

THE ST. JOHNS REVIEW

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J. O. CHOMER, Editor and Publisher

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Official Newspaper of the City of St. Johns.

FRIDAY EVENING, April 7, 1905

OFFICIAL CANVASS

Mayor Cook appointed E. Elliott and C. W. Potter to "serve as members of the board to EXAMINE the ballots of the election of April 7th, in accordance with the provisions of the charter." The board met last night with the recorder and counted the ballots, and found the returns incorrect in some minor details. Several ballots which the election board counted and tallied were thrown out. The only changes were in the total vote of some of the candidates, but not in the personnel of the new city government.

The question of the right of the canvassing board to count the ballots, instead of merely canvassing the returns, has given rise to much animated discussion. In other words, had the board the right to go behind the returns, that is the returns made by the judges and clerks of election?

The charter contains the following provisions:

Sec. 35. Immediately after the close of the polls, the ballots shall be counted and full returns made out and certified to by the judges and clerks of election. The ballots shall be placed in packages and the packages securely sealed, and the contents of the packages endorsed thereon; and within twenty-four hours after the closing of the polls said returns and packages containing the ballots shall be deposited by one or more of said judges of election with the city recorder.

Sec. 36. On the fourth day after an election, or sooner if the returns from all the wards are in the mayor shall appoint two disinterested freeholders who shall act with the recorder, and they three shall then canvass the returns of the election.

It seems quite clear that the board may have exceeded its authority as defined by the charter, but as no material harm has resulted, we can see no good in carrying the matter further. It is conceded by all reasonable men that the gentlemen of the canvassing board acted in perfect good faith and believed they were strictly discharging their full duty as instructed by the mayor. Their character as citizens and business men, and standing in the community is sufficient to dispel any adverse insinuations.

Let's quit bickering and fault-finding, and let every citizen of this city turn in and work for St. Johns, the importance of which is far greater than the personality of any one man or set of men. Take a lesson by any past mistakes and try to steer the bark of city government clear of further obstructions in the future.

MISLEADING STATEMENTS.

We have seen the mention in all the daily papers of Portland, as well as the report in the Daily Abstract, of the transfer of the Gattson property and the Hollbrook water front to the Weyerhaeuser Lumber Co. Mr. Alexander, of that company, has told a number of our citizens that this concern would immediately begin the erection of the immense plant. Immediately is the term he used. Engineers are on the ground now preparing the plans. If work begins immediately men will be employed at once, and from this time on, the number of workmen will probably increase daily until the maximum number be reached.

In the April 5th issue of the Journal on page 18, there is an article in relation to this industry. Among other things said is the following: "It is believed that the majority of the officials of the company will secure homes at University Park and Portsmouth—The hundreds of mill hands will live in St. Johns, but they will not arrive for probably a year or more, when the mill is ready for its run."

This article was of course written in good faith, but it is unfortunately misleading and unfortunate for those men who are already beginning to arrive to work on this great plant. Before these great Lumber Kings decided to settle in St. Johns there was a dearth of houses to rent, while at the present time there is nothing of the kind to be had. If the Journal had given this truth to the public, it might have helped bring additional capital here to build small homes, which are sorely needed, and twenty per cent can readily be obtained on such investments.

The Journal, of all the Portland press, should be the last to lend its columns for the purpose of doing St. Johns an injustice. In this case it has done so to an extent that has provoked some rather severe criticism. While not detracting from any other locality, the truth remains that no locality on the Pacific coast presents more genuine natural attractions for home-builders of all classes than St. Johns.

HOT AIR FROM PORTLAND.

That Johnston McCulley, reporter, and Murphy, artist, on the Oregonian staff, are hot air artists has long been conceded by the friends of these gentlemen who know them intimately. They are "Johnny-on-the-spot" all of the time. Their humorous ebullitions manifest themselves on the slightest occasions, and, being obvious and harmless are enjoyed by all.

These fun-loving, mirth-producing gentlemen allowed the light of their benign countenances to penetrate the darkness of St. Johns on election day, and pictures of what Murphy did not see, reports of conversations which McCulley did not hear, caused a smile to spread over the faces of all who read Tuesday's Oregonian.

The Review regrets its inability to reproduce the sketches of Murphy, but desires to call particular attention to the effort of McCulley, which appears below. These gentlemen will always find a warm welcome awaiting them in St. Johns. A majority candidate is supposed to have been interviewed. "When I am elected," he said, "I shall send an ambassador to Portland and shall endeavor always to keep the bonds of friendship tight between that village and St. Johns. I shall do my best, through my ambassador, to aid Portland in getting for herself a few of the army transports which are to make the port of St. Johns in the near future. We have already given Portland railway communication, and in time, we shall give you a steamship line. You may tell your people when you return that there will be no strained relations between ourselves and Portland. Portland, it is plain to be seen, is a coming town, and while it may never reach the prestige St. Johns enjoys, we are sure that Portland will become a credit to the state. I am glad to see that many of our business men have purchased suburban homes in Portland. It tends to bring the two places closer together in bonds of pure friendship."

FRATERNAL INSURANCE.

There is a heated discussion going on among the Workmen of Oregon in regard to raising the assessment. It presented itself in the council of the Grand Lodge last year, and through the flowery speeches of D. Solis Cohn and others was voted down.

Next month the Grand Lodge meets in extra session to discuss this question.

The death rate is governed by a law as unchangeable as that of Medes and Persians. No efforts of man can change it. A risk at a certain age is worth so much, and, if accepted at a lesser rate, a loss must ensue. To obviate this there is only one course left open for the Grand Lodge, and that is to raise the assessments.

Twenty-five or thirty states in the Union have adopted this plan already, and are finding that it works beautifully. It is only a question of time until all shall have fallen into line.

Their existence depends upon securing young blood. Young men refuse to come into the lodge because they claim the rate is too high. It is to the young men the order must look for its perpetuation. Without them it cannot live.

The best course for the order to pursue is to adopt the system of the old line companies. They have reduced the system to a science, and given a man's age, can tell exactly what his risk is worth.

The order needs no high salaried officials, as do the old line companies, and no one needs to cry "robbery."

There is an amount to be raised each year varying proportionately according to the number of deaths. This year it was about \$56 on a policy of \$2,000 at the limit. Unless new blood is infused into the order year by year the assessments will grow higher. Men will find the burdens too heavy and will drop out of the organization. This means the death of the order.

If a member withdraws under the present system he loses all benefits. According to the new plan, if he withdraws he may take a paid-up policy gauged by the number of years he has been a member. Isn't this infinitely better?

Mr. Dawson in an address before the Supreme Lodge last year showed the immense amount the order is running behind annually, and that time is the only factor to be considered in its suspension. His statements were received with derision by many members of the order who overlooked the fact that he is the best posted man on those points in the order today, and that personally he has nothing to gain in the matter. He was making his statements from absolute knowledge of all the facts. Every loyal member desires the perpetuation of the order, and each should be, and no doubt is, anxious to adopt the best method of securing it.

All these questions will be discussed at the coming session, and from the consensus of opinion lately expressed by members of the fraternity, the raised assessment of the graded system will be adopted, and the order will grow into wider fields of usefulness.

While it is desired to raise the assessment to \$8.40, this will not raise the total for the year to any appreciable amount, as there will be fewer assessments.

The Grand Lodge in its wisdom will, no doubt, devise methods to secure the permanent welfare of the order and enable it to go forward with renewed hope.

Mrs. Kirby, of Dayton, Oregon, was in the city this week looking after her property interests.

Surprise Party.

A most pleasant party of Royal Neighbors visited the home of Mrs. York, Friday evening, and took that lady and her son, Harry, completely by surprise. About thirty of the Royal Neighbors were in the party, and their presence was a guarantee of a most pleasant evening. About ten o'clock the M. W. A. band appeared on the scene, and after playing a couple of selections outside were invited in and joined the happy throng. Refreshments were served, and at a late hour the visitors departed, all declaring Mrs. York and her son, Harry delightful entertainers.

Civic League.

The ladies of the St. Johns Civic Improvement League held their regular weekly meeting at the home of Mrs. R. Shepard, Tuesday afternoon, April 4th, at half past two o'clock.

There was a large attendance of the members and two new members were enrolled.

After the regular business meeting plans were perfected for the coming entertainment to be given by the League in Bickner hall, Friday evening, April 7th. The next meeting will be at the residence of Mrs. Braasch, April 11th.

A Genuine Surprise.

Wednesday being the 39th wedding anniversary of Rev. and Mrs. Campbell, a number of their friends in this city concluded to give them a surprise. Mr. Campbell was met as he alighted from the car, he having come down to hold the weekly prayer meeting, and was told that the prayer meeting would be held at his home that evening. So yielding to their request, he and his friends boarded the car, in accordance with the plans of the latter. Arriving at the home a more complete surprise could not have been planned, for Mr. and Mrs. Campbell were more than surprised, and greatly pleased as well.

After a few musical numbers a very fine and beautiful oak chair was presented them from the members of the congregation. Mr. Campbell thanked them in his usual good way, after which a delicate lunch was served. Those present were Rev. and Mrs. Campbell, Walter Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. VanAnker, Faith VanAnker, Mr. McMillan, Edna McMillan, Harry Allen, Mrs. Brack, Mrs. Leggett, Mrs. Jacobus, Mrs. Mighlles, Mr. and Mrs. Kemp, Miss Magone, Mr. and Mrs. S. L. Young, Mr. and Mrs. S. Calkins, Mrs. Edgerton, Mrs. Leonard, Mr. Harold.

Columbia's First Team Downed.

Columbia's second team with the assistance of three of the star University Park team known as Charley Moore, Smokey Smith and Kid Moore defeated the first team in an exciting game Wednesday afternoon by the score of 7 to 4. The feature of the game was the playing of Charley and Kid Moore and of Smokey Smith who secured a three base hit. Although Hinkle for Columbia secured two hits. The batteries were—Second team, Charley and Kid Moore; Columbia, Albright and Mangold.

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