial, in fact. The truth is, the woolen mills are accomplishing as much for St. Johns, and directly, too, as any other concern located here. During the month of December over \$5500 was distributed in wages, a very large share of this to residents of this city. The policy is and has been, and will continue to be, Superintendent Carter informs us, to give preference whenever at all possible to actual residents of St. Johns. That this has been strictly adhered to all of us know, who will take time to investigate. There have been hundreds of applicants from outsiders, but in no single case have these applications been given favor if St. Johns people could be found to fill the positions. What more could be asked? True, the head offices are in Portland. But what of that? Portland capital is invested, and the general management have other interests outside of the woolen mill, which demand their attention.

The matter of advertising St. Johns at the fair is still an absorbing topic among our live citizens, but as yet no conclusion has been arrived at. It is high time that something tangible should be done, and some plan agreed upon by which the desired end may be attained. It is only a few months until the influx of visitors will commence, and we should be prepared. If it is decided to maintain a booth at the fair it should be arranged for now, and not wait until too late, after the space is all occupied. We would impress upon the Commercial Association the importance of prompt action. The co-operation of every wide awake citizen should be enlisted, and all work together for one common end, the benefit of our beloved city. Let us be up and doing.

The grand jury adjourned last week, after a most arduous session of three months, during which time more official negligence has been brought to light than ever before in the history of Multnomah county grand juries. In its final report the city officials and the prosecuting attorney, John Manning, came in for most severe criticism and denunciation. These criticisms were not impulsive, but made after a most thorough and rigid examination into all the facts and conditions surrounding the conduct of these hired servants of the people. In Manning's case the facts disclosed are simply a disgrace and a defile to his employers, the people. His language to the grand jury might be expected from a slum politician, but not from a man in whose care is placed the responsibilities of prosecuting violators of the law. The report says:

The district attorney, John Manning, has not been without culpability in this matter, but he having recently evidenced commendable work in prosecutions for gambling, has not been indicted. Yet, in view of the decision by your court upon an indictment found by this grand jury under section 1030, we must question either the zeal or the capacity of the district attorney, for, when said

whether the section is applicable, and demanded, in effect, that the grand jury declare itself in a presentment to the court, to be in doubt as to whether poolroom gambling is injurious to public morals. Upon our statement that we would make this a test case he attempted to bulldoze us, and grew boisterous, indictment was announced to him, he admitted that he did not know exactly saying, in substance:

"I'll tell you right now, if you fellows go ahead and find this indictment without going up before Judge George with a hypothetical case, I'll be damned if I don't go right up and ask him to dismiss it; now you can do just as you damn please."

Therefore, we recommend that your honorable court appoint a zealous and competent attorney to assist in the prosecution of the indictments returned by this grand jury.

Where on earth is there a community that would tolerate such bulldozing except in "graft" ridden Portland and Multnomah county. The grand jury has done good work, but we fear, if the completion of their labors is left in the hands of such defiant officials, much of their work will have been in vain.

The indictments against Mayor Williams and Chief Hunt have been dismissed on motion of prosecuting Attorney Manning. Let us hope this course was prompted by motives pure, and in the interest of justice and the people.

THE REVIEW is not in politics, but Portland could go farther and fare worse, than to elect Tom Word for mayor. Even the grand state of Oregon would not make any mistake should this same fearless, efficient and capable Sheriff Tom Word be elected governor. Old Missouri has already "shown us" what she does when a crisis has been reached in its affairs, and a man arises to the occasion. With Word in the capitol at Salem there is a possibility that the webfooters might be astonished at some of the old dusty skeletons he might bring from the closet. As mayor of Portland he would strike terror to some of the "rings" and "gangs" who have been systematically plundering the treasury and taxpayers.

A man will play billiards half the night at 25 cents a game, and drink 15-cent whisky every 10 minutes without expecting any part in the management of the saloon. But if he pays 2 cents a day for a newspaper he thinks he ought to have something to say as to its policy.

Street Improvements.

As an illustration of the importance of street improvements, one has but to observe the better appearance of the square which has been spanned by street crossings in the business center. These improvements, which have been made at a nominal cost to the city, have added most materially to the appearance of the streets and the convenience of the public. It is now possible for a pedestrian to cross the street without being compelled to wade shoe top deep in mud and water. The city council deserve all the praise which is being showered on them for their prompt action in this instance. The work has been prosecuted under the direction of Councilman Beebe, and he has done well. May his shadow never grow less.

Progress of Oil Well.

Satisfactory progress is being made in the prospecting for oil on the Ogden farm, north of the city. A depth of about 750 feet has been reached, and the prospects are most encouraging. What is known as "cap rock" has been reached, and when it shall have been gone through, good results are looked for. Drilling has been suspended for a week or more, on account of the pressure of water, but appliances have been ordered, which will render this source of annoyance nil, and without further delay. This is an important proposition, and the prospects are such that entitle the work to every possible encouragement.

A BANK FOR ST. JOHNS.

A Well Known Banker is now Canvassing the Project and Prospects are Bright.

Peter Hume, the well-known banker of Brownsville, was in St. Johns Thursday looking over the field with a view of opening a banking institution in our growing city. Mr. Hume has been in the banking business for the past 15 years. He operated the Douglas County bank at Roseburg during the panic of 1893, and afterward conducted the Brownsville bank. Mr. Hume suggests the opening of a savings and loan institution in which some of the business men of St. Johns would be invited to take stock, say to the extent of a few thousand dollars.

Mr. Hume believes that such an institution would succeed in time in building up a fairly good business. He also suggests, in this connection, that a meeting of the business men of St. Johns be called for the purpose of discussing the matter with him and arriving at some definite plan of action. During his brief interviews with various gentlemen of our city he has so far met with every encouragement. He is also very favorably impressed with St. Johns; and in the event the banking project should fail, which is not likely, Mr. Hume will probably locate here in some other line of business.

To Enlarge Plant.

J. C. Scott, of the St. Johns Water Company, announces that the company will greatly enlarge the plant early in the Spring, and lay many thousands of feet of new mains. The mains will be laid during the Winter and the other improvements will be undertaken in the early Spring. The improvements will include new and larger pumps and another elevated water tank. Last year the company more than doubled its mileage of water mains, and still did not reach all the districts that wished for water.

There is also a demand for fire protection in St. Johns and more powerful pumps are needed. Six fire hydrants are to be placed in a short time by contract with the city. In order to meet any emergency the mains have been connected with the pumping station of the Portland woolen mills. In case of accident or heavy draw on the water supply for fire purposes the present supply can be reinforced from the mill plant.

Back Again.

P. J. Peterson, of the firm of Peterson & Smith has returned from a three weeks visit to his old home at Volga, S. D. Mr. Peterson reports the weather as being cold back there, but not much more disagreeable than the present cold snap here. While absent, Mr. Peterson talked St. Johns and THE REVIEW all the time, and as a tangible result brought into this office a big bunch of subscribers, all of whom are planning to come to the Coast next Summer and locate at St. Johns. Mr. Peterson is looking decidedly well after his trip, and as he is a hustler, is gladly welcomed back by his many friends.

Union county's new industry, the only one of its kind in the United States, the pine needle fiber factory located near Summerville, was put in operation last week. It has 30 tons of pine needles on hand. Ten people are employed in the factory, and 30 in gathering the raw material.

Blackberries still refuse to take a back seat for Jack Frost, and are still ripening in gardens about The Dalles, says the Chronicle.

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE

About People who are Coming and Going to St. Johns

W. E. Town, of Indiana, was looking over our city this week with a view of locating here.

W. H. See and wife of Portland were in town this week, looking after their extensive property interests.

J. Osborn and wife, of Cecil, Oregon, were in the city this week the guests of T. J. Monahan and family.

Chas. A. Ricard, formerly in the butcher business here, but now living at Ontario, Oregon, was in the city Monday.

C. O. Hyde of Portland paid THE REVIEW a visit Thursday. Mr. Hyde is very favorably impressed with our little city.

Charles Tabler, of Dufur, Oregon, was visiting friends in town this week. Mr. Tabler thinks St. Johns has a great future.

W. C. Walker and family will move back to St. Johns very soon and occupy their comfortable home in the north end.

Mr. Ellis and Alva Shaddock are staying at the home of A. S. Shaddock. Their parents are going to move to St. Johns.

Richard C. Thurman, the well known painter, has been ill of pneumonia for several weeks, but is now able to be out.

F. C. Case, of Ronoka, Alberta, Canada, paid St. Johns a visit this week. Mr. Case is looking for a business location and has about concluded that our bustling little city is the one he is looking for.

H. B. Dickinson, of Montavilla, was in the city Monday evening to attend the charter meeting. Mr. Dickinson states that Montavilla is now wrestling with the question of incorporation as well as city charter, and he came to St. Johns to learn something about charter building. It is needless to say that he learned something.

E. M. Allen received a fine fruit cake last week from his mother at Holdenville, Indian Territory. It was trimmed up in elegant style with the figure "50" on top. Ed was fifty years old the last day of 1904. He has been here over a year and will dispose of his property East and stay with us.

Perry Miller, Miss Hester and Evalina Ball and Mr. Ralph Akers of Ione, Oregon, Mr. Johnnie Beeler of Heppner, and Miss Edna Berkeley of Pendleton, are visiting at the home of A. S. Shaddock at St. Johns Heights, this week. Ralph Akers and Perry Miller have brought property here.

Special Fire Meeting

A special meeting of the St. Johns volunteer fire company was held at Shepard & Tufts' office, Tuesday evening, for the purpose of enrolling new members and devising ways and means to create a treasury fund. The attendance was quite large, and the interest displayed was most encouraging. Fourteen new members signed the roll. A committee, consisting of G. M. Hall, J. Henry Smith, Geo. Chaffee and Joe Bickner, was appointed to arrange for an entertainment or ball in the near future, and given full power to act. The regular meetings of the company will be held hereafter the second Wednesday evening of each month.

Farmers throughout the region tributary to Portland are inclined to hold their potatoes for \$1 a sack, in spite of the arguments of potatoe dealers to the effect that the potatoes are worth only 75c. Buyers are out in the country all the time, but they find very few growers willing to let go, although there are said to be a good many potatoes in the country. No shipping has been done from Portland yet this season, on account of lower prices prevailing at San Francisco and other points south.

CHARTER IS APPROVED

An Enthusiastic Mass Meeting Endorses the Proposed Organic Law as It Came From the Committee

But Not Without Some Opposition, the Vote Being 33 For to 25 Against—Resolutions

The mass meeting of citizens to consider the proposed new charter at Bickner's hall, Monday evening was attended by about one hundred and fifty citizens. In the absence of the mayor, Councilman Monahan, chairman of the council committee on charter, called the meeting to order, and Dr. W. W. Hicks was chosen secretary.

Councilman Monahan explained the object of the meeting, after which Mr. Devlin explained the changes made in the charter by a committee of the council and of the Commercial Association.

After Mr. Devlin had explained the changes, a motion was made to adopt the charter as a whole. Mr. Organ wanted the charter referred to an attorney. The question was put and thirty-three voted in favor of adoption and twenty-five against adoption. The charter was declared adopted.

On motion a rising vote of thanks was tendered Mr. Devlin for the arduous task of framing the city charter, to which he has devoted so much care and time.

Mr. Devlin was called on, and made some interesting remarks. He states that if he had been making a charter for a village, he could have written it in ten pages, but the wants of a large and great city were anticipated, hence the provisions, which might seem voluminous, and not necessary at this time. Mr. Devlin said that no charter was perfect, and that it would be impossible to draw up a document of this kind which would suit everybody; somebody could and would find flaws, but such flaws should not condemn the entire charter. His remarks were of a character to heal all wounds, and had a very pronounced effect.

THE REVIEW has taken occasion to ascertain the views of all classes of business interests here, and in nearly every instance the greatest satisfaction has been expressed. Those who opposed the adoption disclaimed any desire to defeat the charter, but thought a little more consideration should have been given. We believe the gentlemen who have given so much of their time to a careful consideration of the matter did so with the sole view of doing what was best in the interest of the city and the people as a whole.

Now that the people have given their approval, it only remains for the legislature to pass upon it, and the city will then have for its guidance a basic law which will prove the wisdom of its framers.

D. R. Railton moved, seconded by Mr. Jobs, that the thanks of the citizens be tendered to the committee for performing their duties in so satisfactory a manner.

With the utmost good feeling prevailing, the meeting adjourned.

He Did Not Advertise.

Eight months ago there came to Oregon City a merchant who purchased a stock of goods. An advertisement was solicited of the new merchant who informed the newspaper man that he did not believe in advertising, since he seriously questioned the efficacy of reaching the public in that way. Last week the same business man packed up his goods and departed for other pastures. The merchant who severs partnership with printers' ink will sooner or later find himself divorced from the trading public.—Enterprise.

If you haven't subscribed for the REVIEW why haven't you? It is only one dollar a year.