

# ST. JOHNS REVIEW

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## Letter From China

Miss Minnie Plasket has received the following interesting communication from her brother, Homer, now in China:

Marine Detachment, American Legation, Guard, Peking, China.—March, 3, 1919.

Dear Sister: Received your letter today, and shall answer immediately as it will be over a month before this reaches you. We are having very disagreeable weather. At this time of writing, a great sandstorm is blowing from the northwest. The atmosphere is so full of sand that it comes in thru the cracks and crevices of the building. The patients complain of it, and so does everybody else, for as a matter of fact, it keeps one busy with their handkerchiefs.

Well, as the blow is continuing, and am most likely to stay in, I shall relate my theatre experience the other evening. Left the compound about seven p. m., took a ricksha down Chienmen street, to Execution street, then from there to a broad avenue, where I found a Chinaman selling tickets. After looking at the bill board, all written in Chinese, my sympathy was surplus for any immigrant that ever breathed. But I would see the show after coming so far, so paid the requisite fee of fifty cents, big money. When I went in, the house was crowded, and the play was in full swing. There was some difficulty in finding a seat. However I found one, and commenced to feel real fortunate, until I discovered the occupants of my row had been eating garlic. On the back of the seats were shelves for teapots. Everybody drank tea, while watching the show. Even the actors would stop their singing while the stage property man, served them tea. The property man never left the scene of acting. He arranged chairs, blankets, or received umbrellas or other articles from the actors and piled them on the floor. The actors were dressed in gorgeous colored gowns. Had peculiar shaped wings fastened to their head and had their faces smeared with rose colored paint. One even came in wearing a big black beard. Well, since the language was Greek to me I can only tell what took place. The actors sang their part in a monologue with a screechy voice, while to the left, a Chinese fiddler capable of playing five different notes, was sawed in accompaniment to a pair of ebony bones, and a kettle drum. I did not stay long, for the actors were long winded, and the scene never changed.

Going out, I found a Chinaman with a tub and washboard washing hand towels. His assistant near him had an arm full of them that he had gathered from the audience. It was plain then that they went with the hot tea and were used as a face towel. Upon my return to the compound, I inquired about that towel proposition. I was informed that during the cold weather hot towels were thrown about the room, and the Marines frequently visited the shows to hold up their hands for towels, and then fall to catch them. Of course it's not in the laws of propriety, but the Chinese rather liked it. Anything will make them laugh. I believe a man of Bert Williams caliber could make them choke themselves.

Here is a Chinese joke. It was told in a show and interpreted as follows: When Confucius was magistrate of the city of Changtu, a disciple came to see him. Confucius asked him what he wanted. The disciple said he was hungry. Confucius asked then, why he didn't eat. The disciple replied that he had nothing to eat. It is said that the audience laughed for half an hour. Well, so much for theatre life in Peking.

The dust storm has quieted considerably, as I can see the sentry on Tartar wall. Shall close this time, and write later. As ever, your brother, Homer.

Card of Thanks—We desire to express our sincere thanks to the neighbors and friends and members of United Artisans for aid and sympathy during the illness and death of our beloved daughter, Mrs. Franc A. Glaub, and assure them their kindness will ever be gratefully remembered.—Mr. and Mrs. N. A. Gee and family.

The big ones don't get away when you have the right kind of fishing tackle. We sell the RIGHT kind. Currin Says So.

## Will Enlarge Plant

Grasping an opportunity for himself and three sons, Charles J. Farmer has determined to move from Seattle to Portland and be identified with the industrial future of this city. The Seattle business man and one of his sons, Fred C. Farmer, have taken a suite at Multnomah hotel, and as soon as a suitable residence can be found Mrs. Farmer and the two younger sons with their families will become located here permanently.

Mr. Farmer is one of the substantial business men of the Puget-sound metropolis, and previous to taking up his residence there, was active in banking, operating salmon canneries, trading companies and extension of telephone systems in the Olympic peninsula. Through John F. Daly, president of the Hibernia Savings bank, he was induced to look over the Portland field as a place for investment and residence.

Initial investments of Mr. Farmer in Portland include a large holding in the American Marine Iron works, at St. Johns, and the Thomas Engineering works on East Water street. His plans contemplate the expansion of the business of both institutions in the manufacture of valveless pumps, drag saws of various types for which a large demand exists, non leak piston rings and a design of a farm tractor which will be to the farmers of the country what the Ford automobile is in general highway transportation.

Edwin E. Thomas, president of the Thomas Engineering company, will be enabled, through the new alliance with the Farmers, to devote his time to perfecting his various devices which will be turned out in quantity at the enlarged plant of the American Marine Iron works.

One of the surprises Mr. Farmer intends springing soon is the manufacturing here of a meter for measuring the flow of oil from tanks to ships, trucks and storage plants. He has acquired world rights to make and sell this device which is said to have stood tests successfully over a period of several months.

"While retaining my business interests on the Olympic peninsula and at Seattle, I have moved to Portland solely in the interest of the welfare of my sons," said Mr. Farmer. They will stay together and build for the future with their father as the chief executive. The two younger boys are mechanically trained, Paul C. Farmer, having just been released from war service in France. The second son, H. N. Farmer, is manager of the Superior Trading company, operating a salmon and clam cannery, department store and transportation at the mouth of the Queets river.—Telegram.

## Of Public Interest

On Thursday night, May 8th, at 8:30 o'clock, the citizens of St. Johns and the Peninsula district will be given an opportunity of hearing two important subjects discussed. Mr. Alexander Thompson, our first and only woman member of the legislature, will speak on the matter of raising the teacher's salaries, which is a measure to be voted on May, 10th at a special county election. It is a subject worthy of serious consideration and will be intelligently and forcefully presented by Mrs. Thompson. Other speakers will discuss the plans for a new High School in St. Johns. This is a subject of local pride and interest and all will be anxious to hear about. The James John High School orchestra will provide music for the occasion as an evidence of their interest, as in community affairs. It is important that every citizen attend this meeting and inform themselves on these subjects and show an interest in the local affairs.

Does your present insurance give you sufficient protection in view of the increased cost of labor and materials? We write insurance that protects with prompt settlement in case of loss.—Peninsula Security Company.

For Sale—1915 Overland; electric lights, starter, power tire pump, shock absorbers, good tires and in good mechanical condition. Will demonstrate. Price \$375. Call evenings Columbia 962.

## Learned Valuable Lesson

The following was copied from an American Farm Journal and makes interesting reading:

Editor Farm Journal:

We farmers need awakened to the fact that we have unmistakably reached the period where we must think and plan. I am one of the slow farmers that had to be shown, and I am now giving my experience that others may profit, for knowledge at the school of experience is more expensive now than ten years ago.

Twenty-nine years ago I began my farm career. I had an old team and fifty dollars. Our furniture was mostly homemade chairs, cupboards and lounge from dry goods boxes, neatly covered by my girl wife. We rented eighty acres. Being a boy of good habits I got all needed machinery and groceries of our home merchants on credit, until fall crops were sold. The first year was a wet season and I didn't make enough to pay creditors. I went to each on date of promise and explained conditions, paying as much to each as possible, and they all carried the balance over another year. They continued to accommodate me until I was able to buy a forty acre place of my own. As soon as I owned these few acres the mail order houses began sending me catalogues, and gradually I began sending my loose change to them, letting my accounts stand in my home town, where I had gotten my accommodation when I needed it. We then had one of the thrickest little villages in the State—good line of business in all branches, merchants who were willing to help an honest fellow over a bad year, and a town full of people who came twice a week to trade and visit.

farmer has said that wants to buy. He buys a place near schools and churches, where his children can have advantages. I have awakened to the fact that in helping pull the town down it has cost me \$5,000 in nine years. Like the majority of farmers, I didn't figure far enough ahead.

This sort of business means the doing away with country towns. What will it mean to farmers to have only a few large cities at a distance of five hundred to a thousand miles?

What are we going to do with our children who are demanding

## St. Johns Reports Quota

Methodists Sunday schools all over the northwest are working tooth and nail to guarantee their quotas for the \$105,000,000 Methodist centenary drive which begins May 1. Sunday school pupils are being asked to contribute \$13,000,000, one-eighth of the total, on the basis of one penny per week member. Two hundred and seventy-seven Methodist Sunday schools in Oregon, Washington and northern Idaho have already forwarded to Methodist centenary headquarters at Portland their guarantee and pledge of their share of the \$2,600,000 of the northwest.

Following are the Sunday schools in the Portland District which have already reported their quotas to W. C. Wasser, Sunday school campaign leader, as already pledged: Mt. Tabor, Sellwood, Woodstock, Rose City Park, Linnton, Ore., Lincoln and West Moreland, Laurelwood, Central, Patton, Woodlawn, University Park, Portland; St. Johns, St. Helens, Ranier, Clatskanie, Astoria, Warrenton, Seaside.

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## City Hall Doings

City Auditor Funk has a list of properties which are vacant and is now available and is desirous to have all owners of lots who are willing to allow citizens to plant gardens on their property to send in their names and locations.

City Commissioner Mann, who has charge of the Municipal Water Bureau, has announced that free water will be furnished by the city for all victory gardens established on vacant property, but will not be given for gardens in lots on which buildings are now erected.

The City Council is going to take up this week the question of a raise in salaries for city employees. A general conference of City Commissioners is arranged to take place some day this week, but it will be several weeks before the matter is thoroughly thrashed out. Until Commissioner Perkins reviews the situation and submits a statement of the financial conditions, that he may know how much money there is available for such purposes for this year, it will be held in abeyance. The most insistent complaints for a raise in salaries comes from the common laborers, who are now paid \$3.75 a day. Most of these men have families and they claim that owing to the continual advance of prices in food stuffs and wearing apparel, they are having a hard time to make both ends meet, notwithstanding that it hinders them from providing their children with comforts and a bank account for a rainy day. There are also many employees in various departments who are under paid, and are making strenuous efforts to have their salaries raised to a living wage.

Commissioner Perkins says that to adjust city employees' salaries properly there should be a general standardization of wages made by a board of disinterested persons. With such a plan, each employer would be paid according to his or her worth, while as at present many employers are greatly under paid. "In my department I found young women who were drawing down only \$40 a month and these women are competent bookkeepers. I believe employers should be paid a just and fair wage and according to their ability. The City should consider its employees in the same light as a private corporation or an individual in hiring help. Efficiency, honesty and the faithful performance of the duties assigned should be rewarded."

Mayor Baker says, "there is no question in my mind that the laborers are entitled to more than they are now receiving. The scale is too low when the cost of living is taken into consideration. The city should not only give them an opportunity to support their families, but also to save something in case of emergency—such as sickness, etc."

Commissioner Bigelow is also making an investigation which he will present to the council at the time of the hearing.

For Sale or Trade for City Property—4½ acres, 10 acres in cultivation, 25 slashed and burned, five room modern bungalow, good barn, running water, good orchard; close to R. R. station and six miles to good town. Call 800 South Jersey street, or Marshall 2367.

Would you be able to meet your financial obligation and at the same time re-establish your home should your property be destroyed by fire? We write all lines of insurance. Let us quote you rates.—Peninsula Security Company.

We sell guaranteed "MADE IN AMERICA" cutlery. CURRIN SAYS SO.

## The Dredging Project

Again the proposed dredging out the Columbia slough from its confluence with the Willamette to Kenton to provide a deep channel and additional harbor facilities and industrial sites in the North Portland district has been revived. The project has been presented to the council and met with approval to the extent that the city officials will appoint a committee of 15 business men of Portland to study the matter and make recommendations. It is estimated that the cost of opening the proposed channel to a sufficient width and depth to handle deep sea ships and provide room for wharves and docks will cost approximately \$1,500,000. This money would be provided by a local issue. A large delegation of business men interested in the development of a North Portland harbor and industrial sites appeared before the council in support of the proposition. Among them were H. H. Ward, L. Y. Keady, W. M. Killingsworth and others. They emphasized the need for more deep water terminals and industrial sites, particularly in the North Portland district. They insisted the Columbia slough should be dredged to a depth of 20 feet and to a width of 200 feet with a large anchorage basin in the vicinity of Kenton. This it was argued, would provide means for handling many ships and would provide means for handling many ships and would make available between 400 and 500 acres of land for cheap industrial sites, and become an inducement to outside capital.

Miss Hazel Evans and Mr. Gail D. Alexander were married Friday evening, April 25, at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Evans, 131 Swenson street, St. Johns, Rev. Burton of the Baptist church officiating. Their attendants were Mrs. Jack Stapleton (nee Evans), sister of the bride, and Mr. Dell Alexander, brother of the groom. The bride is a popular young lady of St. Johns and has a host of friends who extended their best wishes to the happy couple in their new home. The bride looked charming in her dainty dress of silk taffeta. The bride was the recipient of many useful and beautiful presents which showed the high esteem in which she was held by all of her friends. After the ceremony, a fine dinner was served to the following: Rev. E. Burton, Mr. and Mrs. Gail D. Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Evans, Mrs. Anderson and two little daughters, Joan and May; Mr. Dell Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. Homer Lindsey and baby daughter, Rose Marie, Mr. Morris Reed, Mr. Jack Stapleton and son, Dean Howe, Mrs. and Mrs. G. H. Lemon, Mrs. J. R. Marlette, Mr. Ernest Wright and Master Robert Lemon. Mr. and Mrs. Alexander left immediately for their new home near Independence, Ore., amid showers of rice and good wishes.

## Pretty Home Wedding

Residents of St. Johns having taxes and city liens to pay in Portland can make their payments without inconvenience by availing themselves of our services. We will pay same and secure your receipt without inconvenience to you. Fee, 25 cents. References: Any St. Johns Bank.—Peninsula Title, Abstract and Realty Co., by H. Henderson, Manager; 402 North Jersey street.

VICTROLA NO. X A, 6 double disc records (12 selections), record bush, needles and all accessories, for \$25.10. Pay \$9.50 down and \$9.50 per month. CURRIN SAYS SO.

## FOR SALE

The new modern cottage of four rooms known as 606 Hudson St. This cottage was built just about one year ago. It stands on a lot 40x100 feet, has several cherry and apple trees on the place. It is close in to the business section and near enough to any of the Industries. It is just the place for two people and can be bought like paying rent. The two new cottages on the same one hundred feet square that this was built on have been sold to responsible citizens who will take an interest in caring for their homes.

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