

THE ST. JOHNS REVIEW
A. W. MARKLE

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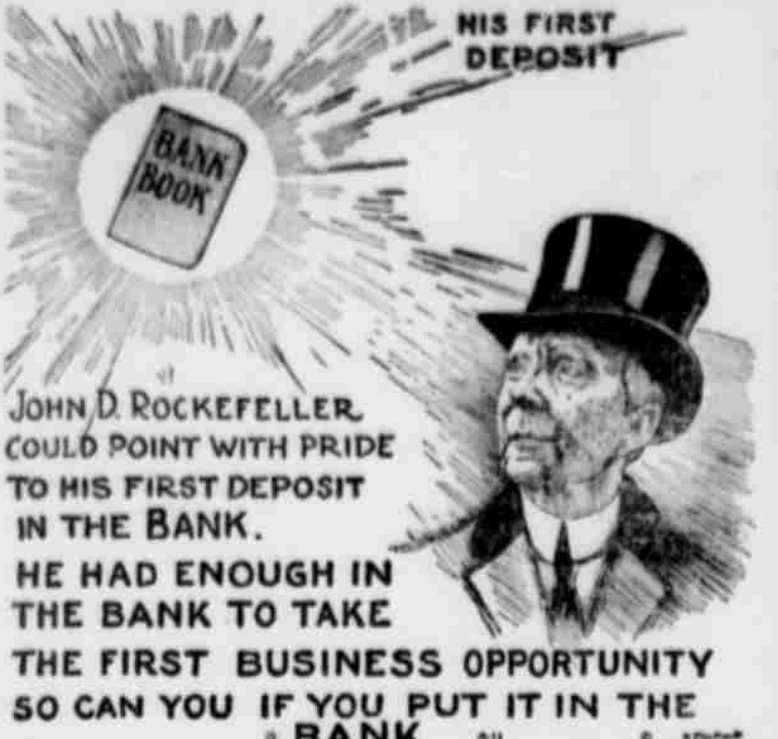
A prominent Mergerite remarked the other day that he presumed the Review will attempt to tear the merger ticket "all to pieces." As a matter of fact the Review will do nothing of the kind. It has no fight with individuals, and it surely will not pick out any candidate or group of candidates and boost their candidacy. The Review is in the fight against merger only. It has friends on both tickets and while we may disagree on the merger question, with the merger advocates, yet we have no disposition to cast stones at their ticket. We will fight against merging because we believe that way, but it is up to the people to select their own candidates, and the worst the Review will do will be to indulge in the hope that the best men may win and have plenty of time to serve out their term of office.

The statement appearing in the Review last week wherein it stated that insurance rates in St. Johns are ten per cent below that at University Park and Lents, has been challenged by one of our citizens, who claims that he sold insurance in University at a lower rate than in St. Johns. Our information came from J. N. McCune, secretary of the Board of Underwriters, who has given permission to use his name in the statement. He says that the basic rate of insurance for University Park from Van Houten street north to St. Johns city limits, is 50 cents per hundred; that Lents is the same, and that 45 cents is the basic rate in St. Johns. If this information is wrong, our statement was wrong also. But there is no higher authority on the subject than Mr. McCune. It is possible, however, that variations from the basic rate are permitted in some cases where fire protection is unusually good.

"Cheaper City Taxes" is the leading argument used by the mergerites in their so-called reasons why merging should take place. The tax statements of this year show that there is just one half mill difference between the Portland city tax and the St. Johns city tax, the latter having the highest. But because the mill rate is a trifle lower in Portland it does not mean that taxes are higher in St. Johns than in Portland. County Assessor Reed states that the assessed valuation of land in St. Johns is less than in Portland. Thus, for instance, a lot in South St. Johns is assessed at \$175, while a lot just across the railroad cut on the Portland side is assessed at \$225 on the same sized lot. Thus it will be seen, taking the valuation into consideration, that Portland taxes are really much higher than in St. Johns. City taxes are, however, governed by local conditions. The city tax of St. Johns this year is the result, in the main, of unusual conditions.

In comparing the taxes of St. Johns and Portland there is much to be considered. In the first place it must be understood that Portland's bonded indebtedness is \$60 per capita, while the bonded indebtedness of St. Johns is about \$15 per capita. In street improvements the people of Portland are compelled to pay up to and over 100 per cent assessed valuation, while in most cases the general fund of the city of St. Johns takes care of the cost where improvements cost over 50 per cent of the assessed valuation. Also in Portland the property owners are assessed for Engineer services on street work, while in St. Johns no charge is made for the services of the engineering force. These two items, which save the property owners considerable, are included in the 8 mill city tax, and which Portland does not have to provide for in its 7 1/2 mill tax. Then there is the Cooperage roadway built by the city, which is responsible for about 1 1/2 mills of the 8 mill tax. The fire truck, deficit on the city dock interest, and better lighted streets than Portland, are responsible for another generous portion of the 8 mill tax. Then once in a while some property owner will resist his street assessment on some technicality and cost the city a kopek or two in showing him in the courts that he should pay for the work. By selling the city dock taxes could be reduced considerably, and the irony of it is that the man who was largely responsible for the city constructing the dock and higher taxes, is out with the statement that cheaper city taxes would obtain through merger. There will be no roadway to build next year, anyway, so the mill rate and the taxes will undoubtedly be lower

HIS FIRST DEPOSIT



JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, COULD POINT WITH PRIDE TO HIS FIRST DEPOSIT IN THE BANK. HE HAD ENOUGH IN THE BANK TO TAKE THE FIRST BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY SO CAN YOU IF YOU PUT IT IN THE BANK

We all know the story of Mr. Rockefeller, and Mr. Carnegie, or Schwab, or any of our other great fortune builders. They began by **PUTTING THEIR MONEY IN THE BANK**. Not because they had too much—oh, no! They wanted that money in the bank so it would be safe and so it would be there to grasp the first good **BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY**. None of them dabbled in get-rich-quick schemes peddled around by smooth strangers.

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next year if the merger does not take place, than will obtain Portland.

One thing the people of St. Johns should let sink deep down into their minds is the fact that conditions here are just as we make them. If they are bad, it is our own fault and we have it in our power to apply the remedy. But if we merge with Portland we have no power what ever over local conditions. They will be governed entirely by the Commission of Portland, no member of which possibly has ever seen St. Johns and may never do so. Is it not better to have a government by our own people—neighbors and friends who we see every day and to whom we can come with conditions that need remedying, than take them to the Portland Commission where it almost takes a passport to gain entrance? Suppose a crosswalk, a fire hydrant, or arc light is needed or sidewalk repaired, how would it be done after merging? One citizen, if he took it upon himself to report same to the Commission, would naturally get scant recognition, as but slight attention can necessarily be given to individual complaints. So a delegation would be necessary, and even delegations can only have audience with the Commission at certain times. At best the matter would only be turned over to the Portland engineering department, and probably some attention would be given the complaint, and more probably would not. In St. Johns now all that is necessary is to call attention of the council, either individually, or severally, to the matter, and immediate action is secured. Why hand your government over to men you have never seen and who have only a most superficial knowledge of our conditions at best? Can't we trust our friends and fellow men to do what is right? We of St. Johns might be likened to one large family, and what is good for one is almost sure to be good for all. But if we merge with Portland, we are then only one family in conjunction with fifty others just as large. What might then be good for one of these combined families would not be good for all, owing to strictly local conditions, but the government must make laws that appear best for the majority. Hence what might be good for the majority might be wrong for us. Let us not take the chance. But let us be free men rather than subservient to the whims or caprices of any other government except our really own. Why be a vassal when you can as well be independent? Surely we are able to govern ourselves. If we cannot we ought to emigrate to Russia, where we might feel more at home. Let us keep St. Johns a free, unrestricted and independent city. The people of Portland will have far more respect for us if we do so. Ask them and see.

Quaint Argument

Editor Review: Replying to your comments on my letter of the 5th inst. allow me to say yes, I place the worth of a man at the price some one will pay for his skill and time. All cities that have adopted the Commission form of government are paying large salaries for the sole purpose of attracting men or women of rare ability, and they seem to get them. The new idea in city government is to adopt the same methods of management that other large corporations employ, that is demand ability and be willing to pay for it.

If Portland should only offer \$1000 a year salary for a Mayor what grade of ability would she likely get?

Come to think of it we would get the name Portland if we merge and will the Review kindly tell us why the Woolen Mill the Flouring Mill and the Veneer factory, three of our principal industries prefix the word Portland to their names? Yes, we would get the name Portland and perhaps that might induce some of the captains of industry that own the industries here to come out and take up their residence among us.

Schools. You said that I said the Portland schools were consolidating. Beg your pardon I did not say so. But I will say right now that when Portland and St. Johns are merged into one school district that to the excellent schools we now have will be added infinitely more complete trade school so that some parents living here will be relieved of the expense of sending their children to the Portland trades school and pay a tuition fee as they do now.

You recommend that I "Jine" the commercial club and help boost. I will say that the commercial club is working in its own way and I in mine. I and my associates have been working for the last three years to bring about a consolidation of the two cities and when we succeed, which will be the first week in July next, we will have done more for the advancement of this lower peninsula than all other agencies combined. We will have gotten conditions changed so much for the better that there will then be something to boost. The commercial club can then affiliate with like bodies, with similar interests, and get more results from the expenditure of \$100 than they can now from the expenditure of \$1,000 now. When boosting their town they would not need to stop and explain where it is.

Much is said about Albina in discussing this question. Albina was incorporated Feb. 4, 1889, and included a part of what is now St. Johns. Was merged with Portland July, 1891. Was in existence about 2 1/2 years. Got in debt \$50,000 for Parks. I don't know whether they got any parks or not. Was in debt \$50,000 for boulevards and streets and was \$40,000 in debt for current expenses and her warrants was said to be worth 65 cents on the dollar. What surprises me is that Portland accepted Albina at all in her bankrupt condition Albina was merged with Portland just as the panic of 1892 struck the country. The best of men could only get \$1.00 a day in the logging camps, and shaved shingles sold for 65 cents a thousand. Portland a city of 40,000 people, at that time (24 years ago) after assuming an Albina debt of

Quaint Argument

\$140,000 and in the throes of the worst panic this country has ever known could not have been expected to extend water mains all over a territory about 6 miles long most of which was brush or farms. In 1898 the Legislature amended the charter of Portland by changing the northern boundary line so as to exclude part of University Park, Portsmouth and St. Johns, you say because they were treated so illy. Then why did that part of University Park and Portsmouth make haste to vote themselves into Portland? Why did they not come into St. Johns?—S. C. Cook.

According to Mr. Cook's theory the school board, though composed of our best citizens, is worth the salary they receive—nothing; that if Mr. Cook wins out as councilman that \$2 per week is what he is worth. Now would either the school board or Mr. Cook be worth more if they were paid \$10,000 yearly? If they were doing the best they knew how, they couldn't do better if they were paid more.

Mr. Cook asks about three of our principal industries with the prefix Portland to their titles, in which he includes the flouring mills as one of the three. Now the word Jones, prefix to the milling company, may be the Dutch or Irish for Portland, but it is not likely. As to the Portland Manufacturing Company and Portland Woolen Mills—they located here before St. Johns was hardly out of the cradle, and Portland was prefixed to give some idea of locality, probably, or just because it sounded rather well to the owners. Mr. Cook presumably wants to infer that it was because St. Johns might some time be a part of Portland, and then the name need not be changed. But then there is the Boston Bakery here. It is scarcely conceivable that the proprietor ever anticipated that we would some day merge with Boston. Then there is Mr. Hinman, who built a rooming house and called it Chicago, not because he ever expected that St. Johns and Chicago would at some time become united, but probably because he became so incensed at the ill treatment Portland accorded St. Johns when it was a portion thereof that he named his house something as far removed as possible. Then he may have named it in honor of Chicago street. It doesn't matter so much whether the "captains of industry" live here, just so they keep their industries running full capacity will do, although they would be warmly welcomed as residents.

When you said the schools were consolidating, after telling of other Portland concerns consolidating, the natural inference was that you were referring also to Portland schools rather than those of New York or in the New England states.

Do you not know that a number of St. Johns folks are now attending the trade schools of Portland and are not paying one cent for tuition—only car fare? Well, it is a fact, and no one in St. Johns is barred from doing the same.

It is too bad that you have spent three years of your life in

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ORDINANCE NO. 647

An Ordinance Submitting to the Legal Voters of the City of St. Johns an Amendment to Section XXIX and XXX of an Act Entitled "An Act to Incorporate the City of St. Johns, Multnomah County, Oregon, and Providing a Charter Therefor, and to Repeal All Acts or Parts of Acts in Conflict Therewith."

Enacted and adopted by the people of St. Johns, Multnomah County, Oregon, in the year 1907 under the provisions of Section II of Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Oregon, giving to the legal voters of every city and town the right to enact or amend their municipal charters, subject to the Constitution and Criminal Laws of the State of Oregon; and providing an appropriate ballot title therefor, to be placed upon the official ballot to be voted at the election to be held on the 5th day of April, 1915; and directing the recorder of the City of St. Johns to mail a copy of the said amendment to each of the legal voters of the City of St. Johns, as is provided by law, charter and ordinances of said city.

It is ordained by the City of St. Johns that, Whereas a Resolution was duly, regularly and legally adopted by the council of said city on the 4th day of March, 1915, directing that Sections XXIX and XXX of the City Charter of St. Johns be submitted to the legal voters of said city for amendment; now, therefore,

Sections XXIX and XXX of an Act to incorporate the City of St. Johns, Multnomah County, Oregon, and providing a charter therefor, and to repeal all acts or parts of acts in conflict therewith, adopted by the people of the City of St. Johns in the year 1907, be submitted to the legal voters of the City of St. Johns for their adoption or rejection at the general election to be held April 5th, 1915, and that said Section XXIX and XXX be amended so as to read as follows, to wit:

Section XXIX.
Every person elected to office in the City of St. Johns at the time that this amendment to the charter shall be adopted and take effect shall continue to hold office for a period of two years next following the election adopting this amendment, except one councilman in each ward who receiving the highest number of voters shall hold office for a period of four years from the adoption of this amendment.

Section XXX.
There shall be a general election held in the City of St. Johns, Oregon, on the first Monday in April, 1917, and bi-ennially thereafter for the election of a Mayor or for a term of two years; for the election of a Recorder for a term of two years; for the election of a City Attorney for a term of two years; for the election of three councilmen-at-large, except as provided by Section X of the charter providing for the redistricting of St. Johns, for a period of two years, and two councilmen from each Ward to hold office for a period of four years, except at the election adopting this amendment one councilman from each ward receiving the highest number of votes shall hold office for a period of four years, and one councilman from each Ward receiving the next highest number of votes shall hold office for two years; and at the first election held after the adoption of this amendment one councilman from each ward shall be elected to hold office for a period of four years.

That the amendments to Section XXIX and XXX be given a ballot title upon the official ballot as follows:

"Shall Sections XXIX and XXX of the city charter be amended that officers elected at the time of the taking effect of this amendment shall hold office until the next general election; and that the next general election be held on the first Monday in April, 1917, and bi-ennially thereafter, and repealing all acts and parts of acts in conflict with said amendment.

X Yes.
X No.

That the City Recorder is hereby required and authorized to prepare the proposed amendments to the charter, and cause the same to be printed and mail a copy of said amendments to each of the legal voters of the City of St. Johns, as provided by ordinance No. 214 of said city.

Passed by the council this 9th day of March, 1915.

Approved by the Mayor of the city of St. Johns this 10th day of March, 1915.

A. W. VINCENT, Mayor.
Attest: A. E. DUNSMORE, Recorder.
Published in the St. Johns Review March 12, 1915.

Proposals for Street Work

Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Recorder of the City of St. Johns until March 16, 1915, at 8 o'clock p. m., for the improvement of Oswego street, from the North line of Columbia boulevard to the South line of Smith Ave. in the manner provided by Ordinance No. 642, subject to the provisions of the Charter and Ordinances of the City of St. Johns, and estimate of the city engineer, on file.

Engineer's estimate is \$3,050.38.

Bids must be strictly in accordance with printed blanks, which will be furnished on application at the office of the Recorder of the City of St. Johns. And said improvement must be completed on or before 60 days from the date of the last publication of this notice.

No proposals or bids will be considered unless accompanied by a certified check payable to the order of the Mayor of the City of St. Johns certified by a responsible bank for an amount equal to ten per cent of the aggregate proposal.

The right to reject any and all bids is hereby reserved.

By order of the City Council,
A. E. DUNSMORE, Recorder.

Published in the St. Johns Review on February 26, March 5 and 12, 1915.

Mr. S. R. Carrick, President of the Portland Union of Christian Endeavors, will speak to the Endeavors of the Congregational church, Sunday evening March 14. On the same evening Mr. Bushnell of Pacific University will give a stereopticon lecture. Special music. Every one welcome.

Note the label on your paper.