

THE ST. JOHNS REVIEW

A. W. Markle, Editor

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The REVIEW is entered at post office in Portland, Oregon, as mail matter of the second class under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

An article in Tuesday's Journal contains the following relative to a St. Johns park: "Up to this time we have been considering the following locations: 'At the proposed new high school site, St. Johns, between Wall street, Central avenue and Smith avenue, 23 acres, considered by many to be a very desirable locality; or, in lieu of that, a 32 acre tract known as the McKenna property, assessed valuation \$38,630, on Lombard and McKenna avenues.'

The former mentioned is at the extreme southeasterly boundary of St. Johns limits, and the McKenna tract is not in St. Johns, but on the other side of the cut beyond the power house. The sentiment expressed, so far as we have heard, seems to favor a location less remote. The people of St. Johns would much prefer a park more centrally located, but such tracts are difficult to find, or in fact almost impossible to secure. There seems to be only one, the Caples tract, which is situated adjacent to the ice plant on Lombard street. From a St. Johns standpoint this would undoubtedly be the most desirable of the three. But it is said to be too small for the purpose. The owner states that, including the street through it and land that could be secured in connection, would comprise a tract of approximately ten acres. Some people are inclined to the belief that ten acres is amply sufficient for purely park purposes, and that if high school of greater capacity is needed there is plenty of room on the present site for enlargement. Others believe ten acres entirely too small. So in order to get the sentiment of the people of St. Johns in general a mass meeting or a vote would be necessary. It is, however, very doubtful if a tract outside of St. Johns limits would be pleasing to our people, because if a car ride is necessary to reach the tract, might as well keep on going to Columbia Park, it would seem.

If the voters at the city election November 12 adopt the two tax levies in Portland for next year will continue to be the lowest of any city on the Pacific Coast. Portland's taxation for municipal purposes will be practically 100 per cent less than the taxation of Seattle and of San Francisco and it will be less than any other by a considerable margin.

In addition it will insure the launching of one of the most gigantic improvement programs ever attempted in the city of Portland. The program will include the paving of 45 miles of city streets and the laying of at least 25 miles of sewers. The cost of this work will, of course, be borne by the property owners benefited, but unless the two mill tax levies are successful the city will not have sufficient funds with which to defray the expenses of engineering, advertising and supervision of the work.

At a recent city election the voters repealed the charter provision providing for a five per cent charge on all assessments to pay for these costs and now this money must come from the city's general fund. The improvement program means employment of thousands of men next year but, should the tax levies be defeated, this work can not be performed.

In addition the success of the tax levies will mean additional arc lights for the now poorly lighted sections, such as St. Johns, Lents and other districts, will mean more adequate police and fire protection and will allow for better care for the city's parks and play grounds.

To the average tax payer, the increased levy will mean an additional cost of but three cents a week, or less than \$2 per year. For three cents a week, Portland can be given service to which the taxpayers and citizens are entitled, but defeat for the measure will mean further curtailment of a now too much curtailed city service.

Increased production is the paramount need of the world. Inadequate production is the basic cause of the high cost of living. Until world production is restored to normal, it is a question whether the standard of living can be as high as it was in the years before the war. High prices are but a way of manifesting a world shortage of consumption goods. "We may eliminate all profiteering—however defined—sell all the supplies the government still possesses at public auction, compel the emptying of all storage warehouse and we might tem-

porarily reduce the level of prices by perhaps 2 or 3 per cent, though the result would undoubtedly be higher prices a few months hence than otherwise would be the case," says Prof. Moulton of Chicago. Produce, produce, produce, must be the slogan of all patriotic citizens. Production will make us a busy people. Busy people are happy people. Happy people are good citizens.

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Portland, Oregon.
Date of first publication Oct. 31, 1919.

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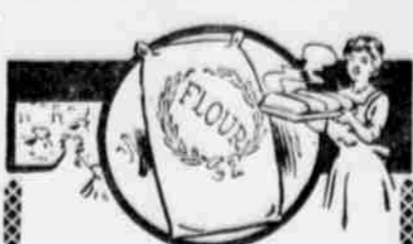
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