

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 26 1915.

NO 20

St. Johns is Calling You

Is second in number of industries.
Is seventh in population.
Cars to Portland every 16 mins.
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 the cement sidewalk of Ivanhoe street between Burlington and Richmond street was received, and the city attorney directed to draft a resolution directing the engineer to prepare the necessary data for such improvement. A remonstrance against this improvement by Milton E. Kohn was received, but as it was too early for remonstrances, no action was taken.

A petition for an arc light at the corner of Newton and Olympia streets was referred to the water and light committee, and was also the request of the Barnes-Lindley Company for a hydrant near their cross arms factory in East St. Johns.

I. B. Martin was granted permission to break the curb and construct a driveway to his property on Buchanan street.

The following bids were received for the improvement of Swenson street between Myers and Oswego streets: V. W. Mason, \$3130.64; Cochran-Nutting Co., \$3610.42; Andrew & Harter, \$3284.17; Hahn & Rebman, \$4,438.57; Majeske, Martin & Osborn, \$3507.76. The bid of V. W. Mason being the lowest he was awarded the contract.

Upon motion of Councilman Davis it was decided to improve Catlin street between Central avenue and Willamette boulevard by sidewalk and grade, and a resolution to such effect was ordered drafted.

The improvement of Macram avenue between the city limits and O. W. R. & N. right of way was accepted.

A resolution providing for the sidewalk of Ivanhoe street between Philadelphia and Catlin streets was adopted, as was also a resolution for the sidewalk of Hayes street between Philadelphia and Catlin streets.

An ordinance authorized the city recorder to draw \$2500 from the street bond sinking fund to the street bond interest fund, owing to the fact that interest in payable semi-yearly and street payments are made annually.

The plans and specifications for the sidewalk of Chicago street between Willamette boulevard and Smith avenue were accepted and a resolution providing for such improvement ordered drawn.

Figure "Juggling"

Our esteemed friend, D. C. Lewis, has made the statement several times that the Review, while not intentionally diverging from the truth, yet juggles figures somewhat fearfully. The trouble is we do not juggle them in the manner Mr. Lewis would desire. He states that he would personally save ten dollars per year in taxes this year were the Portland mill rate in force here, and also \$15 on water, so we will juggle a few more figures for him. The difference in the mill rate total of Portland and St. Johns is 1-24 more in the latter place. Mr. Lewis property is assessed at \$1400, and his taxes this year are \$33.74. Now 1-24 of \$33.74 is about \$1.45, instead of \$10, as he avers. Again he pays \$1.65 per month for water, and by the installation of a meter could probably get it for \$1.40. Deducting the Portland rate from this, it would take a marvelous lot of juggling to show a saving of \$15 per annum. He also stated that St. Johns' folks must pay a tuition of some magnitude to enter the trade schools of Portland. We can name five different persons within our knowledge living in St. Johns who have and some of them are now attending trade schools of Portland without paying one cent of tuition, nor has any been asked for. The names of the pupils will be furnished upon request, and would be published were we aware that they had no objection to their names appearing publicly. As a matter of fact any one can enter these trade schools from St. Johns without cost.

Convincing Arguments

A public meeting well attended was held by those who believe in having a little kite of their own instead of being the tail piece of some other kite—in other words, the Anti-Mergerites—in the high school auditorium, Monday night, C. C. Curran, the well known pharmacist, presided as chairman of the meeting. The first speaker was Mayor A. W. Vincent, who told how much easier it is for the people of St. Johns to get things needed through local government than to try and secure it through a commission form of government. He also told how the school children of Portsmouth were refused admission to the schools there unless vaccinated, and how different it was here. He said he was strongly opposed to merging at present.

K. C. Couch followed with most convincing statements, in which he stated that St. Johns had more arc lights and more fire hydrants than there are in the entire territory between St. Johns limits and Piedmont; that the local city government always improved all streets that the property owners desired to have improved, that arc lights and fire hydrants were placed where they were needed. He took Mr. Lewis down the line where he stated that that gentleman was most active in having the wages of school teachers raised and at the same time worked just as actively in compelling parents to purchase school books instead of having them provided free; that many parents would have been unable to purchase school books for their children the past year, and that free text books was the only way in which they could have their children attend school. He was authorized to make the statement made by the superintendent of the woolen mills to the effect that if a certain measure now being considered by the Portland authorities passed and this place merged with Portland that it would force the mills here out of business; that the company could as well have located in Portland as St. Johns, in fact removed a portion of its plant from Portland to St. Johns, and they liked it here best and are more than satisfied to stay out of Portland. He told how the Western Co. paper company would have been forced to pay \$500 for the installation of a meter from the Portland Water board, while it cost nothing in St. Johns, and that this plant would not, in all probability, have been built in this section, had this been part of Portland. He brought out the fact that St. Johns manufactures more goods than any other city in Oregon with the single exception of Portland. Mr. Curran, in introducing Mr. Couch, took occasion to state that Mr. Couch was a former legislator who sought to build up St. Johns rather than destroy it.

Attorney Howard O. Rogers, who has given more time to dealing with franchisees than any man in St. Johns, was the next speaker, and he proved conclusively from United States Supreme Court decisions that the franchise of the local water company would exclude all competition until April, 1919, when the exclusive franchise period expires. He also showed that the average difference in the mill rate of taxation between Portland and St. Johns for the past nine years was only 64-100 of one mill, or 64 cents on the \$1000 valuation in favor of Portland. He also showed from figures derived from Portland headquarters that the loss of saloon license in Portland next year would cause an increase in taxes of 1.25 to 1.45 mills, while in St. Johns it would not increase to exceed 1.25 mills. He effectually squelched Mr. Lewis' argument on the water franchise and taxation.

C. V. Zimmerman's closing address was a happy climax to the meeting. He poked fun at Mr. Lewis and the long-haired apostle that is his speaking companion, and showed the utter inconsistency of their contentions. Mr. Zimmerman is an orator of much ability, and he has a most pleasing and interesting delivery. His remarks were greeted with vociferous applause.

Sneed's Orchestra furnished excellent music in the auditorium, while Perrine's famous trombone band attracted much attention on the exterior.

The communication published below was written by the father of the editor, who has visited St. Johns several times, and has followed its course as closely as possible through the Review. The statements he makes concerning consolidation are very familiar to the editor as he passed through the experience also, and is the prime reason why we have so urgently opposed merging—we know just what it means.

Editor Review: I have been reading the Review for some years and see that the minds of your people are divided on the question as to whether or not the time has arrived when you are no longer able or fit to govern yourselves or as to whether or not it is now necessary to appoint trustees to govern you; to tell when, where and how to make improvements and charge the bill up to you; to look after your police, fire department and schools; levying and collecting taxes, etc., etc.

Fifteen years ago we had a nice little town on the west side of a river and on the east side, a town of about four times as many inhabitants. A majority of our people came to the conclusion that the people on the other side were wiser than we and therefore could govern us much better than we could, so we consolidated with the other town. The agitation for merging was done by two classes, and I think this is the case in your city—those who think they and they only are fit for office and therefore should have office but fail to convince the voters to believe as they do, and therefore, after election find they are short on votes, and the other class, those grouch people who cannot believe that their near neighbor can possibly do anything right unless the neighbor does just as they tell them to do.

Our battle for and against consolidation lasted about 17 years and if we could have found a cure for the grouch and had had offices enough to give all seekers an office, we could have held out 17 years longer before they could have mustered the majority for consolidation. Before consolidation, if we wanted improvements, we could make them just as we wanted them. We were then the whole governing power; now we are 3, there being four wards in the town. Each ward has three councilmen. Now, if we want improvements, we have to ask the other three wards and convince four of their councilmen that we are worthy and in need of them. But if we get them, we have to pay for the improvements because they will see to it that we don't get more than the taxes of our ward pays for and we have no right to ask more, neither have you. The difference—before, we bossed the job; now they boss us and the job also—but we pay for it the same as before.

The arguments used here for consolidation were similar to what I see they use out there: First—Less taxes. Now in 15 years the millage on the same assessment when we had our own little town, raised from 17 mills to 39 mills and if they will build the proposed High school building, it will be necessary to add 3 or 4 more mills.

Second—We were to get more industries. In the 15 years we got one and lost two and this one we got because we had the place to suit the parties and much cheaper land and not on account of consolidation.

Third—Real estate was to increase in value at a booming rate. This has not reached us yet—maybe it is on the way.

Fourth—Prestige. Living in a large town would bring that. We live in a large town but if that is a benefit or has been, I am too ignorant to realize it and am sure it brought no breakfast yet for any of us.

Fifth—Better government. The larger the city the better the government. But if we believe the newspapers printed in our large cities, they prove the fallacy of that argument. As a rule, in the large cities, you will find plenty of bonded indebtedness, high taxes, ring or boss rule, grafting and stealing, plenty of thieves, pick pockets, highway robbers and gunmen, murderers, drunkenness, hell holes or saloons, slums, immorality, houses of ill fame, soup houses, squalor, poverty and want. I don't mean to say that this is the condition in Portland because I don't know, but I do

Some Straight Facts

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Franchise Will Hold

Editor Review: Last week through your columns I explained to the voters of St. Johns the legal obstacles which would prevent the city of Portland from extending its system of water supply into the territory now constituting St. Johns, for four years to come, without purchasing the company's franchise and property. A week ago I sent the Hon. D. C. a long letter in which I cited that Vicksburg decision, quoted from it and told him to go read it. There is no way he can get around that mandate of the U. S. Supreme Court, and he very well knows it. That point is settled.

But in spite of this U. S. Supreme Court Decision our friend, the Hon. D. C., brazenly stands up on the street corner and tells the people that under the 1903 St. Johns charter the city had no power to grant an exclusive franchise and that therefore the franchise of Company can not be exclusive and so, he says, Portland could establish a competing water system out here right away without buying of the Company. He reads letters from city attorney La Roche and Arthur Langruth of Portland to the effect that exclusive franchises are no good unless the power to grant them is expressly delegated to the city in the Charter. Of course that is generally conceded to be the law and any lawyer in a "pot shoe" opinion, for which he got no fee, would say so. But conceding that such is the law, it has no application in the St.

say, as a rule, they do exist in the large cities and I say that, as a rule, such conditions do not exist in small towns or cities.

The officials of the other town told us before election how good and kind they would treat us if we came into their town by merging. After consolidation, I was elected one of the councilmen of the third ward. A question of paving streets costing \$60,000 came before the council. In our town paving streets is not done by petition but the council has entire control of paving and they pay for it out of the general fund, excepting the curbing which they charge to the abutting property owners. The 3 councilmen of the third ward agreed to the amount of paving they offered to do in the third ward, but asked for the right to say what streets should be paved. The councilmen of the other three wards refused us this and paved the street they wanted paved. One of the streets we wanted paved and needed it most is not paved yet, but there is only one mud hole in it now, but that covers the whole length and breadth of that street which we wanted paved. I simply tell you this to show you how it works after consolidation.

I have read your councilmen's proceedings for several years and I don't see how any official body could be more responsive to the wishes and needs of the people than they have been. If I were allowed to give you advice I would say, on account of the experience I had, don't merge but let well enough alone. Now, you can do as you please; make improvements all you want if you have the money to pay for it—after you merge, if you want anything changed or improvements made, you will have to go to Portland proper and beg for it. If the authorities feel like granting you your request, you will get it. Not likely they will give you any more improvements than the taxes you pay will pay for and they will do it the way it suits them. If you have to pay for it, why not keep your little city and not give it to Portland? Make your improvements yourself and make them just as you want them.

I see Mr. Cook and Mr. Lewis are very optimistic and tell you of a whole lot of good things which you will get if you merge. How do they know? Our people promised us the same things here, but we have waited 15 years and still they are not here. They promised us lower taxes, which are almost double now and will still go 3 or 4 mills higher if they go ahead with the High School building. I wonder why Mr. Lewis thought in necessary to protect the school teachers by law, if, as he says, you will lose nothing and gain so much. If home rule is good for Ireland, why is it not good for you, or if not, why not?—H. H. Markle, Clearfield, Pa.

How About It

One thing Mr. Lewis omits from his discussion in favor of merging, and that is his well known antipathy toward a commission form of government. He has written several articles in the past condemning this form of government in the most radical terms, and now he fails to tell us why we should reject a representative form and accept a non-representative form that he is so strongly and bitterly opposed to.

Johns matter gave the Legislature in 1905 gave St. Johns a new charter, Section 123 of which expressly validated all ordinances or attempted ordinances with rights and privileges thereto granted, which had theretofore been passed under the old charter of 1903. The St. Johns Waterworks franchise was thereby ratified and validated. And the Hon. D. C. knows this. If he don't, he had better find out before he goes around peddling half baked, pot shot opinions from lawyers who evidently have not been presented with the facts. Let him find the law himself, not practice "by ear."

We next come to a consideration of the question as to what Portland could or would do about purchasing the St. Johns system, in the event of merger. The franchise has 14 years to run. Under the terms of the Portland Charter its water system must be self supporting, it can not receive support from general taxation.

Its water fund is supported entirely from the sale of water and water bonds. Water bond interest and redemption, also cost of maintenance, extension and acquisition of water facilities must be paid out of the water fund and not otherwise. See sec. 227 of Portland Charter. In the event of merger, if Portland could be prevailed upon to undertake the acquisition of the St. Johns waterworks, how would the money be raised? By bond issue of course. We may assume that in this case it would take an issue of from \$100,000 to \$130,000 to buy the plant and the franchise (the Railway Commission said and judicially declared that the net physical valuation of the system on July 1, 1913, was \$89,500). Physical valuation plus franchise value would be the selling value of the system.

Section 227 of the Portland Charter prohibits the Council from acquiring or building water facilities into new districts unless the sale of water therein would be sufficient to produce 6 per cent on the amount invested in said facilities. If the sale of water in St. Johns now produces more than 6 per cent on the investment, why should not the City of St. Johns purchase the Water works and make the extra profit by either reducing the rates to the consumer or using the extra income for any municipal object it desires to? And if the sale of water is not sufficient to produce 6 per cent then the City of Portland, in the event of merger, would be prohibited from taking over the Water works. The City of St. Johns can solve its own water question and the people will have a chance to vote on municipal ownership at the coming election. It is not necessary for the people of St. Johns to surrender their municipal existence, their right to govern themselves in order to solve the water question. Even if St. Johns does merge with Portland it will be a good long time before the latter takes over the water system. The logical and economical thing for Portland to do would be to wait till 1919, in the event of merger, and then they would be in a position to threaten municipal competition and use that as a club to force an agreement on the price of the water system. And nine chances out of ten that is just what will happen. In the meantime we of St. Johns will keep on paying the same rates, in the event of merger, and will have thrown away the right to manage our own affairs, thus becoming a dead, servile suburb, a functionless appendix to a city in whose Council we would have absolutely no representation. If we once get into Portland we are there for keeps and we will be a "long time dead." What does the water question amount to as an argument for merging? Should we barter away our constitutional right of home rule for a hunk?—Howard O. Rogers.

HIGH SCHOOL

Incidents of High School Interestingly Told

The Teacher's Training Class has begun the review work in preparation for the June examinations. They have taken up the work with much enthusiasm, one evidence being the fact that the hours of meeting is at 8:15 in the morning. Because a number of the girls take cooking on Wednesday mornings, the class will meet only four days of the week.

Maggie Dickie is another welcome addition to those classified for post-graduate work this year. She has just closed a most successful term's teaching at Wapinitia.

Monday of last week the high school people had the delightful privilege of listening to an address by President Bushnell of Pacific University. His subject was "The Challenge of the 20th Century." He suggested with his hearers rests the solution of the vital problems of today and that in order intelligently to solve them, devoted preparation is necessary. Humorous stories told in illustrating various points of the theme were hugely appreciated by the boys and girls. James John will be glad to have Dr. Bushnell visit them again.

The basket ball season for James John High is closed, and every one concerned feels that it has been most successful. The boys playing Gresham, Escada, Franklin Trade School, Orient, Forest Grove, and Camas, won 6 games out of 12. The girls have added a second year of unbroken victory and may well lay claim to the championship of the Columbia and Willamette river valleys. During the year, they have played Hillsboro, Gresham, Franklin, Forest Grove, Orient, Park Place and Stevenson.

The two closing games of the season were played with Stevenson, Washington. The team of this Columbia river town had been undefeated for six years, and in search of other worlds to conquer sent a challenge to St. Johns. The first game, played on the J. J. floor on March 6th, resulted in the score of 34 to 7. The game was a good one, tho at no time was the result in doubt. Tho the Stevenson girls were quick, and good at basket shots, the home girls were quicker and shot baskets from any angle. The Stevenson coach referred the game throughout. On Saturday, March 13, the return game was played at Stevenson. The score was close, being finally 13 to 8. The James John coach held his team strictly to girls' rules and this made it difficult to accomplish anything for the Washington team played boys' rules with the sole exception of playing "within bounds." The fouls called on Stevenson's guarding would have been fouls even in a boys' game. Mr. White refereed the game.

The trip by boat was a most delightful way to end the season's work. Tho the wind was terrific it by no means kept the girls inside. To most of the girls the famous sights of the Columbia were new, and from the deck of the good ship Tohoma they pointed out to one another each new discovery of beauty. It was a great novelty to be pulled by cable over the Cascade rapids and lifted 10 or 12 feet going thru the Cascade locks. The speculations as to which were Indian chief faces and which papposes or squaws were many as they steamed past Cascade Lock. And as for the falls, the girls counted 43 which could be seen from the ship on both sides of the Columbia. On the return trip the sunshine added the last touch of enjoyment and made the team forget even the rough-housing of the side lines of the night before.

The Pacific University Glee Club of Forest Grove will appear in the High School auditorium Saturday, March 27th. The Club is composed of sixteen young college fellows and the students of the High School are looking forward to an evening of good entertainment. This Glee club comes to us highly recommended and we are certain that they will furnish us with an evening of good vocal and instrumental music, easily worth 25 cents, the price of admission. The club appears at the Y. M. C. A. of Portland on Friday the

Need a Stepmother?

Does St. Johns really need a Stepmother? What would you think of a boy, almost man-grown, who was too lazy and indolent to take care of himself, and because he had not prospered as well as he thought he should, he looks around for some one to adopt him, and clean him up and expects his new mother to untangle his hair and smooth out all the wrinkles and work all his problems out for him. And all he has to do is just to pay over his money, and be a good boy. Do you imagine for a minute that this new mother would take any more care of him than she does of her own legitimate children, like Kenton, University Park, Peninsula and Portsmouth, Arbor Lodge and several other small ones? We who have been here for the past seven to ten years well know that these children have been sadly neglected and have not fared nearly as well as this big lazy St. Johns who is more than half inclined to admit that he is not competent to manage his own business, and would almost throw himself away or do the equivalent, put himself under the care of a greedy and heartless Stepmother. Wouldn't it be much better for that big boy to go look into the Willamette or Columbia River, where it rolls smoothly along and get a glimpse of himself and stay long enough to collect his scattered senses and look at his own opportunities and if he still is too indolent and lazy to do things as he should he still has one more chance which to me is much better than a Stepmother. This is his own real flesh and blood mothers and sisters and aunts. I think he has really forgotten that he had such relatives who he must know have much more interest in him than any Stepmother, much more one who has so many of her own children so badly neglected as we all know. Stop! Look! Listen! Before you leap. An interested citizen who has no axe to grind.—S. W. Rogers.

26th and comes here the 27th. This entertainment is not being put on as a money making scheme but merely as a good, clean entertainment for the benefit of the High school students and the people of St. Johns, and we sincerely hope that every one will encourage the plan by coming out to the entertainment. Remember the date, Saturday, March 27.

Last Wednesday afternoon a meeting was called for those interested in tennis. Notwithstanding that several of the boys were at manual training and some of the girls at cooking, the attendance was large. A resolution was passed to the effect that no one not a member of the High School should be allowed the privilege of using the courts. Thursday afternoon some of the boys were given a period off to put the courts in condition. The backstops had to be mended, the grass scraped off, holes filled and the court rolled. One of the courts was put in shape Friday but the decree is that no one can play on either court until both are cleaned and ready for use.

The Hill grounds have been secured for baseball. Some of the national game enthusiasts put the grounds in condition last Saturday. The turn out for baseball indicates that a good team will be secured.

Next Saturday evening at 8 o'clock the Pacific University Glee Club will appear in the High School auditorium. The students of the High School are selling the tickets for the performance and judging from the sale up to the present a large audience will be present. The Glee Club has a reputation of being one of the best in the country which will assure good program. The club is composed of 16 young men from the Forest Grove school all talented singers. The admission is set at 15 cents and 25 cents. Don't fail to take in the Glee Club performance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I hereby announce myself as an independent candidate for the office of city treasurer to be voted for at the election to be held April 5th, 1915.—Mrs. J. M. Shaw.

For accurately fitting glasses, see Dr. Gilstrap.