

**THE ST. JOHNS REVIEW**  
A. W. MARKLE

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W. J. Peddicord, a former well known real estate man of St. Johns, but now located near University Park, has an extended article in this issue, wherein he extends a most urgent invitation to come into Portland and share their misery. St. Johns and University Park started out together upon pretty equal footing some ten years ago. University, however, cast its lot with Portland, while St. Johns decided to become independent and go it alone. Could a better object lesson be obtained anywhere? St. Johns, loosened from the yoke of Portland, sprang ahead with remarkable rapidity. Today it has miles of hard surfaced streets; University has little. St. Johns has 126 arc lights; University is said to have 25. St. Johns has four policemen; University has one or two. St. Johns has a free public library; University has none. St. Johns has a paid fire department and up-to-date truck; University has a hose cart and volunteer firemen. St. Johns has a high school building and four others; University has two school buildings. St. Johns has most of its streets improved; University has two or three. St. Johns has many industrial plants; University has yet to get hers. Such is the difference between being in Portland and being independent of its dominating and discriminating influences. Outside of a few clerks University furnishes no employment for its inhabitants and many of them come to St. Johns to earn a livelihood. University is a nice quiet place in which to live, where the sound of the hammer and the saw will not disturb one's peaceful rest, and where one can spend his declining years with no activity to disturb the serenity of his rosy-hued dreams. And yet Mr. Peddicord invites us to come in, and naturally receive a like treatment. No, thanks. It smacks too much of the story of the Spider and the Fly; or a case of sour grapes. Mr. Peddicord, makes capital of the old adage, "In unity there is strength." This is true in some cases, but University has discovered that Portland proper gets the strength and University gets the unity. The people there give all their strength in the way of taxes and get unity in return. St. Johns would rather keep what we have and get both the strength and the unity. Mr. Peddicord assures us that Portland would welcome us with open arms. There is not the slightest doubt in the world of that. It wants us, needs us—worse than it needs any one thing. It needs our taxes to flow into its coffers, it needs our territory so that it can deposit its sewerage at our back door, it needs the licenses it can extort from our citizens, it needs our unrivalled location, it needs us, yea every hour it needs us, and its rapidly depleting treasury is yawning for our contributions. Mr. Peddicord urges that in union there is reduction of cost of administration. Had he read last Friday's Telegram he would have noted that it cost the city of Portland \$7.30 per capita for salaries alone to conduct its administration, while in St. Johns a less cost per capita paid for running the whole city government. His proposition may be all right in theory, but it certainly is not borne out by facts. Mr. Peddicord in glorified terms praises the commission form of government. He should read an account in Sunday's Oregonian of the meeting held by 600 citizens in the North Branch Library last Saturday night, in which a committee was appointed to investigate ways and means of "securing a more competent and efficient administration of municipal affairs." And yet he wants us to come in and accept as our own this discredited administration of Portland. As to the sentimental reason, if he will look up the postoffice address of the people of St. Johns he will find that it is now St. Johns, Portland, Oregon, the same as University is now University, Portland, Oregon. Our postoffice address would not in the least be changed by merging. Until this city has a population of 10,000, when independent free mail delivery may be secured, the postoffice address is and shall remain, St. Johns, Portland, Oregon. Hence we have the same advantages of your churches, your libraries, your museums and your parks that the people of your city possess. We have all this, and yet we are FREE. You of University may boast of your city, but does the city boast of University Park? Are its visitors directed to University Park to view the great advantages secured through its union with



"Some days must be dark and dreary; into each life some rain must fall." Storms often come up suddenly. "Alas, how easily things go wrong." But it is a protection against most ills to have plenty of money in the bank. To have a bank account you must START one. WHO gets the money you earn?

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Portland? No. And the same would be true of St. Johns after it merged. Of course it would be nice if our fire truck was taken to University where it might serve the entire peninsula impartially, but really, Mr. Peddicord, we cannot accept your kind invitation. You may mean well, but then the proposition doesn't look good to us. So when our population has gotten as large as Brooklyn, we will consider the advisability of allowing your city to merge with St. Johns, but while we are too small to protect our rights and keep from being separated from our strength and left with the empty sack of unity, we will just remain plain St. Johns, will fight our own battles and claim our own victories. We have learned to look below the rosebud and find the thorn ever present.

The battle is almost over. One or two more short days and the die shall be cast. What the result will be no man can foretell. Shall we merge or shall we not merge? The Review has kept the faith, and made a good fight, and if the result shall show that the battle has been lost, we shall always remember that we did our best to avert what we believe to be the most disastrous step its people have ever taken. We have kept as near the facts as we could glean them in our limited time. If we have made misstatements it was only because our source of information was at fault. We have borne malice toward none, and have had and do now have the kindest feeling toward all. We have made the fight because we believed it to be right. If we have wounded the feelings of any we deeply regret it, but in a fight such as we have put up, it was a most difficult thing to avert treading on some one's toes. We have tried to keep the columns of the paper clean, and have rejected much that would have caused hard feelings, and it is probable that we have published things that we should not have published. Our opinions differ with others, but it is true of all men. And it is well that it is so, because if all were of one mind, the world would grow so monotonous that none would care to exist. Yet we have one common purpose in view—to do what we believe to be best for the grandest and most beautiful little city that has ever graced God's footstool. Opinions differing, each one is guided by the light that is given him. Therefore, no bitterness should be engendered. We shall be neighbors and friends still, whatever the result. "There is so much ill in the best of us, and so much good in the worst of us, that it becomes the best of us, that it speaks ill of any of us." So whatever the result shall be, let us all be good fellows still.

Much has been said during the past several weeks concerning the water question, and how merging would at once give us Bull Run water. Supposing that it would be possible to get Bull Run water right after merging (which we claim is impossible) would we want it? You housewives, would you want water that comes down through ten miles of pipe through the hot sands in the summer time, so that only by the use of ice could be made palatable? And then with the dead ends in St. Johns it would simply be almost undrinkable in the summer time. The St. Johns water is pumped from the bowels of the earth, and is filtered through the sands of the earth, which is the great-

est filterer known to mankind. It stands the highest test, and is pure, sweet and pleasant. In the summer time when the street cars stop there there is always a grand rush from the car to go to the hydrant at the Bank corner and get a cool drink of water. Not long ago a party selling screens to place over taps to catch any sediment in the water made the statement that Portland water contained four times the sediment contained in the St. Johns water. And it is natural that this should be, because Bull Run water is only surface water and the air is full of substances that drop into the water almost constantly. We do not desire to condemn the Bull Run water, for it is as good as surface water could be, and is healthful enough, but it is not, could not be, as free from foreign substances as the St. Johns water. It is true it is more soft. A lady told us last week of a washerwoman in Portland whose hands became so badly cracked from using it constantly that she had to come to St. Johns and work in harder water, and now her hands have become cured. Surely we do not want Bull Run water even if we could get it. Go to University Park in the summer time and try that water, and you will readily decide that you much prefer St. Johns water.

An article by Attorney Perry C. Stroud dealing with the water situation appears in this issue, in which he touches on several points. The legality part is convincingly answered by Judge Cleland and H. O. Rogers. Mr. Stroud assumes that the water plant, here is "wholly inadequate" and the prices are exorbitant. If this is true why did not the Railroad Commission so find, after being in full possession of the actual facts? He says it is inconceivable to him how Portland could allow one portion of its population to pay more for water than another. Albina wondered about that also, but nevertheless were compelled to pay a much higher rate for more than nine long years. In comparing the business houses with the water company in regard to competition he fails to consider one point, and that is, there would be no large business houses either in Portland or St. Johns if it were known that the city could put in a competing business house, sell below actual cost and make up deficits by bond issue, as is done in Portland on water. No business house could expect to compete with the city under such circumstances, nor can the water company. That is why this city gave exclusive franchise—that the company could be guaranteed of NO competition until it had gotten firmly established and on a paying basis at least, which time was considered fifteen years. The stockholders have received a share in the plant and in the business, the same as the stockholders do in any plant. To say that the water plant was built up by the proceeds of its patrons is true to a large extent. It is also true of any business. The Meier-Frank store was built from the profits of the business, and yet who shall say that the public should, therefore, be given title to their business? And they had a practical monopoly of the wholesale business of Portland for years. But these stores would undoubtedly never have been built had it been in the power of the city to establish municipal stores, run at a loss and make up the deficit from a tax on its citizens.



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**The Water Question**

Editor Review: During the past three years and especially during the past few weeks, I have heard many arguments relative to the exclusive franchise held by the St. Johns Water Company. Having tried the St. Johns Water Company's case on behalf of the City of St. Johns, and having been in this fight for some three years, I believe that I am competent to express an opinion.

I do not believe that the St. Johns Water Company has now, or ever did have, an exclusive franchise. Our Supreme Court has passed directly upon this question in the case of Parkhurst v. Capital City Railway Company, 23 Oregon 471, 32 Pac. 304. In this case the Supreme Court held that an exclusive franchise could not be granted by a municipal corporation unless the authority of the city to grant an exclusive franchise is clear; that no intendments would be indulged in to support an exclusive franchise. At the time of the granting of the original franchise to the St. Johns Water Company, the City of St. Johns was not given the authority to grant an exclusive, or in fact, any franchise. In none of the subsequent charters of the City, either legislative or initiative, can there be found one word empowering the City of St. Johns to grant to anybody an exclusive franchise for any purpose. I know it is contended that the 1905 legislative charter ratifies the exclusive franchise of the St. Johns Water Company, but this ratification is, to my mind, unconstitutional for the reason that the clause ratifying the same is not expressed in the title to the act, and further I do not believe that any Court would construe this as empowering the City to grant an exclusive franchise where all of the rest of the body of the act and charter are drawn to prevent exclusive franchises.

Much argument has been made upon the question of confiscation of the company's property. The mere fact that the St. Johns Water Company is open to competition, does not in fact mean that its property is confiscated any more than the property of any merchant or any other business man, is confiscated by his business rivals. There are hundreds of businesses in Portland and St. Johns that have an investment many times that of the St. Johns Water Company, and we do not hear them crying that their property is being confiscated for the mere reason that there are competitors in their line of business. I can see no reason why a monopoly, such as the St. Johns Water Company is at the present time, should be nursed by the public funds and especially since very little of this property was ever invested in by stockholders, but is in fact the accumulated profits of the business derived from an absolute monopoly.

**Regarding Trade Schools**

To the Editor: In your issue of the 26th you deny the correctness of my statements that children from St. Johns will have to pay \$135.00 to attend the Trades schools. My answer is the letter hereto handed you from the Secretary of the School board of Portland:

Portland, Oregon, March 16, 1915. Mr. D. C. Lewis, St. Johns, Oregon. Replying to yours of even date in reference to the use by pupils of St. Johns, of the School of Trades, will state that the board has provided that all pupils not resident within the city limits of Portland, will be permitted to attend the School of Trades upon payment of tuition, which is \$135.00 per year.

In case St. Johns becomes merged into the city of Portland pupils from St. Johns will be permitted free admission to the School of Trades, upon the same conditions as other pupils at present resident within the corporate limits of the city of Portland. Pupils in the School of Trades, living within the corporate limits of Portland, pay no tuition.

In reference to your question as to the observance by the school board of Portland, of conditions imposed upon property accepted by school districts afterwards merged into the city of Portland, will state that in every instance the school board has faithfully carried out all conditions, and observed all contracts made by the boards of districts afterwards merged into the city of Portland, the same as if made by themselves. Very truly,  
—R. H. Thomas, Clerk.

It seems to me that every person should be willing to aid in granting free tuition to all children who wish to learn a trade be the child a boy or girl and the way to do so is to annex to Portland.—D. C. Lewis.

By a close reading of the above it will be seen that pupils outside of Portland will be permitted to attend upon payment of the tuition. The clerk does not say

**ORDINANCE NO. 653**

**AN ORDINANCE VACATING THAT PORTION OF KELLOGG STREET LYING BETWEEN THE NORTHERLY SIDE LINE OF CHARLESTON STREET AND THE SOUTHERLY SIDE LINE OF JOHN STREET IN THE CITY OF ST. JOHNS, OREGON.**

Whereas, the aforesaid portion of Kellogg street lies between blocks seven and ten P. T. Smith's addition to the city of St. Johns, Oregon which blocks are the property of School district Number two and which blocks together with that portion of Kellogg street between Charleston street and John street are used for public school purposes and in order to provide the children with suitable grounds and apparatus for their physical development while in attendance in the school it is necessary that permanent structures be erected on the said grounds and especially on that portion of Kellogg Street between Charleston and John Streets and that the vacation of the said street is of public necessity; now therefore,

It is ordained by the City of St. Johns:

Section 1. That Kellogg street from the Northerly side line of Charleston street to the southerly side line of John street in the city of St. Johns be and the same is hereby vacated for the use and benefit of School district No. 2 and shall be and remain the property of the said School district No. 2 so long as the same shall be used and occupied for public school purposes, but at such time as the said street shall be abandoned for school purposes the same shall revert to the city of St. Johns and become a street.

Passed by the council this 30th day of March, 1915.  
Approved by the Mayor this 30th day of March, 1915.  
A. W. VINCENT, Mayor.  
Attest: A. E. DUNSMORE, Recorder.  
Published in the St. Johns Review, April 2, 1915.

that none outside of the city limits are permitted to attend the trade schools unless they pay the tuition. As a matter of fact there has never been any charge for St. Johns pupils, and while the tuition MAY be charged, it never is. Norman Nelson, Robert Carter, Irvin Gromachy and at least five others that we have knowledge of have been attending the schools without even being asked to pay tuition of any amount. Mr. Lewis is well aware of this, and we challenge him to produce one person in St. Johns who was refused permission to enter the trade schools of Portland unless the tuition was forthcoming, or one single individual in St. Johns who has ever paid \$135 tuition, or any part of that sum. He simply cannot do it, even though he brings out an obsolete provision of the rules through the clerk. Anyway if we want trade schools in St. Johns we can certainly secure them without merging.—Ed.

**RESOLUTION**

It is resolved by the City of St. Johns:

That it deems it expedient and necessary to improve Chicago street from the East line of Willamette Blvd. to the West Line of Smith Avenue in the City of St. Johns in the following manner to wit:

By grading said portion of street to grade or subgrade to be established and by laying a 6 foot cement walk and 12 foot curb on both sides of said street, with necessary Cement Crosswalk and Iron Gutters.

According to the plans and specifications of the city engineer on file in the office of the City Recorder relative thereto, which said plans and specifications and estimates are satisfactory and are hereby approved. Said improvements to be made in accordance with the charter and ordinances of the city of St. Johns, and under the supervision and direction of the city engineer.

That the cost of said improvement to be assessed as provided by the city charter upon the property especially and particularly benefited thereby, and which is hereby declared to be all of lots, parts of lots, blocks and parcels of land between the termini of such improvements abutting upon, adjacent or proximate to said street, from the marginal lines of said street back to the center of the block or blocks or tracts of land abutting thereon or proximate thereto.

That all the property included in said improvement district aforesaid is hereby declared to be "Local Improvement District No. 125."

That the city engineer's assessment of the probable total cost of said improvement of said street is \$4284.10.

That the cost of said street to be assessed against the property in said local assessment district as provided by the charter of the City of St. Johns.

Adopted by the council this 30th day of March, 1915.  
A. E. DUNSMORE, Recorder.  
Published in the St. Johns Review April 2, and April 9, 1915.

**NOTICE OF Proposed Assessment**

Notice is hereby given that apportionment of the cost of improvement of Macram Ave. from the southerly line of the City Limits to the O. W. R. & N. Eight of Way, total cost of which is \$2,538.42 has been apportioned and is on file in the office of the undersigned, subject to examination.

Assessment district extends back to the center of lots, blocks or tracts of land abutting on said street as provided by the city charter and resolutions.

Remonstrance against said apportionment may be made in writing and filed with the undersigned until 5 o'clock P. M. April 12th, 1915.  
A. E. DUNSMORE, Recorder.  
Published in the St. Johns Review March 26 and April 2, 1915.

**NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.**

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