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ST. JOHNS REVIEW

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

VOL. 5

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GET IN THE HABIT

Of advertising in THIS Paper and you'll never regret it. Be- gins at once and keeps right at it

LOTS OF STREET WORK ON

Council Kept Busy Pushing Matters Along

All members responded to roll call at the regular meeting of the city council Tuesday evening with Mayor Hendricks in the chair. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

A communication was read from Mrs. Nancy Caples in regard to the opening and extension of Richmond street through the Caples tract. Mrs. Caples stated that she believed the assessment made by the viewers was inequitable, and that the property adjoining Leonard street should bear part of the burden. Taking into consideration what she had dedicated to the city, she believed her assessment was entirely too high and believed a new deal was in order. Upon motion the communication was accepted and ordered placed on file.

The viewers' report on this street was read. Some discussion followed, and a communication read from the Severance heirs objecting to the damages placed upon their triangular strip of land condemned by the city. They claimed that the \$750 allowed by the viewers was too little for the ground and the \$50 allowed on the building would not pay for removal of same. Therefore, they also, believed a new deal was in order. This communication was also accepted and placed on file. A communication was then read from M. L. Holbrook stating that he had no objection to the assessment placed against his property, but hoped that work would be pushed with dispatch on this important thoroughfare. After some consideration it was decided to refer the matter back to the viewers for readjustment. The viewers are P. Hill, Chas. Linquist and Thos. Cochran.

A communication was read from A. M. Stearns regarding the matter of Willamette boulevard. He stated that the affair was still unsettled, but that the Western Co-operative Co. officially agrees to place cement sidewalks along their entire property if a compromise could be effected making the boulevard 80 feet wide. This together with Mr. Stearns' property in front of which he also agrees to lay cement walk in the event of a compromise, would make practically a continuous cement walk on the river side from Pierce street to the cut provided the boundary be established at eighty feet. Communication was accepted and ordered placed on file.

Geo G. Carhart, who is vitally interested in this thoroughfare, then took the floor and among other things stated that according to the records through the Caples, Adams and Miner additions the street was made 100 feet wide in the same viewers' report, and that the report was adopted by the old Albina council. Mr. Carhart was very emphatic in declaring that the property owners along the eastern side of the street would hold out for a hundred foot boulevard, even though it blocked improvement at the present time.

A. Mr. Sparks from University Park was present and entered an objection to the placing of an apron or entrance on the back part of his lot on Hayes, between Burlington and Leavitt streets. He said that his deed called for 100 feet, and that no provision had ever been made for an alley. Therefore, he asked that the approach be removed and a regulation curb be installed instead. Upon investigation the fact was brought out that the engineer had the contractor place the apron there upon the instance of Thos. Cochran and others who claimed provision for an alley had been made. The matter was referred to the street committee for adjustment, but the fact is patent to all that the approach is more of a benefit than a detriment because the lot is a business one and the party who places a structure there will no doubt want a means of entrance to the rear of his building, but Mr. Sparks, apparently, cannot see it that way.

A communication was read from the Portland Gas Co. in which they accepted the franchise granted them by council several weeks ago. A check for \$5,000 as an evidence of good faith and the faithful carrying out of the provisions of their franchise was also enclosed.

(Continued on page two)

BIG PLANT SEEK SITE HERE

Prices of Water Frontage Almost Prohibitory

The St. Johns Commercial club met in their comfortable rooms in the Holbrook building Wednesday evening and an interesting meeting ensued. It was decided to reduce the number necessary to constitute a quorum from ten to seven, as some of the members are slow about arriving at the hour when the session should begin, and therefore if the quorum is reduced the meetings generally can begin on time. A communication from a Portland party seeking a site of about twenty acres with water and rail facilities for an industrial plant costing \$350,000 and employing from 300 to 500 employes was taken up and discussed. No one present knew of such a site except at an exorbitant price. We have plenty of water front here in its virgin state, but the price asked in some cases is almost ridiculous. For instance one party asks \$230,000 for 14 acres near the wooden mills, and a little farther down \$250,000 is asked for 50 acres. Prices like these are enough to discourage any plant from seeking a location on the water front. It was suggested that the assessor be notified of the enormous prices asked for this property and request that he make his assessments in accordance with the value the owners place upon their holdings. In this way the city treasury would be a substantial gainer and the small property owner whose house and lot is assessed to the limit would be placed on an equality with the large property owners. If they had to pay several thousand dollars taxes each year perhaps the price might be placed somewhere within reach of industrial plants.

The committee on dancing in the new city dock was not quite ready to submit a report, but expect to be able to announce the date next week. The good of the city was discussed and it was decided that more smoke stacks are needed on the water front and the ways and means will be sought to secure some more.

Big Time at Whitwood

Whitwood Court intends celebrating the glorious Fourth in a fitting and appropriate manner. Thomas Glover has charge of ceremonies and he claims the day will be celebrated in a manner never before attempted, horse races, dog races, cat races, pig races, running and jumping contests, pie eating contests, pole vaulting, nail driving, stoopie chalking, hill climbing, stone rolling, dancing, picnic, boat racing, motor racing, fireworks and many other attractions will be in evidence if Tom's schedule goes through. He says, however, that the Chinook will not enter the boat race, as he had hoped for.

Peninsula to Celebrate

Preparations for celebrating the Fourth on the Peninsula have been completed. The Peninsula Band will dedicate the new park, and there will be a baseball game Sunday morning and another in the afternoon, at which the band will play. Monday morning there will be a parade, headed by the band, starting from Union avenue. The Declaration of Independence will be read, an oration pronounced, games and races will be indulged in, and a ball game in the afternoon. There will also be a dance both afternoon and evening.

Can Do Better Here

The Hendricks Hardware Co. this week secured several large orders for material from Portland parties. If it pays Portland people to come to St. Johns to trade, it certainly does not pay St. Johns people to do their trading in Portland. The sooner our citizens realize this the better it will be for our city.

You get full weight and first quality at the Central market. Just try it awhile.

ST. JOHNS IS GOOD AS THE BEST

While Times Are Not Booming Here Particularly, Yet There is No City of Its Size in the Union That is Making a Better Showing. Stay With It

We have heard a number of complaints about the quietness of times in St. Johns lately, and several pessimists are doing their best to discourage the people by croaking about still harder times to come before the summer is over. We believe every one will concede that there is plenty of room for improvement, but there is no reason for giving up hope. If times do seem rather slow in St. Johns and but little life and activity is apparent upon the streets, no one should be discouraged, however much at times they may feel that way. St. Johns is doing her very best, under conditions now existing here, and while things are not as flourishing as we would all desire, yet the same state of affairs exist in other localities, where in many instances times are much worse and more depressing. Reports from the east attest that times are exceedingly dull and little or nothing doing, and it is the same from all points of the compass. Much as we desire to disguise the fact, there is no denying that times throughout the nation are now and have been for some time practically at a standstill. The big guns and capitalists of the country may proclaim that times are rapidly improving everywhere, yet we all know it is far from the truth. They are, in fact, little if any better than they were a year ago.

We believe, however, that times are on the eve of improvement and that the next few months will witness a revival of business along nearly every line. After the tariff question is settled and the capitalists know just where they are at, times will begin to improve. There is little doubt but that the tariff will be placed just as high or as low as they desire it to be, and as soon as they are absolutely sure of this there will be no reason for not expanding

their business to the utmost limit. Then the crops never gave a brighter promise than they do now, which will mean the bringing of millions of dollars to the Northwest. So we should take heart, even if we are barely making a living, because there are many people in these United States who are not doing that. St. Johns, by reason of her environments and natural advantages, will be among the first to take on new life and bustle.

While the lull is on it will not pay to seek another location in the hope of finding times more flourishing, because that place does not exist today, unless it is experiencing an oil or mining boom and is up today and down tomorrow. So it is better to stand pat. Stay with St. Johns and it will not be long until you will be glad you did so. Even the worst pessimist we have will concede that as far as the ultimate outcome is concerned, no city has brighter prospects, Portland, in her younger days, passed through many depressing and discouraging times, but the ones who stood by it are numbered among the wealthy men of that city today. So it will be here. It may require pluck, determination and tenacity to hold on in some cases, but it will pay.

It is better to take an optimistic view of things, and if we do so we will find that times in St. Johns are not so bad as many imagine. More street work in under way than has ever been the case before, employing many men and many teams; the factories, mills and other industries are all working; almost every direction you may look new buildings are springing up; new tracts are being opened up, roads and streets are being laid out; many men are employed in cutting cord wood; very few men are out of employment,

and we believe none need be, and, in fact, when it is all sized up times are really not bad in St. Johns. Many cities of its size would believe a boom was on if as much work was in progress as we have here, and while wages are not as high as they were several years ago, yet they compare favorably with any other city. So do not knock the city. Tell the stranger it is better than any city of its size anywhere, and you will not be stretching the truth to any great extent. It will help some, and the visitors will have a better impression than if you told him everything is dead. People like to go into a live town, and if everybody are optimistic, even if business is rather slow, it is a great drawing card. Keep smiling and do not grumble and complain. If local conditions are not to your liking, don't become discouraged and begin to croak. Take off your coat and get out among your friends and help to improve them. People are generally willing to be shown, and if you can show them where an improvement can be made they are ready to help. Public sentiment has much to do with giving a situation a bright coloring. If every one you meet begins to complain about how hard times are and what a dull summer we are going to have it soon begins to take away what little enthusiasm and ambition one might have, and he loses heart. A cheerful word, a hopeful tone and a making light of adverse conditions can do more good for St. Johns than thousands of dollars worth of advertising. So let us all bear with the present so-called dull period as best we can. Let the newcomer feel that he is among cheerful, hopeful people who are in love with their city and believe there is nothing better on earth, and all will be well a little later on.

TO BUILD FOUR BRIDGES

North Bank Will Install Fine Structures

Plans for three of the four steel viaducts to be erected by the North Bank road over the big Peninsula cut have been approved by the bridge committee of the executive board. These plans provide for bridges at Depot street, Dawson street and Willamette boulevard. Plans for the fourth bridge, which is to cross this cut at Columbia boulevard, have not been approved by the bridge committee, pending some changes in the foundation to meet the city engineer's requirements.

All three bridges are to be 60 feet wide and 90 feet high. Those at Dawson street and Willamette boulevard are to be each 337 feet long, and the one at Depot street 157 feet long. The driveway on all the bridges will be 40 feet wide and the cement sidewalks on each side of the driveway 10 feet wide. The foundations, piling and abutments are to be reinforced concrete with a four-inch surface of asphalt. None of the approaches is to be over four per cent.

As prepared by the North Bank engineer, the plans of the bridges show that provision has been made for four tracks to be laid in the cut, which will necessitate widening the cut from 15 to 25 feet.

These bridges are to cost about \$60,000 each, and work of building them will begin as soon as the contracts can be let by the North Bank company.

Will Try It Again

All the bids which were received up until Thursday of last week for the construction of the high school in this city were rejected, owing to the fact that they were too excessive for the amount of money on hand for the purpose. Evidently the architect made his estimates too low for this section of the state. Down in the valley where labor and material can be obtained at about 25 per cent less than here, his estimates may have been met, but according to the contractors it is impossible to erect such a building as the plans call for here at the estimate made. Another effort, however, will be made, as elsewhere in this issue may be found a call for new bids, closing Thursday, July 15th.

A Strange Malady

In James McPaul, a streetcar driver, Bellevue Hospital in New York city, has one of the strangest cases that has come under its observation in many years. About a year ago McPaul's skin commenced to turn black, and it has continued to do so until now he is as black as a negro all over the body, with the exception of the right side of his face. Close observation indicates that the transformation may not affect the right side of his face, which is a rosy white. None of the doctors in Bellevue has been able to diagnose the trouble, except that it is an organic affliction due to the softening of the tissues.

Big Cherry Show

Salem is making preparations for the fourth annual cherry fair to be held in the Capital City July 8 and 9. The people of Salem make a big event every year of the cherry show and the fete this season will eclipse anything of the kind ever held there, according to those in charge of the programme. The fair will be held at the time of the Midsummer meeting of the State Horticultural Society at Salem. There will be addresses by prominent orchardists and specialists and a trip through the orchards about Salem on Friday, July 9, will be a feature of the gathering. Fruit growers of the state are making plans to attend.

For rare bargains in all kinds of realty see P. Hill.

WILL RUN VIA ST. JOHNS

Passenger Trains on O. R. & N. From Seattle

Robert Wakefield and the Pacific Engineering company were awarded the contract for the construction of the tunnel and approaches to connect the O. R. & N. company with the Spokane, Portland & Seattle railroad across the peninsula. It is probable that work will begin at once on connection, and it may be a year before it is completed.

The work includes the excavation of a tunnel 5425 feet long, and 8500 feet of approaches connecting the west approach to the tunnel with the O. R. & N. track at Mock's bottoms and the eastern end of the tunnel with the North Bank road at Oregon slough, near the Swift packing plant. The amount of the bid placed by Wakefield and the Pacific Bridge company was not announced but it was stated that the two firms would work jointly.

Until the tunnel is completed the Harriman line trains between Portland and Seattle will be run by way of the Troutdale line across the peninsula and through St. Johns.

Preaching Oregon

"Oregon is the place for you," has been the slogan brought to the attention of 5,000,000 people of the country through a big advertisement in the Saturday Evening Post, placed by the Portland Commercial Club, and the same message has been sent to 1,000,000 more through other publications. Reasons why Oregon is the state of opportunity have been presented. The 92 commercial bodies of the state having membership in the Oregon Development League have been given an opportunity without cost to them to answer immediately thousands of new inquiries about Oregon. Never before has Oregon been so well known and interested in the state so generally aroused. All that is needed to get the best results is for the commercial bodies to take advantage of the opportunity and make these home-seekers familiar with their sections by sending them literature and answering inquiries.

An Immense Showing

Many people do not realize the enormous amount of freight that goes out of St. Johns each day. During the past month approximately eight hundred car loads were shipped from St. Johns to different parts of the country. This is a showing that any city might well feel proud of, and those people who imagine St. Johns is a dead one should take a walk down to the O. R. & N. tracks and gaze upon the enormous amount of traffic that is being hauled over this line daily.

Prospects Very Bright

J. W. Davidson, vice president of the Eastern Oregon Oil & Gas Co., was in the city Monday. He states that prospects were never brighter for discovering oil in large quantities in their field. The deeper the wells have gone down the stronger the indications are becoming. Three months more will likely settle the question beyond the shadow of a doubt, and then the people will know whether there is oil in commercial quantities in the Malheur field or not.

A Hebrew was killed in a railroad accident, and when taken to the undertaker it was discovered by an accident in his pocket that he was the senior member of a large clothing house in New York, so the undertaker telegraphs to his partner, in sending home the body, if he shall embalm it for \$50 or freeze it for \$25. The partner answered, "Freeze him from his knees up for \$15, as his feet were frost bitten last winter."—Ex.

For the queen of cherries—Royal Ang—See A. Carl Nelson.

An Obliging Official

"Let 'em kiss their heads off; give 'em room," was the gist of an order handed down to the police of Pittsburg by Superintendent Thomas McQuaide when asked for a decision on spooning in the big public parks in that city. As a result McQuaide is perhaps the most popular police official that has ever been in Pittsburg.

What is still better, the great American privilege of the young man to take his best girl into the parks and there kiss her—if she is willing—will not be curtailed in this city in spite of the protests of the elder women of Pittsburg, who have been to see the chief of police to have lovemaking stopped in the parks. The police have been ordered not to interfere.

"I don't like the lovers' lanes in the parks—those long dark ways when lovers have been in the habit of hiding but favor more benches, where the light is subdued enough not to embarrass the young people in the park," said Chief McQuaide. "If I can assist the young man and young woman to an hour's quiet time together in our parks, I am going to do it. Let 'em kiss, sure. And, what is more, we want to give them better accommodations than they have at this time. We want to put in more benches, where more kissing parties can be held. If a fellow wants to take his best girl to the park, and there give her a little squeeze and a few kisses, and she is willing—why, more power to them both. "I'm their friend, and down with the calamity howlers. More light, more benches and more kissing in the parks looks like a pretty good platform."

Getting in Shape

The stove works at the foot of Richmond street are rapidly getting in shape to turn out stoves and ranges at a rapid rate. About 20 hands will be employed at this institution and it bids fair to become a very important industry for St. Johns.

Child Buried Alive

A dispatch to the Journal from Modesto, Cal., June 25th, contains the following statement:

That he buried his 6-year-old brother, Theodore, alive in the bog pen on his father's ranch, was confessed today by 12-year-old Frank Hopkins, son of a rancher of this place.

The boy's back was torn literally to shreds by a charge of No. 4 shot, fired by the older boy. Frank admitted the crime when questioned by the officers. The discovery of particles of sand and mud in the nostrils and throat of the dead child led to a further investigation on the part of Coroner Bowker. Under the questioning of the coroner, Frank horrified the officers by announcing that "his baby brother was alive when he dragged him to the hog pen and covered him with the filthy earth."

"When we were eating lunch my brother wanted to put egg and sugar on his bread," said the boy. "I didn't want him to, so I hit him in the head with a knife."

"When he went out of doors, I got the gun and shot him. I carried him back of the house and buried him. He wiggled while I was throwing the dirt over him."

Didn't Like the Color

When a bottle of hair restorer turned Mrs. Kate J. Moeser's hair into a bright green she sued Charles H. Grimley, the manufacturer of the tonic for damages and a local court in New York City gave her a verdict for \$500. The manufacturer's defense rested on the testimony of a man and his wife who declared that they had used the restorer with perfect satisfaction, but when it developed that they had received compensation for writing testimonials the court threw the evidence out and gave a verdict for damages.

J. S. Downey will leave next week for Douglas county, this state, where he is interested in a gold mine. Sam will likely come back with his pockets bulging with "yellow boys."

Swallowed a Spider

A spider swallowed by Katherine Degen, the 6-year-old daughter of H. C. Degen, of Louisville, Ky., is believed to have caused the little girl's death, which occurred early in the morning. At dinner she ate a saucer of strawberries and while eating the fruit remarked at the table that she "thought she had swallowed something." Two hours later she was taken ill and died despite all the efforts of physicians to save her. The latter believe the poisonous insect caused her death.

According to the child's grandmother, the strawberries were being prepared for the table when she discovered a spider in the fruit. The berries were washed several times, but the spider was not found. The grandmother believes the insect was among the berries served to the little girl.

Made Things Lively

A great revival in progress at the Baptist Church at Boston, Ga., was broken up by the swarming of yellow jackets, which had built nests back of the pulpit. The services were at high tension, the preacher being engaged in calling sinners to the mourners' bench, when the hornets began to dart out from their nest and sting saints and sinners alike. Women screamed and many of the men said things that had no churchly sound. Then the congregation broke into a panic and bolted from the church, leaving the jackets in possession.

Re-elected School Clerk

At a meeting of the school board June 24th J. E. Tanch was unanimously re-elected clerk for the ensuing year. Mr. Tanch has made a careful, painstaking and obliging official, and the board wisely decided to retain his services.

All the latest inventions in the way of fire works can be found at Frank Clark's.