

THE ST. JOHNS REVIEW
 BY A. W. MARKLE
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 gress of March 3, 1879.
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A correspondent in one of the leading Portland dailies states that manufacturers seeking sites for industrial plants are being driven far from the city owing to the high prices asked for suitable locations closer in. There is a strong probability of truth in this assertion, and it may be applicable to St. Johns as well as to our big neighboring city. Especially is it true of water frontage. It is held at prices prohibitive to most manufacturing concerns, and therefore lies vacant, when by every manner of reasoning it should be occupied and alive with industry. How to alter and improve this condition seems a most difficult problem. The most feasible, and practical as well, manner in which it could be done would be to pass a law requiring every property owner to place his own value upon his property, which valuation must be made each year, and under penalty of a heavy fine the owner could not dispose of the property at a price in excess of that placed upon it by the owner when the valuation was given to the assessor. Or, better still, if an excess price be secured, the excess should go into the city or county funds. All assessments for taxes should be based on the valuation turned in by the owners, and all property should be taxed at its full valuation. This would make the mill rate lower, and the taxes no greater to the property owner whose property is now assessed at 50 per cent of its real valuation. If people could not sell their property at a greater price than that assessed at, the high price of water frontage, or any other high priced property would be solved, and the small property owner, who is taxed out of proportion to the large property owners, would largely benefit. Under such a law the prices paid for land would not be kept secret, and such a thing as a person paying more for land than it is worth would in all probability not occur, because the party selling could not benefit by overcharge. It might be argued that under such a law those who did not desire to sell property might place valuations at a ridiculously low figure, but this could be overcome by compelling all to pay taxes on a valuation not lower than the property cost, or is assessed at at present time. No man is entitled to more land than he is willing to pay taxes on, nor to ask more money therefor than he is willing to pay taxes on. Under such a law the stranger would have no fear of being "stung" in buying real estate, nor would municipalities in buying land for public purposes. The Review would welcome communications on this subject, because it is of vital import, and the present situation must be alleviated before St. Johns can grow as it should.

less trunk of a beautiful young woman" in the press dispatches, although her identity was unknown and the head not discovered. The wonder is, how they knew she was beautiful.

The man who advertises is fearless. He dares all and sundry to put him to the test. "This is what I offer," he says in effect. "Can you beat it? Can you do better elsewhere? Make comparisons and then do business with me only if you find it is to your advantage." There is nothing hidden about the advertiser. He stands up for himself, for his goods, for his reputation, for his town. He wants everybody to know him, to know his methods of business and his manner of treating customers. This makes it safe to do business with him. Having spent much money making his name known, he cannot afford to have it tarnished, and he will go much more than half way in an effort to correct a misunderstanding that is not of his making. He wants to tell more than the bare truth, to do more than what is really square. Deal with the advertisers for a square deal.

St. Johns has again shown that she is progressive. By deciding in favor of free text books this city has taken a long stride forward, and set the pace for other Western cities to follow. There may be some demur on the part of parties having no children, but they would have as much reason to rebel against the whole school system as against the purchase of necessary school equipment of which text books play the most important part. It is a sign of progress, and it is just. The district is not to blame because some families do not have children.

So much in the habit are the big daily papers of terming all women beautiful that when a headless trunk of a woman was found in the Hudson river last week, it was termed "the head-

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less trunk of a beautiful young woman" in the press dispatches, although her identity was unknown and the head not discovered. The wonder is, how they knew she was beautiful.

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ORDINANCE NO. 563

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING DEED FROM JAMES E. KIRK TO THE CITY OF ST. JOHNS, CONVEYING CERTAIN PROPERTY IN SAID CITY OF ST. JOHNS.

The City of St. Johns does ordain as follows:

Section 1. That a certain deed made and executed by James E. Kirk to the City of St. Johns, dated the 1st day of September, 1913, and acknowledged before Julius Boyd, Justice of the Peace of Mercer county, Pennsylvania, on the same day, conveying to said City of St. Johns the following described property, situated in the county of Multnomah, state of Oregon, to wit:

A triangular tract of land from lot Two (2) Block Twenty-one (21), James John's Second Addition, described as follows:

Beginning at the southwest corner of Block Twenty-one, James John's Second Addition, running northerly along the East side line of Willamette boulevard 77 feet to the initial point of beginning; thence northerly along the east side line of Willamette boulevard Twenty-three feet; thence east along the southerly line of Lot Three in Block 21, James John's Second Addition, 15 feet; thence southwest to the place of beginning, containing 172 1/2 square feet; be and the same is hereby accepted by the City of St. Johns.

Section 2. The city engineer of the City of St. Johns be and he is hereby directed to make and file as by law required a plat of the said portion and tract of ground described in section one of this ordinance, and that such plat be filed within Thirty (30) days from the passage of this ordinance.

Passed by the Council this 9th day of September, A. D. 1913.

Approved by the Mayor this 9th day of September, A. D. 1913.

CHAS. BREDESON, Mayor.
 Attest: F. A. RICE, City Recorder.
 Published in the St. Johns Review Sept. 12, 1913.

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DORIC LODGE NO. 132
 A. F. and A. M.

Regular communications on first Wednesdays of each month in Bickner's Hall. Visitors welcome.

Ernest S. Harrington, W. M.
 John Neece, Secretary

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