

# ST. JOHNS REVIEW

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

VOL. 1

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THE REVIEW Job Printing Department is one of the very Best—not the largest—in Oregon. Thoroughly Modern.

The Circulation of THE REVIEW in the Peninsula exceeds that of all other papers combined. Advertisers, note this.

## 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

The ladies of Oregon City, emulating the good women of this city, have organized a civic improvement club, and are starting in to "do things," having for their main object the cleaning up of this erstwhile old Oregon metropolis, so as to have it in presentable shape for the Lewis and Clark visitors. There is a big task before them, but if they apply the same energy as our own Civic Improvement League they will accomplish it. The yards and lawns in this city, many of them at least, show the effects of the work of our women. Right here, men of the Commercial Association, and all others, don't fail or neglect to give the ladies all possible encouragement. It is your duty to do so, and if you are of the right kind of stuff, it will afford you pleasure. Help the ladies in their good work by all means.

The announcement that on April 6, the general fund of Multnomah county was freed from debt, and the further announcement that by April 30 the last outstanding indebtedness against the road fund would be canceled, is indeed a matter for congratulation, not only on the part of every citizen of the county, but the very efficient officials who have by honest and economical efforts brought about this extremely happy condition. The one man who has figured most conspicuously in this matter is Judge Webster. Three years ago, when he assumed charge of county affairs there was a debt of over one-half million hanging over the county. In face of the fact that over \$30,000 per month is required to run the county, an average of more than \$8000 of which has been spent on roads, yet this vast sum of debt has been wiped out, and no department stinted in the least, neither have taxes been materially increased.

The Lewis and Clark exposition management is putting forth strenuous efforts to guard against the horde of pickpockets and bunco men who are sure to swarm hereabouts during the fair. Experienced eastern detectives have been imported from eastern centers, and their familiarity with the tribe of light-fingered gentry will make this service very efficient. Of course they will keep an eye on the Portland grafters as well.

It is to be hoped that the matter of publicity at the fair has not been lost sight of. St. Johns has many interesting features, which, if properly placed before the many strangers who will be here, would inure largely to the benefit of this city. Let's keep this question before us, and not be behind many other less favored localities which are formulating plans to fully exploit their advantages during the fair.

It seems at last that we are to have a public dock, at least the city council has so promised. This improvement cannot be made too soon. The necessity for it is made apparent every day, and it is due the enterprises on the water front that wharf facilities should be provided without any further unnecessary delay.

The state meetings of the Oregon Development League will be held April 26 and 27. St. Johns will have a strong delegation there, which should avail itself of the opportunity afforded by this meeting to let this representative body know that St. Johns is the growing industrial center that it is. While we should not favor making this occasion an advertising scheme for any particular locality, yet, true to the proper St. Johns spirit, we advise that our light be not placed under the bushel. If the "red book" could be placed in the hands of every delegate, we are sure they would appreciate it. This is a suggestion only.

Now that the excitement of local politics has been disposed of, and we earnestly hope that this city will never again be the scene of a contest quite so warm, let every true citizen of St. Johns turn in and lend a helping hand to place the Commercial Association in the position it properly belongs. There is no question but that a great work is ahead of this organization, and all feeling should be cast to the winds, and every man turn in and assist. If not already a member, show your true St. Johns spirit and affiliate at once. We are of opinion that the fallacy of the charge that it is or ever had any political axes to grind, is fully appreciated.

In the recent municipal contest some of its members were to be found acting with all the parties, which should be sufficient evidence to every unbiased mind that the charge of politics was a "barren idealty," without even a tinge.

The St. Johns Commercial Association has attained a reputation among kindred organizations as being one of the liveliest and most effective in the state, and is referred to as a striking example of local unity and harmony. This fact alone should be a matter of congratulation to every man who claims St. Johns as his home. There is no question but that the delegates who may attend the state meeting of the Oregon Development League next week will be accorded a prominent position in that body. And this is another reason why our home people should lend their aid and encouragement. If you, dear reader, Mr. Citizen of St. Johns, are in earnest in your protestations of devotion to the city's interests, get in and prove that such professions are not empty utterances. You can do more good by getting in the harness and helping the Commercial Association.

The immigration to Oregon this year will be greater than ever experienced in any other single year of its existence. Among this influx of people will be represented all classes—the laborer, skilled mechanic, mercantile men and investors. These people will all seek out what may seem to strike them as the most favorable localities. The question is, what are the people of St. Johns going to do about it? The natural attractions are here, an ideal place for home builders; the opportunities for the investor are not surpassed, if equalled, at any other point on the coast; the advantages for all kinds of manufacturing industries are most inviting. If we would make these things known to these newcomers it is high time that some steps be taken and plans matured by which this end may be accomplished. The Commercial Association appointed a committee some months ago to take up this question of publicity, but no results are forthcoming as yet. St. Johns is nearing a period in its existence when every impetus possible should be given to all movements having for their object publicity.

Judge Henry McGinn, in his address before a jury the other day, in a suit for damages brought by a man named Ford against the notorious Blaziers, a "bouncer" for whom in the performance of his duty punched one of Ford's eyes out, described the defendants as "rogues and vagabonds," and otherwise denounced these lawbreakers in terms stronger than ever heard before an Oregon court. Of course McGinn was right, for if ever a set of men lived, and so brazenly and boldly defied law and decency, and endeavored to debauch everything and everybody they come in contact with, it is these same Blaziers, Ericksons, Fritzes, et al. It is only in a graft-ridden city like Portland, where such abominations would be tolerated.

Portland presents the rare spectacle of mayoralty candidates who come out boldly and declaim through the columns of the daily press in favor of an "open town." It is a sad commentary on the morals of a city. Even Portland, where its whole system is polluted with grafters and crime protectors, should blush for shame. The "yellow dog" variety of politics is likely to result in the election of just such scoundrels, however.

It seems a strange course for really and truly "innocent men" to pursue, but of the whole tribe indicted for stealing public lands, senators, congressmen and all, not one wants to face a fair trial of his case. If innocent, as some of them have protested with tears as big as horse chestnuts rolling down their alabaster cheeks, the people will never believe them if they escape through some legal technicality, instead of by acquittal before a jury of their peers. Stand up "innocent" men that you profess to be, and demonstrate it by facts, not by some trivial legal technicality.

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## THE USUAL MISTAKE.

### "Progress" has Some Wholesome Views About Streets and Alleys.

In the history of the United States there is a chapter known as the Reconstructive Period, and it has to do with the condition of the country after the civil war, when our land lay denuded of its beauty and prosperity, when right thinking men saw that if America was to fulfill the grand course designed for it from all ages, they must rectify many of the mistakes that our forefathers had made. Then began the change in the government of our cities, the betterment of our laws, the changing of our cities and the selection of the best men that this country has to occupy the positions of trust and honor. In every city and hamlet in our vast country there was felt the influence of this movement, and it was as necessary for the betterment of our cities as was the Renaissance for the uplifting of education in the Middle Ages.

When the fathers of this grand republic laid the foundations of the mighty edifice, they could not devise laws and means that would be adaptable to all the events and circumstances that would arise in the days to come. Their building of cities was not done according to mathematical principles, but rather according to the squatter's law; and, in consequence, the city took on no regular aspect. No civil engineer drew a royal salary to tell the people that the building of the city in this way was better than any other and, in consequence, when after the civil war, home capital began to look for good localities to further the prosperity of the country and, by the way, to be itself increased; when the cities and towns began to be the commercial centers rather than the country; when manufactories began to spring up, and the cities began to become overcrowded, owing to the tide of immigration that swept over the land, it was then seen that the cities were far too cramped with regard to the space allotted to traffic. Streets were then altered, localities of homes were changed in some places, so much so that the city took on a wholly different aspect.

But this mistake of our fathers is, strange to say, again repeated in our very midst. If the city of St. Johns is going to become the commercial center that it now gives the most brilliant prospects of becoming, there is one defect that ought to be remedied at once, and that is, the improvement of our streets. The streets in a few years will be far inadequate for the congested traffic that will be seen on its streets. When there is a street car on every street, we will see the same state of affairs that is witnessed in Portland every day, unless the city fathers remedy the defect at once. Besides, it will prove a great economical saving to remedy the defect now rather than leave it to the future generations that will inhabit this beauty spot. There is but one city in the United States that did not have to expend unnecessary capital in improving its streets after Penn laid out the streets, and Philadelphia today is the model of a city with spacious streets, and beautiful residences separated from the mercantile center of the city. Moderns should learn from the mistakes of the past and try to make their efforts count for more than the experiments of the makers of prehistoric cities and countries.

Another advantage that the city of St. Johns is overlooking is that of alleys. Some may say that alleys would disfigure the appearance of the city, and in defence, might cite the mode of building in vogue in Portland. It is certainly a most beautiful sight to see rubbish of all kinds out on the main thoroughfares of a city; it is a rare treat to be compelled to wade in the mud because my next door neighbor has got a load of wood on the sidewalk; most ideal is it to hear the hum of the saw in front of my residence, to have the mire of horses and cattle belittling my front yard; most salubrious is it to have the smoke of the refuse of the winter months and spring debris filling my lungs and those of my children, the most priceless heritage of man, often thereby causing the first germ of the dreaded "white curse" to plague the family circle; most peaceful is it to have the servants familiar with the master's and mistress' domain—these are the advantages of having no alleys. Our large cities have all made the fatal mistake that Portland alone, of all cities in our vast and glorious union, has rectified, but it is the sincerest wish of all that the founders had not been endowed with the wisdom that has confounded the practice of all the largest cities in the land, and it is the hope that St. Johns will not follow the example of

older colleague. In the ages to come when the inhabitants shall speak with awe of those that founded the fairest city of the Willamette, that city council that enforced the ordinance of having alleys to every street, and thereby changed the appearance of the city from a small country burg to that of a metropolis with its advantages, shall be considered true upholders of the city's greatness, and fame as a salubrious city. \* PROGRESS.

## THE CITY COUNCIL.

### Meets in Adjourned Session—Decide Powers in License Matter.

An adjourned meeting of the city council was held Monday evening. Present: Mayor King, Councilmen Brice, Linquist, Peterson, Edwards, Thompson, Leggett and Thompson; Treasurer Valentine, Attorney Greene and Marshal Organ.

A petition was presented signed by 91 citizens, asking that the Portland Woolen mills be ordered to put their grounds in a sanitary condition. Petition received and referred to the health committee. Bills presented and allowed: G. W. Etheridge, burying cow, \$5; F. J. Poff, judge of election, \$2; Review, printing, \$28.95; I. Sikes, judge of election, \$2; A. R. Dunham, judge of election, \$2.

Street and dock committee had no report to make. Bill of M. L. Rowland, \$10, for storage of fire apparatus held up for further information.

Marshal Organ reported the general health as good and the order better, no arrests being made for some time.

Councilman Edwards thought there ought to be a license on Cedar Park at a flat rate, and let them police it themselves. City got no money. Marshal Organ said that while he received a monthly salary, the town got all the money from the park, and he did not believe it best to let the park people do their own police work.

Mr. Prasp, who leased the park, said that it cost him \$42.50 a day to run the park, and thought it no harm to fix a flat rate. He thought one marshal sufficient, no need of two.

Councilman Brice objected to flat rate because on a day rate they would know when to have police there, otherwise they would not.

Marshal Organ called attention to the fact that the Cedar Park crowd was not a Sunday school crowd.

Mr. Prasp proposed that the council give him a trial at flat rate for one month.

Councilmen Leggett thought this a good thing to do.

Councilman Shields wanted more than \$40 per month.

Recorder Hanks stated that the ordinance required licenses to be payable by the quarter.

City Attorney Greene rendered an opinion on the matter of liquor license. He said the legislature intended that the city should have such power, and that power to regulate a sale gives power to issue license. "The city evidently has power under the charter to license saloons."

Councilman Brice thought it safe to take the city attorney's opinion. If he got the council in the hole he would have to get it out.

Councilman Edwards moved and Councilman Brice seconded, that the opinion of City Attorney Greene be adopted as the guide of the council in the matter of license; carried. This gives the council power to license saloons.

Councilman Shields moved and Councilman Peterson seconded a motion that the license on Cedar Park be \$10 for each Sunday it is run, and \$3 for week days; carried.

Nothing could be done further in regard to Jersey street on account of absence of the city engineer.

Councilman Leggett moved that the regular meeting nights be the first and third Mondays in each month.

City Attorney Greene called attention to the fact that the acceptance of the fire apparatus by the council was illegal, according to the charter, as it requires that the acquisition of public utilities must be submitted to a vote of the people.

Councilman Brice did not consider the fire apparatus was a public utility.

Councilman Leggett thought it would be impossible to sell bonds if voted.

City Attorney Greene stated that it was his opinion that if bonds were issued it would be very doubtful if they could be sold. If the parties bidding on them were to go to Salem and find out certain that the charter was changed in the engrossing room after being signed by the proper authorities, they would decline to purchase.

A letter from the secretary of state stated that the charter would

be out of the printer's hands in about six weeks, when fifty copies would be sent for use of city.

In order to comply with resolution passed at mass meeting Saturday night, Mayor King appointed Councilmen Peterson, Leggett and Linquist as committee to estimate the amount necessary to bond the city for.

Mayor King appointed City Attorney Greene to go to Salem to examine the copy of the charter in the secretary of state's office and see if it is the same as the copy they now have.

J. B. Landrum applied for permission to blast stumps, agreeing to not use more than two pounds in any one blast. Granted on filing of \$500 bond.

Mayor King appointed a health committee consisting of Councilmen Shields, Linquist and Brice.

Councilman Brice moved, and Councilman Shields seconded that a warrant be drawn for \$20 to pay expenses of city attorney to Salem.

Adjourned to meet Friday night, when city attorney will have had time to return from Salem.

## MASS MEETING.

### Perfect Harmony and all Willing to Bond the City.

The mass meeting held last Saturday night in M. L. Holbrook's building was characterized by a spirit of harmony, rarely ever witnessed, and never excelled. Mayor King presided, and after calling the meeting to order City Attorney Greene stated the object of the meeting, read the law governing the question of issuing bonds and explained all of the technical points thereto appertaining, and the mayor asked the citizens present to express themselves freely, as it was a question in which all present were interested.

Quite a number of the representative citizens of St. Johns voiced their sentiments, all declaring themselves in favor of the bond issue.

The only difference existing among the speakers being a question of the amount. It was suggested that the city be bonded to the amount of \$10,000. It was contended by quite a number of the speakers that this was not sufficient, but rather the amount should be raised to \$20,000.

One facetious speaker said that he had heard there were 29 applications before the council for licenses to run saloons. He suggested that they all be granted, and that each applicant be taxed \$500. This he thought would raise enough money to oil the wheels of government and keep the machinery in perfect working order.

It was finally decided that the council should make an estimate of the approximate cost of all the needed improvements and that an election be held to vote on the question of bonding the city for the amount needed.

If the consensus of opinion expressed at the meeting last Saturday night may be taken as a criterion, there will be no question of the result of the election. Everybody is awake to the necessity of hastening some improvements, which are absolutely necessary, and are alive to the fact that the only way to accomplish these results is to bond the city.

Some one proposed that the question be settled synchronously with the bonding of the city. This proposition was met with a thunderous din of cheering, and it is certain that bossy's freedom is of short duration. This is a move in the right direction and will meet the approval of almost every person in St. Johns.

Attorney Greene stated that a decision on the question of granting a license to sell liquor would be submitted at the regular council meeting, Monday evening, April 17.

On motion the meeting adjourned everybody well satisfied with the result.

Recital Saturday night, April 22.

## Resolutions of Thanks.

Resolutions of thanks of the Ladies Aid society of the United Evangelical church.

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MRS. W. F. JOHNSON, Sec.

Recital Saturday night, April 22.

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**Attorney at Law.**  
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