

Would Be Welcome

Portland, Ore., March 10, 1915.
To the citizens of St. Johns: You are about to vote on the question of consolidating the City of Portland. That the step you contemplate taking is regarded generally as an important one in the history of municipal experiences needs no argument. The trouble, you yourselves have undergone puts that feature of the question beyond dispute. The great expense and trouble, the repeated efforts and the time consumed by other cities in taking this same step attests the fact of its grave importance for it touches mutually the municipal well being of the cities affected.

In considering mutual advantage of union I feel that I am warranted in predicting that, owing to the high order of your citizenship, your interest in education, in public libraries, in churches, in social advancement, in fraternity spirit—in fine, in all the things that tend to the betterment of mankind, so unlike foreign cities or the foreign quarters of some of our own—there are few, if any, of the citizens of the Rose City who will oppose your admission. The advantages that will accrue to us is evident. I shall, therefore, take them for granted. What then are some of the advantages for which you may look with reasonable assurance? It is my sincere conviction that you will be affected very favorably in most important civic advantages as well as in social, commercial, and even sentimental. As to civic advantages, it is only reasonable that for a given term of years your water system, your fire system, your lighting, police, street cleaning and sprinkling will be cheaper and better. Your school will be enlarged in their scope and your public libraries privileges increased.

"In Union there is strength," and through all the years that addage stands unimpeached. In union there is also reduction of cost of administration of civic affairs under well paid, experienced and competent management, especially since all departments have been taken out of politics practically and run on the modern plan of commission form of government.

Is anyone so foolish as to contend that, if the City of Portland with its 250,000 population were subdivided into fifty cities, each about the size of yours and of an entirely separate entity, each operating under its own charter, and officered by fifty different sets of men, from night watch to Mayor—is any one so foolish, I repeat, as to contend that these fifty separate governments could be or would be run with less expense and greater satisfaction than at present? I deem it a sufficient answer to say that of all the reform offered, no one has ever had the temerity to propose so absurd experiment, so far as I know. City government—how to make it satisfactory to the citizens and at the same time not burdensome—has long been regarded by writer on the subject as the most difficult phase of modern government presenting itself constantly to the American people, and the reforms thereof, that have been tried are legion; but to cut up a large city into a number of subdivisions for the purpose of rendering their several governments more satisfactorily and less burdensome, as you can cut a state into counties for the convenience of the people of the several sections made remote by natural barriers as well as distance, has never yet, I think, been even suggested by the most visionary. On the contrary, small cities are constantly and everywhere merging into larger, and by a law just as natural as that which causes drops of water in close proximity to flow together. Suburban towns merge into a large city until the city soon become the metropolis, Brooklyn tunneled and bridged and merged, though she was herself several times the size of Portland. Other large suburbs did like wise until today there are over three hundred sixty five square miles and some five millions of souls within the limit of the "Greater New York"—the most powerful, the most wealthy, the most industrial city on the American Continent. Our neighbors on the North of us are cheerfully expending five hundred thousand dollars, and we more than double that sum, in order that we may come near merging as possible. Everywhere this law is so well recognized that the burden of truth lies with him who denies its advantages.

As to social advantages, I need merely call your attention to the fact that the sooner every barrier of sectionalism is removed the better for all concerned. The cry of "No North, no South, no East, no West, has strongly tended to unify us and make us one people with the common cause of a great republic. So, let us merge and fraternize and know no Montavilla, no Mount Scott, no Lents, no St. Johns, except for convenient local des-

ignations, but just know ourselves and be known as plain citizens of one great city with a high resolve to aid all in our power to make the name of the Rose City better known throughout the world. Then there will be no petty jealousies and bitter rivalries as otherwise come for their reaping by our children some distant day. No sectionalism, then, but union and brotherhood, as well as "business" in this commercial age. It is the long suppressed cry of the spirit of fraternity, so natural to our better natures.

Again, I maintain that so simple a thing as swinging the boundary line of the great city of Portland around your municipality and including it forever after within her corporate limits is destined to be of almost incalculable advantage to you commercially. Today you have broad minded men to manage your cities affairs, but capital, ever wary, knows that tomorrow, as it were, a mercenary populace may put in office narrow men, men untrained to business affairs, hostile to capital and controlled by popular prejudice. Capital demands men and conditions more dependable. Big capital will never knowingly put itself at the mercy of little men; and it generally knows. Bad as they are at times, conditions are more stable in a large city. Remember large capital will in time control the affairs of a small city or it will not come to it. It is done at first in self-defense and later from—pardon the expression—"pure cussedness." For the former you cannot well blame it; from the latter you must prohibit it by debarring it altogether or by merging with a large city and making common cause with the oppressed masses in such cases. Do not, therefore, deceive yourselves by thinking large capital will ever invest among you without sinister motives; if so, it will be in a state of uncertainty and unrest so much of its time that you will not receive its full benefits and largest development.

I stated at the beginning of this letter that the advantages as I conceived them to be which will accrue to you by merging with the great, and soon to be greater, city of Portland, are not only civic, social and commercial, but sentimental. I know it may seem ridiculous to some to think there are those who believe in sentiment to the extent of its being an advantage in this and similar instances. These are some persons, however, are not infrequently most subject to its subtle influences. Tell them a promoter has come to your town from some obscure hamlet up in Maine and they will not listen to his proposition nearly so readily as if he came from the great city of Chicago. Tell those non-sentimentalists that a lecturer or teacher, or preacher comes to them from some obscure and hilly portion of "North Karline" and they will go to "scuff" even though they might have to "remain to pray." Publish the same talent from "Cultured Boston" and they will help to swell the audience "to standing room only." Sentiment, then, biases many people in their choice of location and not a little in their investments preferring, of course, some well advertised and favorably known locations. We are simply forced to recognize this fact, a fact that is universal and because of this regard for the sentimental which appeals to our pride and emotion from almost any angle of life. For the benefit of the more selfish I will also say, remember all these things in the sum total reflect values upon real estate.

Again, soon you will want the Commission form of government, and I trust it is a pardonable suggestion that you avail yourselves of Portland's experience instead of experimenting for yourselves. You are destined ere long to adopt that form of government now so popular or fall to the rear in this forward march of the modern city. A cross in the proper square on your ballot and your experimentation is a closed incident, and ever after you stand an equal show with the rest of us in the affairs of a Great City where we will labor together to keep the Rose City such that will continue an honor to be "second." It was once the proud boast of a Roman citizen that he was a citizen of Rome, so may it be yours in the future as it is ours today a proud boast that you are citizens of the far famed Rose city. Your children will then rise up and call you blessed.

In conclusion, let me say, I am not one of those who think that because others do not agree with me in their motives are therefore selfish. I think they can do so honestly and with just as altruistic motives. We have all had occasion to "change front" on some question or other in the past, and we know that we were just as sincere in the one attitude of mind as in the other. Let us then be charitable and frank and consider the important step now under advisement as to the best interest of all concerned throughout the

future as well as today, not allowing ourselves perturbed by a possible few ambitious Caesars, to whom history has long since ascribed the saying: "I would rather be first in a little Sibirian village than second in Rome."

However, those really ambitious persons with purely selfish aims are usually a negligible quantity, fortunately. I do not know one among you and I hope we have none among the citizens of Portland who would deny to you the many advantages of a large city by some selfish motive or ambition or petty spite in barring your admission.

Let us, then, elect to become one people, one citizenship in every noble sense. We desire not only to extend the glad hand of welcome to all the citizens of St. Johns, but we want our schools to be yours, our churches to be yours, our libraries and museums to be yours and the parks for ourselves and our children to be your parks for yourselves and your children; and more, we are waiting to give you the purest, sweetest cold water on earth to slake your thirst as it hastens daily down to your lips fresh from its crystal fountain beneath the eternal snows of far famed Hood. And in the language of the joyous, festive bather as he sportively buffets the billows of old ocean on a hot summer day: "Come in! the water's fine!" With great respect—W. J. Peddicord.

ment of said street is \$4,305.00. That the cost of said street 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 23rd day of March, 1915.
A. E. DUNSMORE, Recorder.
Published in the St. Johns Review March 26 and April 2, 1915.

NOTICE OF CITY ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Ordinance No. 651 an election will be held on Monday the 5th day of April, A. D. 1915, in the City of St. Johns, Oregon, for the following purposes to-wit: For the election of the following named officers for the ensuing year, viz: One Mayor, one City Recorder, one City Attorney, one City Treasurer, three Councilmen at Large, two Councilmen from the First Ward, two Councilmen from the Second Ward, in the manner provided by law and the Charter of the City of St. Johns.

And at said election there will be submitted to the qualified electors of said City for the approval or rejection the following propositions to-wit:

"Shall Section XXIX and XXX of the Charter of the City of St. Johns be amended, fixing the date of the next General Election to be held on the first Monday in April, 1917, and biennially thereafter and permitting all officers elected or holding office at the time of the taking effect of this amendment, to hold office for a period of two years or until their successors are elected and qualified?"

Shall the people of the City of St. Johns, incur a Municipal bonded indebtedness in the sum of One Hundred and Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$130,000.00) for the purchase and extension of the Water Plant of the St. Johns Water Works and Lighting Company?"

"That Ordinance No. 617, an Ordinance creating a board of Censorship, regulating shows, theatres, motion pictures, distribution of literature, bill boards and advertising matter, and fixing a penalty for the violating of this Ordinance, passed by the Council on the 8th day of September, 1914, be submitted to the legal voters for their approval or disapproval."

The following places have been designated as polling places for said election: First Ward—In the Lecture Room, at the Public Library. Second Ward—In the Council Chamber at the City Hall.

The polls will be open at nine (9) o'clock A. M., and will remain open until seven (7) o'clock P. M. of said day.

By order of the Council.
A. E. DUNSMORE, Recorder of the City of St. Johns.
Published in the St. Johns Review, March 19-26 and April 2.

RESOLUTION

It is resolved by the City of St. Johns: That it deems it expedient and necessary to improve North Hayes street from the center line of Philadelphia street to the center line of Catlin street 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 5 foot wood cross walk and catch basins.

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. 124."

That the city engineer's assessment of the probable total cost of said improvement of said street is \$4176.58.

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 23rd day of March, 1915.
A. E. DUNSMORE, Recorder.
Published in the St. Johns Review March 26, and April 2, 1915.

SUMMONS

In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Multnomah County. J. A. Locke, Plaintiff, vs. Jessie A. Locke, Defendant.

To Jessie A. Locke, Defendant: In the name of the State of Oregon, you are hereby required to appear and answer the complaint filed against you in the above entitled Court and cause within six weeks from the first publication of this summons, to-wit: On or before the 19th day of March, 1915, and if you fail to appear or answer, for want thereof, the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief as prayed for in this complaint, to-wit: For a decree dissolving the bonds of matrimony heretofore and now existing between plaintiff and defendant, and for such other and further relief as to the court may seem equitable.

This summons is made and published pursuant to an order of the Hon. Robert G. Morrow, presiding Judge of the above Court, signed and entered on the 17th day of March, 1915.

GEESLIN & SEVER, Attorneys for Plaintiff, 1026 Chamber of Commerce, Portland, Oregon.
Date of first publication March 19, 1915; date of last publication April 30, 1915.

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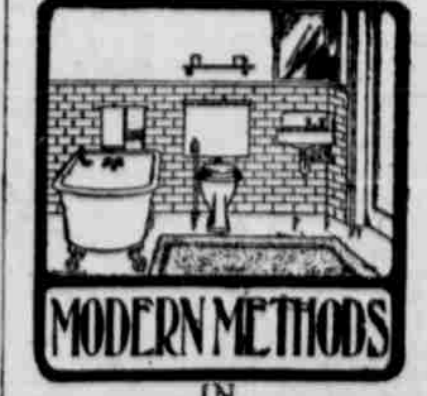
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