

THE ST. JOHNS REVIEW

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BY MARKLE & BYERLEE.
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FRIDAY, MAY 1, 1908.

We wish we might have more space in which to answer more fully the erudite criticism of the character and policy of the writer by our good friend Ex-Governor Fletcher, which adorns another column of this issue, but we have not. There are a few things, however, that we cannot pass over. In his first paragraph, while either too polite or too cowardly, we do not know which, to come out and say plainly we were bribed to boost the university bill against our own convictions of right, we are unable to place any other construction upon his insinuating language: We have answered this in another article.

In his second paragraph he insinuates that the base ball coach at the university was paid by that institution, when he surely knows unless he is most densely ignorant of the facts that the student body and not the university pays the coach. If he will make the proper inquiries he will find, too, the funds of the university guarded in their disbursements more carefully than the average public monies. A bill must be approved by the head of the department in which it is made, by the president and secretary of the university, by the finance committee of the board of regents, then must go to the secretary of state for its approval before it can be paid. After all this the treasurer has the power and authority to hold up any bill he may be in doubt about until he is satisfied. Does our illustrious friend guard his own bank account more closely? His feigning at poverty of the institution is ill-timed and comes with bad grace since it depends for its existence upon the enterprise and fidelity of the citizens of Oregon and its present condition should bring the blush of shame to the cheek of our friend rather than words of insult and misrepresentation.

In his third paragraph our friend starts out with a spasm over the poor boy and girl who have but three or four months of indifferent instruction each year. He does not state, however, that this university fund doesn't come from the common school fund and does not affect that fund, or that if the university were blotted out of existence that the poor country schools would not receive an additional dollar, but such is the case and Mr. Fletcher knows it as well as we. The poor man's son or daughter has an equal show with the child of the rich man. We know of one poor boy, who a few years ago started in at the university with \$20 only. He made his way successfully through to graduation and is today a successful business man in Portland and he tells us the university is the poor man's school, and that this appropriation is destined to still more increase their opportunities. His fourth paragraph is devoted to resenting the insult offered to the manhood of Oregon who insists upon placing our wives, mothers, daughters, sisters, sweethearts on a level with the convict, the idiot, the Jap or Chinik fresh from his native jungle. If we have uttered a word on the question that the most hysterical antisuffragist can construe into an insult we are glad of it. We have no retraction to make. We are happy in the thought that any sentiment we may have expressed is an insult to a class of men who would thus degrade our noble women. We are more than surprised that a gentleman of the culture, education, refinement of Mr. Fletcher should be betrayed by such pernicious principles. He is about the last man we would have expected to find arrayed on the side of the saloon, the brothel, the debauched rabble against the inherent rights of American womanhood.

The wisest and best of us make mistakes. We will use to the limit that greatest of Christian virtues, charity, and give our friend credit for making a few mistakes this time and not do as we are too apt to do look with suspicion upon the man who yells the loudest, "stop thief."

While we are talking about streets and cleaning up, what is the matter with putting the street leading to the ferry in good shape first of all. It is becoming the busiest street in the city and will continue to become more and more so if it is put in good repair. When we get the rock crusher here and begin to haul rock to the different streets of the city it will be used more than ever. It is of the utmost importance then that this street should be made in the very best possible condition before that time arrives. This is one thing we would invite the attention of our council to as one of the things first to be done, and we believe they will and possibly have already had it under consideration.

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Sombody told us that somebody said that somebody was mad at us for what we said last week or the week before about the city council and about some of the political issues before the people. Well, it is to laugh, as the Germans say. We are glad if it does stir up some of the animals. It is time they should be made to amble along and express themselves. We admire a man if he has the courage of his convictions and will come out honestly and say so, but it gives us a tired feeling for one to go about town growling like a bear with a sore head because we have expressed some sentiment at variance with those entertained by the growler. Be a man or a mouse or a long tailed rat. If we say anything that brushes your hair the wrong way, our columns are open to you to give your side of the matter, provided that the rights of others are not invaded, and respectable language is used. Or if we are in the wrong, come and tell us we are not so thin skinned that we will not give you a careful hearing, and while we are not from Missouri, we are capable of being "showed" and if convinced that we are wrong, no man will make acknowledgment quicker than we. But to growl about the city accusing us of grafting on some of the questions of the day. Why, bless your stupid blundering soul, you haven't enough money to hire us to advocate a measure we are opposed to, and if we boost a proposition we think best, what's it to you? Have we not the same right as your self? Come off, now, get busy and show us where we are lame. We meant it, when we said the paper belongs to you in a restricted sense, and our columns are open to you to express yourself upon any topic of interest to the welfare of our city, county, state or nation. And this means YOU.

If our citizens could be induced to dedicate one Saturday every month during the summer to cleaning up the streets and their residence properties and the back yards to their stores, it would prove the best spent time of the month. There would be no old eyesores which make one ashamed for visitors to go over the town. One would be proud to show such a town to visitors, and it would give them something to remember with delight when they went away. It would settle the matter of choice between St. Johns and some other locality in the minds of those seeking a location for a home. Why not take the second Saturday of every month for this work? In this case it will be one week from tomorrow. Cannot our people get together and make a systematic general cleanup one week from tomorrow?

Samuel Hill, president of the good roads commission for the state of Washington, declares the Panama canal will have about as much bearing on commerce as the second kink in a pig's tail will on the price of pork. He admits that it will greatly facilitate the transmission of war ships from the Atlantic to the Pacific in time of war, and then tries to prove that the route via the isthmus is too long for the vessels to compete with the railroads. Indeed, it is so much shorter all the way around Cape Horn, the route over which the vessels are now successfully competing with the railroads on many commodities. He concludes: "All in all, I should say that the Panama canal is a fake." That settles it. When this concentrated hunk of double distilled wisdom has so declared, we would better pull the good ditch up by the roots and dump it into the Gulf of Mexico. If we were permitted to express ourselves as freely of Mr. Hill as he has of the canal we would say that comparing his report with that of other experts on canal affairs stated arithmetically would read: "As is a mole hill to Mount Hood, so is Sam Hill to the Panama commission." As a good roads agitator, Mr. Hill is "some pumpkins" but as an expositor of the Panama canal proposition he looks like the last figure of 30 cents with the rim rubbed out.

We wish to call special attention to the communication of D. C. Rogers, in another part of this issue. There is no going back of the returns. He is eminently correct in his position in regard to the streets. Our streets have not been kept in the order they should have been. We howled about the weeds, the papers, tin cans, old rags, dirt and other trash so much in evidence on the streets when we first came here until some of the people put us down for a crank. It did little good. The council paid several dollars to some one for going about the street cutting down the "bull-thistles" leaving them lying in the streets and also leaving acres of Chinese thistles higher than a man's head standing all over the city, just as much a violation of the thistle law as to leave the "bull thistles." Really there should be no necessity for a law compelling people to be cleanly about their premises. It is a matter of both good taste and of health that the streets of the city and the premises of the citizens should be kept neat, clean and in ship-shape.

Talking of street cleaning. We are reminded that great minds run in the same channel. Hardly had the accompanying squibs relative to this subject been put into type before the council authorized the expenditure of not to exceed \$100 for smoothing up and cleaning the streets. This is more than has

been done since we landed in the city. It looks as if our council intended to do something. While it seems to us like a rather small appropriation for the job it may be sufficient and we will hope there will be more coming if needed. We have great faith in the good sense of our council and their work so far has served to confirm our belief that we shall have a progressive and successful year under their administration. It is up to every citizen to assist them in every way they can. Give them advice whenever opportunity offers, and if your advice is rejected don't get the idea that they have turned down the only chunk of wisdom in the city.

CLEAN UP.
There are more people coming to St. Johns now than there has been at any time since we made our home here. They are coming to see, some to buy, others to trade property in other localities for St. Johns realty. If we would but clean up our town as we should in order to keep in line with the other progressive towns of the valley, there would be a greater percentage of these visitors stop with us. People used to living in a neat, clean trim little city do not take kindly to our Queen Anne fronts and Mary Ann back yards. We have called attention to the article by Mr. Rogers. Read it again. We do not know anything about the way the finances of the city were handled prior to our coming here but since our arrival, so far as we have been able to learn from attendance at every council meeting save one the city monies have been handled in a judicious manner and none of it wasted. We do think, however, that more money should be spent in cleaning up the streets and back lots of properties along Jersey and other streets, on which are many places having the appearance of some Chinatown joint. We are glad our citizens are bringing these things up. If we keep yelping alone, with apparently no one else saying anything most people will think we are the only kickers in the city. The municipal association suggested by Mr. Rogers has worked wonders in other cities where we have lived and we have no doubt it would do well for St. Johns. The only way to know is to try it. Let some one who has the time start the movement and we have no doubt it will soon carry everything before it, for we believe we have as good a class of citizens in St. Johns as lives upon the earth. All they need is some one to take the lead in any good work.

Wanted.
A few colonies of bees. Address with price to R. Graden. St. Johns, Ore.

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Communicated.
Editor Review: I am thoroughly disgusted with the continual trimming of your paper in the discussion of public questions. I like to see a man map out a course, and then stick to it. Only five or six weeks ago you had an editorial in opposition to the enormous appropriation of \$125,000 a year to the state university. Shortly afterward you made a trip to the south, and on your return came out with a flaming article in its favor. It doesn't require the vision of a seer to know what the argument was that turned you around so suddenly. It is the most potent argument in the world, and you are not the first person to yield to its power since he agitation on this subject began. In your last issue you publish a long, dreary article calculated to mislead and deceive the taxpayers of St. John, but I greatly mistake the temper of our people if your effort to force this proposition does not meet with disaster and defeat.

The article in question puts forth a pitiable plea based on the poverty of the institution. One would think that if the conditions were as bad as represented the institution could not afford to pay somewhere about \$1,500 for a base ball coach. And even if the condition of the university is "deplorable," and classrooms and laboratories are overcrowded, where was the sense of asking for a "continuing" appropriation for these things? They surely do not need to be repaired every year. Other institutions, not even the agricultural college—a much more useful institution, because more practical—do not demand "continuing" appropriations.

When one looks around and sees the number of poor children in the country districts who get but a few months' tuition every year, and that of a very poor kind, because they are unable to employ competent teachers, and who are too often unable to buy books and proper clothing to fit them for school, and then think that their poor parents have to contribute to their scant means to educate rich men's sons, fitting them to become lawyers, doctors and professional men generally, there can be only one conclusion possible, and that is that the university rather retards than advances the cause of education.

Resolved, That the City of St. Johns, Oregon, deems it expedient and necessary to improve Richmond Street from the Southern line of Portland Boulevard, to the Northern line of Willis Boulevard, a distance of 920 feet, in the following manner, to-wit:
By grading same to the established grade, and sidewalking, 12 feet curb and 6 feet walk with such timber and string-eras have been adopted by the council of said City, together with regulation cross walks. Said improvements to be made in accordance with the Charter and ordinances of the City of St. Johns, and the plans, specifications and estimates of the City Engineer filed in the office of the City Recorder of the City of St. Johns, which said plans, specifications and estimates are satisfactorily and are hereby approved.
The cost of said improvement to be assessed as provided by the City Charter, upon the property especially and particularly benefited thereby and which is hereby declared to be all the property (land) between the termini of such improvement abutting upon, adjacent or proximate to said Richmond Street from marginal line of said street back to the center of the blocks or parts of blocks abutting thereon, adjacent or proximate thereto.
That all the property included in said improvement district, as aforesaid, is hereby declared to be "Local Improvement District No. 4."
The City Engineer Estimates of the probable total cost of said improvement of said Richmond Street is \$2,134.00. The cost of said improvement street to be assessed against the property in said Local Assessment district as provided by the City Charter of the City of St. Johns. Adopted by the City Council April 28, 1908.
A. M. ESSON, City Recorder.
Published in the St. Johns Review May 1 and 8, 1907.

Mr. Fletcher Mistaken.
This is to certify that neither myself individually, the firm of Markle & Byerlee, nor anyone else connected with the St. Johns Review in any capacity whatever has ever received one cent or any other sum, either directly or indirectly as either a bribe to induce us to advocate the cause of the university appropriation, or as compensation for space in the Review that has been so used or may be so used during this campaign. Neither do we ask, desire nor expect any such compensation or bribe. (signed) D. N. Byerlee.
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 29th day of April 1908.
W. H. King, Notary Public.

RESOLUTION.

Resolved, That the council of the city of St. Johns, Oregon, deems it expedient and necessary to establish the grade on Kellogg street from the north line of Catlin street to the south line of St. Johns avenue.
Adopted April 21, 1908.
A. M. ESSON, City Recorder.
Published in the St. Johns Review, April 24 and May 7, 1908.

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Still They Come.
L. H. Meyers, wife and two children; W. A. Hall, wife and son, and W. Carpenter and wife arrive in St. Johns this week from Mantion, Michigan, to make their home here. There are three more families on the way who are expected the last of this week or the first of next. Mantion is the old home of P. W. Hinman and we more than suspect this is the fruit of his missionary work. We are glad to welcome these friends to St. Johns and hope they may do like Brother Hinman, each one bring six other families from the old home.

CHURCH NOTICES.
Baptist church—E. A. Leonard, pastor. Sunday school at 10 a. m. Preaching at 11 a. m. B. V. P. U. 7 p. m. Preaching at 8 p. m.
Methodist church—F. L. Young, pastor. Sunday school at 10 a. m. Preaching at 11 a. m. and 8 p. m. Epworth League at 7 p. m.
Holy Cross Catholic church, Portsmouth Station: 8:15 a. m., low mass; 10:15 a. m., high mass; 7:30 p. m., vespers and benediction.
Christian church—Meets every Sunday in Bickner's hall as follows: Sunday school at 10 a. m.; preaching at 11 a. m. and 8 p. m., and V. P. S. C. E. meeting at 7 p. m. R. J. Johnson, pastor.
St. Andrew's Episcopal Chapel, University Park—Rev. Wm. R. Powell, chaplain. Regular services 7:30 p. m. Sunday school at 3 p. m.; Bible class 7 p. m.; Lenten services every Friday at 10 a. m.
Evangelical church—Sunday school at 10 a. m. Preaching 11 a. m. Junior K. L. C. E. 2:30 p. m.; Senior K. L. C. E. 7 p. m. Preaching at 8 p. m. Chester P. Gates, pastor.
First Congregational Church—G. W. Nelson, pastor. Sunday school 10 a. m.; preaching 11 a. m. and 7:45 p. m. V. P. S. C. E. meeting at 7 p. m. Prayer meeting Thursday at 7:30 p. m. A seat and welcome to all.
Baptist Church, University Park. Rev. A. B. Waltz, pastor. Regular services every Sunday morning and evening.
German Baptist church—Services held each Sunday at Baptist church as follows: Sunday school 2 p. m., preaching at 3 p. m. Rev. Faltmeist, pastor.
German Lutheran—Services at 10:45 a. m. every Sunday morning at corner of Peninsula avenue and Kilpatrick street, University Park. All Germans of St. Johns cordially invited to attend. C. Buechler, pastor.
Christian Science—Society meetings held at W. H. King's residence, Sundays and Wednesdays at 8 p. m.



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