

ST. JOHNS REVIEW

Historical Society

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

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FIREBUG IN ST. JOHNS

Miserable Wretch Endangers Life and Property by Starting Two Fires in One Night

Of all the fiendish work a depraved human being can be guilty of, we believe the worst is deliberately setting fire to the property of another. Once the fire is started there is no telling how it will end or how many lives will be lost through the act. This is the worst feature of the case and it is the feature that would justify one in shooting a man one a day in the act of setting fire to a building.

Last week there were two fires in St. Johns, the first occurring on the car line near the French block last Thursday evening. The house had not been used for a long time and there can be but one conclusion as to cause that is that the building was fired. The fire boys were out in full force and did good work. They had such headway that the boys were not able to save the house but they kept the fire confined to this one building and saved the ice plant which was threatened.

Later, during the same night the alarm called the boys out the second time. This time it was on Tacoma street near Jersey. In this instance, there is not the shadow of a doubt as to the origin of the fire. Night Officer Dunbar, on his rounds noticed a fellow crawling out of a shed at the rear of this building and as the fellow would not stop, took a crack at him with his gun, for the man had not more than got clear of the building until it broke out in a full blaze. Mr. Dunbar followed the man and got a couple more shots at him but failed to score. There was a strong wind blowing at the time and Mr. Dunbar was obliged to drop his gun in order to turn in an alarm. The man was seen to run down Ivanhoe to Richmond and on Richmond toward the river. The most regrettable feature of the occurrence is that one of the shots did not take effect in such a way as to stop and hold the miscreant.

The fireboys were very prompt in response to this alarm and in an incredibly short time they were on the ground and had three streams playing on the fire. Hon. K. C. Couch was on hand with his hand extinguisher, but realized that the fire had passed the stage where that useful and efficient fire fighting machine could be utilized; he and another bold fire fighter then took a line of hose up the back stairs which had almost been burned through and entered the room which was all blaze. At

about the same time another stream was poured through the roof onto the fire and the boys had it under control. It was a hard looking proposition when they first arrived at the fire and one would not have given much for the other buildings in the block. There was an old timer there, who has seen many fires in many parts of the country and he says he never saw firemen do better work anywhere and that St. John may well feel proud of her fireboys. We hope that the council may be able to make such a deal with the old machine that the boys will have an engine worthy of their best efforts. They certainly deserve it and it is the least that the city can do to show its appreciation of the work our boys are doing.

A CORRECTION.

We wish to make a correction we had booked for last week, but we became so interested in our sparking match with the new typesetter that it slipped our mind. In writing up the announcement that Mr. Cobb was to occupy the old stand vacated by Mr. Prall, we stated that Mr. Cobb had purchased what was remaining of the Prall stock and then we continued to define the policy of Mr. Cobb to go into the market and with ready cash snap up bankrupt stocks at prices which would enable him to skin anything the market here has ever beheld. But in our bungling, we made it read as though the stock he bought of Mr. Prall was bankrupt stock, when such was not our intention, nor the facts in the case. In fact, we wish we were as far from bankruptcy as Mr. Prall, who sold out not because he could not operate his store longer, but because he has a better thing the same as any other business man would. This much is due to Mr. Prall, and we are sorry that we overlooked it last week.

We entertain a high opinion of Mr. Prall both as a gentleman and a business man and most heartily wish he may yet find it to his interest to stay with us.

Why not get out the old grease can and oil the streets? We all remember how much nicer it was to do without the dust last summer, although the work was but about half done at that time.

Watch the label on your paper.

DOINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

An Interesting Session Tuesday Evening in Which a Small Budget of Municipal Business Was Disposed of

The common council met in regular session Tuesday evening and after the preliminary skirmishing of reading the minutes, etc., Attorney Covert presented his arguments in favor of the ordinance that is being agitated by the Central Lumber Co. to clear the title to a portion of the Charleston street that is surrounded by streets already vacated, and thus correct a clerical error made by a previous recorder.

After listening to his spiel the ordinance was placed upon its third reading, but council voted it down. The probability is that the city will have the luxury of a lawsuit over it with the almost certainty of losing the suit.

Mr. Hendricks then made report of his investigation of the chemical engines in Portland to the effect that he was offered one machine at \$1800 and one at \$1200, and that we would be allowed \$500 for the old machine. Mr. Hendricks recommended that the city put the old chemical engine on four wheels and keep it instead of putting the city to the expense of paying the difference between the prices of the two machines. The old machine is good enough for the present and by the time we have not grown it, the city will have abundant means to buy the larger engine.

Mr. Hendricks also stated that the dealer quoted 39 1/2 c. per pound on deer oil and the city could take as large a bell as they desired. The old question of putting the old bell on the city hall was brought to Mr. Hendricks' attention by some citizen, but as that matter was up before the old council several times, and every one who had any pride in the city hall and wishes to keep it in any decent shape, strongly objected to having the building defaced with an unsightly doghouse for the bell, to say nothing of the damage that will inevitably occur to the structure if the bell is placed upon it. We trust our city dads will escape the odium that will surely follow the placing of the old pot-metal bell on the city hall.

Mr. Hendricks asked that the telephone company be required to place a phone at the service of the fire chief in accordance with their franchise.

Mr. Hendricks also stated that the dealer quoted him a price of \$132 for a steel tower.

On motion of Davis, the report of Mr. Hendricks was accepted and placed on file, the committee on fire and police were authorized to have the chemical placed on four wheels. On motion of Johnson the committee on fire and police were authorized to procure such supplies as were nec-

essary to put the fire department in good shape.

Mr. Capron then presented a proposition for seating the council chamber, but it was turned down by the council.

Mr. Perkins then claimed the attention of the council for a short time in regard to the operation of the ferry. The claim was that in as much as the ferry people had gone to the expense of putting in a boat and binding themselves under the terms of their contract to operate the same during the winter, the terms of the contract with the city was that the ferry people were to have the exclusive right to operate a ferry for the distance of five blocks on either side of Pittsburg street. A number of persons have been doing a ferry business without regard to the franchise of the ferry company and it is taking away the revenue that is due the company by the terms of the franchise. He asked that the council fix a penalty for this infringement upon their rights. He also asked the privilege of operating a launch in lieu of the ferry boat after the hour of 6:30 p. m. The city attorney was instructed to prepare the necessary documents on motion of Davis.

The proposition of Mr. McGarry of Portland to have the council extend the time of the gas franchise in favor of S. V. Davidor, proposing to buy and operate the plant if this was done. The council held that the Davidor franchise had been forfeited and that he had no franchise, and that if Mr. McGarry wished to take matter of a gas plant up with the city he would be happy to meet him but not through Mr. Davidor, as they had no business with him.

The ferry made its report showing \$253.85 receipts for June. On motion the report was accepted and the check returned to the ferry people.

Communication from L. H. Smith in reference to the grade of Thompson street was referred to the city engineer.

Communication from Capt. Black, calling attention to the condition of the cross walks on Pittsburg street at the intersection of Crawford street was accepted and placed on file on motion of Johnson the street committee having full knowledge of the conditions and are preparing to fix the defects.

On motion of Davis the city attorney was instructed to prepare and present a waiver to the property owners on Philadelphia street and endeavor to collect for the work that has just been completed. Here is where that cursed printer sat back and gave the city fathers the merry ha ha! They squirmed around so as to beat the printer out of a lit-

tle bit of advertising and put the work through in an irregular way so that now it is optional with the property holders whether they pay for the work or make the entire city pay the bill.

Rock crusher bills to the amount of \$155 were allowed and ordered paid.

On motion of Doble street committee was authorized to attend to the repairs of the city dock.

The occupation license coming up after some discussion, on motion of Davis the license of merry-go-round was placed at \$30 per month. On motion of Windle, the license of the moving picture show was fixed at \$15 per month. On motion of Johnson this ordinance was laid on the table for a week.

The weed ordinance passed after a little trimming so as to take out the sting.

On motion of Doble the matter of placing two new hydrants in Point View was referred to the committee. Attorney reported in the Passenden street matter, that the attorney for the street railway went to Denver to assist in the nomination of the Peckers one and had not returned. This was all the report the city attorney had to date.

According to the report of the city engineer the water pipe on Richmond street will have to be relaid at the expense of the water company because it was not laid deep enough in the first place.

American Davis asks that water company be required to put in larger water main on South Jersey and claims that the one there now is not patrons of the company.

The mayor suggested the need of a luncheon section in order to keep a better outlook for fires. This meeting with the general approval of the council, he declared his purpose to do so.

Adjourned to meet Friday night when the council will consider the new city dock matters and will also meet Mr. McGarry if he elects on the gas franchise matters.

A NEW RAILWAY SIGNAL.
Among the recently granted patents chronicled by the Scientific American, we note the following:

A. Wilhelm, St. Johns, Oregon. In this patent the invention relates to railway signal systems, the more particular object being to provide for effectively signaling trains in a predetermined relation according to the condition of the track, the signal being controlled by movements of the train and partially by will of an operator.

Bring in your printing now.

PROSPERITY RETURNING

Reports From All Parts of the East Teem With Renewed Activity Along Industrial Lines

This seems to be the burden of the prophets among the newspaper fraternity. Some ascribe the fact to the nomination of Taft, others to the fact that Bryan is to be again offered up a victim to his ambition on the altar of democracy. Be this as it may, of one thing we are sure and that is that prosperity is headed our way and that it will not be long getting here. Every paper from the East brings news of renewed activity along all lines of commerce and manufacture. We are now in nearly the condition we were before the flurry, except that men are to use better judgment, greater caution in their business transactions.

It is not at all improbable that the nomination of Taft has had a most salutary influence on the finances in the East. There is not the shadow of a doubt but the money lords recognize a close friend in the fat man. This would naturally set them to work with might and main, that they might have as much influence with the laboring classes as possible, and it does not matter whether the money power is democratic or republican, for these money lords long since learned the lesson that the laboring classes are all too slow in learning, to wit, that in finances it is not the party but the man. When our people will have become educated up to this principle there will be some hope for justice and right as between the private individual and the monopolist.

Then it will not be in the power of a few men to tie up the business of the whole country. They are learning too, and the next decade will see wonderful changes in the politics of our country or we are a bad guesser.

ST. JOHNS WINS A GAME.

With its newly reconstructed ball team St. Johns, on the 19th instant, demonstrated the fact that they knew how to play the national game. The East Portland team was their opponents. The game was close enough to be full of interest until the last man was out. Parker was the brightest star of the bunch. He caught everything that came within a mile of him in the left field and his throwing to bases was simply marvelous. At the bat he was right there with the goods, making a three-bagger and two singles, besides getting to first on four wide ones which were purposely handed him. Many good plays were made and some that were

not so good. The catcher for the locals certainly had a day off. He could neither catch, run nor bat and moved around like a man 90 years old. As a hitting aggregation manager Valentine has the best that has happened this year.

The crowd was awfully slim, as most of the fans went to Portland to see Los Angeles play the last game of the series and incidentally see Portland make monkeys of themselves. The score at the end of the ninth inning was 9 to 7 in favor of St. Johns.

THE COMMERCIAL CLUB.

What is the matter with our commercial club? Has the membership succumbed to the somniferous effect of climatic conditions, or is a clear case of don't-give-a-damn-a-tive-ness.

Certainly there is something wrong somewhere. No club can accomplish anything if the members persistently make themselves conspicuous by their absence, and those others if there are others, emphasize their membership by failing to pay their dues. Just naturally set back in the harness and play mule.

Right now, during the dulllest time of the year when most every one else is sitting in the shade on easy street, on the stool of do-nothing, is the time when the commercial club should be making a supreme effort. When everyone is rustling we are sure to get a fair share of the good things going, but if we are snuff, will rake in the plums.

We do not think any association composed of lazy, indifferent men can accomplish anything, no matter how able and energetic their officers may be. We do not say our fellows are lazy, but—

Every member knows the hour of meeting, he knows the place of meeting, and the date. Why do they not attend the meetings and help to boost their town along?

It is the province of the club to do what it can to secure new enterprises, to initiate movements for the advancement and progress of the city and to keep all the lines of progress well in hand, that it may be able to take advantage of opportunities. This cannot be done with half of the membership asleep and the other half dead. Why not wake up once?

Old papers for sale at this office.

THE TROLLEY WAY

Is the only way to secure immediate delivery of your goods at the most reasonable of transportation rates. Therefore ring up the

PORTLAND & SUBURBAN EXPRESS CO.

Operating electric freight cars between St. Johns and Portland. We call for and check your trunks direct to destination.

Turn your trunk checks and shipping receipts over to us and your goods will receive prompt attention. We have teams connecting with cars at St. Johns and Portland.

Get our rates before shipping. Special rates on car load lots. Experienced and courteous employees.

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Phone Main A 3358.

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Best for Concrete Work

West Side Washed Gravel Co.

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RICHARD SHEPARD
110 N. Jersey Street

OR WAYNE L. MILLS
510 N. Jersey Street

OL' JOSHWAY AN' DE SUN.

An Uncle Remus rhyme, showing the quaint style of the late Joel Chanler Harris. From the Uncle Remus magazine for July.

Ol' Joshway stood in front er his tent
An' stood his soldiers on.
But wen he turned fer ter look round
Le day wuz nearly done.
He rubbed his beard, he scratched his head
An' kicked his feet in der ground;
Kaze he wuzter finish de battle job
Befo' de sun went down.

He looker de East, an' he looker de west,
An' he wave his han' on high.
"King Sun," sezee, "I want you ter see
Me smite um hip an' thigh!
Come down to camp an' rest yo' sef.
A little while wid me.

I'll git you a fan an' a big wide cheer
An' set it whar you kin see."
Dey wuz lots mo' talk but de sun cum down

An' tuck a little ease.
An' wen he got too awful hot,
He called up ol' brer Broese!
My time is short!" sez the sun, sezee
"An' yo' better do yo' do,
Kaze I'm feeling like I wuzter see
Dis mortal scuffle throo!"

Well, dey fit aa' fit an' fowt an' fowt
Right dar in de light ob de sun,
But Joshway frilled dem out an' soon
He had um on de run.
King Sun he say, "I'm over due
'Cross dar whar de night's still black.
De folks will wake 'fo' de chickens crow
An' put de big clocks back."

Ol' Joshway thanked him mighty p'lite
An' ax him fer ter cum ag'in;
King Sun, he say, "I speck dat I
Will be whar I've allers been."
Den he mosied off kaze he aint got time

Fer to set an' talk an' stay
He hatter go off whar de night still dark
An' start to breakin' day.

Well, time run on an' people 'spute
'Bout Joshway an' de sun,
Some say dis an' some say dat,
An' explain how Joshway wuz;
Sometimes whu he wuz settin' round
Whar he couldn't hep but hear,
He'd say, "Go in de settin'-room an' see
How he scorch'd my big arm cheer!"

UNITED ARTISANS INSTALL.

An interesting meeting was held in the Hickner hall Tuesday evening, when the United Artisans installed their newly elected officers for the current term. After the routine business of the evening had been disposed of, Mrs. M. U. Bullis, past master artisan, proceeded to install the incumbents.

The following is the roster of the newly installed officers: Roy Hall, M. A.; Geo. F. West, superintendent; A. W. Vincent, secretary; Mrs. E. M. Edmondson, treasurer; Mrs. Hunter, instructor; Miss Sarah A. Titus, M. C.; J. E. Kilpack, senior conductor; Mrs. May Kooy, junior conductor; Lewis Simmons, warden; A. W. Vincent, medical examiner; Mrs. M. U. Bullis, past master artisan.

If there is any one in this assembly that deserves great commendation, it is Mrs. Bullis. She has been

for the good of the craft in season and out of season. Always faithful in the discharge of her duties and with a word of cheer for every one, she is worth her weight in gold to the society.

The inaugural address of Bro. Hall was brief and to the point. He felt the necessity of making the meetings as entertaining as possible, in order to secure as large an attendance as desired. This warm weather and nice, cool places elsewhere, is not conducive to the faithful attendance of the meetings in the hot and ill ventilated lodge rooms. Brother Hall made some suggestions which we think are good ones and they will be discussed at the next meeting night. Come out and hear what they are and express yourselves upon the plans for a vigorous summer campaign.

DELIGHTFUL FISHING TRIP

Charles Bennett and Dan Williamson, two of St. Johns' most successful disciples of Isak Walton left last Thursday for Upper Little White Salmon to lure the wary trout from its shady retreat. They returned on Sunday with a story that is enough to make a man's mouth water. One day's catch numbered 176, and for the entire time they captured 445 and say there are still some left in the creek. We knew there were some trout up in that country, but we did not think they would just crawl out of the creek and climb into a fellow's basket in this way. When we go fishing we are going to try and induce Dan or Mr. Bennett to go along for a mascot.

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