

## THE ST. JOHNS REVIEW

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FRIDAY EVENING, January 20, 1905.

### WHAT IS WRONG?

The new charter before the legislature this week has been the subject of much talk and bluster in St. Johns the past few days, and all manner of assertions have been made, and the thing so constantly made the theme of street corner talk that many well-intending people have been led to believe that perhaps something might be wrong. A great many things have been said which are perversions of facts and entirely unwarranted. The truth of the matter is that every act of the committee appointed by the city council and the Commercial Association, which, by the way, is a truly representative body, has been open and above board. Their meetings have been open to the public and attended by many representative citizens. In no single instance has there been the least indication of attempt to conceal anything done. The committees were composed of thoroughly representative citizens, men whose motives are above suspicion, not only in this particular matter, but in their business relations. To question their motives or actions in this charter is simply discreditable to those who do so, and the questioning should be relegated to the vicious outside their neighbors and fellow-citizens. The Review asserts, without reserve, that the insinuations against these men are false, pernicious, and can emanate from only those who have no regard for the character or standing of themselves or their neighbors.

That the charter may have some defects, is not a perfect document, may to some extent be correct. It is hard to imagine that 100 pages of a law so full of necessary legal phraseology and technical points should be perfect in all its details. To be able to do so would require even better and wiser men than the state or nation has yet produced. Even the constitution of the United States is not perfect, and although it has been amended, many changes are still required to be made.

The new charter was framed by men who, by experience, have become skilled in this line of work, and the changes made were to suit the conditions now existing in a rapidly growing city; were made to meet the requirements of development and progress. It matters little if the minor officers are to be filled by appointment by the mayor, by and with the consent of the council, or elected. What is wanted and what is most necessary is some provision by which public improvements can be carried on. The financial provisions are equally important. In these respects ample latitude is allowed, the whole safeguarded in such manner that the working of them cannot be misdirected or diverted from their proper functions.

The new charter is a good one, suited to the conditions at present existing, and we have yet to find a man who has been able to urge any valid or logical objection. On the some minor points men differ, and where these differences of opinion are based on merit or unprejudiced judgment, they are entitled to the respect of all reasonable men. If the process by which the document has been framed is not entitled to the confidence and respect of all well-meaning people, then, in heavy name, will some one tell us how and where to get a better one.

To prove that the large majority of the people of St. Johns are in favor of the new charter, we only need to refer to the fact that in a few hours last Tuesday nearly two hundred citizens, including every business man and the heaviest taxpayers of the city, signed a petition asking the legislature to give the matter speedy and favorable action.

There is no gainsaying the fact, a very large majority of the citizens want the charter to become law, satisfied with the document because of their unbounded confidence in the honesty, integrity and intelligence of the men who contributed so much of their time and attention to framing and perfecting this document.

### POWERS OF MAYOR.

There is a serious misapprehension on the part of some of our citizens in regard to the appointing powers of the mayor under the new charter. The mayor CANNOT APPOINT any officer. The limit of his power is to nominate and the council elects or rejects such nominees as that body deems best, man whom the mayor names assume any office until he confirms. The original charter provided otherwise.

It was amended and so

announced at the mass meeting which approved the same. The council has supreme power in all cases of appointive officers. In fact the mayor is shorn of nearly all power, too much so, perhaps, and as chief executive of the city will have little to do except as the council may see fit to sanction and direct.

### GOOD WORK, WELL DONE.

A petition was circulated Tuesday by a committee consisting of P. J. Peterson, W. H. King, A. S. Douglass and M. F. Tufts, all busy and prominent business men, in whom the public reposes the fullest confidence, praying the legislature to adopt the new charter without delay. In about two hours nearly two hundred names were secured, and if more time could have been given to the work the number could have been increased by over one hundred more. Every business and professional citizen with only two exceptions, eagerly signed. The entire list of signatures embraced only citizens and taxpayers, and many of them the heaviest taxpayers of the city. This indicates the feeling of the citizens on this very important question. The people are three to one in favor of a vote of confidence in the gentlemen who took an active part in framing this document, and are willing to trust to them to see that the interests of the whole people are properly safe-guarded. The petition was sent to Salem by special messenger Tuesday evening.

### LET HARMONY PREVAIL.

If ever there was occasion for the spirit of harmony and unity of action in this city, now is the time. This city entering upon an era of existence that will demonstrate whether it is to be the ideal city which we talk and read about, or whether it is destined to retrograde and become a back number, or moss-covered as it was of yore when the virgin forests occupied the land upon which has been laid the foundation of a great and thriving city. It is a serious proposition. In the past couple of years the old drowsy life has been thrown off and a new, vigorous and progressive life has been taken on.

Scores of the older inhabitants, who by industry had acquired property here, which a few years ago was worth only a few dollars per acre, have seen these lands increase in value to the extent of making them independent. Many of them have temporal needs. What does St. Johns do? These are the questions that are now answered. Simply and purely by the application of energy and capital on the part of men who saw and believed that a future could be mapped out for St. Johns by the development of its dormant resources. Men with brains and capital appeared upon the scene, they invested in it, induced other capitalists to do the same; mills and factories have been built, fine homes erected and everything made possible for our old friends, the pioneers here. Is this not true? You know it is. Now that these things have been done, what is the plain, honorable and square thing to do. The original owners have had their fruition, by the aid of time, wide awake people have had opportunity given them to "get rich." Shall we now encourage bitterness and strife, or isn't our plain duty to pull together, harmonize our differences, cast aside all bickerings, and work in harmony for the good of this district. One great trouble is with all of us, we are too apt to take these results as a matter of course, forgetting the labor involved and the energy spent in bringing about these happy and pleasing conditions.

It matters but little who fills this or that office, so they are good citizens who will assist in placing St. Johns where she properly belongs—in the front rank of Pacific Coast cities. Think of these things, citizens, and then decide which course will contribute the greater degree of happiness and prosperity in this community.

### HONEST GOVERNMENT LEAGUE.

This is the name of a new organization launched into existence Monday evening. Just what the objects of the organization is we can only surmise. It would seem, from its name, to imply things political. So far it has never been hinted that St. Johns has had either honest government, in fact we have not had very much of any kind of government, in the sense that governments do things. However, the name has the true ring, and it is to be hoped that its work may be in the interest of St. John's development and progress. Any organized or individual effort in this direction is worthy of the endorsement and support of every citizen who has the welfare of our beloved city at heart. Granting that this is the aim of the Honest Government League, might it not be well for it to join hands with the Commercial Association, an organization already in existence, embracing in its membership nearly all the business men of the community, in addition to many of our best citizens in other walks of life. In

unity there is strength, and for the good of all concerned would it not be better to concentrate all our forces and work for one common end? This, it appears, would be logical proposition. If this new organization has other aims, then it is different.

### VERY COMPLIMENTARY, INDEED.

The *New Age*, a most creditable weekly paper published in Portland, with a large circulation throughout the country, pays the senior of this journals the following compliment:

The St. Johns Review, established some weeks ago by J. C. Crome, one of the best known newspaper men in the Northwest, is rapidly coming to the front as one of the leading publications of Multnomah County. It is the only one of any consequence outside of Portland, and is doing valiant service for St. Johns and its many industrial enterprises. But, after all, the people of that prosperous suburban town will not appreciate it fully. There is no paper in any town in the state with the population of St. Johns that publishes as much original local matter of a meritorious nature as does the Review. "J. C." works and frets and events to produce a paper that will promote the interests of the community, putting in from 16 to 20 hours a day; and yet even the business men—some of them, at least—will persist in regarding it as a work of pleasure and amusement on his part. However, the New Age sincerely hopes that Editor Crome will presently be able to convert the people of St. Johns to believing that his is the biggest institution in town—and, in truth, it is.

### ST. JOHNS.

Tis all very well to read the news,  
And write the most learned reviews,  
And do what each one is saying here,  
Acting, hospitality's cheer,  
But today I want this whole affair  
Scattered broadcast everywhere,  
As I long for the trade winds to blow,  
The warm sun, that the farmer may  
sow.

The three-willing soil in corn and  
wheat,  
That the people may have to eat,  
That all may know we will do our  
share,

For the sons will our commerce bear

The Indian girl was wont to ride  
A fiery steed, ere a bride  
In buckskin suit, and soft moccasins  
In tribal rags she would win,  
Where now stands St. Johns our fair  
city.

The bride sang a loving dirty,  
When wild flowers bloomed on the  
hills

The soft notes of the whippoorwills  
Would sound shrill upon the midnight  
air.

Awakening grizzles from their lair  
Little they thought this beautiful abode  
Would give up its innocence to us.

Little knew the Indian girl of creeds  
That we are here, well all her ways,  
With the Indians, the Indians, singing  
and dancing made the welcome

ring.

Her eye was dark, a very deep set  
crown.

A smiling in her smile and frown,  
Her hair darker than the blackest  
night.

Her vengeance swifter than her sight,  
Showing there was in each pulsing  
vein.

Natural glory without stain,  
Thus were they upon these hills and  
plains.

Where now stand our electric mains,

The students out of the many schools,

The future will know by their tools,

The swift, willing feet, that lively

tread.

Have St. Johns' glory for their end,  
That this fair city may take first place

in Pacific commercial race.

Shoulder to shoulder and back to

back.

Steady energy let's not lack,

So that the coming vast multitude

Will find its quick of gratitude,

And will ever live here and essay

To capitalize with their stay.

William Wordsworth Goethe.

### THE ALLEY QUESTION.

Eugene, Or., Jan. 12, 1905.

To the Editor Review:

Will you kindly grant a little  
space in your valuable paper to an  
humble subscriber, and small prop-  
erty-owner of your little city?

I see quite a little in your col-  
umns of late concerning alleys, and  
it is a subject of much importance  
and should be attended to right  
on the start. I have visited nearly  
every city and town from Ashland  
to Portland and find that most of  
them have alleys, and it is a necessity.

I have heard it said by many  
traders who have visited Eugene,  
that it is the best laid out city they  
have seen in the state; one of the  
main reasons is, however, that the  
main part was all laid out by one  
man and so there are no angling  
streets, and the whole business part  
of the city is laid out in large equal  
sized blocks, and has a center alley  
running each way through them,  
so that every one has an alley at  
the back of their property and many  
have one running along side also,  
so that it is almost as good as a  
corner.

Travelers here have nearly all of  
them spoken of this great advan-  
tage, and all agree that it is a  
grand improvement as every prop-  
erty owner can drive a wagon on to  
the back of his property. Now,  
while the blocks are so small in St.  
Johns, I would not advise alleys  
both ways, but I do hope the sound  
business men will at once take the  
proper steps to have alleys put  
through every block one way, and  
the sooner it is done the better  
it will be for all parties concerned.

I understand that there is only two  
blocks in St. Johns that have an  
alley through them, but hope to  
hear of all of them being supplied  
soon.

GEO. A. DYSON.

D. W. A. WISE.

## 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 not increase in value at least

## 20 per Cent

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

### 3 Chamber of Commerce, Portland, Or.

O. L. CHAPEL, Agent at St. Johns.

### GOLD CROWNS

Our price for Gold Crowns is  
low, but we guarantee our standard  
Gold Crowns to be superior to any.  
Our system makes no charge for  
crowns, and we give  
one free. Write  
for catalog. Consultation FREE.



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MODERN DENTISTRY Cor. 3rd and Washington Sts.

### W. A. EDGERTON

### NEW STORE! FRESH STOCK!

Family Groceries and  
General Merchandise

Come and see us for your Christmas Specialties

Cochran Block, Jersey St., St. Johns

## ST. JOHNS

Real Estate is the Best Asset you can have . . .

Those of you who invested in St. Johns a year or two ago have doubled and in some cases trebled your money. The opportunity to do this is still here. The town is still young and real estate is still cheap.

St. Johns is with its new charter just entering on an era of development hitherto unknown.

Within another year you will see a city of paved streets, broad sidewalks, and permanent business blocks. Then you will realize when it is too late that your opportunity for getting cheap property is past.

## St. Johns Park

s the most desirable residence district in St. Johns. We still have some fine lots in this tract which we can sell you

### \$5.00 Down and \$5.00 a Month

These lots are high and slighty, overlooking the river and in full view of the mountain peaks convenient to car line and factories on the water front.

Let us show you this property.  
Call on us or write us for full particulars.  
Houses built on the installment plan,

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St. Johns Phone Union 3104 Oregon

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## Portland Jobbing Co.

PLUMBING, GASFITTING  
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At Reasonable Rates. Stoves, Furnaces and Tinware Repaired. Quick Service. All Work Guaranteed.

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## 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.