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

VOL. 3

ST. JOHNS, OREGON, FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 1907.

NO. 41

BURGLARY IN ST. JOHNS

Calef Bros. Store Entered and Check Stolen.

A burglar entered Calef Bros. fine furniture store on Jersey street Saturday night and broke open the desk of the firm and abstracted therefrom a \$15 check. He was very kind to leave the lone penny in the cash drawer so that the company could continue their business Monday morning, otherwise they would have been a busted community.

Ingress was gained by means of the transom over the door, and egress was made by arranging the finely polished furniture for a sort of step ladder where the burglar marred every piece he stepped on. The payment of the check was stopped Monday morning by Mr. Carlson, who discovered the burglary when he returned from the Sunday basket dinner at Whitwood Court. People returning from the ball in Bickner's hall about 12:45 Sunday morning noticed flashes of light in the building made by the burglar striking matches, of which he used a dozen or two. The check was all that was missed from the store, although two books of paid checks had been taken by the thief, examined and left in a back room, where they were discovered by Mr. Gessler Monday afternoon. The officers of the law have been notified and it is hoped the light fingered gentleman may be placed in hook.

Adam Takes a Hike.

Adam Kaemlein, our Adam, the man who saves the day when it comes to a critical base ball event, in company with a bunch of genial companions hid himself to the hills over Tillamook way for a two weeks' outing looking for bears, berries and other edibles and incidentally for a good chunk of ozone, with which to recuperate the virility of his anatomy. We hope Adam may return with sufficient muscular energy to enable him to amputate the hirsute appendages of his patrons for the next 12 months without undue fatigue.

Bring in your printing now.

ANOTHER INDUSTRY

Western Cooperaage Company Want Water Frontage.

The Western Cooperaage company, who have a location near the water front just above the dry dock, covering 16 acres, and who have recently purchased 16,000 acres of timber lands in Clatsop county, are negotiating for the possession of some 200 feet of water front of the Port of Portland lying in front of their property at the extreme southwest corner of the city of St. Johns.

This will be a fine addition to that part of St. Johns water front, for there is little doubt but the plant will be established there, inasmuch as the company has a good location and a lease of 25 years can be procured from the Port of Portland for the water frontage with the first option, if ever offered for sale. The plant will represent \$200,000 and will give employment to hundreds of men.

An Interesting Find.

A most interesting find was made by John Vaun, one of our city boys, about a year ago at Rufus, Wash., when he picked up in an old Indian burying ground a small table knife which bears on the handle the date 1487. It will be curious and interesting to look up the invention of knives and forks and the matter of silver plating to see if the date antedates that borne by the cutlery in question. If it proves genuine it would be a valuable addition to our state museum at the historical society rooms in the city hall at Portland, and give our genial historian, Mr. Himes, a problem equal to the old 13-14 puzzle, to locate the importers, as the date goes back of the time when our Chris discovered this country. The knife looks older than we do, and if it could only tell, my what stories it might be able to tell. The lad's mother, Mrs. J. M. Meikiejohn, brought the article to our office and will later visit the museum and interview Mr. Himes regarding the same.

Call in and subscribe now.

ST. JOHNS LUMBER COMPANY

An Enterprising Corporation That is Doing Much Toward the Upbuilding and Advancement of Our City

It is a pleasure to a man who loves business life just for the living to visit the busy industries which are the making of the business life of St. Johns; but to the man who makes his home here, who feels that he is and must necessarily be a factor in this business life, even though it may be but a very small one, it is doubly pleasant to go minutely into the workings of a big institution that is doing a bustling business here. Such was the pleasure granted us recently by Mr. N. E. Ayer, principal stockholder and manager of the St. Johns Lumber company, when we visited that plant.

The entire business of taking our forest giants from their native heath and converting them into the finest of commercial and building materials has always had a sort of fascination to us. We have been in the "venerable woods, where rolls the Oregon," and noted the process of denudation of "the hills, rock-ribbed and ancient as the sun," by which process these hungry monster mills are fed, but we have never before visited a thoroughly first-class, up-to-date lumbering plant, and it looked as good to us as a free ticket to Ringing's when Mr. Ayer replied to our request to be shown over the plant: "Certainly, glad to show you what we have."

Mr. Ayer said, to start with, that the company owned a quarter of a mile site along the O. R. & N. side track, and an equal distance of water front, which included 600 feet of dockage, and by reference to the soundings we find this water front runs from 30 to 36 feet in depth. This site is covered for the greater part with platforms, sheds and machinery buildings. Additions will be made in the immediate future to both the north and south ends of the present structures until the entire site will be covered.

The plant has been in operation but about one year, and because of some differences of opinion among the members of the management, has not been operated as energetically as might be; but these differences have all been adjusted, and we were assured by Mr. Ayer that the plant will be operated to the limit, which will eventually employ between 400 and 500 men, and will be operated day and night. The night crew was put to work Monday, and will be increased both on the day and night shift until this is accomplished. This means another good lunch to St. Johns' population and pay roll.

In the basement is located a 450-horsepower engine which operates the three-circular and a horizontal saw, enabling the mill to handle the largest log in the woods, and the carriage track is so arranged that they can cut a 100-foot stick if necessary. Another engine of 350-horsepower operates the slab-slasher, trimmer, edger and live rollers upon which the lumber is received from the saws. It also runs the gang of sizes which cut the big board into the different widths desired, and the trimmer which cuts the ends square, and of the desired lengths.

From this bunch of machinery which elevates the logs from the log pond, three big fellows at a time, the lumber is taken after it has passed through the different machines, on lumber trucks handled by hand and horses to the yard where it is segregated into piles of the different sizes, or loaded directly on the cars and shipped as desired. There are 152 of these trucks, all told, and are in use all over the immense plant.

South of the saw mill proper is the planing mill, where in its daily operation a battery of three flooring machines, and an immense planer capable of dressing a timber 18x30 inches, four sides at one operation. This is a double planer, that is, it can dress two boards 2x12, or similar sizes, four sides at once. East of the planer and on the same floor is a large re-saw with 8-inch band blade. There is also a rip-saw for cutting special widths of lumber. This bunch of machinery is run by means of a 125-horsepower engine located below and to the west of the aggregation of machines.

West of this planer is situated the new dry kiln which will be used for the first time this week, and is perhaps the largest and best constructed dry kiln in the state. It has three tracks and a capacity of 30,000 feet of dry lumber per day. The capacity of the mill is 5,000,000 feet per month, or 60,000,000 per annum. This will be increased to double the amount inside of one year. Referring to the new dry kiln Mr. Ayer said that it was an attempt to make a dry kiln which was absolutely fire proof. There is not a particle of wood used in the construction except in the roof, which is made of 2x6 inch stuff turned on edge. Directly under the roof is situated the automatic sprinkling device which will start the aqua pura flowing directly the temperature reaches the point of combustion. Mr. Ayer said the old dry kiln, which was a regular fire trap constructed entirely of wood, will be shut down Tuesday for good, and thus relieve the mill of the greatest and only real danger from fire. The present kiln is constructed of reinforced concrete work and iron. All buildings are supplied with this automatic sprinkling device, and Mr. Ayer says it would be perfectly safe to touch a match to any of the oily timbers of the mill and let it go, for as soon as the heat from the fire reached a certain point this automatic extinguisher would be brought into operation, and flood the neighborhood of the fire with great streams of water. This protection is extended to the new dry kiln, so that if from any cause the lumber in the dryer should fire the same thing would take place there. In addition to this fire protection there are located four fire stations in the yards with fire hose to cover the entire plant. The city water service is in use now, but there has been ordered, and is due to arrive at any time a powerful 1000-gallon capacity pump which will afford a fire pressure of 110 pounds to the square inch. With all this protection it would seem impossible for the plant to ever be seriously damaged by fire. There is a night watchman for whose benefit clocks are placed at certain points where he is required to register his visits, thus enabling him to keep awake during the night.

The steam is furnished for this plant by a set of six big boilers with a capacity of over 800-horsepower, and the fuel used is the refuse of the mills, which is fed both automatically and by hand.

Lumber is made and shipped to all parts of the world, a shipment being made ready at the time we visited the mill for Yokohama, Japan. There has been a car shortage for some time, and there are several millions feet of lumber piled in the yard and sheds which would have been forwarded had there been means of transportation. The company carries an immense stock of moldings and other house finishings of their own manufacture.

We are grateful to Mr. Ayer for his kindness and trouble in showing us over the plant, and the citizens will undoubtedly also entertain a very friendly feeling toward Mr. Ayer and his principal associate in the management of the mill, Mr. John Kane, for their progressive and energetic methods which will give steady employment to such a large body of men.

Farmers Coming to Town.

They are coming our way, the reliable, substantial farmers of the Tualatin valley. Several loads of produce came over last week and all were taken care of. Friday morning one of these good farmers started from his home at four o'clock with a load of 20 sacks of spuds and two coops of spring fries. He landed at Couch & Co's store just at the noon hour and never got any further. These gentlemen cleaned up the load and sent the man on his way rejoicing. It means that this whole section in a very short time will be coming to St. Johns to do their trading in stead of making the long drive to Portland. But we need a better street from the boat landing to the business center of the city. We have the street but it is in the shape mother nature gave it to us. Again, why not improve Philadelphia street?

A World Beater.

Mrs. N. J. Bailey of Cedro Woolley, Wash., is in the city visiting Mrs. John Stark this week. Mrs. Bailey formerly lived in St. Johns, but has not been here for some three years, and was completely bewildered by the rapid changes which have been made. When here last there were but three or four houses where now there are solid business blocks. She thinks St. Johns is a world beater for growth.

Correspondent Wanted.

We want a good correspondent who will give us the news from University Park. We have a good list of subscribers there, and wish a representative to receive subscriptions and news. We have made three or four trips to that enterprising section to secure a live correspondent, but have not been able to do so. Will not each one of our subscribers there consider himself or herself a special committee to secure a correspondent for us?

Prospering Nicely.

We note with a great deal of pleasure that the Union of Albia Iowa, the paper we played "devil" on away back in the '70s has acquired an elegant home in a fine brick building on the east side of the public square in that city. "Curg" Anderson, the senior member of the firm who now owns the Union was a "jour" print while we were "devil" and we congratulate both he and his partner Mr. Sloan on their good fortune and enterprise.

A Fine Apricot.

W. H. Addis, representing the Lewis nursery, was in the office Friday, and showed us an apricot originated by H. A. Lewis of Russellville, Oregon, which is known as the Lewis apricot, and beats anything in the apricot line we have ever seen. It has the rich yellow color and smooth skin of the California variety with a beautiful show of red where ripened in the sun, and is almost as large as the Crawford peach; is fine flavored and matures and ripens early. It is a most valuable addition to the stone fruits of the Willamette.

A Knocker Punished.

One man who knocked his home town in Canada was arrested, tried and fined \$200 with the threat of tar and feathers for his next offense.—Oregon City Enterprise. If there is any such justice as that to spare from Canada for our own use we would respectfully petition the colonial department of the British government to send us a good supply, and your petitioners will ever pray.

Sham or Shame Battle.

Company C, O. N. G., will give a sham battle on the 25th at Fulton Park, south of Portland. A portion of the company will dress in their blouses, the remainder in their negligee shirts. We were not told if they would wear any other clothing or not. If these two articles of clothing constitute their entire uniform it will undoubtedly be a spirited battle. Let's all go.

HAPPY REUNION

Jolly Gathering of Relatives at Home of F. Brown.

There was a jolly time at the home of Fred Brown last Sunday. Mrs. Brown's sister, Margaret Steichen, who is bookkeeper for the Lone-Davis Drug Co., Portland, had just returned from her vacation at Butte, Mont., and with her, her nephew Ira, son of Fred Brown. A brother, John Steichen, also came home with Miss Margaret; another brother, Nick Steichen, came down from Tacoma about the same time, and all these with Mrs. Brown's other brothers and sisters living on Jersey street: Frank, Ray, Matt, Anna and Jennie Steichen, together with Mrs. Theodore Linkey, another sister of Mrs. Brown, her husband and children, lately from Alabama joined with Mr. and Mrs. Brown and family in a grand reunion.

There were just 22 in the bunch and they had the time of their lives, and got their pictures taken from the porch; while they enjoyed a visit they will never forget while they live.

Newsboys are Honored.

The occupants of the Holbrook block did the handsome thing for the two Oregonian newsboys who turned in the alarm of fire at the time the block was threatened with destruction by the Smith pharmacy fire. This fine block cost \$60,000 and had not the boys been prompt and level headed in their action after discovering the fire it is probable the entire block would have been consumed. Saturday evening the boys were induced to go up to one of the offices in the building where J. F. Hendricks and H. E. Collier presented the pretty sterling silver medals to the lads with appropriate thanks for their effective work. The medals bear the inscription: "Presented by the citizens of St. Johns for prompt action in turning in fire alarm July 23, 1907." The lads were somewhat frustrated, but none the less appreciated the well deserved recognition on the part of the citizens of St. Johns.

MONAHAN IN THE LEAD

Easily Defeats the Medfordite in An Apple Way.

Tom Monahan brought down a plate of Alexander apples grown on his little three-year-old trees which make the apple shown in the Oregon Journal, Monday, look like 30 cents. The largest one measured 1 5/8 inches in circumference and absolutely free from any sign of San Jose scale. This last clause means a great deal in St. Johns, where neither the inhabitants nor the fruit inspector pays any attention to this pest. It is a shame and more than that, a crime against the fruit laws of the state of Oregon to permit the scabby, scale-covered, fungus blighted imitation of apples which adorn so many of the trees in St. Johns to exist. This is the only thing we have been able to find in St. Johns that we cannot say mean enough things about. We have to look the other way sometimes when we pass one of these trees to keep from "cussin'."

Basket Dinner and Picnic.

The members of the Christian church at St. Johns had a very pleasant outing last Sunday. The Sunday school and church to the number of 125 crossed on the ferry and went up into the beautiful woods in Whitwood Court, where they held their regular services in God's first temple. There was first held the Sunday school service under the supervision of Superintendent J. T. Mayes, and then followed the preaching service by Rev. K. F. Johnson, Evangelist Webb and wife of Woodlawn was present and they rendered several of their splendid church songs. The gathering returned in time for the union services here in the evening.

Returned from Seaside.

Mrs. Valentine returned Thursday of last week from her trip to Seaside, and reports a delightful time. Our worthy postmaster says he is living again. He just stayed while his better two-thirds was at the seashore.

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