

ST. JOHNS REVIEW

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Passing of the Old

Monday the old members of night council turned over the reins of government to the new and gracefully stepped down and out. Upon the transition from official to private life, it is but fitting that a word be said concerning the individuals who have guided and shaped the destinies of the city during the year which has just been brought to a close. As was to be expected, complaints have arisen from time to time on the part of certain of our citizens concerning actions of the late council. No city council within our knowledge ever served a term without being subject to more or less criticism. It is the way of the world to find fault, and ever shall be, and it is a safe prediction that the new council will receive their share of condemnation for the acts that they will do, with very little praise. People generally are more prone to throw stones than bouquets.

We believe we are in a fair position to judge of the acts of the late councilmanic body, having been in attendance throughout every session with the exception of one or two. We know the difficulties that beset a council that must look to a rather conflicting charter for guidance. Often the members are censured for things not done that the charter does not permit of. It regulates the speed of public improvements, and haste can be made only slowly, which is exasperating to many citizens who are not familiar with its provisions.

We ever believe in giving praise where praise is due, regardless of sentiment or opinions of certain individuals. Therefore it is with a sense of the deepest sincerity that we state that in our unbiased judgment the late council has made a better record in the way of public improvement especially than any other council in the city's history, and we believe the records will bear us out in this. Mistakes of judgment have no doubt at times been made, but we believe no steps were ever taken from mercenary or selfish motives. The good of the city was ever first considered.

It is with a feeling of regret that we witness the "bunch" whom we have "sat up with" night after night for the past twelve months dissolve. No more shall we see the "watch dog" of the council, S. L. Dobie, whose knowledge of streets and city property is truly remarkable and valuable, point out the feasibility or impracticability of certain proposed improvements. When any figuring was to be done it was always a safe bet that Dobie's figures were absolutely correct.

Nor will we see President of the Council Davis, "gird his loins" in furthering street and sewer work. His record along this line is particularly fine, and no other councilman has ever done more to hasten the street improvement than he. His services as councilman will be hard to duplicate.

No more shall we hear Councilman Downey, the irrepresible one, in his resonant voice and vigorous manner defend or disapprove of any proposed official act. "Sam" was never backward in expressing his opinion on any subject, and while several of his propositions did not meet with the approval of his brother members, he did all that one man could in furthering and advancing them.

S. C. Cook, the solid man of the council, will no more be seen in his usual chair. As chairman of the street committee, his tasks at times were arduous and trying, but he acquitted himself with both credit to the city and himself as well. His sound judgment, tact and good common sense were given full play.

C. L. Johnson's smiling visage will also play no official part in the sessions during the year just started. Johnson was generally to be found on the right side of every question and never more than "fifty feet" off. He made a good councilman and can be well satisfied with his record.

While W. W. Windle cut his term a little short, his knowledge of street construction was of great value to his colleagues. "Billy" ever had the welfare of the city at heart, and he left nothing undone that would tend to promote its interests.

J. E. Hiller, the conservative one, made an ideal councilman. Careful, conscientious, straightforward and jolly, his place will be difficult to fill.

Mayor Hendricks presided with dignity, was faithful in attendance and ever strove to do his duty as he saw it. The council and the mayor worked harmoniously together all the way through.

Looking backward over the year that is passed and weighing the men and their motives carefully, we cannot help but concede that they have performed their ungracious

The Sadness of Death

Editor Review: I have many, many times acted as pall bearer for he who had lost his wife or for she who had lost her husband, and at each of these times I felt that I fully sympathized with the survivor; but when death strikes one's own home I find that all of my sympathy for them, even though sincere, was of very little avail to them, and came very far short of relieving that awful mental and inner soul suffering of he or she who had lost a companion, as their loss is irremediable.

When all is over and the dead are at rest, one's grief is far from an end. Home is no more a home. The very sun seems to shine less brightly. Notwithstanding the true sympathy of one's many neighbors and friends, there comes that inexplicable loneliness that takes the very life of a man or woman. But I must admit that it was a wise Providence (that man must die) and when I remember the pain and suffering that my dear wife must have endured I would not if I could call her back. When one considers that we travelled together for 49½ years hand in hand, as husband and wife, and in that time each had learned even the other's thoughts and could read them at sight, the loss seems much heavier than when one considers that along that journey we had closed the grave over three daughters and a son, and it is sad, and now to close the grave over a true wife and mother makes it still harder, and is it a wonder that one's heart is sad?

Now, I cannot dwell on this subject longer; the dead is gone and now for the living, but we cannot forget. All that I can say is this: we have for 49 years made the pathway of life smoothly for each other as was in our power, and now, even now it seems that my dear wife is to return as soon as her visit is over. But, Oh! it is not so! She has gone from me, forever gone, and I must now fit myself as best I can to the condition of things, and move on in an honorable way until the lamp of my life has burned out, for to weep will do no good, so one might as well laugh with those who laugh and weep with those who weep—and yet kind words relieve the troubled heart—so I must continue to move on—move on.

Capt. B. L. Snow.

New Ball Club

Members of the Fraternal Brotherhood lodge of St. Johns have organized a base ball team that bids fair to make many of the other amateur teams of the state look to their laurels. They have secured natty grey suits with yellow letters and stripes, thus showing the lodge colors, yellow and white, and make a very neat appearance.

So far the boys have played two games and won both. The last, played Sunday afternoon on the old Hill grounds with the "73's" of Portland, resulted in a score of 10 to 3 in favor of the T. F. B's who made six double plays and otherwise distinguished themselves.

The line-up last Sunday was J. Clum and R. Lee, pitchers; Claude Poff, catcher; William Stiglish, first base; Charley Leland, second base; O. Fletcher, third base; Jack McNiven, short stop; H. Boardman, right field; Byron Poff, center field; J. Clum and R. Lee, left field.

It is the intention of the club to secure games all over the state and any amateur players desiring games should communicate with Manager Harry Samuelson, St. Johns, at once.

and ungrateful tasks faithfully and well, and as they step down into the ranks of private life, only our very best wishes and kindest regards go with each and all.

What the new council will do and how they will perform remains to be seen. They have several hard nuts to crack at the start, and their executive ability will have an excellent opportunity to manifest itself. We predict that their term will be eminently satisfactory and that they will acquire themselves well. There is no reason why each one should not prove a good councilman. Here's hoping that their term will be the best of all.

The lecture at the rink last Friday night by W. D. McCrackan, member of the board of lectureship of the Christian Science church, was well attended, a large number of people coming from Portland.

Rev. Guy R. Stover has been appointed to succeed Rev. C. P. Gates, who has been assigned to the church at Dallas.

It Might Have Been

Boise, Idaho, April 8, 1911.
Mr. A. W. Markle,
Editor St. Johns Review,
St. Johns, Oregon,
Dear Sir: It is with a great deal of pleasure that I read the St. Johns Review, which I receive every Monday morning, and also pleasure to note the improvements now under way and others proposed. While I am not a resident of that city at this time, my interests are there and I hope in the near future to be found at my old stamping grounds. It is with much interest that I have read several articles in regard to the purchase of a six-acre tract on Dawson street, just south of the Ice Plant for a city park, and I hope that the good citizens of the best town on the Pacific coast will not overlook this opportunity. I have been on the property in question many times and am familiar with the location in general, and I know there is no better place for a park, the ground is level and the trees planted there by nature are ample shade for the place at present, while the price asked (\$21,000) no doubt will be considered high by some, the fact that it would cost but little to level and clear the underbrush so that it could be used by our children for a play ground and for a pleasure resort by those of us who are older, is worthy of consideration. The time will come when a tract of land for a park cannot be had at any price within a reasonable distance and a park one or two miles out would be of comparatively little use. Just the other day I was shown a tract of land at Boise and was told that three years ago the city talked of buying it for a city park, but a few of the old timers killed the proposition. Last year it sold for twice as much as it was offered to the city for. However the city purchased a tract some five miles out on an electric line and the fare one way is ten cents while the admission to the park is free it would cost a family with three children an even dollar to visit the grounds. While some can afford this, others who need the open air and rest are deprived of the opportunity or at the most their trips are limited on account of the cost of fares, while if the property first mentioned could have been secured as it should have been, everybody could have enjoyed it equally every evening. Let us not make the same mistake but rather have it now while the opportunity is offered centrally located, easy of access and where it would do the greatest good to the greatest number of people.

Since visiting the inland towns and cities of Eastern Oregon and Southern Idaho, I am impressed more than ever that St. Johns has a great future, far more than most of us realize, and nothing in my mind could be of more benefit to our city, not only now, but forever, than for the voters of St. Johns to say yes, we will have a park.

Hoping that by the time this reaches you the necessary 2-3 majority votes have been counted and when asked by the many people of the Inter-mountain country, as I often have been concerning things of our city, I can say with pride: "We have a beautiful park centrally located, where visitors are not only given an opportunity to rest and admire the beauties of nature, but also the opportunity to realize that St. Johns is the place for all good men and affords greater opportunities than any other city on the Pacific coast."

Yours very truly,
W. L. Plummer.

Right to the Point

Editor Review: I wish to state that I owe my election as councilman of the second ward to no clique, faction, interest or corporation, but was elected by the votes of the property owners and taxpayers. I wear the collar of no man but P. Hill, and shall act without fear or favor and in the interest and welfare of the people in general to the best of my ability. I want it understood right here and now, that if any one has any measure or business in which he is interested brot before the council, he must present it in a business like way without frills, flourishes or jokers, or resorting to sharp practices if he wishes my support and courteous treatment.

Regarding this matter of the paving of Jersey street, which has been discussed for the last four months, I want to say that the actions of certain ones has been disgusting, revolting and not in accordance with the acts of honest men. Last November the former council put it up to the property owners to decide what kind of pavement they desired. About that time Westrumite was brought to our notice. Two property owners, Mr. McKeon and myself, were sent East to investigate hard surface pavements, which we did in a most thorough and practical manner. We came back and reported our findings, and it was decided by practically all the persons interested that we lay Westrumite and so reported to the council. Then the paid hirelings of the great paving trust got busy. I refer to the Bitulithic Paving Co., which has Portland at its mercy and is squeezing the very life blood out of the property owners.

The first man sent in the field to sow the seeds of doubt, dissension and discord was Ballou, but he proved to be only a novice. He was too raw and he was out in the first round.

Next came a Mr. Fry, who was reputed to be a good man at the game. His side stepping and foot work was a marvel, but otherwise he was raw and crude and he, too, took the count. I will give one example of his work. In Mr. Hall's barber shop about four weeks ago Mr. Fry had on exhibition a piece of material he claimed to be Westrumite as laid by Van Westrums at or near Chicago. I took from my purse \$100 in gold coin and placed in Hall's hands and offered to bet any part of \$1000 that the sample never came from the streets of Hammond, East Chicago, Indiana Harbor or Whiting, or the same bet stood that he could not produce a like sample from the streets of above named cities, or that it was not Westrumite, that he did not know what it was, or even where it came from, that the sample did not contain two pounds of Westrumite to the ton. He stated that he could not call the bet as he was not possessed of the funds. I asked him to go to the telephone and call up Mr. Huber or any one connected with his company, state the proposition to them and for them to come to St. Johns immediately and if I failed to cover any part of \$1000 within 15 minutes after their arrival, that I would make him a present of the \$100 for his trouble. Again he sidestepped and finally admitted that he did not know where it came from or what it was, but that he was only stating what had been told, and doing what he was paid for.

Next on the field of battle comes the great and only Dan Maher, the heavy weight and past master of the art. Let's look and see who this Dan Maher is. Is this the same Dan Maher who, through his winning ways, smooth oiled tongue and honeyed promises induced the past city council to vacate a strip of ground 60x150 feet from Albany street to the harbor line, saying that he would double his plant, the Marine Iron Works, employ more skilled mechanics, creating a larger pay roll, thus increasing the industrial importance and output of St. Johns?

Is this the same Dan Maher who two days after the council had complied with his request transferred the whole to the Star Sand & Gravel Co? I ask the property owners if this is the kind of man you would have to advise you where it is your dollars that pay the bill and he in the employ of one of the greatest and mightiest corporations on the Pacific coast?

Who is this man Wright, a reputed reporter, who vented his spleen through the columns of the Review recently? Is he, too, a hireling of the great paving trust? Is he the one hired to sling mud and circulate insinuating invectives which are not backed by even the semblance of truth or fact? He admitted that the article in the Review was biased and his only excuse was that he had been scored by the big "swivel-chair politician" and that he had a right to publish anything over his own name. Some time ago he stated that his employers instructed him to look up the Westrumite company as to patents, royalties, and their rating. He said that he did and that they had no rating with the commercial agencies. When asked if he found they were backed by the Standard Oil or Vanderbilts it would not have made a material difference and that his report would have been more favorable to the company, he replied: "Most certainly." When asked why he took such a deep interest in the "dear people" when he did not own a foot of property nor was even a resident of St. Johns, he replied, that was his business and that he could do as he pleased.

Last, but not least, H. E. Collier who was elected as city attorney one year ago, who has been drawing salary for several months to which he had no more right as I verily believe than some attorney in Chicago, as our charter provides that the city attorney shall be a resident of the city. Was he elected to investigate Westrumite? Was he elected to check up the committee sent out to investigate pavement? Has he used his official position to further his own interests to the detriment of the public and the man who was responsible for his first election as city attorney? Why has he taken such an active interest in this matter when he is not interested to the extent of one dollar?

Now, for the bare facts. Mr. McKeon and I found the pavement wherever laid good and it was universally commended by the property owners and officials and those who used the streets. Ex-Mayor Hinman, when East was told by property owners who had paid for it and were using it that there was "no comparison in regard to the different kinds of pavement, Westrumite is superior to them all." Does any one question the word of Mr. Hinman. Mr. Byerlee saw Westrumite when at Chicago and speaks in the highest praise of it, as he says the property owners did on the street with whom he talked. Does any one doubt the statement he makes? Messrs. Hinman, Byerlee, McKeon and myself all are residents and property owners of St. Johns, while not one of those who have been hammering Westrumite have any interest in property on Jersey street and are only working from selfish motives. I doubt if any one of them has ever seen Westrumite as laid in a pavement or would even know it if they did see it.

In conclusion I will state that I will have to pay more for the paving of Jersey street than any other person, and if I had the slightest doubt regarding the lasting or good qualities of Westrumite, or that the Van Westrums, or the Pacific Coast Westrumite Co. did not intend to make good and keep faith with the people of St. Johns I would be the last man to advocate it and the first one to reject it.

Yours respectfully,
P. Hill.

Council Proceedings

If the first regular meeting of the new city council was any criterion of their future administration of city affairs it is safe to presume that the reins of city government are in the hands of safe and careful custodians. They started in on the order of business like old timers and the business before the house was disposed of with quickness and dispatch. Mayor Couch impressed the large audience present with the fact that he was no novice, and the way he pushed matters along was a revelation to many present. The new members, by their actions, plainly demonstrated that they meant business and intended to conduct all affairs in a business-like, fair and equitable manner.

The first matter taken up was a petition for an extension of time on the improvement of North Jersey street, presented by Majeske & Hahn. On motion of Alderman Hill 30 days' extension was granted.

A communication in the form of petition, signed by supposedly 41 property owners, asked that Westrumite be not used on Jersey street. Mayor Couch said that the document was untimely, and on motion of Alderman Hill, was gently laid on the table.

Antoine Spreitzer, by communication, remonstrated against contractors using his property on Tyler and Willamette Boulevard as a dumping ground for dirt, roots, and stumps without permission. As it seemed that he had a kick coming, providing his statements were true, matter was referred by the mayor to the street committee for report.

The Pythian Sisters asked permission to erect a banner across Jersey street during their convention tomorrow, which was granted.

An invitation to the mayor and councilmen to attend the Gates reception, was by the mayor referred to Aldermen P. Hill and Frank Horsman as a committee to express their regrets. Their regretful note was as follows: "The fate of St. Johns rests heavily upon your weak shoulders; therefore, upon request of the mayor decline your kind invitation with sincere regrets. Signed and sealed with our hands and seals, this 11th day of April, 1911.—P. Hill and D. Frank Horsman, committee."

A petition from Janitor D. J. Horsman asked for a raise in salary from \$35 to \$50 per month. Referred to building and grounds committee by mayor, which recommended that request be granted, which was done on motion, by the council.

A communication from the Portland Library Association stated that Miss Mabel Rundall of this city had been appointed custodian of the public library to be opened up in the McChesney block May 1st.

Bills amounting to \$186.70 were allowed on motion of Mr. Muck.

A number of bids were in for the improvement of Olympia and Philadelphia streets. The majority of them failed to give the total amount of their bids, giving instead the price per foot and yard. Alderman Ferrine stated that he would oppose awarding any contract in the future upon any bid in which the total was not given, as it left too great an opportunity for an engineer to juggle the figures if he were so minded, and it was not good business. His views on the matter met with general approbation, and contractors will be given due notice that unless their bids are totaled up in the future they will be rejected. On Olympia street the following contractors presented bids: St. Johns Sand & Gravel Co., Akesson & Pottage, Peterson & Co., M. T. Swan, J. K. Majeske, T. H. Cochran and Jacob Hahn. T. H. Cochran being the lowest, he was awarded the contract. On Philadelphia street, Ivanhoe to Hayes, Akesson & Pottage were the fortunate bidders, and received the contract.

The engineer's acceptance of the improvement of Jersey street, Cat-

New Packing Plant

The announcement that Schwartzchild & Sulzberger have virtually concluded plans and negotiations for the erection of a mammoth \$2,000,000 packing plant in the Swift territory is cheering news to the people of St. Johns as well as Portland. It is assurance that the Peninsula will control the Northwest livestock situation. The new equipment will include a large killing building, butchering and packing houses and cold storage plant. The capacity will be close to roo head a day, and it will take all of the livestock the Northwest market can produce to keep the two plants going. The plant will occupy about 100 acres and 500 men will be employed at the start. The construction of this new industry will furnish another cogent reason why St. Johns should be connected directly with the packing house territory by both wagon road and trolley line. Many of the employes would build houses here if an easy mode of access were available.



MAYOR K. C. COUCH

dispatch. Mayor Couch impressed the large audience present with the fact that he was no novice, and the way he pushed matters along was a revelation to many present. The new members, by their actions, plainly demonstrated that they meant business and intended to conduct all affairs in a business-like, fair and equitable manner.

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Building Permits

No. 39—To E. R. Ingledue to erect a dwelling on Jersey street between Mohawk and Tyley; cost \$1,500.

No. 40—To J. F. Boon to erect dwelling on Decatur street between Charleston and John; cost \$500.

No. 41—To H. E. Doering to erect a theatre on Jersey street between Burlington and Chicago streets; cost \$12,000.

lin to St. Johns avenue, was approved by the street committee and accepted by the council.

An ordinance adopting specifications for the use of Westrumite pavement was passed on motion of Mr. Hill.

Bids for the \$10,000 ferry bonds were received as follows: Peninsula bank, premium \$77; Morris Bros., premium \$22.50; First National bank, premium \$127.50. The latter being deemed the best bid, was accepted on motion of Mr. Hill.

F. P. Brown was suggested by Mr. Hill as a competent and suitable party to act as sewer inspector and the engineer was instructed to secure his services forthwith.

W. W. Windle was continued as street commissioner.

A. L. Shores of Dallas, Oregon, has leased the old Laughters store building on South Jersey street, now the Benedix property, and will install therein a large drygoods store. A plate glass front will be put in and the room thoroughly remodeled and embellished by the decorator. The location is becoming better every day, and eventually will become one of the very best in the city. Mr. Shores is a business man of established ability and promises to make the new establishment one of the best of its kind. We understand the new store will be ready to do business about the first of the month. The realty firm of McKimney & Davis engineered the transaction.

Harry Mausfield has leased the western portion of the Central hotel and will install therein a first class cafe. The rooms will be entirely remodeled, frescoed, the kitchen tiled, new front put in, and palms, mirrors, rugs, and other decorations will make the establishment the very finest on the peninsula. Harry knows how to make a place attractive and he will spare no pains in making the new stand so. Everything will be spick and span and a delight to the eye as well as to the inner man. If he follows out his plans there can be no question but that it will prove an unqualified success.

J. C. Boggs, a prominent apple grower, for 20 years a resident of Hood River valley, returned this week from an extended trip down the coast. Mr. Boggs, accompanied by his daughter, visited in St. Johns and made this office a pleasant call. He reports wonderful development in the apple city during the past year and predicts even greater things, particularly in the rural districts, and especially on the East Side. Mr. Boggs says it is rapidly becoming a rich man's country, two millionaires being already citizens of the valley. It is but a few years since a million dollars would have bought the entire valley and put a fence around it. Mr. Boggs knows a good thing when he sees it and purchased a farm for his boys near Woodburn.

J. F. Boon is erecting a neat little cottage on Decatur street.