

THE ST. JOHNS REVIEW

A. W. MARKLE

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There is a bill pending in Congress whereby the manufacturer may bind the retailer to retail his product at a settled price, at one price, with no price cutting tolerated. This bill was introduced by Mr. Stevens of New Hampshire, and there is reason to believe that it will meet with favor and finally become a law. And it would be a good law. If all stores were forced to sell standard articles at one price, the little stores would have a better chance to exist, and mail order houses would be on the decline. Under the provisions of the bill manufacturers need not come under the proposed law unless they so elect. The price of standard articles would not be increased because of such a law. Competition would keep the goods at as low price as the manufacturer could afford to manufacture for. Price cutting is an evil that should not exist.

Some people in St. Johns have been disposed to criticize the Commercial club for not being able to land a few industries in St. Johns. It is not the fault of the club. The great trouble has been to offer inducements to manufacturing plants to locate here. There is no free sites to offer, no bonuses, no improved streets to the water front, no way of getting in or out by vehicle to any unoccupied land along the river front. The only thing that can be advanced is the fact that we have the finest deep water along the river and there are no bridges to interfere with traffic. But manufacturers as a rule want more than that. They want at least reasonably priced locations, easy means of ingress and egress, and a disposition on the part of the city to aid in every way in supplying all advantages possible. Until the city furnishes roadways to the river front and Bradford street is improved its entire length, there is little inducement for industries to locate here, and until these conditions are relieved the Commercial club has little to work with.

Tomorrow is Memorial Day, a day set apart to do honor to those soldiers who have gone to the happier land above. The old survivors of the great struggle of the early sixties, together with auxiliary societies, will perform the sad rites over the graves of old comrades who have passed from this earth. Each year finds fewer of them still remaining, and their once firm and vigorous footsteps have grown pathetically feeble and uncertain. Too much respect and reverence cannot be bestowed upon the pitifully few survivors, as they march on down the valley and shadow to the great beyond. In a very few years the last one shall have departed from the land of the living. So as we watch their faltering footsteps as they slowly wend their way to do honor to those who have given up life's struggle, let us remember that we owe them a duty for the wonderful work they have wrought; that we should do all in our power to make their last days the happiest and brightest of their existence.

It would seem like a good proposition for the city to sell the Philadelphia street dock and use the money derived from the sale thereof in buying ground and offering free sites to manufacturing industries. If such a thing could be legally done, if St. Johns were in a position to offer free sites, the land of which to revert to the city when the industries cease to run, there is little doubt that a number of good industries might be secured. While some of us are loath to confess it, the city dock has been a "white elephant" on our hands, and it takes a person of miraculous optimism to foresee that it will ever be anything else. It is true that the dock is now leased for \$2400 annually. But the annual interest alone is \$3600, and adding the insurance and watchman expenses, repairing and depreciation, the annual loss is well over \$5,000 with only \$2400 to offset it. And there is no assurance that the dock will be leased after the present lease has expired. It is extremely doubtful if during the life of the dock that a rental large enough to take care of the annual expense will be obtained. As a dock for municipal purposes also it is difficult to see how it will ever be worth its cost. Therefore, why longer keep it, if it can be disposed of? The money tied up in it could be used to far better advantage in some other way. Richmond dock could be fitted up to serve all



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practical purposes as a municipal dock, it would seem. The probabilities are that the city could sell it at a price to remunerate it for all expense so far incurred, and possibly more. The value of it may increase in proportion to the expense, but such is not likely to be the case. The value of the building will decrease as rapidly as the value of the land increases. If there is a man in St. Johns who can advance any good and substantial reasons why the city dock should be retained as a paying proposition, we would be very glad to publish the same, but we believe two reasons can be advanced for selling to one for retaining. The luxury of an unprofitable city dock is one reason why tax rates are high in St. Johns. We believe it could be disposed of to advantage if an effort was made to sell it. Why not solicit bids for it, and then get the sentiment of the people by mass meeting or straw vote as to whether or not the highest bid should be accepted?

ORDINANCE NO. 601

An Ordinance Providing the Time and Manner of Improving the Easterly Side of North Kellogg Street from St. Johns Avenue to Bruce Avenue in the City of St. Johns, Oregon.

The city of St. Johns does ordain as follows:
The council of the city of St. Johns, having ascertained the cost of improving the easterly side of North Kellogg street from the northerly side line of St. Johns avenue to the southerly side line of Bruce avenue in the city of St. Johns, as shown by the resolution of the council of said city, dated on the 5th day of May, 1914, and recorded in the office of the recorder of said city, and notice thereof having been published in the St. Johns Review, a weekly newspaper of general circulation, on the 5th and 6th days of May, 1914, as shown by the affidavit of the recorder of said city, which said affidavit is on file in the office of the city recorder; and legal posting of notices of such improvement, as shown by the affidavit of the city engineer on file in the office of the city recorder; and no remonstrances having been filed, and, as provided by said resolution, the engineer's preliminary estimate of the cost of said improvement is \$1,817.58, but shall be more accurately determined by said engineer.
Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that said street be improved and the time for the completion of said improvement is hereby fixed at 60 days from last publication of notice of proposed said work, which said proposal must be filed with the recorder of said city on or before the 16th day of June, 1914, at 5 o'clock, p. m. of said day.
That said street shall be improved as follows: By grading same to the established grade by cut and fill and by sidewalk same on the east side with 6 foot cement sidewalks 12 foot curbs the entire length, together with all necessary cement crosswalks and iron gutters, curbs to have standard drain tile every fifty feet, hitch rings to be placed in curb as directed by the City Engineer.
The city recorder shall give notice by publication for not less than three insertions in the St. Johns Review, the official newspaper, inviting proposals for making said improvement.
Said improvement shall in all respects be done and completed in conformity with the provisions of Ordinances No. 160 and 302, except as otherwise provided in this ordinance, all work to be done under the direction and supervision of the city engineer.
That the cost of said improvement shall be assessed against the property in the local improvement district described in said resolution and designated as and declared to be Local Improvement District No. 112.
Passed by the council this 26th day of May, 1914.
Approved by the Mayor this 26th day of May, 1914.
A. W. VINCENT, Mayor.
Attest: A. E. DUNSMORE, City Recorder.
Published in the St. Johns Review on May 29, 1914.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.

In order to insure a change of ad vertisement the copy for such change should reach this office not later than Wednesday, at 3 o'clock p. m. Please remember this and save the printer's



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NOTICE

Sealed bids will be received by the Board of Directors of School District No. 2 of Multnomah county, until June 10, 1914, to supply schools with three hundred cords of heavy fir slash wood. Delivery to commence on or before July 1, 1914. The Board reserves the right to increase quantity, or reject any and all bids. Address bids care of Clerk.
J. E. TANCH, School Clerk.
Published in the St. Johns Review May 22, 29 and June 5, 1914.

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