

ST. JOHNS REVIEW

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

VOL. 6

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NO. 16

IT'S NOW UP TO YOU

To subscribe for THIS Paper, All the news which it is sure to give you. Call to our office.

GET IN THE HABIT

Of advertising in THIS Paper and you'll never regret it. Be sure at once and keep right at it.

BIG EXPLOSION OF POWDER

Loosens Many Yards of Rock on West Side

Eight thousand pounds of blasting powder were touched off by electricity at the rock quarry Saturday afternoon, near the Claremont hotel, throwing down from the face of a cliff enough rock to keep the rock crusher and city prisoners there busy in repairing roads for a year.

There was no denotation and little smoke—simply a dull rumble, and then the face of the cliff moved bodily outward and crumbled into a mass in the ravine below. There was a slight jar felt in the immediate vicinity, but no damage was done other than the breaking of a few boards in the stockade fence by the rock sliding down on them and the breaking of the water pipe that supplies the prisoners' quarters.

Preparations for the blast shot have been going on since early in last September, when the work of drilling and blasting out the tunnel and side leads into the cliff began. The powder used has high explosive powers which are produced in the form of rapidly expanding gases which permeate the rock crevices and literally force the rocks apart, crumbling the mass into convenient size for further crushing. This form of blasting powder works throughout a wider range than dynamite, which is used principally for shattering purposes. If the blast had been dynamite, Portland would have distinctly heard and felt the shock.

The blast was pronounced one of the most successful ever shot in this vicinity because of the large amount of rock dislodged for the quantity of powder used. The value of the 8000 pounds of powder was \$1,100. The cost of drilling was nominal as it was done by prison labor, although considerable quantities of explosives were utilized in constructing the tunnels.

Activity Up the Line

The Willumbia Hall company, composed of Portsmouth and University citizens such as Will G. Steel, T. A. Kitchen and R. G. Brand, Friday contracted to purchase from Friendly & Thompson the lot at the corner of Lowland street and Portsmouth Avenue in Portsmouth for \$5000. The lot is 66 by 110 feet and is located directly across the street from the Glass Brothers store. This company will at once begin the erection of a two-story brick business block, 60 by 80, with store rooms below and either an up-to-date hall or apartments on the second floor. A moving picture theatre has also been started at Portsmouth and is doing a rushing business. A petition is being circulated for the hard-surfacing of Portsmouth Avenue from Willamette Boulevard to Columbia Boulevard, with good prospects of success.—Telegram.

Building Permits

No. 24—To W. P. Palmer to erect dwelling on Armour street between Oregonian and Midway avenues; cost \$750.
No. 25—To Zink & Mageske to erect dwelling on Jersey street between Catlin and St. Johns avenues for K. Feldmeth; cost \$1300.
No. 26—To Edward Weitfall to erect dwelling on Chapel street between St. Johns and Holbrook avenues; cost \$400.
No. 27—To J. R. Kerr & Son to erect dwelling on S. Hayes between Barr and Buchanan streets for Mrs. C. Braden; cost \$1800.
No. 28—To F. S. Lindley to erect dwelling on Polk street between Hudson and Portland boulevard; cost \$1,000.

The first dollar must be saved before there can be a fortune. The first tie must be laid before there can be a railroad. Does this mean anything to you who get your pay today? The First National Bank will make this clear. It compounds interest every six months.

Apprentices wanted at the Vogue Millinery.

St. Johns

(As it is.)

Where rolls the mighty Oregon, Willamette's flood to meet, Where these great waters of the West,

In graceful concord greet, And open wide their shining breast For all the world's great feet, Here is St. Johns.

No fairer harbor on the earth, With room enough for all, A vast, extending, peaceful sheet, Beyond the floodtide's pall, Where nature's vety heart doth beat

At every nation's call, Here is St. Johns.

With gorgeous summers, winters mild,

With fruited vernal beams, With autumns all surpassing grand, When health honey streams, Where optimistic mortals stand To greet the good that gleams, Here is St. Johns.

(Is to be.)

Where shipping comes from every land, From islands of the sea, From India's gorgeous coral strand, From Africa's sunny sea, Where Britton, Teuton, Frank and Dane,

For bread and freightage flee, Here is St. Johns.

Where Occident and Orient, With arms extended greet, Where Asia, in her rising, bows At fair Columbia's feet,

Where white and yellow, brown and black,

From all the earth do greet, Here is St. Johns.

Where ever pours a constant stream Of never failing wealth, Timber for building, wool for warmth,

And bread for blooming health, Where fruits and flowers, and lacteal strength,

To all mankind are dealt, Here is St. Johns.

—Veraca.

At the Packing Plant

Receipts of live stock for the past week have been 1246 cattle, 102 calves, 1351 sheep, 584 hogs, 163 horses. The market for cattle has held a high plane throughout the week, good steers bringing \$7.75 as a top. There has not been an oversupply and buyers have not been able to secure a sufficient number for their requirements. Shippers have been holding back due to poor advice from market guessers. The supply of sheep has been very light and prices have ruled strong and high for all classes.

The hog supply has been very light and prices have ruled strong and high. Anything like good hogs have brought \$9.25. The sale of hogs at \$9.20 at eastern points was the cause of a good deal of excitement at the Portland market. Packers and butchers find themselves rather at a loss in this part of the country just now as the prices of hogs locally and east are so high that the sale of pork is almost out of the question.

D. O. Lively,

General Agent

Exploiting Oregon

The Great Northern Railway will exploit Central Oregon, and has sent two men through that territory to get data for bulletins and other railroad publications that will describe the country thoroughly and tell prospective settlers what they may expect there. The valley of the Deschutes River tributary to the Hill road now building up the Deschutes will come in for much favorable publicity and its resources, crop possibilities and general future will be told. The Hill lines are taking an interest in Oregon that will mean much for the state. At exhibit rooms in St. Paul, the Great Northern shows Oregon products and similar exhibits are to be maintained by the railroad company in Philadelphia and Boston. These places will direct a great deal of attention to Central Oregon for the settler.

Two Oregon Agricultural College students, Joseph Hallock and John Cook, have rigged up a wireless telegraph station and are receiving messages daily. They catch messages from all stations south as far as San Francisco and north as far as the middle of British Columbia. These young men made practically all of their instruments and constructed their station unassisted.

GIVES GLOWING ACCOUNT

Of Oil Situation in Eastern Oregon

Authentic information reached Portland yesterday that a 200 barrel well had been tapped in the Vale oil fields in eastern Oregon. At a depth of 1470 feet in one of the eight wells now being sunk in the district, a strong flow of high grade paraffine oil was tapped. A veritable oil boom is on in the little eastern Oregon city. People are pouring into the oil fields from all over the Northwest to such an extent that it is impossible to get hotel accommodations.

News of the recent strike and the practical certainty that several other wells are expected to come in any day has sent land values in the oil district clear out of reach. Since January 1, 186 oil locations have been filed on and hundreds of men are pushing far back into the hills, miles away from the present activity, in quest of suitable places to locate claims.

Drilling is going on night and day on six wells and four new standard rigs are on the way to the district for other companies. In the well of the Columbia Oil & Gas company, which is down about 1500 feet, the sand is said to be fairly alive with oil and gas, the sand bucket bubbling over the top like a pail of yeast. The drillers in this and the other wells in the district are having some trouble in controlling the water and are confident that as soon as they get it cased off they will have not less than half a dozen commercial wells in the field.

In anticipation of the oil strike, the Vale Oil Exchange was opened for business last week. A fine suite of offices has been fitted up in the building formerly occupied by the First National Bank of Vale and arrangements have been made to get direct oil quotations from the San Francisco exchange. In the exchange are listed the stocks and securities of all the oil and gas companies actually in operation in the district, about 15 companies having up to date taken membership in the exchange.

A sure indication that the most competent oil experts in the country have notified the big operators that a new oil field has been discovered in eastern Oregon, is the fact that the Standard Oil and other eastern concerns have their representatives on the ground, who are laying up every foot of land they can get hold of anywhere in the district.

So confident are the operators in the district that they have commercial oil wells, that steps have already been taken to organize a corporation to lay a pipe line from the field to Portland by way of the Snake river and Columbia river route, with the intention of correlating the big fuel oil market that has developed in the past few years in the Portland territory.

It is not generally known, but is a fact, that Portland and vicinity, which includes the lower Columbia river, the Willamette valley and that part of Washington tributary to the city consumes more than 1,000,000 barrels of fuel oil per month.

Over \$300,000 has already been invested in the development of the Vale fields, most of which was furnished by the merchants, bankers and other business men of Oregon, Washington and Idaho. This sum will probably be increased to \$1,000,000 within the next few months as a large number of claim owners will begin drilling as fast as the well outfits can be transported into the district.

Portland is heavily interested in the Vale fields, scores of well known business and professional men owning claims outright, and others hold large blocks of stock in development companies operating in the district. One of the largest owners of Vale oil lands is the Balfour-Guthrie company, which controls, all told, about two and one-half sections.—Sunday's Journal.

The frame work is completed on the big new saw mill that is being constructed at Linnton, and it will soon be in operation. Linnton is growing at a rapid rate. Many new structures have been completed recently and many more are under course of construction.

How Would Christ Vote

Ed. St. Johns Review: Will you give me space in your valuable paper for a few more words and an announcement? The St. Johns Protective Association, having not the "courage" to discuss "Solutions," "prime causes of crime," "gambling dens," "infamous places of resort," etc., we have made up our mind to discuss it for them. We tried hard to get a lyceum started where all these subjects could be thrashed out, but they seem to be afraid that their pet theory might get licked, and have gone in their holes. We are not made of that kind of stuff. We want the truth. We want the light. To this end, we have engaged the M. W. A. hall for five weeks, beginning Sunday, February 27, 1910, at 3 p.m. We cordially invite all to come, and especially the St. Johns Protective Association. Strictly Bible subjects; strictly Bible answers; strictly Bible conclusions. Subject: "How Would Christ Vote?—Wet or Dry?" Now I have voted dry since 1880 to the present time. This year I am going to vote as near as I can determine by the evidence dug up in these meetings. Come and help dig up the evidence. Who was Frances E. Willard? We will not feel hurt if all the ministers in St. Johns attend. Lawyers, doctors, saloon keepers, bankers, merchants, mechanics, common laborers, tramps, thieves, and robbers,—all come. Let's find out what is the "Prime Cause of Crime."

G. L. Perrine.

Whitwood Looking Up

Prospects for a banner year at Whitwood Court are now very bright. Since the first of the year over thirty lots have been sold, and a great rush to secure these lots is looked for in the spring. L. M. Mills will erect a couple of houses of a modern type as soon as the weather settles, and a number of others have expressed their intention of building in the spring. Several Eastern visitors at the Shepard home last week were enthralled with the grandeur of the scenery as viewed from the hillside, and they spent most of their time on the front porch. There is but little question that sooner or later Whitwood will be the site of many magnificent homes, for nowhere along the Willamette is the scenery so superb and entrancing.

Will Soon Enlarge

We have decided to enlarge the Review, beginning April 1st, to a six or eight page paper. We believe the city of St. Johns has outgrown a four page paper, and believe it will stand for a larger one. We want to give the county, state and national news each week in condensed form, but the present size of the paper will not permit it. In order to meet the additional expense involved in enlarging the Review, the subscription price will be advanced to \$1.50 per year, this being the general price of subscription in vogue all over the Northwest for weekly papers. Subscribers may, however, advance their subscriptions as far ahead as they may desire at the present rate of \$1.00 per year before April 1st.

St. Johns Looks Good

Writing to a friend here, S. B. Shafer, representative for National Business and Professional Men's Association of Spokane, has the following to say of St. Johns: "On arriving in St. Johns I observed the flourishing feature first of all, and believe it is the best place for its size either in Oregon or Washington. My authority for believing this is because I have been accustomed to arriving in each city where I find the people are either snowed under, waiting for summer to come, or else they are asleep and there is nothing doing. Far be it from such in St. Johns. I have established the agency of the National Business and Professional Men's Association in St. Johns and have met with success."

YOUR BEST CHANCE lives right here, where you are now. Make the most of it by adding to your savings. They pay 3 per cent at the First National Bank, interest compounded every six months.

Work for a Greater St. Johns.

TAXATION SYSTEM ABSURD

And a More Modern and Fitting Method Needed

The tax paying season is once more at hand, and one can either stand in line for many weary hours trying to receive attention at the Sheriff's office in Portland, or send in for a statement by mail. There is certainly a lot of antiquity about the tax business in the Northwest. The fact of the matter is that it should never be necessary for a citizen to make a personal request for a statement of his taxes. It should devolve upon the proper officials to send out statements each year without solicitation, and long before they become delinquent. Another thing is that we are always a year behind with the taxes. The taxes paid this year should be for 1910 instead of 1909. Personal property should not be taxed when the assessment is \$300 or below. It places an undue burden upon the married man and the bachelors get off scot-free, in fact many of them pay no tax at all, unless they own real estate. If an occupation system of taxation was in force, as it is in many of the Eastern states, the married man's burden would be shared by the unmarried men. And this is as it should be. The idea of the people of St. Johns sending their money to Portland and then the city's portion being returned to it is going at the thing in a very bad form. An assessor and a tax collector should be elected in each corporate town at least, and they should assess the property and collect the taxes, and then what belongs to the city be kept here and the balance sent to the county authorities. A local assessor certainly should be able to do better work than a man who runs down here for a few days and makes a guess at it, and a local tax collector would make it handier for all concerned, and there would be less danger of the delinquents getting away without first "paying up." Verily the laws regarding the collection of taxes and assessing of property in the state of Oregon needs fixing, and needs it badly.

Birthday Celebration

The ladies' aid of the Christian church met with Mrs. M. A. Bitgood Tuesday of this week and the little woman celebrated her birthday on that date, treating the workers to a delicious feast. The "piece de resistance" was a birthday cake which Mrs. Bitgood has been practicing on for 61 years, at least she said it took her that long to make this one. Those who ate of it believe her implicitly and hope she will keep practicing for another 61 years and that they may be there to help dispose of the last one; but they all declare she could not make a better than this last one, in a hundred years.

Rather Dangerous

Two St. Louis girls are suffering from leprosy, caused by wearing "rats" made of Asiatic hair. As a result, the health authorities have begun an investigation into the sale of goods of this character. The willingness with which members of the fair sex pile on any kind of hair would almost indicate that they prefer to take a chance on leprosy and other diseases which come into the country with this baled beauty rather than be out of style—and a peculiar style it is, too.—Oregonian.

Work on what will be the tallest building in this state, if not in the Pacific Northwest, will be begun March 10, when construction of the new Neveon building will start. The structure will be built at the corner of Fifth and Alder streets and will be 15 stories in height. Like the new skyscrapers now going up in Portland, the structure would be a credit to any city of the country.

Mary had a little lamb That filled her mind with grief, She knew she'd get a better price Had it been made of beef.

Plant Many Roses

Washington's birthday was celebrated in Portland by the planting of rose bushes in the parks and public squares of the city with appropriate exercises. Thousands of bushes were set out throughout the city and the new plants will be blooming in time for the annual Rose Festival in June. City and state officials, together with representatives of foreign nations that contributed their roses for the affair, participated in the rose planting exercises. This has become an annual event in Portland and the custom is growing in favor each year. The planting of roses at a time when many other sections of the country are still wrapped in snow and ice is also a splendid advertisement of Oregon's climate.

Will Start in March

The new packing plant of the Swift interests on the Peninsula is expected to start operations on March 14. Because of the magnitude of the work embraced in the Swift plans, there has been a delay in the original project of nearly a year in getting ready for packing, but the plant is now practically complete. The opening of the plant means that 500 people will be employed at the start with the probability that the number will be doubled within the coming year. It will furnish a big livestock market for the farmers and stock raisers of the Pacific Northwest and other packing plants and factories for utilizing side products of the packing houses will be established.

Firemen's Athletic Club

The Firemen's Athletic club last week elected the following board of directors: F. W. Valentine, Geo. J. Perkins, Wynn Manning, John Edlefsen, John Noce, J. T. Murphy, and M. K. Steichner. F. W. Valentine was then elected president, J. T. Murphy vice president, G. J. Perkins secretary, John Noce treasurer, and Wynn Manning manager. The directors and officials are all representative citizens, and the club promises to become one of the best organizations of its kind in the Northwest. New members are being added to its list right along. Many interesting events will be pulled off from time to time, announcements of which will appear in due time.

Branching Out

Advertisements are being placed by the Portland Commercial Club in the leading Swedish and Norwegian-Danish papers of the country, calling attention to opportunities here for industrious people who seek homes in the country districts. A large inquiry is coming to the Portland office from Scandinavians all over the country and letters are answered by a special correspondent who understands the language. This is but one phase of the Commercial Club's work but it is bringing inquiries. The people are thrifty and industrious and settlers of this kind will help develop the vacant lands of the state.

Will Get One More

Oregon will be given another congressman, and possibly two, it is believed, after the coming census is taken. According to the basis of representation expected to be fixed by the new census, one congressman will be allowed for every 224,000 of population. The basis at present is one representative for every 192,182 of population. It is expected the coming census will show a population for the state of close to 800,000. This would give three congressmen, and if the hopes of some are realized and the state is found to have 1,000,000, then four congressmen will be allowed.

In the annual report of Master Fish Warden McAllister, lately submitted, it is shown that the 1909 crop of salmon harvested in the waters of the Columbia River, Oregon side, amounted to 17,604,997 pounds, which is a decrease of 358,549 pounds. The chief reason for the decrease is thought to be the shortening of the open season by the legislature, Blueback salmon alone show a gain in the pack over 1909.

FOR RENT cards at this office.

A FEW LOCAL BREVITIES

And Items of General Interest to the Public

Merrill Davis is raising his house on Stafford street and is having a fine basement placed underneath.

Bonham & Currier are improving the house formerly owned by Henry Goosby in Hill addition, and it will soon be in first class condition.

J. Marquette is building a nice little home on North Jersey street. The basement has been dug and work will be pushed right along toward completion.

A new tailoring establishment will open up in the room recently vacated by the small restaurant on North Jersey street, opposite McKinney & Davis' real estate office.

J. R. Kerr & Son have secured the contract for erecting a handsome \$1600 residence for L. Treiber at Linnton, upon which work will commence when this gosh darned weather lets up a little.

N. A. Gee has secured the contract for laying cement walks and otherwise improving the home of Councilman A. W. Davis, work upon which will commence as soon as the weather is favorable.

Remember the Review will be \$1.50 per year after April first. Now would be a good time to pay up and secure the dollar rate. The paper will be eight pages instead of four, which will make it as large as any country weekly published in the Northwest.

The days are growing perceptibly longer, and so far we have heard no complaint over this state of affairs. The electric light and gas men may have a grudge about it, but they seem to be accepting the fact philosophically.

Richard Shepard, Sr., after two months' illness with kidney trouble, has escaped from the hospital and is once more able to be around again. His many friends here were glad to see him appearing in our midst after his severe siege of illness.

King & Brodahl are removing their real estate office from the McChesney building to the room recently vacated by Salmood Bros. on North Jersey. The realty men of St. Johns seem to be rallying around Jersey street in close communion to each other.

The Passion Play pictures in the skating rink Sunday and Monday nights was far from being a success either in point of attendance or in presenting the pictures. Many interruptions came through poor films or poor management, and the thread of the story was thus rudely broken so often that the result was far from satisfactory. The attendance both nights did not exceed fifty persons.

Passenger service on 25 miles of completed road at the west end of the Southern Pacific's Tillamook extension will be begun, it is expected, on April 1. Trains will be run from Tillamook to Vossburg, giving service to Bay City, Hobsonville and other intermediate points. Meanwhile work is steadily going on across the Coast Mountains and by next fall it is expected trains will run through from Portland to Tillamook Bay.

Holmes Lodge, Knights of Pythias, entertained in splendid style last Friday night in honor of a visit of Grand Chancellor Frank Menefee of the Dalles, and Grand Keeper of Records and Seals L. R. Stinson. Judge R. C. Morrow and Robert Goetz of Portland, and Myron and Harry Tippey of Toledo, Ohio, were prominent out-of-town visitors also. Addresses were made by the grand lodge officers and many others, and a season of general enjoyment and good fellowship ensued.