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Keep Your Eye on St. Johns

THE SIMPLE LIFE

City Council and Lawyers Hold a Joint Session

At the meeting of the city council Monday evening Councilman Peterson was the only absentee; but there were lawyers to burn—all sorts and sizes.

The first business after the adoption of the records was a petition from Willis Moxon et al., for the grading and sidewalk of John street from Jersey to Modoc streets. Laid over till adjourned meeting—but referred to the street committee.

At the suggestion of City Engineer Goodrich a resolution was adopted making obligatory the carrying out of all public duties by city officials and private citizens.

An ordinance was ordered drawn at the suggestion of City Engineer Goodrich, making the destruction of or the disturbing of any grade stakes a misdemeanor.

From Mr. Goodrich came also the following communication:

"There should be established at as early date as the council may deem wise, at Jersey and Fessenden and at Richmond and Jersey streets, lights, like the ones now in use for lighting the streets of St. Johns. This same will be of pleasurable advantage to the citizens of St. Johns."

Also this one:
"Burlington street should be extended to the city limits, so that the country and St. Johns proper—adjacent thereto can have a direct outlet to the new ferry accommodations, and for Vancouver direct. There are certain interests, becoming a possibility in the very near future, that will demand this avenue from the center of St. Johns or Burlington Place (Cochran and Holbrook blocks and the plaza thereat) for direct lines of ingress and egress to all parts of the greater St. Johns."

These were laid over till the adjourned meeting. Information regarding the proposed sewer was tendered by Engineer Goodrich in the following communication which was read and passed till the next meeting:

"The sewer in the center of Philadelphia street will start at low water mark; running thence to the north line of Jersey street. Beginning with 14 inches to Edison street; thence 12 inches to Ivanhoe street; thence 10 inches to the north line of Jersey street. Said sewer will be of vitrified salt-glazed drain or sewer pipe, laid in cement, with brick man-holes and inlets at each lateral street. Said sewer will be laid so as to take the drainage from all cellars, water closets, home washing and baths. This will necessitate the same, and the Ys therefor, to be laid ten feet below street grades, as per the profile for said street. The cost for the same will be per lineal foot, complete, one dollar and forty-five cents (\$1.45). This can be assessed on all property that may be benefitted."

A resolution was then introduced by Mr. Thompson condemning in no uncertain tones the present water system, and in a measure taking preliminary steps towards a municipal plant. Mr. Brice desired to postpone action upon this resolution in order to carefully look it over. Mr. Shields moved its adoption.

Attorney Vaughn obtained permission to speak. He was the father of this resolution and it was merely the commencement of the

work of securing a municipal plant. He proposed a scheme whereby his clients could be "hired" by the city to put in a proper, highgrade plant and then be "hired" to run it for a term of years; during all these years it would be managed by a St. Johns board of public works, and at the expiration of the term the system would be turned over to the city free of all encumbrance.

This sounded so good (Mr. Vaughn is deucedly clever, don't you know) that when the matter of adopting the preparatory resolution came up all voted for it except Mr. Brice. He explained that he so voted because he desired time to consider it.

In view of the fact that there is a probability of vacating many thousand dollars' worth of public waterfront it was deemed best to pass an ordinance regulating the manner in which the vacation shall be made. This passed the second reading—Edwards and Shields voting "no," because they (like Mr. Brice) desired to think it over.

A resolution was then offered, the adoption of which would insure the vacation of a bit of street which Smith Brothers desired to occupy with their marine and boiler works. They wished to at once commence work—but, unless they could be assured that the council would vacate that portion of Charleston street between Albany street and the river, it was rumored they'd not build. When the motion to adopt was put Messrs. Shields and Edwards voted "no." It was carried.

A representative of the O. R. & N. Company, Mr. Eddy, was present, and gave due warning that he would soon appear before the council and ask for another free gift of streets so that his road could do business with Smith Brothers' foundry. He merely mentioned the matter so that it might, meantime, be considered.

The jump-off on the newly-graded Philadelphia street was discussed—and there was universal condemnation of the street since it has been "improved." Mr. Messenger, who lives at the foot of the street, stated that the whole business had been a detriment rather than a betterment to all owners of abutting property: he was perfectly willing to pay for an improvement—but it hurt him to pay out good money and then have his property depreciated in value.

There seems to have been some bad blunder in calculation on the street, because the grade is steeper now than before any work was done upon it. Residents are anxious that some improvement be made—and the street committee is doing some hard thinking.

Woods, electrician, was allowed \$4 for looking after the arc-light one month; although a candle in a hollowed pumpkin would have been an improvement on the service the greater part of the time.

The committee on re-naming several streets had no report ready. Mr. Shields kicked because that committee was so slow; declared that a committee should be named who would act when directed by the mayor; and would report sometime within a year or two. Then someone stated that Mr. Shields was a member of that committee—and he was struck dumb!

Adjourned to Thursday evening.

To Dallas or Falls City.

George W. Cone has, with associates, formed the Cone Lumber Company and will install a big mill either at Dallas or Falls City. This is a fact.

Just prior to the destruction by fire of the sawmill here Mr. Cone sold a two-thirds interest in his plant to the Blagens—contemplating the erection of another mill. The fire hastened action on the part of Mr. Cone and he at once went to Dallas and made those people a proposition.

On Monday of this week the citizens commenced the raising of a \$2000 bonus—and, if successful in the attempt, the mill will be built on a site donated by the Dallas and Falls City railroad. Otherwise Mr. Cone may build at Falls City—where the same company will donate a site.

Guard your property against fire. Insure with the Peninsula Bank.

No Names Mentioned.

Two of the sports of St. Johns last Sunday went hunting. They took with them something besides the necessary weapons and had "a warm time." Starting for home one of them realized that his condition was not quite right, and suggested that he'd walk ahead a bit while the other took observations to see if the wife would notice anything when he'd reached home and if the walk was eminently straight. "Am I all right?" asked the head man.

"Yes," replied the other, rather thickly. "You're all right—but who's the other fellow with you?"

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