

St. Johns is Calling You

Has seven churches. Has a most promising future. Distinctively a manufacturing city. Adjoins the city of Portland. Has nearly 6,000 population. Has a public library. Taxable property, \$4,500,000. Has large dry docks, saw mills. Has flour mills, iron works. Has a ship building plant. Has a veneer and excelsior plant. Flour mill, planing mill. Box factory, and others. More industries coming. St. Johns is the place for YOU.

ST. JOHNS REVIEW

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

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Is second in number of industries. Is seventh in population. Cares to Portland every 15 min. Has navigable water on 3 sides. Has finest gas and electricity. Has two strong banks. Has five large school houses. Has abundance of purest water. Has hard surface streets. Has extensive sewerage system. Has fine, modern brick city hall. Has good payroll monthly. Ships monthly many cars freight. All railroads have access to it. Is gateway to Portland harbor. Climate ideal and healthful.

COUNCIL MEETS

Matters of Importance Receive Attention

All members were present at the regular meeting of the city council Tuesday evening, with Mayor Vincent presiding. D. W. Sellick asked for permission to construct a cement sidewalk in front of his property on North Jersey street, which was granted. Bills amounting to \$123.70 and including primary election expenses, were allowed. The canvassers' report of the primary nominating election was read and accepted. H. Henderson, W. H. Moxon and Recorder A. E. Dunsmore constituting the canvassing board. Upon motion Mayor Vincent appointed a committee of two, consisting of C. E. Garlick and H. M. Waldref, to take up the matter of installing a public telephone with the Home Telephone Company. It was decided that the mayor should join the committee from the Commercial Club Wednesday morning in a visit to the county commissioners in an effort to secure a fire pumping apparatus on the ferry boat for the protection of the water front property. Upon the statement of Mayor Vincent that a citizen of St. Johns had informed him that he needed a load of wood badly and had no cash with which to purchase same, it was decided that same should be furnished him, payment for same to be made as soon as the party was financially able to do so. The profile of the proposed sidewalk of Ivanhoe street between Philadelphia and Catlin streets was accepted, and the city attorney directed to prepare a resolution providing for such improvement. A resolution directing the engineer to prepare the plans and specifications for the sidewalk of Hayes street between Philadelphia and Catlin streets was adopted. An ordinance amending the dog muzzling ordinance and providing for muzzling during the months of June, July, August and September only was passed by a four to three vote. Councilmen Davis, Cornell and Graden voting in the negative. By virtue of this action all dog owners may remove muzzles from their dogs Saturday of this week, the amended ordinance going into effect after publication today. An ordinance providing for placing charter amendments on the ballot at the April election whereby city officials shall hold office for two years, beginning with the next set of officials, with the exception of two councilmen, who shall be elected for four years was passed, all voting yes with the exception of Councilman Graden, who voted in the negative. An ordinance fixing the salaries of city officials for the ensuing term was passed. It provides that all salaries shall remain the same as at present. Councilman Davis reported that the room adjoining the Cozy Corner confectionery store could be secured for a waiting or rest room for the sum of fifteen dollars per month, the owner to install the necessary lavatories and otherwise place it in condition for rest room purposes. The committee was given further time to ascertain if a renter could be secured to use part of the room and aid in paying the rent.

Will Not Take Sides

Editor St. Johns Review: We, members of local Socialist party in convention declare that the editor of the Review was unwarranted in his assertion in Review of Feb. 26, as to what constitutes a good or a poor Socialist. The Socialists of St. Johns as an organization have not as yet declared for or against annexation. Owing to the fact that Socialists as well as others differ on local issues, we have agreed not to waste time or effort on questions that have little or nothing in common with the fundamental principles of Socialism. Our aim is "The World for the Workers." Nothing short of that will satisfy.—R. C. Stokes, Sec.

Behold, the Statesman!

Behold, the Statesman! The only simon-pure, dyed-in-the-wool, constitutionally still in the harness statesman, the man who says the Merger bill is only a "Democratic measure, simply provides a way," and yet doesn't know whether he is on foot or horse back on the proposition.

Behold, the Statesman! The statesman from St. Johns, the statesman who was the author of the Merger bill, standing on the fence. "Let the people rule," he thunders, and tucks an emergency clause on the Merger bill. "Let the people rule," he pipes, and gets on the fence and crosses his fingers. The blood of the statesman is "riled" by the "wild stories" circulated and he forthwith proceeds to "kill some false rumors."

"Wild and unwarranted stories" in their mad career are caught at various street corners, button holed and shot at sunrise. The lyric tongued lawbreaker then loads his blunderbuss and proceeds to shoot the teachers with soap suds; he fires a second volley of assertions at the voters in general. He says "if St. Johns merges with Portland St. Johns will still remain. The only thing ever swallowed that remained the same was Jonah, but that tale is pipe dream. Like a whale at sea, he blows a "who said" about the High school. He knows about as much about that as the whale knows about latitude and longitude. "Let the people rule" he snorts, and then he or some one else, probably some one else, writes an amendment to tack on the constitution to fool the people. Then the gentleman with the brown derby tells us the Portland council would deliberately confiscate the property of the St. Johns Water Company. What variety of politician is our statesman, anyhow, that he exudes such a fairy tale? If the people of St. Johns want cheaper water the remedy is at hand—buy the water plant, but don't let us assume that forever tax burden that Portland's \$8,000,000 water bond debt would bring us.

Look out, Mr. Voter, that you don't get fooled on the water question. Portland's water system is now bonded for \$8,000,000; she is spending \$100,000 to increase the flow to supply her own people besides \$150,000 or so for extensions. Several thousand dollars was spent last year to find out that the big mains from Bull Run were decaying. The people of the suburbs of Portland are always kicking because they cannot get water during the summer months and what they get is not cool and fresh like ours. Be careful! "Be Fair" yes, and likewise be open. What's the reason of all this deep interest in the politics of St. Johns so suddenly? Does some one want something? Is there some dead laid corporation plot the gentleman from the Boulevard is trying to put over? What's the hurry? Why did the emergency clause have to be tacked on the merger bill? Come on, get on one side or the other. Don't be a "jitney" statesman sitting on the fence.—M. R. Morrow.

Wants Letter Published

Editor Review: On the last page of your issue of March 5 you print in very large type as follows: "Remember that merging with Portland will not reduce insurance rates in St. Johns unless the buildings here are rewired to conform with the inspecting rules of Portland. Even then it is doubtful if lower rates would obtain because St. Johns rates are now 10 per cent lower than at University Park or Lents, so the board of underwriters say." I challenge the accuracy of the above and assert that it is so untrue, and so grossly misleading that I insist that you publish this letter March 12 and allow me space in your issue March 19th to tell the exact truth about this insurance question.—S. C. Cook. Mr. Cook need not insist upon publication; it is granted freely upon request. Would refer him to editorial on insurance on editorial page. Would also suggest that if Mr. Cook has succeeded in slipping some insurance thru the Board of Underwriters at a lower rate than the basic rate, it might be just as well not to tell it out loud.—Ed.

Primary Election Results

The primary election held Saturday excited no particular interest. There were few candidates printed on the ballot, the Democratic ballot in each ward only containing one name, and the Progressive ballot was an absolute blank. So there were many names written in, and the vote as a consequence was greatly scattered. Of a total of 871 registered, a total of 318 votes were cast, as follows: Republican, 219, Democratic 98, while one solitary Progressive vote was cast. The following were nominated, together with the vote received by each successful candidate to secure the nomination: For Mayor—A. A. Muck, Progressive, 1 vote; A. E. Dunsmore, Rep.-Dem. nominations: 77 Rep. votes; 50 Dem. For Recorder—H. D. Beam, Progressive, 1 vote; A. E. Dunsmore, Rep.-Dem.; 135 Rep. votes, 45 Dem. votes. For Treasurer—O. E. Learned, Prog., 1 vote; J. E. Tanch, Rep., 126 votes. Mr. Learned and Mr. Tanch were a tie on the highest Democratic vote for treasurer, both receiving 36 votes. For City Attorney—E. C. Geeslin, Rep.-Prog.; 141 rep. votes, 1 prog. vote; Thad. T. Parker, Dem.; 50 votes. Councilmen at Large—L. D. Jackson, Rep.; 93 votes; J. S. Downey, Rep.-Dem.; 65 rep. votes, 40 dem. votes; I. B. Martin, Rep.-Dem.-Prog.; rep. 64, dem 45, prog. 1 vote; S. C. Cook, dem.-prog.; 35 dem. votes, 1 progressive vote. Councilmen First Ward—R. Graden, Rep.-Dem.; 48 rep. and 27 dem. votes; D. Tallman, Rep.-Dem.; 45 rep. and 30 dem. votes. Councilmen Second Ward—W. A. Carroll, Rep.-Dem.-Prog.; 54 rep. 9 dem. and 1 prog. vote; C. R. Chadwick, Rep.; 45 votes; W. H. Nolen, Dem.-prog.; 5 dem. and 1 prog. vote.

Would Likely Benefit

There are at least two professions that would benefit by merging St. Johns with Portland—the plumber and the electrician. The former because of the replumbing necessary to conform with Portland regulations. It is doubtful if there is a house in St. Johns that will pass the plumbing regulations of Portland. Parties desiring to add a bathtub to their homes would find that the work would require permit and supervision and the probabilities that all the plumbing of the house would have to be torn out and reconstructed. All property along sewer line would be compelled to immediately make connection therewith and Portland union prices would prevail. Rewiring might have to be done, an electrician who has looked the matter up, informs us, as few, if any residences in St. Johns are wired according to Portland regulations. The plumber and electrician should surely reap a harvest and the public would be the goat.

Building Permits

No. 8—Eliza N. Walthart to erect a residence on Ivanhoe street between Burr and Alma streets. No. 9—To C. L. Holmes to erect a residence on Fessenden street between Oswego and Mokawak streets; cost \$1,000.00. No. 10—To F. A. Yates to erect a residence on Ivanhoe street between Fessenden and Trumbull streets; cost \$1,400. No. 11—To E. A. Murray to erect a residence on Richmond street between Fessenden and Seneca streets; cost \$800. A. L. Minor of corner West Polk and Crawford streets, St. Johns in speaking of the time when St. Johns was under Portland Government that his taxes were increased from \$45 per year (in St. Johns) to \$675 per year (in Portland) and that a large portion of the school funds of St. Johns were taken and never returned to St. Johns after St. Johns was freed from Portland's grasp by the state legislature.—Contributed. Referred to D. C. Lewis. For Sale—Full Blood Barred Rock Eggs for hatching, also baby chicks after March 12. Call 315 W. Buchanan street.

Not What It Seems

It is the small property owner, the man that is paying up on his home that would appreciate the difference in the water rate also the difference in the city taxes and he might want to avail himself of the opportunity of taking a job on some public work, street or sewer contract work in the City of Portland which pays \$3.00 per day as per ordinance recently enacted by the Portland council and also carries the edict that such work must be done by Portland residents only. A St. Johns man can't get any of that work, can he? It is written that "some day we will go into Portland". That "some day" is here. It won't be any more of a hardship on the politicians or the selfish interests now than later.—A. W. Davis.

In the short article appearing in the above Mr. A. W. Davis hands the street laborer what he undoubtedly believes will be an inducement to vote for merger, i. e., that Portland pays three dollars per day for street work, with preference given to Portland labor. Now this does not mean that large numbers of workmen will receive three dollars per day, but does mean that there will be much less work to do. In these stringent times property owners can ill afford to improve streets when labor costs but \$2.00 to \$2.50 per day, and with this added cost for labor it must be realized that street improvement in Portland will in a great measure be held up for some time to come. Any way, the wage scale has only been fixed by ordinance, and when the Commissioners find out how it will work to the detriment of street improvement, the ordinance may be repealed at any time. There is nothing permanent about it. It is absolutely true that three dollars per day is little enough for any laborer on street work, but when it is a case of taking less or doing without employment, many laborers would rather accept less pay and be kept busy. The discrimination in favor of Portland labor will scarcely work a handicap to St. Johns laborers, because on the small amount of street work that is bound to ensue from the working of the ordinance, there will probably be about one hundred laborers for every job. It may also mean that a big influx of idle laborers from other sections will flock to Portland. But should the people of St. Johns desire such an ordinance to obtain here, a strong petition to that effect presented to the city council will no doubt bring it about. One thing should be remembered, that the workingman can always get a hearing before the St. Johns city council, while he has practically no chance to get before the Portland Commission. Anyhow, you do not seem to realize, Mr. Davis, that it is struggling property owner who has to pay this \$3 per day.

Mr. Davis takes up the bugaboo of cheaper water for the small property owner, but he cannot give any positive assurance that cheaper water rates will obtain for years to come in the event of merging. "It is written that some day we will go into Portland." It is also written that death shall overtake us all. And we are not more ready for one than the other. St. Johns is so situated and has enough land, it the entire lower peninsula of the Columbia river is added to St. Johns, to compel Portland to come to us. There is no reason why we should become a part of Portland now, or for the next fifty years to come. Pittsburgh and Allegheny did not consolidate until both had become full fledged and important cities. The same is true also of Brooklyn and New York, and other cities that might be mentioned. If Mr. Davis will look around him a little he will find that it is not only the SUCCESSFUL politicians that object to merging, but practically all the larger business, industrial and social interests of St. Johns. The movement is growing all the while. The laborers are thinking for themselves as well as the business interests.—Ed.

And Such is the Truth"

St. Johns, March 10, 1915. To the Editor the Review: When you admitted there was nothing in the stories that St. Johns would lose the "Free Ferry," that there was nothing to the stories that the teachers would lose their positions, that there was nothing to the story that St. Johns would lose the High School and practically admitted there was nothing to the story that the city would suffer any other department losses by annexation to or merger with Portland, you helped some to clarify the issues. Now, Mr. Editor, as you know, if we merge with Portland, that Portland will then own the right to the streets the same as St. Johns now owns the streets. Why do you not frankly admit that Portland will have the right to at once extend the Bull Run water mains, for such is the truth, and so why not let the truth shine? You seem to think that because I took issue with you as to the advisability of the people voting \$130,000 in bonds with which to purchase the water works at a cost of about \$30,000 per head to each man, woman and child in St. Johns, when by merging with Portland and by permitting Portland to make the purchase of the water plant will cost only a few cents per head, I desire confiscation, and that because I intimated that the plant was not worth more than one-third of \$130,000, I was willfully misrepresenting. You say the Railroad Commission found the plant, less depreciation, to be worth over \$89,000. In this you are mistaken. The Railroad Commissioners found the plant, less depreciation, and plus physical value and plus franchise value to be worth the sum you mentioned. The franchise value made up a big item and as soon as we should become Portland, Portland would possess the right to extend Bull Run water mains on any of the streets, so the franchise value, and all Portland would have to purchase would be the iron pipes now in the ground. The well or hole in the ground, the wooden pipes, etc., would possess no value, and as the plant can be reconstructed anew, well and all, and all new material for less than \$75,000, I was not so far wrong after all. There is one prominent citizen in St. Johns who has owned and operated water plants and who knows all about the St. Johns plant who has said he can re-construct the plant for \$75,000 and make a big profit for himself, and such is the truth. Merging with Portland means a big saving to every inhabitant of St. Johns, for 50 cents per month, each family would get that which now costs \$1.85 per month, or a yearly saving of \$15.00. In taxes I would save \$10.00 or a total of \$25.00. Is it worth while? If we merge Portland will purchase this water plant the same as Portland has purchased all other water plants where merger has taken place. Let us merge and let us grow.—D. C. Lewis.

Evangelical Church

Mary Monahan, niece of Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Monahan, has returned to her home in Missouri. Margaret Howard, daughter of Mrs. Rachel Howard, has returned from the East. Margaret is studying medicine. Bert Johns and wife are the happy parents of a nine and a half pound daughter. The Young People's Sunday school class are planning to give a play in the near future. Mrs. Maud Hall, our delegate from our K. L. C. E. to the state convention of the Christian Endeavor, at Eugene, reports a great time. Next Sunday, March 14, is our fourth quarterly meeting date. Dr. C. C. Poling will preach and administer the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. This is the last quarterly meeting for the conference year. Our annual conference convenes April 1, 1915, at Corvallis, Oregon. In the main the past year has been a pleasant and profitable one. A goodly number have been converted and added to the church. Our finances have kept up very well considering the hard times. We have not been free from sorrows, however. Two of our members crossed the line of worlds during the year, both of them faithful workers in the church, and the members yet feel the loss of Mrs. John Poff and W. Roy Hall.—Reporter.

Christian Church

Last Sunday the Y. P. S. C. E. gave a program in place of church services. Talks were given by several of the young people. The "Worker's Conference" was held at the church Tuesday, March the second. Many good motions were carried, among them it was decided to have a church library. Miss Nettie Moody was elected librarian. The library is to consist of missionary and other religious books loaned by members and friends. Supt. M. S. Beam presided over the meeting. Sunday, March 14, is to be "Book Day." A warm contest is raging between the S. P. I. boys and the S. P. I. girls. The boys were ahead last Sunday. Mrs. Carrie Moore is their teacher. Mr. Charles Graden is teacher for the girls. St. Patrick Day party is to be given at the home of Bert Smith Saturday night, March 13. An Irish story must be told by each one. The ones not having one to tell will be fined a "jitney." "Be jabbers, an' what you think o' that? The "Loyal Sons" is the name of the newly organized class of boys from 10 to 13 years of age. The names of the officers will be given later. The reporter is teacher of this class. "Now, boys, if you are not attending Sunday school elsewhere come and join this class. Some good times are being planned."—Reporter.

Business Men's Ticket

The Anti-Merger club has placed the following ticket in the field: Mayor—A. W. Vincent City Recorder—A. E. Dunsmore. Treasurer—J. E. Tanch. City Attorney—Thad. T. Parker. Councilmen at Large—A. A. Larowe, E. E. Gambe, H. W. Waldref. First Ward Councilmen—C. E. Garlick, Roy Ingledue. Second Ward Councilmen—H. W. Bonham, C. R. Chadwick. taken place"—which means a mighty big price. "Let the people rule," Mr. Lewis, but don't warp their judgment through misrepresentation. Don't let us stunt our growth and impoverish our people by merging.—Ed. Have you noticed how much more crime is reported from St. E. Portland and the Lents district, and how little crime we have in St. Johns? Remember we have excellent police protection in St. Johns, and our "Taking a chance" is not likely to better it. "Taxation without representation" will certainly be our lot if we merge with Portland. Don't "Take a chance."—Contributed. Note the label on your paper.

in he would naturally find use for this same Golden Rule, but since he does not, he discards it and advocates the Rule of Injustice. The stockholders of the local water company have paid \$80,000 of good hard cash for their stock, and they purchased this stock only because the business of the plant was backed by the honesty and integrity of the city of St. Johns or its assigns. The city of St. Johns entered into a solemn contract with the water company that the inhabitants of this place should use the water furnished by this plant, during the life of the franchise, and the stockholders had a right to expect that St. Johns would stick to its covenants. Mr. Lewis would have this contract repudiated and the stockholders swindled out of their rights by the power of might and injustice. Again Mr. Lewis shows a disposition to wander afar from the truth. He says: "The Railroad Commission found the plant LESS depreciation and physical value and PLUS franchise value to be worth the sum you mentioned. The franchise value made up a big item." Why does Mr. Lewis make such foolish and untrue statements? Surely he knows differently, or if he doesn't he should have informed himself. In refutation of the above we quote from the Railroad Commissioners' findings on record at the city hall: Section 5. The original cost of the properties owned by the defendant (St. Johns Water Works & Lighting Co.) and now used and useful for the public convenience (without taking depreciation into consideration) is approximately \$122,000. Section 6. To reproduce the used and useful property of the defendant in normal new and usable condition, including material and supplies on hand, and working capital on the first day of July, 1913, as a going concern, would require the expenditure of \$121,293. Section 9. Upon full consideration of the foregoing and of all the evidence and proofs offered and received, the Commission determines that the value of the PHYSICAL property of the respondent actually used and useful for the convenience of the public was the sum of \$89,500 on the first day of July, 1913. Dated Salem, Oregon, this 2nd day of April, 1914, and signed by Frank J. Miller and Thomas K. Campbell, Commissioners. He tells of a prominent citizen who says he could reproduce the entire plant new for \$75,000 and make a big profit, and Mr. Lewis adds, "and such is the truth." If any man in St. Johns made such a statement he is a fit member for the Ananias club or greatly overestimates his ability. Most unfortunate for this man that he did not bid on the water system put in by the city of Linnton a couple of years ago. There was no pumping station to install, no hard surfaced streets to pierce and only a few streets to traverse with the pipe line, and yet the city of Linnton pays over \$100,000 for same. Now, this man Mr. Lewis talks about undoubtedly could have taken the contract for \$15,000 and made a fortune out of it, "and such is the truth." Read what the Railroad Commission says of cost of reproduction, and in that estimate the cost of placing pipes under some hard surfaced streets is not taken into consideration. Mr. Lewis says each family in St. Johns would save \$15 yearly in water. As there are about 700 families in St. Johns only paying 90 cents per month, it is a desperate mathematical puzzle to see how they could save \$15 yearly, even if they got water free in Portland. He says he would save \$10 in taxes. Even at the present mill rate and valuation, his taxes would have to be \$240 and the valuation of his property for taxable purposes \$10,000, to make a saving of \$10 per year. The mill rate this year in Portland is 23.1 mills; in St. Johns 24.1 mills. Any one can compute these figures. If Mr. Lewis' property is assessed that much, he should take up the matter with the county assessor at once, as a grave injustice is being done him, if a house and lot on Willamette boulevard is assessed \$10,000. Mr. Lewis, surprising to note, winds up his argument, if it can be termed such, by stating "that Portland will purchase this water plant the same as Portland has purchased all other plants where merger has