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ST. JOHNS REVIEW

Devoted to the Interests of the Peninsula, the Manufacturing Center of the Northwest

VOL. 1

ST. JOHNS, OREGON, FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 1905.

NO. 21

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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

One of the most active Commercial clubs in the state, outside of our own St. Johns Commercial association, we point with pride to that of Cottage Grove, Oregon. Our friends in that live burg believe in action, quick action and action that means something. The Cottage Grove people have taken upon the matter of freight rates, and all kinds of internal improvements with a vigor that is sure to bring results. This active agitation is what counts, and we congratulate our Cottage Grove co-workers on being really "alive" to the "live" issues.

It is a matter of the most sincere regret, that more of our citizens could not have participated in the banquet given by the Commercial association last Thursday night. While the attendance was representative, and marked by great enthusiasm in behalf of St. Johns, yet could the attendance have been even larger and attended by more of our citizens representing all interests. It is needless to say that local politics were entirely excluded. Not a single word was dropped or allusion made that could be construed into anything political. Every word uttered by local speakers and the eloquent gentlemen who were present as guests, was in the interest of St. Johns' commercial importance and industrial development. Every man present felt that it was good to be there and listen to the wise counsel and good advice as it fell from the lips of able men, whose sole and only interest is to see a growth and advancement in St. Johns commensurate with her position in the galaxy of enterprising cities.

"Who," as one speaker at the banquet last Thursday night "would have even predicted two years ago that in the spring of 1905 so representative a crowd of St. Johns business men would have assembled around a banquet such as was assembled here." How true, and yet not so strange, either. When one considers the marvelous resources of this peculiarly favored district; the natural attractions unequalled in this or any other country, why should it not become the center of industrial and commercial activity? It is just such spots where the discerning business man seeks investment; seeks a home, and having discovered it, is not slow to take advantage of the opportunities offered. St. Johns possesses every opportunity that the progressive manufacturer or capitalist of industry could desire, hence it is not so strange that three score lively, active business men should be found surrounding a board where the vital interests of this young city should be discussed; where good fellowship and better understandings may be had; where the bond of common interest is welded stronger. Such were the happy conditions surrounding this assembly. We believe much real good was accomplished, and the good results would have been many fold greater had there been a larger attendance.

As the city increases in size greater is the demand for houses to rent. There are few desirable houses to be had, and daily calls are made upon real estate agents for houses. In view of this, it would seem to be a good investment if some of our landed proprietors would build a few eligible cottages. It is quite evident that the demand will continue to increase as the season advances, and when work commences on the Weyerhaeuser plant, which promises to be very soon, the dwelling house problem will become a serious one. It is not expected that the present home owners of this city will even nearly supply the number of laborers required, and necessarily non-residents will have to be brought in. Then, too, the addition to our population, people not directly employed at the mill, but who come here to engage in other pursuits contingent upon the operations of the big plant, will have to be reckoned with. The only solution is to build more tenement houses.

The efforts being made by the ladies of the Civic Improvement league to improve the block set apart by the James Johns bequest for school purposes, is a most worthy one, and deserves the hearty support of the community. The offer of H. L. Powers, of the St. Johns Water Co., to supply water

for irrigation purposes free of charge, is a most generous one. If our home people are equally generous in aiding the ladies in their laudable efforts, the block can be made a lovely spot, and one of the attractions of our young and growing city. Encourage the ladies in this work, and we will all be better for having done so.

Our valued friend, an old resident, who is a warm supporter of The Review, took the editor to task the other day for his reference to "mossbacks." If our friend had been present at the banquet last Thursday evening, as he should have been, and heard Judge H. M. Calk's reference to the mossback question, he might view the matter less seriously. The Judge, in an eloquent portrayal of the country "Where rolls the Oregon," said: "In what other country on earth can more bushels of wheat, hops, potatoes, etc., be raised to the acre, or more moss be grown on our backs, while we raise them?" No harm is meant to the honest, progressive "mossbacks." Moss is a growth peculiar to our climatic conditions, and does not necessarily imply an obstructionist, or one who intentionally clogs the wheels of progress.

After next Monday politics will, we hope, and everybody else should hope, will be relegated to the scrap pile, at least for the next eleven months, then let us all shake hands and resolve to bestow the same amount of energy and time wasted in heated and ridiculous political strife during the last few weeks, toward doing something to help develop the city of St. Johns. A few same labor and energy directed in a proper channel would accomplish far more for the substantial progress of the city than years of this petty local strife. Whatever the result may be, let us accept it as final, and put an eternal stop to this kicking and backbiting spirit. If we are true to ourselves, our city and its institutions, we'll do it, too.

Along the Water Front.

The schooner Luzon is at Cone's dock taking on a deck load of lumber for San Francisco.

The steamer Star, a river towboat, was on the dock undergoing repairs this week.

The tugboat Nestor, Captain Milton Smith, was along the dock this week having an upper cabin built. The Nestor is engaged in towing logs and piles from the Cowlitz and Lewis rivers. Captain Smith is a brother of Buck Smith, the popular butcher. Ben Smith, another brother, is engineer of the Nestor. Ben runs a lumber yard in St. Johns seven years ago, and in visiting the upper part of the city this week expressed great surprise at the progress being made.

The founded steamship Elder has been expected at the dry dock for some time, and Monday she was expected surely, but the wreckers engaged in attempting to float her again failed. They succeeded in getting the hull pretty well up, but were compelled to let her settle again. Some experts regard the old ship as a "goner."

A big cigar-shaped raft, including piles and saw logs, is being constructed at Coal Creek, below Rainier, for towage to Frisco. About 100 tons of chains are used in its construction. It will contain about 5,000,000 feet.

The change from wood and coal to oil burners on both river and sea-going craft is being rapidly made. The wood trade is being seriously affected.

American Plow Company Coming.

Mr. George Ahrens, of the American Plow Company of Madison, Wis., has written to a gentleman in this city that his company contemplates establishing a plant in the West, and thinks favorably of Portland or its suburbs.

The estimated cost of the plant is \$100,000, of which the company will advance \$50,000 if a bonus of \$100,000 can be secured from the city in which the plant is to be established.

It is suggested that the \$100,000 subscribed can be paid in quarterly installments of two, six, nine and twelve months respectively. A plant of this kind would add materially to the pay roll of St. Johns, and it is one to which our progressive little city should give its closest attention.

At the Evangelical Church next Sunday, which closes the conference year, the sermon will be preached by the pastor at 11 a. m. Subject, "Annual Review." In connection with this service will be the reception of members. At 8 p. m. preaching service, and it is expected that the pulpit will be supplied by a visiting minister.

PERTINENT POLITICAL POINTERS.

Candidates Discussed, and Reasons Given Why Certain Men Should Receive Your Support.

The Mayoralty—A "Voter" Gives Reasons why He Should Be Elected

St. Johns, Oregon, March 30, 1905.—Editor Review: In the contest for mayor, to be decided next Monday, there are three candidates in the field, from which number the voters will select the one who is to occupy that important position during the succeeding year. The best evidence to be adduced, as to a candidate's fitness for the position, lies in the record he has made in the past.

As a voter, one interested in the future welfare of St. Johns, I wish to call the special attention of the voters to the record of T. J. Monohan, than whom no more earnest, energetic and enthusiastic man, for all that means progress for the city, can be found.

Mr. Monohan has shown himself, in the past, to be just the kind of a man St. Johns needs for mayor. He has been an earnest worker for the city's interests, without pay and without price. He is a progressive man, able to weigh questions of public importance, able to rise above personal considerations and selfish interests. What is the city's good, is the only question that will be considered, on any subject brought before him for decision.

It is true that Mr. Jobs is engaged in business here, but Mr. Jobs has never taken the interest in furthering the interests of St. Johns that T. J. Monohan has. Mr. Jobs' interests have been concentrated in his milling business, which resulted in direct gain for Mr. Jobs. It is not a matter of record, so far as I know, or can ascertain, that Mr. Jobs has ever assisted to advance any public enterprise.

Voters, in the choice for mayor, whom do you prefer, the man who has proven his public spirit by his acts, on every occasion that any question affecting the advancement of the city has arisen, or the man who has no record, or if any, a negative one? It is for you to decide, and if the records of the two men are closely studied, there should be no hesitation, to my way of thinking, in choosing T. J. Monohan for the next mayor.

A VOTER.

An Open Letter to St. Johns Taxpayers.

To the Editor Review: On the eve of election, it is certainly appropriate to call the attention of the men, who, by their ballots next Monday, are to select the men who will govern our city during the coming year, to a few pertinent facts which stand out in bold relief, prominent as the rock of Gibraltar, and as impregnable, unless there are traitors in the fort.

The men who have the heaviest interests in any enterprise, other things being equal, are the men entitled to direct its business methods. This principle applies with equal force to municipalities and private corporations. It applies to the election of councilmen for St. Johns during the ensuing year. It is a principle which applies to all conditions of business, everywhere. Now, if this has been made plain to the voters at the coming election, I may proceed to the facts to which I wish to call their attention, and to ask them as reasonable, intelligent men, to weigh all I say and see if I am not right in my deductions.

There are three tickets in the field, from which the voters must choose the men who are to control the municipal business during the next year. There is no election of councilmen for St. Johns during the ensuing year. It is a principle which applies to all conditions of business, everywhere. Now, if this has been made plain to the voters at the coming election, I may proceed to the facts to which I wish to call their attention, and to ask them as reasonable, intelligent men, to weigh all I say and see if I am not right in my deductions.

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W. V. Jobs, the Good Government Nominee.

To The Review:—

W. V. Jobs, one of the candidates for mayor of St. Johns, was born on Staten Island, New York; and lived the early years of his life on a farm near Rockford, Illinois. At the age of 18 years he was employed as book-keeper and cashier with the drygoods firm of S. C. Withrow & Co., of Rockford.

After a few years, having made the acquaintance of L. Z. Leiter, then senior partner of the firm of Field-Leiter & Co., of Chicago, now Marshall, Field & Co., he accepted a position as cashier with that company, where he remained for five years.

He then located at Minneapolis, where he was connected with the Pillsbury Flour mills. In 1880 he commenced business on his own account in the wholesale commission business under the firm name of Pratt-Jobs & Co.

His business operations were extended to Billings, Mont., where he was engaged in the general mercantile business.

In 1889 Mr. Jobs moved to Spokane, where he followed the mercantile business for a number of years. For the past six years he has been engaged in the flour milling business, having started and conducted the Inland Empire Milling Co., which business he sold to a Holland syndicate for the purpose of locating at St. Johns, where, with his sons, William H. Jobs and Allan R. Jobs, he has incorporated The Jobs Milling Co. This company is now operating the new flour mill at St. Johns, and is manufacturing flour which is reported to be a credit to the town.

Mr. Jobs stated to the writer that he has never taken an active part in politics, but if elected mayor by the citizens of St. Johns it will be his policy to work for the best interests of the town of St. Johns, and maintain an honest government "of the people, by the people and for the people."

ACQUAINTANCE.

Letter From C. R. Organ.

Organ is not a candidate, nor is Organ the issue for the people to decide at the polls Monday, April 3d. But the real question is, "Shall the people of St. Johns have a man in who shall be Mayor and Councilman, or shall we, as a people, delegate that power to outside corporations, street railways and associated boat line."

C. R. ORGAN.

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THE COMING ELECTION.

Old Reality Offers Some Terse Suggestions to Voters.

"Tell me with whom you live and I will tell you who you are," was an adage of the ancients, but it will apply to all conditions of men in all ages of the world. It is the criterion used by intelligent men of today and it rarely ever leads him on a wrong direction or strands him on the barren island of Disappointment.

Strangers naturally gauge a town by the personnel of its officials. Every man who is an aspirant for a political position is a target, and a legitimate one, for the shafts of all the archers of the community. It is his duty after he takes his position as a target to stand still while the people are shooting at him. If there is a vulnerable spot in his armor he may rest assured some missile will pierce it, and he will fall, like Achilles, pierced through the heel, the only vulnerable point on his body.

One President of the United States had two questions he always asked in regard to every applicant for a position: First, "Is he honest?" Second, "Is he efficient?" If these two questions were answered affirmatively the man received the appointment.

To many men a man's honesty is all sufficient. They imagine then, it is impossible for him to go wrong. In this they are egregiously mistaken. A man may be as honest as the summer days are long and absolutely unfit to hold a public trust. The laws on our statutes are living witnesses of the fact that many strictly honest men have been hoodwinked by crafty politicians into passing laws directly against the best interests of the people at large, and contrary to their best judgment.

It is a well known fact that seven or eight men control the Oregon legislature. What they say "goes" and nothing they oppose passes into a law. This casts a reflection upon the honesty of the great majority of the members which is unjust. It is due to their inefficiency. They are simply automatons in the hands of skilled manipulators who pull the strings and the "Jacks" jump.

As proof of this I may cite an incident which occurred some years ago at Salem. A measure was before the legislature engineered by a lot of grafters. They knew that it would fail unless they could induce one honest, old member to give the measure his support. They also knew it to be useless to approach him with a bribe so they adopted another scheme. They sent a man to him who told him the other side were boasting that they had him under their control and would use him and his influence to defeat the bill. This aroused the old man's ire and striking himself on the breast he said "I'll show them, the rascals. Here is a man they can't buy."

When the bill came up for final action Uncle Jack made a telling speech in its favor, and it passed.

In the coming contest for mayor dust is being thrown into voter's eyes already. The organ outfit is trying to mislead the voters by claiming the Commercial Association is backing up a local political organization. It is the desire of the Commercial Association as a cat's paw to extract their chestsnuts from the fire.

This organ outfit peddles a lot of "hot air" and has even succeeded in getting the Journal to give it a boost towards getting the desired plum. The mission of the Commercial Association is a commendable one and was fully exploited in last Friday's issue of The Review.

Now the pertinent question for the voters to consider at the coming election is the one of the honesty and efficiency of the men who are candidates for the various offices. If it transpires that any of these candidates have been trying to catch voters with guile it naturally follows that such men are unworthy of support and should be labeled n. g. and put away in the closet of obscurity where, unimpeded, the dust of forgetfulness may drift over them and hide their deformities from the public gaze.

It will be well for each voter to scan carefully all the names on the list and to select therefrom, men of known progressive tendencies, who stand for progress, improvement, perseverance and the continual upbuilding of St. Johns. Men of known probity of character, progressiveness of spirit, capable and honest, with clean hands, into whose keeping the future welfare of our city may be unhesitatingly entrusted. We have them, let us support them and thus benefit ourselves as a community.

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