

# ST. JOHNS REVIEW

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

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## WILLOCATE ON PENINSULA

### Another Plant Secures a Site Near Swifts

In Kenton on the Peninsula the Davis Safe & Lock Co. has closed negotiations with the Swift people for about five acres of land, extending from the Columbia boulevard to the slough and being 200x1200 feet in dimensions. The Peninsula is becoming a vast manufacturing area into which many concerns are contracting for large sites. Including the Swift Packing Company, who are now in partial operation, having a large area covered with concrete for stock yards and numerous large brick factory buildings besides a bank, stock exchange and many business buildings, their holdings alone amounting to over 100 acres.

There are several good locations for factories around Portland, but when the Peninsula is investigated carefully by lookers for sites the vital necessities of transportation, fire and police protection, schools and water are all found there. There also street car fares will be largely cut out, also the dinner pau as the men can go home to lunch and save this money to buy their homes on monthly payments.

The Davis Safe & Lock Co. claims that the Pacific Coast has been held up by transcontinental railways to such an extent that the freight is often over half what the safe costs at the factory, besides they come frequently in bad condition, requiring repairs and often look as though they were second hand goods. The freight charges to the coast were established by the traffic association in Chicago where they devoted more time to mystifying the tariff than they did to naming a just rate and the Davis Safe & Lock Co., as well as the public, are to be congratulated for deciding to cut out this enormous toll of the railroads. It is their intention to at once erect on their new holdings at Kenton a main factory building 100x300 feet in dimensions, part of which will be two stories in height and will be built of concrete and made fireproof; also an iron and brass foundry building 50x200 feet in size, and a coke and sand shed 70x20 feet. The plant will be completed and in operation by March 1, 1910, and will employ about 100 men from the start. The plans are being prepared by the company's architect and announcements will be made later when they are finished. Its capacity will be 20 safes and vault doors per day. A number of prominent Portland capitalists are interested in the company and it will be purely a local concern. The company has pending very valuable patents and will build a fireproof safe superior to any on the market today. They will also make their own castings, both brass and steel. Commercial bodies from a number of Eastern localities have made some very flattering propositions to the company, each offering special inducements to secure the location of the factory at their town. The towns of Norfolk, Va., Moine, Ill., and Elyria, O., were especially anxious to land the proposition, but after careful consideration the directors determined that Portland was the coming city and they would contribute their share toward helping boost.

No industry has come to Portland for some time that promises greater net profits than does this one, on account of the protective freight tariff that cannot be eliminated and the superiority of their safes.—Abstract.

### Another "Burden"

Things are said to be not what they ought to be in Woodlawn now. Dekum avenue, the principal street, is in very bad shape, owing to the breaking of the water main several times during last winter, parkings are not kept up, the streets were watered but indifferently during the summer, while except at election time no effort to help them is ever given by the councilman of the ward. Woodlawn people allege that the western half of the Tenth ward is being boosted to the detriment of their half and that although they pay their share of the taxes of the city they get but little for it.—Journal.

## WORK ON THE RAILROADS

### Will Give Steady Employment For All

Close to 20,000 men are now employed in a dozen or more railroad projects whose completion will be of great and direct benefit to Portland. A majority of this vast bulk of labor is handled through Portland, which means that enormous payrolls each month are putting great volumes of money into the regular channels of local trade. Its larger significance is that a protracted era of prosperity and general good times should prevail here not only while this work is going on but long after when the new construction work has been completed and the new lines and extensions are under operation.

In spite of the fact that railroad contractors are trying their level best to get more men in the field, great difficulty is experienced in securing men who will stick to their jobs. Thousands of men who have returned from the harvest fields of the Northwest refuse to join railroad construction camps, declaring the work is too hard. Railroad employment agents could take care of every idle man in Portland if he were willing to work, and steady employment would be afforded all winter.

These component elements in the railroad development of the Northwest will mean great business growth for Portland, the natural jobbing and commercial center toward which they are striving. They will mean an enormous increase in population in the next few years, building up not only Portland but the entire region or sections of country which are being brought into direct and speedy communication with the outside world.

### A Good Idea

The proposition of the street cars coming into St. Johns the way they now go out is being agitated by a number of our citizens. The claim is made that the city is more prepossessing coming in the short way than by Cedar Park, as is now the case, and that visitors would be better pleased with the outlook at first glance. Another reason advanced is that most people are tired out after spending a few hours wandering around Portland, and desire to get home with the greatest possible celerity. The long trip in going to Portland would not be so annoying, as all are fresh at the start. The plan looks like a very good one, and there seems but little chance for objection on the part of the residents here. The matter will likely be passed up to the powers that be in the near future, asking that this be done.

### Reduction in Rates

Reductions in grain rates of about 12 1/2 per cent from the interior to tidewater will go into effect on the railroads of the Northwest on Nov. 1 and will effect a very large saving to the wheat growers of the Inland Empire. The reduction was ordered on the O. R. N. lines by the Oregon Railroad Commission and on the Washington railroads by the commission of that state. On the present year's crop it is believed a saving of about \$3,000,000 will be realized to growers by the lessened freight rates.

### Big Doin's in Appleville

Great preparations have been made for the annual Hood River apple fair, Oct. 28, 29 and 30. The display of prize fruit is bigger and better than ever and the attendance from outside points promises to be exceptionally large. Saturday, Oct. 30, will be Portland day. The Portland Commercial Club has been invited and citizens generally from that city will view the Hood River show in large numbers. Interest in the exhibit of fine apples at the fair is high.

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## TIMES ARE IMPROVING GREATLY

### Evidences of Awakened Activity Are Apparent Upon Every Hand and an Era of Unexcelled Prosperity Now Has Begun to Dawn in St. Johns

Whether on account of the activity of the saloon in St. Johns or in spite of the town again becoming "wet," there is no denying the fact that "things are looking up." On every hand may be found substantial evidences of awakened and renewed activity. Empty business houses and dwellings are filling up as if by magic, and a spirit of optimism and exuberance seems to pervade the atmosphere. The man with the pick and shovel, the busy teams, the sound of the hammer and saw, the well filled streets—all combine in presenting a picture of hustle and bustle that is cheering to all. The gas company has been quite a factor in evening affairs in St. Johns. With their many workmen engaged in laying pipe all over the city, and the enthusiasm which they have infused into their operations here their coming has marked the beginning of better times. The many lights they have already placed here has given the business district a metropolitan appearance and makes the city particularly alluring and entrancing at night. The Portland General Electric Co. has also not been idle, and are constantly placing new lights here, there and everywhere. Every industry in St. Johns (and by the way, there are quite a lot) is working full time, and more men are now employed in St. Johns than has

ever been the case in the city's history. Strangers upon our streets and newcomers are becoming legion. Real estate is being sought in ever increasing volume, and more inquiries regarding same are pouring in with every mail. Rooming houses that have long been uninhabited are exhibiting signs of life, and the painter's brush and the decorator's master hand are working over time in an endeavor to keep up with orders. Along the water front every thing is humming with life and activity. With a payroll not exceeded by any other city in the United States according to population, every industry is hammering away day in and day out, month in and month out—a never ceasing grind. The fact that over 900 car loads of miscellaneous freight were shipped out of this city during the month of September tells the story better than words can. Its immensity from such a comparatively small locality is hard for the mind to grasp, and it is a record that no other city of its size in the world can show. Four new store rooms will soon be completed, all of which have already been leased. Over 100 new residences have been built the past year, and yet it is difficult to secure a vacant dwelling that is fairly habitable. From the present demand one hundred more houses could find ten-

ants almost immediately. The schools show a substantial increase over last year in the number of pupils enrolled and all signs point to a rapidly increasing population. All the merchants are well pleased with the business now enjoyed, and the outlook is very promising for an increased trade. Idle labor is a proposition St. Johns does not have to contend with. Any one can secure work. The demand is greater than the supply, and wages show a slight increase of over a year ago. Summing it all up, there is no denying that times are better than they have been, and the croakings of the street loafer has been reduced to a minimum. We know not whether the town becoming "wet" is responsible in any marked degree for the era of prosperity that has now dawned, and we care less. The reason why is of but little moment. The fact that better and brighter days have reached St. Johns is sufficient. If conditions are not pleasing to all, repining and complaining will avail not. They can be changed when the time is ripe if the majority so wills, but until that time let us make the best of conditions as we find them. Let us all do what lies in our power to make times better and better, and rejoice in the fact that we are permitted to dwell in one of the finest localities that God ever made.

### Charter Revision

There is some talk about charter revisions once more. The poor old charter has been cussed at, reviled, amended, changed, trampled upon, and yet it does not suit. The last desired change is to provide for four of the councilmen being held over each year, thus preventing confusion and disruption until the new members were inured to their positions. We believe this proposed amendment would carry with few dissenting votes, as it does not look like good business as to do it possible to turn all the officials out at one time. If this should occur it would take about six months for the new members to find out where the late officials left off. Another amendment desired is a provision for raising the treasurer's salary and increasing the length of his term of office. This is a minor change, but is important also. An amendment is desired by some citizens on the process now in force for improving our streets. Instead of the property owners paying for improvement individually, it is proposed that the city as a whole put up for street improvement. This plan would be the cause for much objection and discussion were it to come before the people for their adoption. Those who have already paid for their own street improvement will not care to help pay for other work along this line. It would cause more strife and ill feelings than most any other source were the plan to become in vogue. Each councilman that advocated improving a street in any direction would be suspected of being financially interested in its improvement in some way. Every property owner would want his street improved first, and thus bedlam would be let loose in fine style. The present system seems to work all right, and if that 50 percent of the assessed valuation was eliminated, street work could go on without a hitch. Property will never be less in value in St. Johns than its street improvements come to, therefore it would be impossible to confiscate the property for street improvement. Make it a "sky limit" and no one will have cause to complain that street work is not going on with a vim and activity at St. Johns.

A sewing machine agent who has been doing considerable business in and around St. Johns, was taken up by the Portland police department last week for brutally assaulting a lady to whom he was inebriated. It would be safer, better and more economical if the housewife would give these road agents "the go-by" and patronize legitimate and local establishments when in need of machines.

### To Advertise the State

Five thousand dollars will be given by the Portland Commercial Club in prizes for the best newspaper and magazine articles on Portland, the state, or the Pacific Northwest. The offer holds good during the coming year and the one writing the best article will be rewarded with a check for \$1,000. Second best will get \$500, and a gradually diminishing scale of prizes will reward 80 writers. The contest is open to everyone. The conditions are that the articles must be printed in a newspaper or magazine of general circulation, printed anywhere outside of the states of Oregon and Washington. Marked copy of the publication must then be sent to the Portland Commercial Club, where it will be turned over to three judges named by the Governor of Oregon. The articles may be printed between the dates of November 1, 1909, and December 31, 1910. Almost any phase of the Northwest may be used as subject matter of the articles. The length and treatment is optional with the writer. The plan of the Commercial Club is not to have the Northwest "boomed" in the common meaning of the term so much as it is to have the people of the country become more familiar with this portion of the United States and give expression to their views in such articles as will be acceptable to papers throughout the entire continent. The decision of the judges will be absolutely impartial. There are prizes for 80 writers and the chances for winning are so many that entries in the contest should be large. That the publicity resulting from the prize offer will be wide and that much good will be realized for the whole Pacific Northwest is assured.

### Note Many Changes

Mrs. J. L. Misenhimer and Mrs. R. S. Henley, two elderly ladies were in St. Johns Wednesday, the guests of Mrs. Agnes Learner. Thirty-five years ago both the ladies were residents of St. Johns, but are now located in Portland. The changes and alterations that have taken place since they left St. Johns over a half of a century ago are numerous and varied. They still have a warm spot in their hearts for this city, and greatly enjoyed trying to discover some of the old landmarks so familiar to them in the long ago.

A full attendance is desired at the Commercial club next Wednesday evening, as business of importance will be brought up for consideration and action.

### Plenty of Misfits

It is strange what a lot of misfits exist in this world of ours. Seems as though some people can never find the little niche in which they are adapted by inclination and temperament to occupy, but they go tumbling along, caught first in one little eddy and then another, until finally instead of progressing toward their goal, they go whirling around and around in a circle, grumbling, kicking and complaining, first at one thing and then another. The Socialist tells us of the perfect conditions existing in New Zealand or some other country under socialism; the prohibitionist eulogizes the sections where the sale of liquor is not legalized; the saloon sympathizer harps on the beauties and advantages of a "wet" district; the annexationist goes into raptures over the glorious anticipation of living in the city of Portland—and thus it goes all down the line. Some are dissatisfied with the climate, conditions, requirements and environments of every place in which they have resided. The ideal conditions are never fully realized, and Paradise is always just a little farther on. While these various misfits are complaining, exhorting, condemning and execrating, one cannot help but wonder why these people do not make an earnest effort to seek the localities and conditions which they uphold and preach to their long-suffering fellow men. The contented people would appreciate their removal and would take up a collection to expiate matters. Man, however, is prone to kick and raise a rumpus upon the least provocation, and it no doubt will continue to be so until the end of time.

### Scared to Death

Mrs. Sunny Patriowski, 40 years old, of San Diego, Cal., was frightened to death Tuesday by witnessing two dogs fighting. When she heard her own pet fighting a strange canine which had entered her yard, she rushed out to rescue her dog. She saw the strange dog seize her own pet and the sight caused her to reel over backwards. Her husband assisted her to the house, where she soon expired. A physician hastily called pronounced her death due to heart failure, brought on by fright.

The Hill line has a large force of surveyors at work preparatory to building a feeder for the North Bank road up the White Salmon valley. A great farming and wooded country will thus be opened up and developed.

## CITY SOLONS IN SESSION

### Small Grist of Municipal Business Than Usual

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 approved.

The engineer's acceptance of Stafford street, and endorsed by the street committee was confirmed by council.

Upon affidavit of the gas company that all the requirements in regard to laying pipes in St. Johns had been complied with, on motion of Councilman A. W. Davis, the \$5,000 check was ordered returned.

Mr. Stine was granted permission to lay an eight-foot cement sidewalk in front of his new business place on North Jersey, with the understanding that at any time he will comply with any ordinance that may be passed later making all sidewalks in the business district 12 feet wide.

An amended report of the viewers on the Pessenden street condemnation was read and then held over until Nov. 9th, when the dissatisfied ones may have another chance to register a kick on the report as amended.

Bills to the amount of \$36.50 were allowed.

A report signed by J. McKinney pointed out a number of unsavory and ill-smelling spots around the city which should receive immediate attention. The findings of the sanitary commission was ordered turned over to the health and police committee for adjustment.

A clairvoyant, having made application for a license to dispense fortunes in St. Johns, the matter was referred to the license committee for disposition.

On motion of Councilman Brown the engineer was to be instructed to keep tab on the pipe being placed by the water company and have a complete record of where the pipe has been laid and where it is being laid at the present time.

B. W. Simmons was appointed special policeman by Mayor Hendricks, the appointment being confirmed by council.

After a somewhat lengthy discussion it was decided to proceed with the vacation of that part of Philadelphia street covered by the dock. According to the charter the proposed vacation must be advertised for sixty days, and then a chance given for remonstrating against same. It was decided that the city attorney at once proceed with the legal steps toward that end.

### Sewerage Needed

Steps should be taken without delay toward having a sewerage system installed in the neighborhood of the water supply for the city. Here as nowhere else special precautions should be taken to insure the purity of the water. While there is no immediate danger of the water becoming contaminated, such will likely prove the case within the next five or six years unless cess pools are prohibited and sewerage installed in the neighborhood of the water station. Council should employ the engineering staff on this proposition during the winter months when street improvement has abated to a large extent.

### Growing Too Fast

Newman, a 15-year-old boy of Long Beach, Cal., is growing so fast he has been forced to quit school on account of a resulting heart affection. His height has increased an inch during the last 50 days and he is four and one-half inches taller than he was January 1. The lad now stands five feet three inches, and is growing so fast his father fears serious injury.

It is said that the jack rabbits stood up like exclamation points when our President crossed the western plains after having indorsed the policies of "Nelson Aldrich" and "Joe Cannon".

## TO HOLD MASS MEETING

### To Decide What Shall Be Done With the Dock

By action of the city council Tuesday evening steps will at once be taken toward the vacation of Philadelphia street. It is imperative that this street be vacated whether the dock is sold or retained by the city. Unless it is vacated the city has no right to blockade, with a dock or any other obstruction this street, any more than a private individual or corporation has a right to block any street in the city. Philadelphia street should have been vacated before it was obstructed by the dock. This not having been done, it is highly essential that no further time be lost in concluding the process. It does not mean that the dock is to be sold because it is necessary to vacate the street. That proposition will come up later. When a street is vacated its title reverts to the adjoining property owners, and as the city own all the adjoining property in this instance, by vacation it does not pass out of its hands, but on the contrary the title of the city becomes stronger by the legal process of vacation. For a period of 60 days the proposed vacation of this stub of a street will be advertised, and then every property owner in St. Johns will have a chance to remonstrate if they so desire. It is proposed at the date set for the hearing of the remonstrances to hold a mass meeting of our citizens and discuss what disposition shall be made of the dock. The councilmen are all willing to do what the majority of the people desire in the premises, but since the proposition throughout has not panned out like anticipated when when the dock was voted for, they are desirous of learning definitely how the people stand. Whether the majority favor keeping the dock, or favor disposing of it, it matters little, only the aldermen are anxious to get the true sentiment. If enough are in favor of selling a special election will be called and a vote taken, but if the sentiment is otherwise the matter will be dropped. Therefore, wait for the announcement of the mass meeting, and all will be given a chance to air their views concerning what shall be done with the dock.

### Make a Start Now

Young man, right now is the time when you should be planting every cent you can scrape together in St. Johns realty. Cut out pool, tobacco, and a few other luxuries for a few days and you will have saved enough to make the first payment down on a lot. Make it, and keep up the payments. Keep the lot for 25 years and for every penny you put into the property you will be able to extract a dollar. Taking this view of it, every time you smoke a five-cent cigar you are in reality burning up five dollars. The planting season is here in all its richness. Make up your mind to plant a little gold mine of your own. You will experience more pleasure in watching it develop and expand than you did in spending the money for luxuries before. Opportunity is at the door. Will you not let it in? Buy anywhere—North, South, East or West, but buy in St. Johns.

### Core Will Come High

The high price of \$3.35 for the first grade Spitzenberg apples and \$2.40 per box for Newtowns were the prices received by the Hood River Fruit Grower's Union for their entire crop of fancy apples this year. This price, paid by a New York concern, has just been made public by the union. There surely should be money in raising apples at 15 cents each.

Mr. Harriman, having left an estate of about \$150,000,000, his older son has been entered at Yale, the family feeling reasonably confident that it can afford to pay his expenses in a first-class institution.