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DIRECT LINE TO PORTLAND

Would be a Great Boon for St. Johns

A communication from the Marine Iron Works, by Dan J. Mayer, president, was read at the Commercial club Wednesday evening.

With relation to the matter in reference to the running of the St. Johns cars straight through to University Park, and directly into St. Johns over the new steel bridge on Dawson street, we submit that in our opinion this would be for the betterment of our town and as we see it, for everybody concerned.

Mr. Mayer was one of the first originators of the idea of running the cars direct through to St. Johns, and not coming in by way of the back door, as he expresses it.

Busy on the Sewer

The city engineer is busily engaged in mapping out a system of sewerage for St. Johns. The first one that will be installed will likely be on Burlington street, Jersey to the river.

Contract Completed

Foss Bros. have completed their contract for the basement of a store building adjoining W. E. Knight's saloon at Whitwood Court.

EMPTY HOUSES IN DEMAND

Supply Entirely Inadequate For Newcomers

At least 100 men will be furnished with employment at the new Kenton Safe & Lock factory to be built on Columbia boulevard, Kenton.

City Engineer C. E. Andrew, of St. Johns, is receiving plans for sewers to be laid on Jersey street, the main thoroughfare, which is to be hard surfaced next spring.

Although the charter granted by St. Johns to the Portland Gas Company called for laying \$30,000 worth of gas pipe in one year's time, the company has spent over \$40,000 in laying gas pipe, and the charter has been granted for only six months.

Leading real estate men say that although over 100 residences of the better class have been erected since January 1, 1909, it is practically impossible to satisfy the demand for houses to rent.

Building Permits

- No. 86—To Thos. Scates to erect a dwelling on Bank street between Oregonian and Fessenden; cost \$4,000. No. 87—To Albert Olen to erect a dwelling on Nicklin street, between Cruikshank and Meyers; cost \$200.

To Restock River

The Columbia river will be restocked with Sockeye salmon as a result of a visit during the past week of United States Fish Commissioner George H. Bowers, of Washington.

F. E. Zook has just completed a handsome 5-room bungalow at Whitwood Court for Gertrude Hurst. Whitwood is growing steadily, quite a number of new residences having been built there the past summer.

TIMES CONTINUE TO "LOOK UP"

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

With the approach of wet weather conditions in St. Johns are showing a decided upward tendency. Every available block or building has been leased and furnished and bears the sign "Rooms for Rent," but persons in search of rooms are everywhere confronted with cards reading, "Rooms all taken."

This fling-up process has been noticed for the last two months, and is in keeping with a general rise in property values, a demand for real estate and houses to rent. It is hard to secure a modern house at any price, and there are very few empty houses of any description to be had.

All the industries along the waterfront are busy and are putting on more help every day. The St. Johns Lumber Company has so enlarged and improved its mill that it now has an output of 140,000 feet every 10 hours as against 70,000 a year ago.

Next to the stove works as a strictly home institution, is the Modern Machine works, with its large plant, newly erected after being destroyed

by fire. Murphy & Bennett, the proprietors, and several of their employees, own their own homes, and every man employed by this institution, Mr. Murphy says, lives in St. Johns.

Street improvement work has practically ceased for the year, only a few contracts remaining uncompleted, and no new work will be let until next spring. One of the most important street improvements finished this year, although one of the shortest and least expensive, was the renovating of two blocks on Pittsburg street, extending from Crawford street to the ferry slip.

There is a decided sentiment shown in favor of more sewers and less street improvement for next year and it is probable that the sewers and drainage question will cut a big figure in next year's election.

Another proposed improvement is the paving of Jersey street, from Richmond to Fessenden, with hard-surface material.

great improvement at night, and 10 1000-candlepower gas lights have been ordered by property owners and business men, and the electric company has installed a 1000-candlepower light in front of its new office in the new Stine block, just being completed.

Another important help to the merchants is the installation of a local freight service, thus making it possible to ship goods from the East to St. Johns at the same rate as to Portland.

The railroad track is being balanced, raised and placed in first-class condition, and that portion of it lying on Bradford street is to be planked even with the top of the rails thus giving a first class street.

An application is soon to be made for a franchise for a 3000-foot siding running from Philadelphia street down the river.

CITY SOLONS IN SESSION

Usual Grind of Municipal Business Disposed of

Council met in regular session Tuesday evening with all members present and Mayor Hendricks presiding. After the minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved, a communication was read from Rev. C. L. Owen of the Baptist church requesting permission for Evangelist E. A. Smith to hold noon religious services in the city dock.

Contractor Lind asked for pay for an excess of rock he claims to have placed on Oswego street over the engineer's estimate. In looking over the records it was found that the city sold Mr. Lind 204 yards more rock for this street than the engineer deemed necessary.

The matter was finally turned over to the street committee to see if anything could be done to make Mr. Lind's burden lighter.

Bills to the amount of \$1516.95 were allowed. Included among them were salaries for the month of October, payment and interest on the rock crusher, payment and interest on road roller, plumbing, printing, etc.

Mr. Hunter of Stafford street was present and he seriously objected to the fact that the Stafford and Polk street sidewalks did not jibe, as one was about six inches higher than the other.

Three bids were received on the improvement of West Polk street. The first one opened was from J. B. Phillips and read: Cut 38c, fill 15c sidewalk and curb \$1.02, crosswalk 45c, box gutters 50c, crushed rock \$2.00.

The large store room formerly occupied by Knight & Glover on Burlington street is being completely overhauled and embellished by the painter's brush.

The boy was riding with his father, who was running the engine of the logging road. The train was going down a grade, and as the speed would soon greatly increase, the father, desiring to protect the boy, told him he had better jump off.

J. F. Gillmore, wife, son and daughter have returned from a six weeks' trip to Texas and various points in the Southwest. The vacation was greatly enjoyed by the party, but all were more than glad to once more set foot in St. Johns.

The Oregon Wood Distilling Co. of the west side asked permission to store several hundred sacks of charcoal in the city dock, which was granted at Portland rate of storage.

The attorney was directed to draw up a resolution opening up Polk street through the Caples tract to Lehigh and have it in readiness for adoption next Tuesday evening.

TO ADD SOCIAL FEATURES

Commercial Club to Adopt New Departure

The Commercial club held an interesting meeting Wednesday evening, and among other things it was decided to make the club more of a social order, and to this end a committee of four was appointed to formulate plans and suggestions for interesting social features, and to report next Wednesday evening, when steps will be taken to outline and carry out the new departure.

Mr. Mayer of the Marine Iron Works was the occasion of quite a discussion on best means of inducing the trolley company to run a direct line from St. Johns to Packington and Kenton, and discarding the long loop. Mr. Mayer's plan was to have the terminus of the Jersey street line near the ball grounds, and the loop extended to Swift's to connect with the Kenton line.

Other communications were read and filed, and a general discussion of the good of the city followed. The resignation of John N. Edliefson as treasurer was read and accepted, and S. W. Rogers appointed to fill the vacancy.

Prices Have "Riz"

A Portland man in writing to one of the city papers gives an interesting comparison in the price of living over that it was in 1896, and follows:

Several references to the increased cost of living being due to a more luxurious habit of life, have led me to look up our "household expenses" book for 1896, and compare several items with the cost of today.

I find butter, good creamery, 40c per roll, now 75c to 85c; breakfast bacon, 11c to 15c, now 18c to 27c; Valley flour, sack, 75c to 85c, now \$1.35, small white beans, 15 pounds for 25c, now 5 and 6 pounds; Mosier apples, fancy, \$1 per box, now out of the question for a clerk.

Religious services are being held at the noon hour each day in the city dock by Evangelist E. A. Smith. This enables the mill hands to hear the gospel while they eat their lunch.

Emigrants Galore

In the 30 days that the low colonist rates were in force on the transcontinental lines, the O. R. & N. brought 7184 homeseekers to Oregon and Washington points.

This year the rates became effective September 15 and were offered only until October 15. Last year the sale period was for 60 days and in the entire two months of 1908 the O. R. & N. carried 8477 persons to Oregon and Washington points.

Of the total number of homeseekers who came to Oregon and Washington during this year's rate period, 2323 were destined to Portland and 1389 to points south of Portland.

Have Reorganized

The Oregon Flake Food Co. has passed into oblivion, and in its stead has risen the Pacific Coast Corn Flake Co. The new company was incorporated a couple of weeks ago, and it is their purpose to make it the leading cereal food company west of the Rockies.

A large amount of orders are on hand to begin on right away, and many more can easily be secured with but little effort. The new board of officers consist of Dr. Jos. McChesney, president; A. M. Esson, vice president; J. A. Collier, secretary and treasurer. The directors are Dr. Jos. McChesney, A. M. Esson, P. Bartholomew, Dr. H. A. Rue and David Burness.

Sad Accident

Obedient to the direction of his father, to jump from the locomotive of a logging engine, at Marshfield, Johnnie Smith, aged 16 years, accidentally threw himself under the logging train, and was instantly killed and horribly mangled. The accident happened at the Smith-Powers' logging camp, on South Slough.

Miss Isabel Eason of Gervais is assisting her brother, A. M. Eason, with his duties in the recorder's office. The immense amount of street work accomplished the past summer has almost swamped the recorder in the way of making out the various assessments and keeping up with his other duties.

Just As Expected

He was a preacher and he claimed to have a divine revelation that the world was to come to an end on a certain day and at a certain hour. He had preached the coming event so often and so earnestly that he believed his flock was as fully convinced of the coming event as himself.

The large store room formerly occupied by Knight & Glover on Burlington street is being completely overhauled and embellished by the painter's brush.

Will Be a Model Store

The large store room formerly occupied by Knight & Glover on Burlington street is being completely overhauled and embellished by the painter's brush. Mayor Hendricks has leased the compartment for a term of years, and when it has been remodeled and adjusted to his liking will move his hardware stock there-in. A larger line will be added and one of the most modern and up-to-date hardware stores on the peninsula will result.

The attorney was directed to draw up a resolution opening up Polk street through the Caples tract to Lehigh and have it in readiness for adoption next Tuesday evening.