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ST. JOHNS REVIEW

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

VOL. 6

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GET IN THE HABIT

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

Pause and Consider

Voter, before you cast your ballot upon annexation, consider just what it means to St. Johns. It is a question of most vital importance and deserves the most thoughtful consideration. It means whether the city government shall be continued or destroyed. It means a step, if taken, that can never be regained, and yet it is a step that can be taken at any time. Is there any good reason why it should be taken now? Has Portland proven that it can take care of its suburbs better than we can ourselves? If not, and you know that it has not, why should we add to Portland's troubles? If one councilman can look after our interests better than seven, why not reduce our councilmen to one, by amendment of the charter, and retain our city government? Isn't it humiliating in the extreme that we should have to confess to the world at large that we are unable and unfitted to govern ourselves? Yet this is what a vote for annexation amounts to. That rugged old pioneer, James John, who left his all to perpetuate the city of St. Johns, believed he was handing down a legacy to strong, sturdy, self-reliant American people, who were capable of self government, and not a weak-kneed, cringing, Russian-hearted people. Annexation means just this. To which class do you belong? Holding the key of the Portland harbor in our hands, shall we give it up without even the assurance of anything in return? Shall we prove true to the trust imposed in us, or shall we deliver up the key to Portland with the acknowledgment that we are unfitted to longer keep it?

Let us consider what we should lose by annexing to Portland at this time. Our high school building will not be used for high school purposes, because there will be no high school in St. Johns. All higher grade pupils will be compelled to go nearer the heart of the city—the only places where high schools are found in any city. Our city dock would undoubtedly be turned over to the O. R. & N. Co., because Portland would have no use for it so far from the big business center with its big ware houses. The city hall would be tenanted, unless leased for some business purpose. Our streets would cost more for improvement because we would have to pay more for crushed rock than we are now doing. Our taxes would be at least one-third greater. Building permits would cost more. Our gas would be cheaper in price and poorer in quality. Water rates and service would remain the same. As to insurance, if the risk would be less, insurance would be lower, but not otherwise. It would cost time and money to present petitions before council. We would lose a large city payroll. We would lose our individuality. We would lose our hope of securing a free ferry. We could not even repair our sidewalks without a permit, costing \$5. A building could not be moved without a permit nor could one be built or an addition made without presenting plans to the building inspector. These are a few of the things we would run into by annexation. As to the gain, there would be none, outside of the sentimental fact that we would be residents of a larger city.

Therefore, Mr. Voter, as you take your ballot in your hand, hesitate before you vote to kill the city of St. Johns, and consider that if evils exist here whether annexation is the proper remedy to apply? Why not try to remedy them ourselves instead of asking another city to do it for us? Surely the progress made by St. Johns in the past few years has been splendid, and proportionately we have grown more rapidly than Portland. Don't leap from a certainty to an uncertainty. You have some power in St. Johns, but you would have little in Portland. Let us continue to guide our own destinies. Assert your manhood and independence and you will have done your duty.

A prominent contractor and builder has estimated that it will cost \$100 more to build an ordinary house after annexation than is now the case. The Portland building regulations are something fierce. It takes a separate chimney for each stove on the same floor of any dwelling and all must be built from the ground up, plastered on the inside and outside with cement. Plumbing and electric wiring must also be inspected. These may be good things, but they come high. Building permits are more expensive in Portland.

For Sale—One dozen hens, also two fine, full-blooded white Wyandotte cockerels. 204 North Hartman Street, St. Johns, Oregon.

Absurd Statements

The aid of Councilman Ellis of the Tenth Ward of Portland was invoked by the annexationists at their meeting in the city hall last Thursday night. It was believed by the dissatisfied ones that Mr. Ellis would show the people where they would be benefited by annexation to Portland and also advise them to vote that way. This he failed to do. He stated that he DID NOT KNOW WHETHER ANNEXATION WOULD PROVE BENEFICIAL OR NOT, that it was up to the people to decide for themselves. He said he believed we would get a paid fire department after consolidation. Judging from Albina and other suburbs, it will be many, many years after. He also stated that after annexation we could get all the rock we wanted at the Linton quarry for practically the hauling away, as there was now more rock on hand than could be disposed of. If Mr. Ellis did not know better than this he should. The quarry he mentioned is owned and operated by the county. ST. JOHNS NOW HAS JUST AS MUCH RIGHT TO ROCK FROM THIS QUARRY AS DOES THE CITY OF PORTLAND. Annexation does not give us more right, and Mr. Ellis knows it. But the county is not in the rock crushing business for the purpose of furnishing rock free for all who may desire it. To show how foolish and absurd Mr. Ellis' statement was it is only necessary to cite to the fact that Portland contractors are now paying Mr. Nease at the Whitwood quarry \$1.25 and \$1.50 per yard for crushed rock to be used on Portland streets. If they could get it for nothing by going a few yards farther up the river on the best road in the state, why do they pay for something that they can get for nothing? Isn't it ridiculous, to say the least? Surely Mr. Ellis' coming and the statements he made gained no ground whatever for the annexationists.

Would Rather Tear Down

A man told us last week that the reason he was in favor of annexing to Portland was because there was too much graft in St. Johns, and he said the only reason he came to St. Johns was that he could get cheaper rent here. He also said that he never bought anything in St. Johns if he could help it, his store bills never running over two or three dollars per month. He could name a number of other agitators who prey upon St. Johns and give nothing in return, who seek rather to tear down than to build up, who complain about the city not building up more rapidly and yet they do all their buying in another city. It is not the people who are trying to build up St. Johns that are dissatisfied, but it is those who have done nothing for the city, never speak a good word for it, are always complaining, never see any good in what has been done that are in favor of dissolving the city government. There are exceptions, of course, but if you investigate thoroughly you will find this to be the case in the great majority of instances.

The Tax Levy

The city recorder and councilmen are of the opinion that the tax levy in St. Johns will not be as large next year as it was this year. And it should not be. The indebtedness of the rock crusher will be liquidated this year, the valuation will be about \$4,000,000, to say nothing of the increased amount to be received from various licenses. The expenses of the city government should be no higher next year than this year, with the exception of a few additional arc lights and water hydrants. Therefore, a 4 1/2 mill levy should suffice, which would be 3-10 of a mill less than this year. According to the Oregonian, Portland's levy will be 7 mills next year, or about forty per cent higher than in St. Johns.

"When you hear a man cry 'graft, graft,' watch that man for he is the greatest grafter of all when opportunity arises."—Benjamin Franklin.

A Rare Treat

The exhibition given in St. Johns rink last Thursday night under the auspices of the St. Johns Athletic association was without doubt the finest and most exciting of any ever held in this city. Jack Duarte of San Francisco was pitted against Ace Clement of Portland in a ten-round encounter. From the sound of the gong in the first round to the close of the tenth round it was a battle royal. During the first part of the encounter it was anybody's fight, but Duarte then commenced to get his man. Steadily but surely he gained, and in the ninth round he had Clement swinging wildly and ineffectually. Duarte has a mighty handy left which he kept jabbing his opponent full in the face time and again until the claret began to flow. Interspersing this repeatedly with vigorous body blows he had Clement badly winded and he only saved himself from a knockout by continually clinching with Duarte in the tenth. No decision was rendered, but it was clearly Duarte's fight. Clement was wonderfully plucky and never gave up for a minute. He demonstrated that he was a fighter of no mean ability and has a terrible punch, but owing to Duarte's effective defense and agility was unable to land. Duarte showed no signs of the milling in which he was engaged, while Clement's face was more or less bruised. Duarte is a clever and aggressive pugilist and was almost as fresh at the end as at the beginning. The fight was well worth the admission price and the sports were greatly pleased with the exhibition given. The attendance was the largest that has ever assembled in St. Johns to witness a boxing event. The two preliminaries were not so interesting from the fact that two men scheduled failed to show up and substitutes were supplied. Abernathy disposed of his man in one round, it being so one-sided that the referee refused to allow it to proceed further. Bud Anderson bested his opponent in two rounds of what was intended for a four-round bout. Jack Day of Portland refereed all three in fine style. Another exciting fight event is being arranged for, particulars of which will be announced later.

The Mighty One Returns

That it is the unexpected that always happens is again verified by the return of St. Johns' mighty Nimrod. Paschal was up on the Nahalem again last week and returned Saturday covered with glory, deer, bear and other stories. It was like the boy after the woodchuck. Paschal was out of meat, and the song that he continually hummed as he went over the war path was: "I've got to git him; we're out of meat." The first victim to Paschal's prowess was a four pronged buck. Not a tamed fawn tied to a post, he says. Then it seemed that the lust of blood filled the hunter's eyes so that he could not discern the difference between animals, for two more deer, two fine pigs weighing about 150 each and a fine, fat, tame goose fell before his unerring rifle in one, two, three order. "Now," says Paschal, "Let that dingbust Charlie Bailey laugh, dogdast him, I've got the stuff to show for it." It was the same way with the trout. The big ones that had been getting away heretofore were victims this time to the lure of the modern Izak Walton.

Strange how some people are insistent for street improvement so long as they do not have to pay any portion of same. When it is proposed to improve a street in which a proportion of the cost touches their pocketbook it is a "hoss of another color." They cannot see the need of the improvement then. As long as the other fellow pays the bill street improvement should be pushed to the limit. Lots of these kind of fellows in St. Johns.

One of the most enjoyable hallo'en parties was given by Miss Alice Royer at the home of her parents, 317 Polk street. Those present were: Misses Hazel Peters of Portland, Edna Smith, Anna Shields, Mamie Gattton, Gertrude Redding, Christina Rood, Fern Harper, Flossie Hanson and Grace Royer. Messrs. Leslie Mahoney, Chas. Africa, Maurice McKinnon, Arthur Rood, Chas. Purkapple, Clifford Cheney, Ray Smith, Leslie Peterson, Edmond Whelan, Gustaf Carhart and George Royer.

The new Woodhouse block is assuming shape.

Water Famine Parches

Sellwood is experiencing a water famine. There are times in the afternoon, while many people are sprinkling their lawns and gardens, when water cannot be had even for drink. In more than half the homes in this suburb and in the second stories, there is little water to be had in the afternoon, and none at all when lawn sprinkling is being done.

D. M. Donough said that in the second story of the bank building at the corner of East Thirteenth street and Umatilla avenue, water cannot be had more than half the time. In his cottage on Umatilla avenue the water supply is meager, although the building is only one story.

Mr. Donough, who is president of the Sellwood Board of Trade, declared that the district must be provided with a reinforcing water main. He pointed out that the Westmorland addition is drawing from the same 20-inch main that supplies Sellwood, and that the shortage will increase as that addition builds up. Until relief can be had through another main, which cannot be laid this year, Mr. Donough said that it would be necessary to limit or prohibit sprinkling altogether, so that people can have water for domestic uses.

The whole of the South East Side, declared Mr. Donough, needs more water at once and there should be no further delay. This is a very serious matter for all our people, and should receive the immediate and serious attention of the authorities.

E. W. Edward, secretary of the Sellwood Commercial Club said: "Conditions here are intolerable and an outrage on the people. Hundreds, nay more, are totally without water a considerable portion of the time."

Plans were drawn by the engineer of the water plant for another reinforcing water main to supply the South East Side, connecting with the main on Division street and extending south west to East Seventeenth street, thence through Midway and Westmorland to Sellwood, then connecting with the present 10-inch main and forming a circuit. However the matter was dropped over a year ago and nothing was ever done, although numerous committees have beseeched the water committee to remedy conditions.

That more than 10,000 people in the South East Side, and particularly in Sellwood are suffering from a water famine was announced at the meeting last night of the Seventh Ward League at the hall on Milwaukee and Powell streets. Resolutions were adopted condemning the water committee for its neglect to provide for this water shortage by laying a reinforcing water main. L. E. Rice, Ben Riesland and others spoke, declaring that the water committee had utterly neglected to make any provisions for the water shortage, although it had been urged to make provisions a year ago. The League's special water committee was instructed to call on the City Water Committee and demand that relief be afforded at once.—Oregonian, July 8, 1910.

An Awkward Way.

Every time we exercise the privilege of a male white citizen over 21 years of age and enter a voting booth we register a few words of contempt and derision for the man who got such things up, and the enlightened people of Oregon, who will continue to allow themselves to use such inconvenient structures.

In the first place, they are always shoved off in some corner of a dark room, and as soon as we enter the pen we are, of course, standing in our own light, so that generally we have to hold the ballot up over our shoulder, get our thumb on there we want to make a mark, and then make the cross, repeating the operation for every man and measure we want to vote for.

Matters could be remedied by putting the shelf on the left hand side of the booth.—Ex.

With the nearest hydrant several blocks away, the Portsmouth volunteer fire department was helpless yesterday, when fire attacked the residence of Jack Brown, a street railway conductor, at Courtney street and Willis boulevard, their hose being too short. The house and contents were destroyed with a loss of \$1000, on which there was insurance of \$500.—Telegram.

If you want some of our arc lights put out, vote for annexation. We now have more than Portland allows.

Against Annexation

Portland business men are making strong objection to annexing part of Clackamas county to Multnomah. Ex-Postmaster John W. Minto says that "inasmuch as some of the best informed men in Portland are now looking forward to the time when a uniform boundary line can be established for city and county and the governments of the two consolidated, the plan to increase rather than diminish the size of the county is bad policy." Harvey Beckwith, president of the Portland Commercial club, says: "We don't want to experiment too much. In a few years we shall be ready to follow the lead of Denver, San Francisco, St. Louis and other cities and combine the city and county governments." Judge Martin L. Pipes says: "It would be better to have a county co-terminous with the city and both under one government, thus saving the expense of a dual government." Judge Lionel R. Webster says: "The fact is that the natural evolution of Portland is to combine the city and county governments." Why would it not be a good plan for St. Johns to wait until this evolution takes place before annexing? It would be plenty soon enough.

Wants Fire Aid

Woodlawn wants fire protection and larger school grounds, and at the meeting of the Woodlawn Improvement Association Friday night, Charles H. York, presiding, it was decided to urge the city and school authorities to provide these requests.

The committee on fire protection submitted an extended report showing that in the Woodlawn district, with Ainsworth avenue the south boundary and Union avenue the west boundary, the property is assessed at \$1,000,000 and contains 800 houses, ranging in cost from \$1200 to \$5000, and yet there is no fire protection. The committee was instructed to file this report with the fire committee together with a request for fire protection. In the matter of school ground it was voted to ask the Board of Education to secure more room by purchase of adjoining lots for the school ground.

It was reported that the 18-room schoolhouse which is now being erected will cover practically all the ground, leaving no playground for the pupils. There was a large attendance of interested citizens.—Oregonian, Oct. 9, 1910.

7-Mill Tax Levy

Estimated expenses of the Portland city government for 1911, as prepared by the various departments and submitted to Mayor Simon and City Auditor Barbur, show an increase of 50 per cent over the expenditures for this year. In actual figures the increase is \$1,160,102.01, for the estimates, as totaled yesterday afternoon, amount to \$3,248,411.03, while the expenditures for this year, based on careful estimates made for the expense for the remainder of the year, amounted only to \$2,074,309.02.

If the City Council accepts the estimates as final, the city will be compelled to raise its tax levy almost to the limit allowed by law, 7 mills, and also tax the general fund, which is not associated in any way with the tax levy, to its utmost capacity.

"The various departments cannot be granted all they ask for the next year," said Mayor Simon yesterday afternoon, "but it is certain the tax levy will have to be increased materially over what it was a year ago."

The city is growing so rapidly that it is not possible to keep down its expenses. Various departments will have to be enlarged and maintained at a considerable increase over last year's expense.—Oregonian.

John McGregor, a 14-year-old lad, was accidentally shot in the leg near the knee by a companion last Saturday. The two were in a boat and Johnny was rowing. His companion was fingering a small calibre rifle when it was discharged, the ball lodging in Johnny's leg. The injured lad was taken to St. Vincent's hospital, Portland, where he is getting along nicely.

There is a time and a place for all things. Now is the time and you will find the place at 111 South Jersey street to have your clothing cleaned and pressed.

Issue in Doubt

R. W. Montague filed a legal opinion with the St. Johns city officials, declaring that the steps thus far taken to annex St. Johns to Portland at the coming election were taken under the wrong section of the code, and such annexation, if carried at the election, would be absolutely null and void. The action taken by the St. Johns people who are anxious to be annexed to Portland is section 2690, relating to the "changing of boundaries of incorporation," when as a matter of fact they should have proceeded under section 2691, relating to the "consolidation of contiguous corporations." The latter provides that when two municipalities desire to consolidate, the Council or other legislative body of each of the cities affected "shall, upon receiving a petition therefor signed by not less than one-fifth of the qualified electors of each of such corporations, as shown by the votes cast at the last municipal election held in each of such corporations, submit to the electors of each of such corporations the question whether such corporations shall be consolidated into one corporation."

The opinion of the attorney is to the effect that these provisions have not been complied with in any manner, that not enough of the St. Johns electors appeared on the petition for consolidation, and that such petition was not signed by the electors of Portland, and he argues that as a result of these laches the election for annexation is illegal, and if carried, without force or effect.

The opinion of Mr. Montague further holds that before consolidation of the two municipalities could be had the St. Johns charter would have to be amended, as there is no provision in it regarding consolidation, but other legal opinion is that this would not be needed, as the general code rules where no specific provision is made in a special law of the state lawmaking power, such as a city charter.—Tuesday's Telegram.

Omaha Water Case

Omaha Water Company operated under a twenty-year franchise with the following purchasing clause: "The city of Omaha shall have the right at any time after the expiration of twenty years to purchase the said water works at an appraised valuation, which shall be ascertained by the estimate of three engineers, one to be selected by the city council, one by the waterworks company, and these two to select a third."

Attempts made to make the company sell to city at a price lower than real value. Company refuses to sell.

City finally appoints engineer in effort to comply with franchise provision for purchase. Water company appoints an engineer. These two engineers choose a third and begin work of appraisal.

Engineers make report showing plant to be worth \$6,253,295.49, almost twice as much as municipal ownership advocates claimed a plant could be built for.

City repudiates contract. Engineer employed by water board declares system can be built for \$3,000,000. Examination by experts show figures too low.

Company tenders plant to city. Tender refused.

Suit begun in U. S. District court for specific performance.

City fights suit.

Water contract upheld by court. Case taken to Court of Appeals. Decision of lower court sustained.

Case taken to U. S. Supreme Court by city.

Supreme Court upholds decisions of lower courts and city is forced to abide by its contract and purchase and accept plant.

Estimated money loss to the city during the years of litigation, including lawyers' fees, court costs, interest charges, etc., about \$2,500,000.—Public Service.

Mrs. J. B. Campbell left at this office Tuesday two large fine apples of the Spokane Beauty variety which were raised by Allen Tannock, a neighbor of the Campbells, near Glencoe. Mrs. Campbell states that they are getting along nicely with the clearing of their 160 acre ranch and that she is enjoying the "simple life" very much.

If you want St. Johns to become known as the "North End" of Portland, vote for annexation. It has an odoriferous reputation all over the state and thus this place can gain some free advertising.

Council Proceedings

All members were present at the regular meeting of the city council Tuesday evening with Mayor Hendricks presiding. After the minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved, a petition for an arc light at the corner of Gilbert and Fessenden streets was read, and on motion of Councilman Davis, referred to the light committee for recommendation.

A bid for constructing the cross walks and box gutters on Fessenden street was offered by W. E. Hillier at a price of 42 cents per lineal foot. On motion of Councilman Downey the bid was laid over for one week.

The engineer's acceptance of Leonard street from Chicago to New York was also accepted by council.

An ordinance presented by the Marine Iron Works by Dan Mayer confirming the vacation of parts of Albany, John and Charleston streets, which are now occupied by the plant, was passed on motion of Councilman Windle, Councilman Dohie offering the only negative vote. It may be found in another column.

Claims against the city to the amount of \$495.13 were allowed on motion of Councilman Johnson.

M. G. Nease, lessee of the rock crusher and quarry at Whitwood Court, applied for a new lease for a period of five years with an option of five additional years. On motion of Mr. Downey the matter was laid on the table for one week for checking up purposes.

The water and light committee recommended that arc lights be placed at the following intersections: Allegheny and Willis boulevard; East Burlington and Leonard; Decatur and Charleston; Oswego and Banks; Richmond and Hayes. The recommendation was confirmed by council on motion of Councilman Cook and the lights will be installed forthwith. The remaining six applications will be investigated before next Tuesday night. Councilman Davis took occasion to congratulate the city upon its well lighted condition.

An ordinance assessing the cost of the Philadelphia street sewer was passed on motion of Mr. Dohie.

An ordinance providing the time and manner of sidewalking Philadelphia street from Jersey to Ivanhoe with 18-foot cement sidewalks, and a like ordinance providing for the sidewalking of Burlington street from Hayes to Ivanhoe with 12-foot cement walks were passed unanimously on motions of Davis and Dohie, respectively.

A Scenic Route

The question of the street railway scenic route is again being mooted in St. Johns. Ever since the county turned over the section of Willamette boulevard lying between their boundaries to the city of Portland the question has been simmering as to whether the street car company could not be induced to lay tracks along the boulevard all the way from St. Johns to Portland. The county is willing to turn over a section of the boulevard to St. Johns when it is ready to take it over. The construction of such a route would reduce the time employed in the journey to Portland considerably and would give St. Johns at the most a 25-minute service. Added to this it would provide a scenic trip through one of the most beautiful landscapes on the Pacific coast and would be a source of joy to thousands of excursionists. A committee is being formed to take up this matter, and it is likely that a public meeting will be called to decide on what course the citizens should take, immediately after the turmoil of the election is over.—Journal

The awnings and sidewalks are being removed along Jersey street to give way to the new 12-foot cement walks which will be laid by Kilkenny Bros. Lack of material has kept this work back about a month longer than should have been the case. It will be pushed with vigor from now on.

Mrs. J. B. Murphy of 837 North Kellogg, presented this office with several large, juicy strawberries Tuesday which she raised in her garden. The largest was five inches in circumference. She states that she has picked a number of boxes from the vines the past few days.

For Sale—For one week, excellent home property at 506 West Charleston street. Good terms to right party. Call at house.