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VOL. 4

ST. JOHNS, OREGON, FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 1908

NO. 9

HUGE PROJECTS FOR 1908

Swift & Company Begin Construction of Their Immense Packing Plant March First

Two initial projects of mammoth proportions that will open the spring construction work in Portland are the Swift & Co. packing plant on the peninsula, and the boring of a double track railroad tunnel under the peninsula. Swift & Co. will begin construction of the buildings for their big plant between March 1 and March 15. The Harriman railroad tunnel will be commenced within the next 90 days. All the keystones in its various bridge and tunnel plans now drawn bear the magic date "1908."

That the year 1908 will be a great era of progress in Oregon and especially for Portland is now a certainty. Perhaps the largest industrial project already begun is the Portland plant of the Swift Packing company. The filling of the site for buildings and stockyards was begun some months ago, and filling of the stockyards site of 60 acres was about half completed when the roads became so bad that work was stopped for the winter. About half of the lumber for the stockyards structures is on the ground. The buildings for the packing plant will be of either concrete or brick construction.

"We expect to have the entire plant completed a year from the date of beginning construction of these buildings," said C. C. Colt, Portland manager for Swift & Co. "It has not yet been decided whether the buildings will be of reinforced concrete or brick, but they will be of fireproof construction."

The plant will be similar in proportions to the company's great plant at Topeka, Kansas, and will cost upwards of \$500,000.

It is known that some of the largest concrete constructors in the country have been asked to make estimates of cost of that process, and the character of the building will be decided upon within the next thirty days.

The manufacturing building will be six stories and will adjoin the killing building, which will be five stories. The combined buildings will have dimensions of 225x150 feet and will, it is said, cover the

largest floor space of any single structure on the Pacific coast.

There will be two other factory buildings, each two stories, and about 150x50 feet in size. All these buildings will be of non-structural materials.

The railroad companies are rapidly completing preparations for putting in the needed trackage system and transportation facilities for the new packing house.

Boring of the Harriman tunnel under the peninsula, which will give a water grade outlet for the Oregon & Washington railroad from Portland to Puget Sound and an inlet for the main line of the O. R. & N. company, will be commenced within the next few weeks.

Concrete firms are now figuring on the cost of lining the big tunnel with reinforced concrete, and their final estimates will be submitted within the next 30 days. In view of the fact that figures on large undertakings are not made by concrete manufacturers more than 60 days in advance of the work, it is believed that work on the tunnel entrances will be commenced very soon.

Estimates are also being secured by Chief Engineer Boschke of the Harriman lines on cost of concrete construction in the widening of approaches at both ends of the steel bridge. Plans for rebuilding the steel bridge and other plans for modifying the present bridge in the matter of approaches and other features have been made.

There have also been made plans for an entire new bridge where the present steel bridge stands. It is said to be most probable that the present bridge will be continued in service by widening the approaches, making turnouts that will permit trains from the tunnel and from the terminal yards to enter it on easy curves.—Portland Journal.

Fred Walch of Michigan bought the business of Mr. Baker at 802 Ivanhoe street last week and is getting in new stock and preparing to take care of the business of the north end of the city. Mr. Baker, we understand will go to his ranch near Hillsboro in the spring.

GREAT PROGRESS IN ST. JOHNS

1907 Saw Many New Industries Established and a Building Boom—1908 will See Still Greater Progress.

St. Johns is naturally blessed both in location and in depth of harbor, and much credit is due its founder, James John, for the pioneer wisdom which foresaw the future commercial greatness that must come to a city located at the junction of two such rivers as the Willamette and Columbia. If his instructions had been carried out, St. Johns today would have been far in advance of its present position. However, the place has gone ahead by bounds, the past year being the most prosperous in its history. Business and social life alike have improved greatly.

Many new industries have been started. Prominent among these are the Gillen-Chambers asbestos plant, the site and building representing an outlay of \$25,000; the Collapsible Box Factory, with a capital stock of \$50,000; the iron foundry of Leach Brothers; the Oregon Flake Food Company, which will manufacture several different cereal products; the Barnes woodware plant, in East St. Johns, and the Parrish & Thompson cement block factory. A \$15,000 ferry has been built and is now in operation. Many new buildings of substantial character have been erected, among them being the McDonald block, the Light building, the Bickner block, a \$3000 skating rink and numerous residences.

The city council, which took office last April, has had a hard row to hoe, but has straightened out the City Hall tangle and completed this \$12,000 structure, and has installed a new and complete system of bookkeeping, where a most unsatisfactory state of affairs had existed, owing to which the City Treasurer was reported at one time to be short in his accounts.

The city churches as a whole

have made substantial gains. The Baptists have, with a small membership composed of working people, erected a \$4000 church and paid for it and the lot with the exception of \$500, all in 1907. The Christian church, too, is making strides.

The school district has kept up with the procession, having built and paid for a \$25,000 school building in the north end of the district, just outside the city limits, and the census just taken shows 1108 children of school age, an increase since February last of 104.

Building permits aggregating \$200,000 have been issued the past year. These average \$1500 each.

Real estate men have had a good year, although business is now quiet owing to the season, and are looking forward to a better one, believing that soon the effects of the financial flurry will be forgotten and investors will come to St. Johns, drawn by its undeniable advantages.

The first undertaking of 1908 will be the adoption of the new charter to be voted on January 6 and then all will turn every energy to the securing of a city dock at least 500 feet in length, at which seagoing vessels can load and unload, and to the improvement of a main street leading from it to the center of the city. A petition is already on file asking that a proposition to issue bonds to the amount of \$75,000 to build a dock and secure a city park be submitted to the voters. This will be done at the next city election, as will also be the enlarging of the city's boundaries so that they will include both the O. R. & N. and the North Bank railroads and extend on the river side to the center of the channel. This will double the amount of taxable property and it is expected

that the tax rate will be almost cut in half. The city hall grounds will be graded and made into a lawn and a large tower for the fire-bell will be erected.

Street improvements will be the order of the day in 1908 and Philadelphia, Tacoma, Burlington, Polk, Hartman and a dozen others will be graded and sidewalks laid.

New enterprises are to be started in all directions. The most extensive will likely be the new gas plant, to be installed by the St. Johns Gas Light & Heat company, which already has its franchise and which will mean an expenditure of about \$50,000 in the next six months. Both telephone companies have obtained franchises and promise to establish sub-stations at once.

The Commercial club has several propositions that it will attempt to push through, which will greatly benefit the city.

Just outside the city's boundaries the Swift Packing company has started an immense undertaking.

A large dredge is clearing out a channel along four miles of fine waterfront on the Oregon Slough and with the sand and gravel thus obtained is filling in the low ground to grade with the North Bank road on which products will be loaded on to seagoing ships at the North Bank's own docks. It is reported that 150 men will be working there within 30 days and the plant will give employment to 3000 men when completed. This will cause St. Johns to take another long step ahead.—Evening Telegram.

D. S. Southmayd is doing the finishing work on the new titorial parlors to be occupied by Mansfield & Kaemlein in the Holbrook block and is doing a "smooze" job.

Hunter-Larson Nuptials.

The informal home wedding was celebrated at the residence of Dr. R. F. Hunter and the Misses Hunter on Seventh street Sunday at noon, when Harry C. Hunter was married to Miss Julia Larson, of Marshfield, Ore., and lately of San Francisco, Cal. The spacious rooms were beautifully decorated, the parlor where the ceremony took place being decorated in white, the dining and other rooms were effectively decorated throughout with red carnations and Christmas bells.

The Mendelssohn wedding march was played by Miss Minnie Lane, as the bride and groom, attended by Miss Ruby Hunter as bridesmaid and Dr. R. F. Hunter, the groom's brother, as best man, entered the room and were met by the officiating minister, Rev. O. H. McGill of the First Methodist church. The ring ceremony was used, the wedding party standing under a large wedding bell of white carnations.

After congratulations, a substantial wedding breakfast was served. The bride was charmingly gowned in a costume specially made for the occasion in San Francisco, and carried a large bouquet of white carnations and asparagus fern.

The happy couple left on the afternoon train for a trip to the Sound cities and Victoria, B. C., amid the congratulations of their friends. The bride's traveling dress was a handsome one of garnet broadcloth. The presents were very numerous and costly and make a magnificent display.

A Goodly Bunch.

One of the pleasant features incident to our visit to the Odd Fellows home dedication day was the meeting of a bunch of Hood River boys. Among them we remember Tom Lacey, C. R. Masiker, Frank Strang, Otto Ehrck, Frank Smith, Hugh Smith, Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Crosby, Chas. Tucker, Will Boardman, Byron Smith and M. J. Masiker. We were de-lighted to see the boys and trust they may all come soon to St. Johns and see a real live town.

T. T. Larson is prepared to do all kinds of shoe repairing at the old stand, 104 W. Burlington.

Peddicord's Review of Kipling.

About seven years ago W. J. Peddicord brought out his little book entitled Ruddyard Reviewed. Since that time it has been very generally read all over the United States. We remember well the criticism Mr. Peddicord received at the hands of a few worshipers of all things English and how well he rose above this criticism. Mr. Peddicord's review of Ruddyard's slush is very generous indeed, giving him every consideration that is his due, even more. Kipling's "Tommy Atkins" would well be called "Tommyrot." The same may be said of more than half of his effusions. They remind one more of the doggerel of some penny-a-liner writing for an advertising magazine, than the writings of a man claiming the dignity of a poet. Their style is crude, their sentiment degrading, their rhythm awkward, broken; in fact, his poems (?) as a whole take the very lowest rank among all literateurs of note; and yet, at the recent contest this Kipling was given the prize with an alacrity which would suggest the hoodling operations of a San Francisco alderman.

The Meanest Ever.

Bill Nye had truth well told when he said: "A man may use a wart on the back of his neck for a collar button, ride on the back coach of a railroad train to save interest on his money till the conductor gets around; stop his watch at night to save wear and tear; leave his 'i' or 't' without a dot or cross to save ink; pasture his cow on his mother's grave to save corn; but a man of this sort is a gentleman and a scholar compared to the fellow who will take a newspaper two or three years and when asked to pay for it puts it into the office and has it marked 'Refused.' We have three or four such on our records. We are not personally acquainted with them but would like to be, for they would be a greater curiosity to us than the three-headed dog, supposed to guard the entrance of that abode where they are destined to spend the hereafter.

Geo. Campling is back home from Dayton where he has been engaged on a building for the past week returning Tuesday.

In the Right Direction.

Fred W. Coffyn is circulating a petition to invoke the initiative on the question of taxation. The purpose of the bill is to eliminate the taxes from anything except the land. It is the old Henry George theory. There are some things which look good in the bill, but it does not provide for certain contingencies which are sure to arise: the differentials in valuation, the taxation of manufactures which are operated on leased lands, these manufactures receiving the protection without compensation, which would be as unjust as taxation without representation. It is a move in the right direction, but not yet what we need and we predict that the measure will be voted down. We signed the petition, however, to get the measure before the people and get them to think on this line. We believe that the result will be beneficial and that more equitable taxation will come from the agitation.

To the Land of Snow.

John C. Brooks left St. Johns on Tuesday evening for Seattle and left there last night for Juneau, Alaska, on the steamer Jefferson. Brother Brooks took a sudden notion to go, it seems, and there are hundreds of people in St. Johns who are sorry to learn of his leaving here, and will wish him a safe return.

Had Better Keep It.

Scott Boorman, a former Hood Riverite, now living near North Yamhill, was in the city Tuesday. He is placing his fine ranch at Hood River on the market. We think Scott might do worse than to improve his Hood River ranch which is a fine one of 60 acres, well watered and about half improved, one of the best on the west side.

Here From Canada.

Walter Stacey from the land of the Canucks visited with John Mc-Niven, family and other friends and relatives in St. Johns and Oregon City the past week, returning home Tuesday evening.

Bring in your printing now.

DEDICATES I. O. O. F. HOME

Odd Fellows and Rebekahs of St. Johns Attend In a Body--Fine Program Rendered.

We have heard many flattering remarks of the Odd Fellows home and the members of that order are very proud of their home, but one cannot appreciate the home as it is without a visit there and a talk with the inmates who are being cared for by the generosity of their brethren.

The occasion of our visit there was the dedication of the new home building. This is a fine brick structure having two stories and basement 44x100 feet. The basement is fitted up for cuisine and diner and the first floor has a fine parlor or reception room in the west end of the building while the remainder of the floor is divided up into rooms for the inmates of the home. Each room is of sufficient size to accommodate a bed, wardrobe, two or three chairs, commode and dresser. It was to furnish one of these rooms that the Laurel lodge of St. Johns made the purchase of Callet Bros. The room allotted to this lodge was the one at the extreme east end of the building on the north side of the hall. It is a splendid room, will be nice and cool in summer and have a fine view of the city and country. The upper floor is divided into similar rooms.

A whole carload of Odd Fellows and Rebekahs went from St. Johns to attend the dedicatory services Saturday morning, arriving there in good time. The services began shortly after 11 o'clock by singing the opening ode and prayer by Grand Chaplain Leroy, and the Grand Master of the jurisdiction of Oregon, Richard Scott of Milwaukie then read a short address followed by the reading of a letter from President Emma Galloway stating that because of sickness and death in her family she was unable to attend the dedication to represent the Rebekahs, and her place was therefore vacant. Past President Ida Foster presented the sentiments of the Rebekahs. Compliments to the faithfulness of the Rebekahs were given by every speaker and Judge M. C. George, past grand of Orient lodge No. 17, who gave the principal address of the occasion paid a glowing tribute to the Rebekahs for their good work and helpfulness in the estab-

lishment and improvement of the home.

The addresses were interspersed with songs by different persons and the program was closed by singing the closing ode of the order and benediction by Grand Chaplain Leroy. The visitors then gathered in the basement where a bountiful supply of the most delicious sandwiches and coffee was furnished until all were satisfied. There must have been between 300 and 400 present. After luncheon a great many of the guests visited the grounds and the other buildings thereon.

The Odd Fellows have a tract of seven acres about half of which is cleared and contains two large frame buildings which have heretofore been used for the home, and will still be used partly for the inmates of the home and for the use of the attendants. The tract of land is beautifully situated near Woodstock where the drainage is perfect and the improved part is set to fruit which will be almost enough to supply the home.

In the home there are a number of aged Odd Fellows and orphan children, little tots, who if it were not for this home would be out upon the charity of a not too kindly disposed world, but here have every comfort of a good, cheerful, happy home. The appearance of these little ones as well as that of those 80 and 90 years of age testify to the good work of the Odd Fellows, a work that will reflect honor upon the order as long as time shall last.

Conventions Galore.

Oregonians will be busy attending conventions to be held in Portland during January. The list includes: January 13 and 14: The Northwest Retail Harness and Saddlery Manufacturers Association; January 14, 15 and 16: Oregon Horticultural society; January 17 and 18: Oregon State Press association; January 21 and 22: Retail Grocers' association; January 21 and 22: Oregon Retail Hardware & Implement Dealers' association; January 23, 24 and 25: Pacific Federation of Implement and Hardware Dealers.

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