

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, Woolen mills, iron works, Stove works, asbestos factory, Ship building plant, 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

VOL. 11

ST. JOHNS, OREGON, FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 1915.

NO 19

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Is second in number of industries. Is seventh in population. Cars to Portland every 16 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. A petition for an arc light at the corner of Zeigler and Swenson streets was referred to the water and light committee.

J. C. Trenik asked for permission to erect a large sign in front of his saloon on Philadelphia street, and the matter was referred to the street committee with power to grant such permission.

The following bids were received on the improvement of Oswego street between Smith avenue and Columbia boulevard: Majeske, Martin & Oswald, \$2,711.18; V. W. Mason, \$2,831.94; Cochran-Nutting & Co., \$2,557.79; Hahn & Rebm, \$2,861.20. The bid of Cochran-Nutting & Co. being the lowest, they were awarded the contract.

A fire hydrant was ordered installed at the corner of Hayes and Reno streets.

The chairman of the street committee was directed to request the Water Company to install three hydrants on St. Johns avenue as soon as possible.

The city attorney was directed to prepare a resolution providing for the sidewalk of Hayes street between Philadelphia and Catlin streets.

A resolution providing for the sidewalk of Ivanhoe street between Philadelphia and Catlin streets was read and then held over to amend so as to embrace sidewalk across Catlin street.

Ordinances referring the censorship ordinance and the purchase of the local water plant and improvements to the voters at the April election were passed, as was also an ordinance appointing election boards to preside thereat.

Monday, April 5th, was designated as Cleanup Day in St. Johns, on motion of Councilman Garlick, and a notice to citizens to place rubbish on the curbs in readiness for removal on that day was ordered published in the local paper.

Upon request of the school board it was decided that the city attorney draft an ordinance providing for the vacation of Kellogg street between John and Charleston streets, the school board desiring to construct outdoor apparatus thereon for use of pupils.

The city engineer stated that wooden block pavement would cost from \$2.80 to \$3.25 per yard. This price being deemed prohibitive, the improvement of Pittsburg street, as requested by the Commercial club, will likely be undertaken with concrete paving instead of wooden blocks, as contemplated.

Conditions Are Fierce

How about the good people who were so anxious about a year ago to annex themselves to the city of Portland. Are they reaping all the blessings they anticipated? The only blessings that have come our way yet are some street improvements this winter. The county did that. And improved street lighting. Mrs. Bright did that and the commissioners offer to let her pay for it. And quite a number of substantial buildings, and we have ourselves to thank for that. About the only thing the city has done so far to help Lents is to relieve the people of cash. That will probably assist materially in the prevention of extravagant living, overeating, and wasteful luxuries. We get a notice every week or so calling our attention to some new license, an additional tax levy, etc., that reminds us that we are subject to the powers that be. Every little while we are informed that some one has been planning to close up our street, cut down our trees, open up a new street, do some grading at your expense for some other fellow's benefit. In fact, living in the city is little less than Sherman's definition of war. But then we get our water so much cheaper—save about \$3 per year on that.—Beaver State Herald, Lents, Oregon, January 2, 1914.

More Truth Than Poetry

Yesterday I got in a jitney With a woman From St. Johns And she talked about merger And wanted to know If it would be better To merge or not Said she had heard That if we did merge We would get Water from Bull Run And she wondered If it would be too warm In the summer time And take much ice To make it fit to drink And was afraid The supply would be short Said she had heard Friends on the Peninsula Make much complaint About the warm water And lack of water In the summer time And they had to set it In the shade to cool Then she wanted to know Could we keep our police Or only have one And would arc lights Be removed and And would arc lights Be removed and Leave our town dark Said she had heard The depot would go At East St. Johns She wanted to know If the report was true That the fire truck would go To University Park Thought it a shame That parents would have To buy new books For their kids at school That she did not like To see the city hall Be entirely vacated Said she had heard That the city dock Would be given To a Railroad Company Because she said It was built from Railroad plans Said she had a cow And wanted to know If she could tie it to A stake in a field As she could now And then she said That she could not see That we would be Any better off by merging That she always believed In letting well enough Be as it is and That a change might Be much worse That she had heard Many Portland people say For goodness sake stay out Then she said that She wanted to get off At Stark street And would I see And wasn't carried by And I did Believe me I helped her off There is one thing About the jitneys They're so intimate.]

What Lents Has Gotten

One of the most unpopular things to befall our suburb is the decision of the city commissioners, expressed through Mr. Daly, that the city would not assume obligations due on support of street lights from July to November of last year amounting to over \$900. The city of Portland collected a city tax from this district this year; it began collecting licenses and fees for permits promptly, collected from the date of going into the city. For this we have received a paltry police service, fifteen dollars a month to the support of our local volunteer fire department, a mile of refuse water pipe, laid on Gilbert avenue merely to give employment to otherwise idle workmen, and about the same amount of good pipe laid on Main street and Mt. Scott avenue. We have been supplied with some second hand hydrants and a lot of old hose that barely stands the gravity pressure, stuff absolutely useless in any other part of the city. And a few public spirited citizens who backed the welfare of the district are now informed that they must meet the delinquency named. If it was right for the city to assume the payment in November why was it not equally as proper for the city to assume the obligation the date this section became a part of the city? —Lents Herald, February, 1914.

A few special deals on Graphophones. It will pay you to look into them if you are at all interested. You cannot equal these prices elsewhere. Terms to suit at the St. Johns Pharmacy.

WATER RATES

Highest Court Says Exclusive Franchises Hold

Editor Review: As an argument to support the wisdom, on the part of St. Johns, of merging with Portland it has been noised about by the mergerites that soon after the merger is effected the city of Portland will be in position to extend its water mains into the territory now constituting St. Johns and to give the people thereof the benefit of the lower rates as they now prevail in Portland. It is said that this might be done (in the event of merger) by the city of Portland in the near future without condemning the plant and property of the St. Johns Water Company. That is to say, the mergerites would have the voters of St. Johns believe that in the matter of supplying water Portland could provide this territory with Bull Run water in competition with the St. Johns Water Company and, by thus underselling the latter, virtually put it out of business. Even our good friend Lewis has taken this position and so declared himself.

If this argument is taken seriously by any considerable number of the voters of St. Johns, the humble writer believes that the people should be disillusioned in that respect. An inspection of the St. Johns Water Company's franchise will disclose the fact that said franchise is exclusive till April, 1919. As every lawyer knows the Federal Constitution prohibits the enactment of legislation impairing the obligation of contracts and a franchise is a contract within the meaning of that prohibition. The United States Supreme Court has held that a city ordinance providing municipal competition against the owner of an exclusive franchise is void as being legislation impairing the obligation of a contract. In 1906 the United States Supreme Court rendered this decision in the case of Vicksburg vs. The Vicksburg Waterworks Company, 202 U. S. 453. The franchise in that case was exclusive for its entire life and the Court said that during the life of it the city could not maintain a competing municipal system. The court decided that the city had the power to thus exclude itself and by using the term "exclusive" it had thereby excluded itself from competing with the grantee of the franchise. There is nothing in the case which distinguishes it from the facts in regard to the St. Johns franchise, in fact the case is "on all fours" with the St. Johns matter, with the single exception that the latter franchise is exclusive for only the first 15 years (till April, 1919). So, before that time there could be no competition from Portland in the matter of water supply unless by condemning the plant and purchasing the privileges and property of the Company, and of course that would not be competition.

In view of the law as settled by the U. S. Supreme Court the writer is unable to understand how merger at this time can possibly be, in good faith, urged as offering any relief from present water rates. In the event of merger the situation in this respect would be just the same for the next four years as it is now. And as for municipal ownership, the city of St. Johns is in just as good a position to take over the plant as would be the city of Portland. In the meantime the Railway Commission is the only tribunal with power to regulate the rates. We all know what the Commission said upon this point last year. The writer holds no brief for the Water Company, but he is strong for the preservation of the autonomy of the city of St. Johns and can not refrain from observing that the Hon. D. C. and his associates must be hard pressed for argument when he is forced to drag out the poor, old hackneyed water question as a delicious bait for the uninformed to nibble at. Merger at this time would have about as much effect upon the price of water as the war in Europe.—Howard O. Rogers.

Wanted—Several responsible boarders in a nice quiet home, handy to car line, use of piano. All home privileges.—402 E. Mohawk street, St. Johns.

A Momentous Question

Editor Review: I should like a few lines of your valuable space, in which to offer the public a few of my views on the merger question, which is now being discussed pro and con by almost every citizen of our little city. This is as it should be, as it is a matter of vital interest, not only to those of us who are today on the field of action, for upon the results of our votes on this question on April 5, 1915, rests the weal or woe of the destiny of those who follow us. There is a grave responsibility resting on our shoulders, hence would it not be better for all concerned to lay aside all bickering and strife, personal ambition, selfish interest and temporary emoluments, looking only forward to this end, the greatest good for the greatest numbers. With this thought uppermost in our minds, let us look squarely in the face of a few of the benefits to be derived by merging and some of the things we lose by merging—first we would lose our identity as a municipal corporation that carries with it loss of local self government so far as St. Johns goes. In losing this, however, we would gain by becoming an integral part of a greater municipality. One that is known through all the civilized world, as one of the great seaport cities of the world thereby giving us a commercial standing such as we never could hope to attain if we choose to remain as we are. No one can deny that this is not a commercial age. It has been growing on us rapidly in the past forty years as a nation. We as individuals feel its stimulating influences during us to greater efforts, for greater results, and this can only be accomplished by a united effort. The brightest and most capable financiers of our age are firm believers in consolidation of capital and its management under fewer heads. We might say Centralization today is the business world's motto, and is this not a business proposition? So it seems to me. Every one believes in union there is strength. This being true, then this is the only inference to be drawn, that in greater unions there must be greater strength and likewise greater opportunity for those who are integral parts of this union. No one denies that Portland is not a great city. Its record of growth is an open book. My first visit to this city in 1890—I found perhaps 4,000 inhabitants. Now in the neighborhood of 250,000. There must be a reason for its growth. It is a simple question to answer. Merely by annexing adjacent territory. Sometimes one tells us to look what they did to other annexed territory and we will see what Portland will do to us. I will only cite Montavilla as an example. Before annexation she had 1200 inhabitants in annexed district. Now has about 12,000. With abundant supply of Bull Run water, sewer, light, good streets, fire and police protection, as good as any part of the city. Have they gained anything? Lents also was annexed about two years ago. Her population has not increased very little more than the normal increase would be in a healthy neighborhood. They also have an abundant supply of Bull Run water, police protection, electric lights—this would seem a good start in the right direction and that Portland had done well by her. Are all these people satisfied? You might ask are all satisfied with conditions in St. Johns? The little word no answers both questions.

Personally I am for a greater Portland.—W. A. Carroll.

W. A. Carroll states that Portland got her population by annexation of territory. St. Johns got most of hers through new residents. The city of St. Johns increased her population by more than ten times while Portland increased hers less than three times in the past fifteen years. And the other districts Mr. Carroll mentions seems to have gotten only those things which St. Johns already has in greater measure. It is true that in unity there is strength, so why not unite in making St. Johns a better and even more progressive city? We now enjoy all the benefits that Portland could possibly give us were we a part thereof, and we reserve to ourselves a power of government equal to Portland's. Surely one should prefer to be

Give the Women a Chance

Editor Review: I have been reading with much interest the different articles published in your valuable paper by merger and anti-merger citizens, and have noted with regret that none of the women voters have so far taken advantage of your kind offer to publish all articles on this important subject. Now it seems to me that the women should be as much interested in this subject as the men, and express their views just as freely. The remark has been made several times in my hearing that Portland is discriminating against St. Johns and holding back the wheels of progress here because we are not a part of Portland. To me this, by courtesy called, argument is sheer nonsense. From what I can see, there are only two things that are preventing us from becoming a great city without any aid from the city of Portland and in spite of any unjust discrimination on her part, the existence of which I have grave doubts. Briefly these two above mentioned "spokes" in the wheels of our progress are: First, the outrageous prices asked for water front property, while other cities offer reputable industries free factory sites and often a bonus for locating, and last, but by no means least, the lack of cooperation on the part of the people of St. Johns.

I offer the following as a solution of the industrial situation, as it seems to exist: That this city bond itself in the sum of \$100,000 with which to purchase one hundred acres of land. This land to be cut up into 5 acre tracts or less and offered to manufacturing firms for use so long as the plant is kept in operation at a rental of interest only. Which would be a very nominal sum. Thus sites for many industries, employing hundreds of men would be provided at little or no burden to the taxpayers of St. Johns and would prove greatly to their benefit.

As to the lack of cooperation on the part of our people here, if they would all unite their forces and pull together for a greater, better and more beautiful St. Johns, there is no limit to the wonders we could perform here. I make a most earnest appeal to the broadminded thinking women of St. Johns to rise up, and if our men folk are so weak-kneed and spineless that they can no longer govern themselves, let them turn over the city government to us for a period of two years and we will set our woman's wit, ingenuity and native ability to work and prove to them that with the right spirit and cooperation at work, we can forge ahead at a rapid pace even if all of the city of Portland be against us (which they are not). Let our ambition be—St. Johns the best and most prosperous city of the Northwest—and not St. Johns the slums of the City of Portland.—A Woman Voter.

Parent-Teachers Notes The Central-East School Parent-Teacher Circle is arranging to have the Finley Motion pictures shown here in Multnomah Theatre. The pictures are of birds, fish and animals found in Oregon and are very interesting and instructive. A very entertaining program was given in Central School Thursday at the regular monthly meeting of the Parent-Teachers association. The next regular meeting will be held in the First Trust and Savings Bank building, East St. Johns, April 8th, at 3 o'clock. On the evening of March 24th at 8 p. m. in the Central school, the regular evening meeting of the Parent-Teachers' Association will be held. Miss Alice Joyce one of the Portland teachers who was in Europe last year will give an illustrated lecture using pictures which she took during her trip. A most delightful treat is in store for those who attend this meeting. This meeting is open to all, no admittance being charged. known as a citizen of St. Johns, the Gateway to the Portland harbor, rather than resident of the North end of Portland.—Ed.

"Watches" made over into "Time-pieces" at reasonable rates at Rogers', 309 N. Jersey street.

Erroneous Opinions

In an open meeting held in the library last Monday evening by the Merger Club, the water situation proofs and conclusions were put to the acid test and the following authorities were in evidence:

First—Supreme Court decisions on exclusive franchises. Second—Opinion of the City Attorney of the City of Portland. Third—Opinion of the Chairman of the Judiciary Oregon State Senate, Languth, who is a corporation lawyer of repute. Last two items were letters addressed to officials of the Merger Club and all to the effect that the Portland Municipal Water Company HAS THE RIGHT to lay water mains in the City of St. Johns when we merge and become a part of the City of Portland, regardless of the St. Johns Water Company's franchise. The Club also presented to the hearers a letter from the head of the Portland water department, defining the policy of the City of Portland on the water question, in case we see fit to merge and become a part of the City of Portland, which was in the effect that there can be no discrimination as to water rates anywhere inside the limits of the City of Portland, and referred us to the fact that every suburb within the City that had merged are now enjoying the Portland water rate at the present time. It would seem that the policy of the City of Portland was being carried out exactly in accordance with the decisions above mentioned. This same letter states that when it is possible to buy out the local water company at a reasonable price, and the equipment is suitable, it has been done, but it is no bar to extending the Bull Run water in case of a failure to purchase and also no bar to instituting the Portland water rate when they go in.

The authorities we hold on this question should be sufficient to lame that wail of the 14 years yet to run exclusive franchise argument to the extent that it would be a shame to attempt it. Dr. Wm. Deveny, a property owner in St. Johns and a resident of Montavilla, was present and was asked to tell his views on how Montavilla fared when they merged into the City of Portland. He stated that when the Montavilla district went into Portland they numbered about 1200 population and that at the present time the population of that district was more than 15,000, and that they were enjoying the Portland water rates and also had lights and hydrants galore, also the 35c base fire insurance rates against our 45c. Something made Montavilla grow; wonder if it could have been good conditions? Anyway, they have the good conditions and got us backed off the earth on that score. Mr. Carroll also carried into the club evidence of 50 residents of Lents showing that Portland raised the number of hydrants from a little lone some two to about 80 and also gave them something like 75 arc lights and a water system with Portland water rates all in two years. Now this is another illustration of Portland policy as to how it treats its suburbs that merge and become a part of the city. St. Johns being the best and most important of them all, must we believe that they would discriminate against us? We don't think so. On the contrary, we are urged by big men in authority, members of the Commercial Club and others, to merge so that they can do something for us. A vote No on the merging into Portland is to refuse such offers, and we reiterate too, that to vote No means that you are satisfied to pay the present water rates, that you don't want any reduction in your city taxes, and right here let me state that the City Dock bonds will have to be paid for and it is time to levy for a sinking fund to do it. That has never been done before. There is a note in the bank with the City's autograph on it for \$5,500.00 for Cooperage road to reckon with, and it is not a part of the city levy this year. We are going to lose \$4,800.00 next year saloon license; that you will have to make up. It is going to be interesting in the future on city taxes. Don't you overlook that. We have got to use the 10 mill limit from now on. The levy of 8 mills this year for city taxes will not carry us through the year.

Let's be progressive and take the advantage of the opportunity

Let's be progressive and take the advantage of the opportunity

A Ridiculous Statement

The ridiculous statement is being made on the streets by mergerites that \$11,000 have been borrowed from the city's sinking fund to make up deficits in the general fund. This might be good argument were it not for the fact that it never happened. In fact not one cent has been transferred from that fund to the general fund, at least in recent years. If any one says different, ask him to take you to the city hall and prove it to you, and see how quickly he finds an excuse for not doing so. He cannot do it, and he knows it is all hot air. The financial condition of the city is in better shape than it has been in years. All the old lingering indebtedness has been cleared away, and bills are being paid promptly. The new tax money is just coming in, and the city will find no difficulty in making both ends meet for the year, in spite of reports to the contrary. Can the same be said of Portland?

offered us by annexing and being a part of the Great City of Portland.—W. H. King.

The above might be very convincing were it not for the following facts: That the highest court in the land has ruled against competition where exclusive franchises are given, the case being cited in this issue by Attorney Howard O. Rogers, who has made a special study of franchises; that Montavilla does not have 15,000 population. Hammond's New Era Atlas of the World, 1910 census, gives the population of Montavilla 720, and as to true conditions at Lents read extracts from the Lents Herald published elsewhere in this issue; that the dock bonds do not have to be paid for for many years, and even then may be reissued; that there is no note in any bank with the city's autograph thereon for any amount, although the street warrants have been taken care of until the new tax money is received; that the Cooperage roadway WAS included in the levy budget; that while St. Johns will lose \$4800 in saloon license that Portland will lose in the same manner, and much more proportionately. There is far more danger of the tax levy in Portland being ten mills than in St. Johns next year, and that there is much more danger of Portland's money running short before the year is out than in St. Johns, as the daily papers state that the Commissioners in Portland are already becoming alarmed about the state of that city's finances. A recent issue of the Telegram states:

Because there are indications that the collections of taxes and receipts from licenses will fall far below the estimates for the present year, the Mayor and other City Commissioners yesterday afternoon determined to adopt a conservative policy in the expenditure of funds, although they are authorized in the annual budget. Commissioner Bigelow, of the Department of Finance, informed the Council that as a result of recent legislation in Salem regulating pawnbrokers and other callings from which licenses have been collected in the past, several thousand dollars would be lost to the city treasury, and that the tax collections are unusually slow. "If we do not go slow we will find ourselves in serious trouble," he said.

Let us grow by keeping away from the enormous and rapidly increasing indebtedness of the "Great City of Portland."—Ed.

Thirty-four and one-half acres of very choice land, two and one-fourth miles from Sheridan, Oregon, one-fourth mile from school, all creek bottom but four or five acres, twenty-five acres in cultivation, fine water at home, running water on place the year round, some wood, enough for several years, five room house, barn, five chicken houses, grainary, wood shed, young orchard about forty trees, first apples last year, price \$160.00 an acre. Will take \$2,500 in unincumbered St. Johns or Portland property, some cash and give good terms on balance. A SNAP. For further particulars, see Dr. W. J. Gilstrap, First National Bank Bldg., St. Johns, Oregon. For accurately fitting glasses, see Dr. Gilstrap.