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ST. JOHNS REVIEW

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VOL. 5

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GET IN THE HABIT

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LOTS OF STREET WORK ON

Council Kept Busy Pushing Matters Along

Council met in regular session Tuesday evening with all members present and Mayor Hendricks in the chair. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and duly approved. A petition for the establishment of an arc light at the corner of Burr street and Willamette boulevard was accepted and ordered placed on file. A communication from Mrs. Caples remonstrating against the second viewers' report on Buchanan street was read. She says their finding was quite unsatisfactory to her and that the results are practically the same as found by the first board of viewers. Therefore, she asked that new viewers, composed of practical real estate men, be appointed. As the viewers' report has already been accepted, no further action was taken in the matter except to accept the communication and order it placed on file.

One bid for the lease of the rock crusher was offered by F. S. Noonan, but being deemed a little too high by council, the bid was rejected and the call for bids was ordered re-advertised, and may be found elsewhere in this issue. Bids for the improvement of Willis boulevard were then opened. The first was the one offered by T. H. Cochran, as follows: Cut 35c, fill 19c, five-foot cement walk per foot 96c, crosswalks 47c, box gutters 47c. A bid from J. H. Moore read: Cut 37c, fill 20c cement walks 96c, crosswalks 36c, box gutters 36c. Upon referring the two bids to the city engineer it was found that there was only a slight difference between the two, and it was decided to hold the bids over for a week in order that the street committee might determine which was the best bid of the two. Bills to the amount of \$465 were allowed.

The water and light committee reported favorably on the establishment of an arc light at the corner of Decatur and Baltimore streets which was asked for by the Woolen mill people. The placement of same was granted by council. The light will be placed about September 1st. An ordinance adopting the engineer's plat and survey of the proposed extension and widening of Fessen-street was passed, and may be found in another column.

W. S. Basey was present and wanted to know why the grade of North Edison street had not been established, that a petition for same had been lodged with the council for two years and yet no steps had been taken toward securing the grade. The mayor tried to explain that the engineer's services were entirely devoted to the streets where petitions had been filed for improvement, that council had adopted the policy of giving improvement preference over cases where grades only were asked for, and that if a petition was presented to council asking for the improvement of North Edison street it would have its regular turn, but Mr. Basey was not satisfied, and said he would see that the grade was established. The mayor replied that he would be only too glad to help him if he could devise some plan for so doing. This street grade issue is bobbing up quite frequently these days, and it might be well for the property owners along this thoroughfare to realize the fact that nothing can be done toward the establishment of the grade until the engineer can be spared from the improvement of streets, as it requires three or four weeks to accomplish this work since no grade on any street on the side hill can be established until a systematic survey has been made of all. The finances of the city are in such a condition that the services of another engineer is out of the question just now, and it does not seem fair that the engineer should be taken from streets that are up for improvement and placed at grade work on a street for which no improvement is asked. Yet the people of Edison street are deserving of having their request granted. They have waited long and patiently, and some of the property owners are desirous of improving their residences but cannot do so permanently until the grade is es-

(Continued on page two.)

MAY HAVE TO "DIG UP"

Industries on City Streets Liable to Pay

The city officials are finding out some interesting things during the present investigation as to the status of proceedings on several streets along the water front that were purported to have been legally vacated in the past, and as a result the city is very liable to secure a source of revenue not heretofore drawn upon. For instance investigation establishes the fact that the ordinance vacating Chicago and Albany streets, upon which is located a portion of St. Johns Ship Building plant, was never signed by the mayor, thus making the proceedings void. C. A. Cook was mayor at the time, and whether by design or accident the ordinance was not signed is problematical. As a result of this finding the ship building plant stands liable to a payment for the use of the ground, or may be ejected therefrom, at the pleasure of council. Burlington street was also never vacated, and we believe John street never was. The St. Johns Lumber company occupies these two streets, and also covers part of Bradford street, which was never vacated. It also stands at the mercy of council. The Marine Iron Works occupy part of Charleston street, which, it seems, was never vacated. The mayor has intimated that after he has secured all the data available, and he finds these plants "squatting" on city property, that they will have to pay for the use of the same, or remove their buildings therefrom. As the charter provides that the city officials may lease public property not to exceed a term of five years, it is quite likely leases for that period will be secured from the industries using these streets. As about 240 feet of water front belonging to the city is covered by these industries and water frontage is approximately worth \$60 a foot the total value of the streets which are being used but from which no remuneration is being received totals \$14,400, to say nothing of Bradford street. If the city should receive ten per cent for the use of these streets at the present valuation the tidy little sum of about \$1500 would be turned into the city treasury per annum. What the city officials propose to do concerning the matter it is too early to give any definite idea, but there promises to be something done along this line. It will not be their purpose, however, to work a hardship with any of the industries, but since they have passed their swaddling clothes days and are all now paying impositions, it is not more than right that the city should have fair compensation for blocking up these routes to the water. No individual would stand for it. The city needs the money, needs it badly, and since it has carried these industries along thus far "without money and without price" there should arise no murmur on account of the city at this time asking for its own.

All Good Men Here

Who are on your school board? Are they there because they have children of their own and are interested in the success of the schools? Or, perhaps, they are live, wide awake citizens, intelligent and up-to-date and thus able to direct school affairs successfully. It may be they are there because they "have a pull," or because of politics; or, because they are able to drive a sharp bargain. See how these unworthy things contrast with the more worthy. Do your best to get good men and true on the school board and for heaven's sake do not make your children's welfare the football of petty politics or personal dislike.—Farm News.

H. W. Hatch of Salem, inventor of a patent process for the cleaning of wheat, spent a few hours with his old time friend, J. P. Gillmore, last Friday. His invention is very meritorious, and there is but little doubt that he will make considerable money out of it.

GOOD MOVE TO SELL THE DOCK

Foolish to Keep a "Sick Horse" at a Big Expense When It Has No Hope of Recovery for a Year or Two and the Purchase Price Can Be Secured

The sale of the new city dock has been the chief subject of conversation on the streets and the loitering places of the city during the past week. The consensus of opinion seems to be that the council is doing the right thing by selling the structure outright and that our people should congratulate themselves upon getting out of a hole in such a satisfactory manner. But there are a few unsatisfied ones who claim it would be better to keep the dock and pay the heavy expense incurred in doing so, that the dock would double in value in a few years, and that at the present time it is worth more than has been offered for it. These same people, however, have been kicking about the high taxes now prevailing, and would be the first ones to put up a "howl" if it was necessary to still further raise the number of mills next year in order to carry this burden along. The worth of anything is always determined by what can be obtained for it. There is no other way of finding out the true value of land, buildings, or anything else. If a man owns a certain piece of land and holds it at a certain price, and nobody offers him that amount for it, it is not worth it, because he cannot get that much for it. The principle works the same along any line, whether it is real estate or groceries. That being true, when the council accepted the highest price offered for the dock, they were selling it for all it was worth to them, because the price offered is all they can get for it, apparently. What it might be

worth years from now is difficult to determine at this time. It all depends upon the growth of the city. Perhaps \$200,000 in five years, and perhaps a million of dollars in twenty years—it is all guess work. The purpose of its construction was to obtain another industry for St. Johns, and this purpose is fully served on the sale as proposed. Better than that, the city gets back all it advanced and then some. Therefore, why not sell the dock? Why not have a building teeming with life and activity instead of a deserted structure going to decay from want of use? The streets covered by the dock are not included in the sale, because the city cannot sell streets. While not officially vacated, they are nevertheless vacated in fact. Had the city kept the dock the value of the streets covered by the same would have been nil, and so they are when the sale is consummated. Their value to the traveling public was lost when the dock was constructed, and will continue to be lost so long as the structure stands, whoever owns the dock. We have heard the former council censured for having a dock built with no guarantee of a spur being built to connect therewith, but they were not to blame any more than every citizen in St. Johns who voted for the bonds. The council only brought the matter before the people in a legal way. They did not recommend that it be built, but let the public decide for itself. There is no doubt of the fact

that it would have been a fine helmet to leave to posterity, but the cost is too much to retain the legacy until it becomes a paying proposition. The progress of the city is not in the least retarded by the sale, but, in fact, is healthily promoted thereby. It matters not whom the purchasers are, whether the railroad company is interested in the deal, or whether it is simply a private corporation, so long as the dock is utilized to its full capacity. We need the industry and we all want to see it doing business instead of lying idle, and while it would be better for the future generation to keep the dock, it is better for the present generation to dispose of it to the best advantage. Many cities would give as high as \$10,000 in the shape of a bonus to secure such an institution, and since we can secure it by the outlay of not a penny, why not let the heavy burden roll from our shoulders and be glad it is so?

So why complain about the matter now? Better to congratulate the council for turning a good deal and let it go at that. It was a great big elephant of whitish hue when they were sworn in, and they certainly deserve credit for cracking "the nut" so well. Let us then give them their full meed of praise, and congratulate ourselves upon the fact that taxes will be reduced next year, that the dock will be doing business very soon, and that the general outlook in consequence is much brighter than it was a couple short weeks ago.

A Drinkless Drink

Maxim's noiseless gun has been out done. The drinkless drink is now on the market in the shape of an evaporated drink of whiskey made into a paste. This latest thirst quencher is not yet on the market in Burley, but probably will be a little later on about the local option law go into effect here. This condensed drink was seen here the other day in the sample cases of a whiskey salesman, who stated that efforts were being made to induce liquor dealers to order them for the trade in Georgia and other dry states where the ordinary moist drink is barred by law.

The tabloid "drink" looks like a cherry gelatin nestling in a salve box. It smells a little like old rye. It can either be chewed or drank. It is guaranteed to reach the right spot and produce the desired effect either way. To take it dry one has only to turn the box upside down and catch the gelatine as it drops out. If a wet drink is desired the gelatine can be dissolved in a little water and makes a man's size.

The effect the tabloid is going to have on the whiskey traffic cannot be prognosticated. Instead of going out between acts, the thirsty one can chew a tabloid and have all the effects without leaving his seat. The possibilities are too numerous to mention.—Burley Bulletin.

Keep Right At It

Did you ever realize that planting advertising is like planting fruit trees? You couldn't expect a whole wagon load of apples the first year. Neither would you tear the tree up by the roots at the end of the season if that load of fruit were not forthcoming. Yet you run a big ad, and expect a carload of sale, and just because you didn't do as much as your neighbor over in the other orchard, who has been tending his trees for years, you yank your advertisement out of the paper and say "Advertising doesn't pay." We wouldn't expect you to get married to advertising the first time you made its acquaintance, any more than we would expect you to marry the girl who winked at you on the street.—Ex.

Work for a Greater St. Johns.

A Busy Rascal

The editor of today has to get his nose down on the grindstone and keep it there sixteen hours per day and 365 days in the year or he falls by the wayside. There are men who quit work Saturday night and rest until Monday morning. They lay aside business cares at five or six o'clock every evening and do not resume them until seven or eight the next morning. Not so with your editor. He has no elegant leisure. He knows no hours, no Sundays, no nights. When he goes to a party, or to church, or on a pleasure trip, it is all in the line of duty. Withal, your editor is a cheerful, long-suffering soul, going about doing good in his humble way. He returns good for evil. He writes long puffs for church societies, and in return therefor accepts a hunk of cake that would sink an ironclad. He notes the arrival of all the babies in the neighborhood and eternally perjures his soul in telling how pretty they are. He rejoices with the gay and mourns with those who are sad. He booms every enterprise which makes his community rich and goes about himself clothed in gunny sack coats and one suspender. He glories over the fortune of his neighbor, and meekly eats his own repast of boiled corn cobs and colored labels off tomato cans. He can write a sermon, an account of a prize fight, a political speech, an obituary notice, poetry; split wood, pitch hay, wash dishes, preside at a camp meeting, curry horses, quote law or gospel or anything else at a moment's notice.—Ex.

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Making a Big Stir

P. A. Bredeen and family and John Bredeen, a brother, spent last week in taking in the sights and scenes at the Seattle exposition. P. A. states that the fair compares favorably with the one recently held in Portland, but it is more largely attended. He says that the amount of money being spent for street work is something immense. Great hills are being leveled off and things are being conducted on a large scale. The "Seattle spirit" is evidenced on all sides and they are making a stir in the world. But what will the taxes be?

The Hold-Up Game

Public-spirited citizens of St. Johns are highly incensed at the attitude assumed by owners of waterfront property in that town. The high prices asked by these men for land along the city water front has been the means of keeping much capital from the bustling little city.

Several attempts to secure manufacturing sites have been made in St. Johns of late, but the exorbitant prices asked by the owners has prevented any sales being made. Real estate men from Portland who are acting for Eastern manufacturers have repeatedly tried to make purchases of waterfront property for their clients without avail.

It is understood that the Commercial Club of St. Johns will take some action to prevent the city from getting the black eye through the actions of the water front sharks who play the hold-up game.—Peoples Press.

Meeting With Success

A. S. Douglass, formerly owner of a saw mill in St. Johns, and after his mill was destroyed by fire, established the Douglass planing mill here, later took up the practice of medicine and is now a full fledged chiropractor with the title "Dr." prefixed to his name. Since taking up the new calling Dr. Douglass has met with marked success. He has successfully treated a number of local patients and their number is constantly increasing. The use of knife and drugs are dispensed with, and his methods are applied right at the seat of the disease. He has recently secured rooms in the Abington building, Third street, Portland, but will also treat patients at his home in this city morning and evenings. The new doctor is a fine gentleman, conscientious and entirely devoted to his profession, and he deserves to succeed well.

M. F. Loy, after undergoing a serious operation at the hospital, is able to be around a little once more. It is to be hoped that he will henceforth rapidly improve in health.

Mrs. E. S. Wright has returned from a ten days' visit at her old home at Catlin, Wash.

ATTAINS A RIPE OLD AGE

"Daddy" Maple Passes 88th Milestone

Robert Maple passed the 88th milestone in the journey of life Sunday last, and his friends hope he will pass many more before he is called to his long home on high. Born in Steubenville, Ohio, July 25, 1821, he came to Oregon in 1852, and to St. Johns in 1887. In 1897 he was united in marriage with Eliza Page at Vanouvey, Wash. He is a skilled marble cutter by trade and for many years followed this occupation. A record he has kept of his work shows that he has lettered 20,000 tomb-stones, which is certainly remarkable. What a vast army of people this represents whose name and age he has recorded on marble slabs. "Daddy" Maple, as he is familiarly called, is a well known figure in St. Johns. His sprightly gait belies his age, and he is quite active for one burdened with the weight of so many years. He is well informed, and has a fund of stories and reminiscences at hand that are both interesting and amusing. His skill in marble cutting has not deserted him, and at times may be seen busily at work at his Fessenenden street home chipping marble with his faithful chisel and mallet. May he live to be a hundred, and then some.

Not Worth the Effort

Those people who are so anxious to secure homesteads that they are taking long chances by going to Spokane and registering will find that they are running up against a snag even if they are lucky, or rather unlucky, enough, to draw a homestead. One of our citizens who expected to take a chance at the Coeur de Alene lands found out the following before he bought his ticket to Spokane: That his expenses would be about \$35 for registering, that one-third of the valuation would have to be paid down, that the valuation of the property is made according to adjoining property, that the Indians have secured all the land adjoining the streams, leaving the rest very dry, that no timber can be cut until five years' residence has been established, and that a person had one chance in about twenty of securing a piece of land, owing to the vast army that are daily being registered. He decided it would be far better to buy a piece of adjoining property, as he would not have to stay five years thereon and would not have to pay more for it than those who secure the "free" land. These land drawing affairs are not what they are cracked up to be when the facts are simmered down.

Japan Outclassed

The Woolen Mills ball team put it all over a Japanese club that was alleged to know how to play the National game last Sunday. The local boys had an easy thing of it all the way through, and it was soon evident to the spectators that the Japs, while they might wipe up the earth with the Russians, they had no show with the mill workers. They could hit a straight ball in a weakly manner, but a curved one scared them to death, and they would either stretch out for it like a hen reaching through the fence for a grain of corn, or fall down while the ball was skipping over the plate. Their work in the field was not so awful bad, but they have lots to learn with the stick. The mill boys put up their usual good game and won by a score of 19 to 2.

The Germantown road on the west side of the river is now one of the finest thoroughfares in the country. The county has spared neither time nor money in placing this county road in the very best condition possible and the fact is greatly appreciated by the people who travel this route.

Wanted—First class hand ironer at St. Johns Laundry.

HOLMES LODGE INCORPORATES

Pythian Temple Will Be Hustled Along

At their meeting last Friday evening Holmes Lodge, K. of P., decided to incorporate under the Charitable and Benevolent Act, and take over the business of the Pythian Hall Association in order to facilitate the building of the proposed Pythian Temple on the corner of Jersey and Charleston streets. A long lease at a good price has been secured for part of the building, and there is fair prospect that the entire building can readily be leased. The officers of the new corporation are the chancellor commander, keeper of records and seal and the three trustees. In addition, a building committee was selected by ballot, resulting in the election of O. P. Wolcott, J. E. Hillier, J. F. Hendricks, A. W. Vincent and E. C. Harbert. This committee is to report to the lodge every meeting night so that every member in attendance may keep himself posted as to the progress made and also make suggestions or objections. Rapid progress toward construction may now be looked for.

Building Permits

No. 45—To B. L. Byers to erect a dwelling on Willis boulevard, between Brunwick and Oswego streets; estimated cost \$600.

No. 47—To G. H. Lemon to erect a dwelling on Hartman street between Cruikshank and Meyers streets; estimated cost \$400.

No. 48—To R. L. Burk to construct addition to building on Tyler street between Portland boulevard and Jersey street; estimated cost \$50.

No. 49—To A. Finlay to erect dwelling on South Hayes between Buchanan and Burr streets; estimated cost \$1400.

No. 50—To Mrs. C. Peterson to erect dwelling on Scott avenue between John and Charleston streets; estimated cost \$300.

A Handy Man

Harry Mansfield, the veteran barber, has once more demonstrated his genius in the cabinet-making line. He has just finished an ice chest and dresser that are models of neatness and skillful workmanship, and are enough to excite the envy of seasoned mechanics. With the crude tools Harry has to work with the result of his labor is all the more remarkable. Since he has never taken any instruction in work along this line, it is apparent that he missed his true calling when he took up the razor in preference to the chisel and saw.

A Light to Their Path

The woolen mill people have requested the establishment of an arc light part way up the hill leading from their plant in order that on dark nights their employes may be guided aright. As many of their employes are of the gentler sex, the request is quite reasonable and council will have the same placed in September. Since no street improvement has been done on streets leading to most of the industries, providing a light is the least the city can do.

Count Us In, Too

The Telegram in giving a list of attractions that Portland visitors should see might well have included St. Johns in its collection. Since Wilsonville, Forest Grove and Hillsboro are singled out the big daily is discriminating when it leaves out St. Johns, because any fair minded person will instantly concede that this city offers more and better attractions than either or all of the points above named. Kindly give us what is coming to us, Mr. Telegram Man.