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NO. 19

BRIGHT FUTURE IN STORE

Activity in a Realty Way
Now Inaugurated

BUSY ON EVERY HAND

St. Johns along with other parts of the peninsula is feeling the impetus given by new industries and the resulting influx of population. Property there has been rising rapidly in value and the demand is now stronger than it has been at any previous period in the history of the town. More than \$35,000 worth of property has changed hands within the past 15 days.

King & Gilmore report the following sales: Three stores in the French block, at Columbia boulevard and Oswego street, and lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 11, 12, 13, block 2, and lots 3 and 5 in block 1, all in the Capistrano tract, for \$5500; lot and house in Severance addition for \$1150 and a house and lot on South Jersey street for \$1750, with enough small sales to bring the total up to \$10,000.

S. L. Doble reports the sale of three houses and lots, also one lot without improvements, the total being \$5000.

W. A. Olin & Co. report total sales of \$4000. S. C. Norton has sold the 25-foot lot next to the First National Bank on Jersey street to Phillip Schneider, of Portland, for \$3500 and the St. Johns Land Company has sold over \$2000 worth of small lots. Several other small deals have been made aggregating a total of over \$25,000.

In addition to this, recent East St. Johns transfers will reach \$10,000. This district is rapidly coming to the front.

The Oregon Mineral Paint Company, now located at Salem, has purchased a three-acre site at East St. Johns and guaranteed to begin the erection of a \$100,000 plant there by June 1. This company will build a three-story building with full concrete basement; also other departments in separate buildings. It will employ 30 men and the monthly payroll will reach \$2500.

Scales Brothers, of St. Johns, have purchased a site at the East St. Johns station and will erect a concrete block building. The Barnes planing mill has been in operation for some time and the Pitchless Lumber Company is working hard to get its plant ready for business by June 1. The Monarch Lumber Company will build there one of the largest saw mills in the country. Several houses have already been erected and within the next three months it is believed that there will be more than 25 new homes in this section.

Charles Foss has nearly completed a contract to clear 69 acres of land for J. B. Holbrook. This is the largest clearing contract ever let in the neighborhood, and the lots are being sold as rapidly as cleared.

Indications for a large amount of building in St. Johns in the near future are good. The school district has voted \$50,000 in bonds with which to build two new school houses, both within the city limits. One is to be a high school to cost \$40,000, the other a grade school to cost \$10,000. The high school is to be located right in the heart of the city, diagonally across from the City Hall, on the block willed to the city by James John. This site is ideal, being high and commanding a view of the river and mountains. The grade school will be located just inside the city limits near East St. Johns, which will likely become part of St. Johns proper when the vote on annexation is taken next month. In addition to the school houses the Knights of Pythias will build a \$12,000 brick structure at Charleston and South Jersey streets, where they have purchased a \$3500 lot.

The class of buildings erected in improving steadily. The \$60,000 city dock will be finished in about two weeks and bids for its lease are being advertised for in Portland, St. Johns, Tacoma and Spokane. The dock will be modern in every particular and will be a great help to the city, as well as a source of revenue. A free ferry to connect with the West Side has been authorized by the Legislature and bonds for this purpose will be voted at the coming election. Several miles of streets

HOME FURNISHERS EXPAND

Calef Bros.' Business Increasing Steadily

ANOTHER ROOM ADDED

Calef Bros., the popular home furnishers, have felt the impetus of spring business to such an extent that it has become necessary to enlarge their quarters, and accordingly the room facing on Chicago street has been added to their floor space. A wide connecting doorway leads into the annexed apartment, and this enlarged space a great convenience. In the new apartment besides many other useful household articles can be found a selection of the best and most modern ranges made, and it is enough to make a good housewife's eyes water to see them. The store throughout presents a most pleasing appearance. Everything is arranged in a tasty and convenient manner, and the stock is the finest that can be found anywhere. No cheap and shoddy goods are carried in stock. Everything is substantial and well made and fine finished. The display of stock is fine and carefully arranged, and the prices in all cases are as low or lower than can be obtained in Portland.

Mr. A. C. Gleaser, one of the proprietors and manager of this well appointed establishment, is well versed in all lines of the home furnishing business. He knows well how to select a stock that will please the most fastidious, and then he knows how to arrange it to best advantage when it arrives at the store. This store has one peculiar and advantageous feature over most furniture stores, and that is the fact that anything lacking in the store here can be supplied promptly from their immense establishment in East Portland. In this way customers in St. Johns get the advantage of the best selection to be had in Portland. Cheaper rents permit them to under sell any other furniture house in this section of the Northwest, and the prices they charge proclaim the fact they are doing it.

Since locating in St. Johns this firm has done a good business, and they have conducted their business along strict business lines. While other furniture stores have opened up in St. Johns and then discontinued business, Calef Bros. have continued to steadily increase their business until today they enjoy a trade second to none in any city of its size in the Northwest. Their business is not confined to St. Johns alone. People realizing that they can do better here than in Portland, come from University Park, Portsmouth, Linton and even Tualatin valley to purchase at this store.

The secret of their success is the best goods for the money, square dealing and one price to all, consistent and persistent advertising, courteous treatment and prompt service. With these salient features so well developed, it is no wonder that their trade is rapidly increasing and expanding. It is a pleasure to do business with Mr. Gleaser and his general assistant, F. M. Phillips, and the fact is becoming more apparent day by day that people are making a serious mistake when they buy their home furnishings in Portland while Calef Bros. are doing business in St. Johns.

If you want to see a really first class and up-to-date home furnishing store, call in there and look around.

will be graded and hard surfaced this year.

The St. Johns Lumber Company has more than doubled its capacity and will now be able to cut 400,000 feet every 24 hours. Two 150-foot smoke stacks have been purchased and one has been placed in position. The Peninsula mill has in position a 125-foot stack. The business of the St. Johns Ship-Building Company is increasing rapidly. It now has 40 men at work and contracts on hand to keep them busy for six months at least. On the ways of this company at present are two large barges and the river boat Palms, while two more barges and the Vancouver ferry are moored at the dolphins of the company.

Two gas companies are seeking

MAY SECURE TWO COMPANIES

The Franchises of Two Gas Companies Have Passed Second Reading, and Either or Both May be Granted When the Sixty Days Have Elapsed

CITY SAFEGUARDED IN BOTH INSTANCES

The regular meeting of the city council held Tuesday evening was a particularly interesting one. It was truly an evening with gas, and the legal representatives of the Portland Gas company and the Economy Gas company were present and each had their inning. More citizens were present than has been the case this year, and they were also interested in the gas project. The Economy Gas company was finally able to bring their proposed ordinance to the attention of council, and after it was read an interesting discussion followed. It seems that council as a whole has had but little faith in the backing of the St. Johns Gas Light & Heat company or its successors, the Economy Gas company, and they have dodged the issue as long as possible. The history of the St. Johns Gas Light & Heat company is well known to the majority of the citizens of St. Johns, from the time "Gold Brick" Davidor first launched the project to the present time. It was fully realized that the franchise granted to that company, with its inconsistencies, had been gotten with the purpose of unloading it at a high price upon any whom might be induced to buy, that it was not the intention of Mr. Davidor and others to build the plant, but rather to sell before they were compelled by a forfeiture clause in the franchise to erect one. Some time afterward it was asserted by parties who took the matter up that Mr. Davidor was no longer interested in the proposition, that another party had secured the franchise and an attempt was made to dispose of stock in order, as they claimed, to raise enough money to construct and operate a gas institution in this city. But there has always been a serious doubt on the part of council that their intentions were good, and it was feared after the stock was sold the matter would be dropped and the stock buyers left in the lurch. This was how affairs stood in relation to this company until a few weeks ago when the claim was made that a wealthy capitalist of Tacoma, a Mr. Hewitt, and other capitalists had come to the rescue and were ready to advance the necessary funds to carry the project through, but that they were not satisfied with several provisions in the franchise, and asked that they be altered or amended. Council was very skeptical concerning the turn the affair was said to have taken, and gave but little heed to their protestations. But the new company was persistent and have made a number of trips to the city hall in order to have the matter taken up. An adjourned meeting had finally been arranged for last Thursday evening to meet with the representatives and thresh the matter out. But it seems

franchises and a third will enter the field at this week's Council meeting. The St. Johns Gas Light & Heat Company has asked for an option on the plant of the Marine Iron works, but this has been refused by D. J. Maher, its executive officer.

Sixteen transfers and three building permits have been recorded in the first 10 days of this month. Every real estate dealer reports several deals under way and the demand in evidence on every hand makes it certain that the present year will be the most prosperous in the history of the city. The Commercial Club is adding from four to six members at each meeting. This club will see that the city has a float in the Rose Festival parade and is also trying to secure another street car line to connect with the North Bank Road at St. Johns station or with the United Railway's Linton line by way of Pessenden street and a free ferry.

The real estate dealers are considering forming an association for the betterment of things pertaining to their business. All citizens, business men and outside property owners are united and working hard for the good of the city.—Sunday's Oregonian.

ed to be impossible to secure a quorum at one time. There were six members of council present at various times during the evening, but some of them managed to dodge out before the matter could be brought to a focus. When it was found that a quorum was out of the question an adjourned meeting was called for by the minority to meet the next evening, but later it was decided to let the matter rest until the regular meeting Tuesday night. In the meantime the citizens had become interested and a petition was circulated and signed by a number of citizens praying council to grant the franchise as requested by the Economy Gas Co. Council was now fairly cornered, and first reading of the proposed franchise was ordered.

Attorney Martin of the Economy Gas company was present and after the ordinance was read, taking section by section he explained the difference between the proposed franchise of the Portland Gas company and the one they were asking for. He stated the reason the company had decided to adopt the title "Economy Gas" company was because they now owned a franchise under that name in Portland and they wanted to get away from the odium that attached to the St. Johns Gas Light & Heat Co. through Mr. Davidor's former connection with it. Then it would be a difficult matter to amend the franchise given to that company and that it was far easier to draft a new one and begin anew under a different title.

The franchise as read was certainly a desirable one for the city of St. Johns. Several points therein were picked out and discussed by several of the council, to whom it was quite apparent the new proposition was distasteful. They questioned Mr. Hewitt's connection with the company, and asked for affidavits to that effect. Mr. Martin naturally resented this question of his veracity, and while he controlled his feelings admirably, it was plain to be seen that the imputation did not go down very easily. He explained, however, that since there seemed to be so much doubt concerning Mr. Hewitt's connection with the company he would give his phone number and any member was at liberty to call him up and thus satisfy himself concerning this point. This proposition was not taken advantage of, however. The question of a suitable bond was then discussed, and Mr. Martin stated that they were willing to put anything within reason. Upon suggestion of Councilman Davis a \$10,000 certified check was asked for and immediately agreed to by Mr. Martin. This is double the amount asked from the Portland Gas company. Every point raised was acceded to by Mr. Martin who was more than fair concerning every detail, and he pointed out one or two points in the Portland Gas Co. franchise that were not well covered. He said his company did not ask for an exclusive franchise and did not care what other company was also granted one, that Mr. Hewitt was owner of several coal mines and it was his intention to make the gas for St. Johns from that product which scientists have fully demonstrated made the best quality of gas, that the coke derived from the coal could be utilized as a by-product and other manufacturing plants would likely result, and that the \$40,000 plant called for in the franchise would be greatly exceeded.

At the conclusion of his remarks Mr. Bonham made the motion that the proposed ordinance have its second reading, which was so ordered. This is as far as the present council can carry the matter, as it requires sixty days from the introduction of a franchise before it can reach final passage according to the charter. Two publications in the local paper are also required before it can reach third reading.

Attorney Strahan of the Portland Gas company made a few remarks after the competing franchise had been disposed of. He stated that the

rosy promises made by Mr. Martin savored too much of Davidor, that he did not know who Mr. Hewitt was and intimated that his opinion of the rival company was very poor indeed, and that it was doubtful if that company would ever fulfill its agreements. He said that his company would not accept a franchise if the other company was granted at the same time, that there was no money in the proposition for one company at the present time, and two certainly could not exist.

The Economy franchise calls for a minimum of 580 B. T. units per cubic foot as heating power and not less than 17 candle power for lighting purposes, construction to begin within 45 days after the acceptance of franchise and six miles of pipe laid and be in position to furnish gas to at least 25 per cent of the demand within ten months. Failure to comply with either of the two latter requirements permits the \$10,000 cash bond to revert to the city. The following scale of prices to be established: \$1.40 per thousand cubic feet when the city has attained a population of 5,000; \$1.30 at 10,000, down to a maximum of 95 cents when the city numbers 30,000 souls, five per cent being deducted at each stage for payment before the 10th of each month. The sum of \$250 is to be given to the city for the use of the streets up to 5,000 population, and \$50 additional for each 5,000 inhabitants up to 35,000, payable the first day of each year.

Had Mr. Harris presented credentials showing that Mr. Hewitt was really connected with the company, and showing his standing in the business world, council claims that more consideration would have been accorded the new franchise, but the element of doubt still lingers with the council which nothing but positive evidence can efface.

Bills to the amount of \$105.62 were allowed.

A communication from the Commercial club was read in which the request was made that the Richmond street dock be put in good repair for public use and some method be arranged whereby goods could be securely kept. Referred to street and dock committee.

Messrs. Doble, Hunter and Bonham were appointed as a committee to look after insurance on the new city dock.

J. J. Chabreau, expert accountant, was selected to check up work on the dock.

Owing to the gas propositions consuming so much time it was necessary to call an adjourned meeting for Thursday night to dispose of the balance of city business before council.

Building Permits

No. 5—To Sol Coppin to erect a temporary dwelling on Charleston street, between Edison and Fillmore streets; valuation \$100.

No. 6—To Henry Zech to erect a dwelling on Kellogg street, between St. Johns avenue and Catlin street; valuation \$300.

No. 7—To Modern Machine Works to erect a foundry on Tacoma street, between Bradford and Crawford; valuation \$500.

No. 8—To Spencer Turner to erect a dwelling on Pessenden street, between Gilbert and Stewart streets; valuation \$500.

In Love With St. Johns

Mrs. C. J. Thorne and daughter of Minneapolis are here on an extended visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Rogers. Mrs. Thorne thinks St. Johns is the finest thing she has ever seen, and would certainly be happy if she could make her home here.

Preach the gospel of St. Johns.

REBEKAHS GO A VISITING

And Mingle Among Their Vancouver Friends

ALL HAVE GOOD TIME

A whole carload of Rebekahs of Laurelwood Rebekah Lodge I. O. O. F. went to Vancouver Saturday evening to visit the lodge there. A delightful time was enjoyed both going and coming and while there it was a continual round of pleasure.

After the introduction of the visitors there was a fine little program and then speeches by a number present, when the visitors were marched into the diner and fed to repletion with the best the Washingtonians had in the larder.

After supper there was dancing, and games of all kinds. The most strenuous game, and one that found the most favor, was the old game of our boyhood, "drop the handkerchief," and the way those ladies rustled their silks getting around the circle wasn't slow. It was as exciting as a sack race at a county fair. Before the supper, however, there was the usual "penny march" which resulted in Mrs. Will Dunbar securing the prize, a neat little toothpick holder. Then a surprise was sprung upon the guests by the distribution of prizes to all, with the instructions that if you liked your prize you could keep it, and if not, you might pass it to your neighbor. There was a world of "swapping" and an uproar of feminine laughter and screams of delight. The fortunate one was Mrs. W. P. Brooks, who received a fine shell ash holder for a smoker's set and because she received the best prize she was given another, a souvenir of Vancouver in the shape of a hand painted saucer decorated with a view of the city. Mrs. Hattie McKinney, whose prize was a bit of string, received a consolation prize of a nice bit of decorated china. We all got home before a couple of clocks in the morning thoroughly convinced that Progress Rebekah lodge of Vancouver is a royal entertainer.

One of the Bunch.

Machinery Has Arrived

The boilers and machinery for the small mill being erected on the Peninsula near the Swift Packing Company's plant by the Monarch Lumber Company, have arrived in Portland from the East and the work of installing them will be started at once. This small mill is partially completed and the management expect to commence sawing lumber there for construction work on the main plant within the next 30 or 40 days. A second pile driver has been placed on the work, and they are now driving about 60 piling per day, which number will be materially increased. There will be a total of 3500 piling used in the foundation work for the mill. At present there are only 100 men employed at the plant, but the force will soon be greatly enlarged.

On the "Come Backs"

The following bit of "doggerel" may appeal strongly to many who have gone through the experience at some of the Portland restaurants:

Tell me not in mournful numbers
That we meet again today—
All the scraps we had on Sunday
Fixed up in the same old way.

Mutton chops and turkey giblets,
Lamb and chicken, steak and stew
In a motley mass of jambie
Served again to me—and you.

Ah, I recognize the giblets;
There is one I could not crack;
"Oh, good evening, Mr. Grizzle!"—
And that neck is coming back.

Friends of other meals, I greet you;
Greet you in the good old way.
Yes, doggone you, I will eat you,
Or you'll come again some day.

Be a booster for St. Johns.

TO CONSTRUCT FINE FLOAT

Money Being Pledged to Further the Cause

PUPILS WILL GET BUSY

The St. Johns Commercial club held an interesting meeting last Thursday evening. A goodly attendance was present and four new members were taken into the fold, viz: L. F. Clark, S. W. Rogers, C. J. Anderson and Chas. Foss.

Ed L. Stockton of the float committee reported that over \$200 has been pledged for the purpose of constructing a float to represent St. Johns at the Rose Carnival in June, and that others had signified a willingness to contribute to the cause, but was yet undecided as to the amount. Committee was continued.

President Hendricks was made a committee of one to make arrangements with the schools in regard to advertising the Peninsula in general and St. Johns in particular by sending original letters to friends in the East descriptive of this section. Prof. Boyd has agreed to permit one room each week to devote some time for this work. The club will pay the postage thereon.

Other matters of importance were also discussed.

Oil Prospects Bright

T. W. Davidson, vice president, and J. P. Wilbur, of the Eastern Oregon Oil & Gas company, have just returned from a visit to their holdings in the Vale district and report prospects getting brighter every day for striking oil in large quantities. They have sold an immense amount of stock, and what makes the proposition most promising is the fact that the people of Vale are the quickest buyers. In regard to the matter Monday's Oregonian has the following to say:

"Another industry yet in embryo, but which promises to develop into a great asset of this section, is the discovery of natural gas and oil. Inside the city limits of Ontario a well is being driven which is emitting such a powerful pressure of gas (struck at 2250 feet) that the present equipment had to be abandoned, and the management is awaiting the arrival of special machinery for the prosecution of the work. There is no longer any question as to the presence of gas in commercial quantities, but the promoters are confident that oil will be struck, and will not halt in their operations until they have made an exhaustive investigation."

How to Route Goods

General Freight Agent Fowler was circulating in St. Johns Monday in the interest of the Seattle & Portland railway. So many people here are not familiar with the manner in which goods should be routed in order to have them unloaded at the St. Johns station that it became necessary for him to give some instruction along this line. He states that all goods to insure unloading at the East St. Johns station should be routed via the Great Northern or Northern Pacific in care of the Seattle & Portland Railway Co. The new station will prove a great convenience to the people of St. Johns to almost any point without first shipping them to Portland. St. Johns also gets the same freight rate from Eastern points as Portland.

Millinery Opening

The Spring opening of the Vogue Millinery will take place in the new quarters in the McChesney block tomorrow. The very latest, noblest and most stylish headgear that has ever appeared in St. Johns will be on display at this emporium. As no woman will be entirely happy without a new hat for Easter, this will be a splendid opportunity to make a selection.