

COMMUNICATION

Editor St. Johns Review, Portland, Oregon—Dear Sir: Since so many misrepresentations have been made in regard to the matter of securing a park site for St. Johns, we would appreciate being accorded space in your paper for a statement which may serve to clarify the situation somewhat.

The writer is informed that insinuations have been made to members of the city council to the effect that the Peninsula National Bank was part owner or was in some way to profit by the sale of the Nichols tract to the city. It seems absurd that any such charge should be made since it was perfectly well known at the city hall that in presenting the possibilities of this tract to the Council we were doing so at the request of the park department and we did not know until after we began looking the matter up at the park superintendent's request—who the owners were. It is true that since this tract has been under consideration, the Peninsula Security Company, of which the writer is also an officer, has had to take over three fifty-foot lots which are included in the tract. These three lots form an insignificant part of the 200 or more lots embraced in the entire tract, but since they represent the only part of the tract in which either the bank or the security company has any claim to ownership, they will be donated very gladly to the city if the Council decides to use this site for a park.

It is also perfectly well known that we looked up the acreage, asked for the prices and presented blue prints of several of the tracts including the Caples tract, before any suggestion was made in regard to the Nichols tract. We had a greater interest, so far as any direct return to us was involved, in seeing the Caples tract sold, for the Peninsula Security Company holds a mortgage on the Osborne property, which is a part of this tract. We were concurring, we believe, in the expert opinion of the park superintendent, in coming to the conclusion, after going over all the available park sites in St. Johns, that the Nichols tract was the only one that was large enough and undenuded of trees, to answer the purpose. It is easy to understand the source and motives underlying the insinuations that this bank is selfishly interested in the sale of a particular tract of land. We admit that we are selfishly interested in the acquisition of a park for St. Johns, just as we are selfishly interested in improved streets, in better shipping facilities, in adequate car service and a hundred other matters of public concern in this community for the securing of which we have given our best efforts and energy from time to time, and shall continue to do so irrespective of slurs or slanders. We are selfishly interested because it is only as this district becomes a more and more desirable place in which to live and work that new people will come here to make their homes (and become depositors in our bank) and new business concerns will become established here (and become customers of ours) and old ones flourish. A bank in any community succeeds and prospers only when the community it serves is successful and prosperous. We are selfishly interested in acquiring the best possible park facilities for St. Johns because the well being of this community will be advanced to just the extent that such facilities are provided. No business man is worth the support of his community unless he is willing to use his efforts and energy for the betterment of the community in which his business is located. The fact that some people have established merely a bedroom in the community does not prove them to be either active supporters or in any sense benefactors to such community.—PENINSULA NATIONAL BANK, J.N. Edlefson, Vice President.

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Rapid progress, according to O. Laurgaard, city engineer, who has charge of the work, is being made on the channel from the Columbia river to Columbia slough, which will provide an outlet for the Peninsula sewer system. Work on the project, which was started two months ago, will cost close to \$350,000. The Pacific Bridge company is working two shifts daily and is operating a drag line machine as well as a large clam shell dredge. In a few days a large dipper dredge will be placed in operation. The channel is two miles long, 150 feet wide at the bottom and 200 feet wide at the top.

A contract for the erection of a bridge across the channel, to cost close to \$900,000, has just been let by the city to the Jacobson Construction company. A road has been cut so that temporary access during the construction of the bridge can be assured by a boat, which will carry passengers across the channel. Work is being pushed on Multnomah drainage district No. 1 by the Warren Construction company, that the district may be protected from this year's high water from the Columbia river. Laurgaard says the Hurley Mason company is working on a power house near Columbia slough.

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THE PARK QUESTION
In order to set at rest some rumors that have been circulated to some extent, Mr. F. Drinker, president of the Peninsula Security Co., has requested us to publish the correspondence between himself and Commissioner Pier relative to the St. Johns Park, and which appears below:
City of Portland, Oregon, Department of Finance, S. C. Pier, Commissioner, December 11, 1919.
Mr. F. P. Drinker, 1088 Jersey Street, Portland, Oregon.—Dear Mr. Drinker: At a meeting of the Council held on the 9th of December the entire playground program was placed before them. The tract of various ownerships that you placed before this Department was seriously considered. In fact, we went into the matter from every possible angle, and in view of the fact that it is primarily a playground that is required it was deemed expedient to purchase the property that you represent.
The decision has fallen upon the Caples Tract, which, while much smaller than we would have preferred, was the unanimous choice of the Mayor and Council.
I want to thank you for the trouble and time you went to in the matter, and regret that conditions are such that we cannot close the deal with you.
Very truly yours,
S. C. PIER,
Commissioner of Finance.

Dec. 15, 1919.—S. C. Pier, Commissioner of Finance, City.—Dear Mr. Pier: I am in receipt of your favor of the 11th advising me of the selection of the Caples tract for a playground. This action on your part is considerable of a surprise to me as I had understood you to have committed yourself by word of mouth to the tract of about 2 1/2 acres, and I am also quite sure that others understood the situation the same way.
It would please me best to come in to your office and talk this matter over with you, but as I am tied in St. Johns by business and weather for a few days have thought best to write you in hopes that you may have the letter before final action is taken.
First, I wish to take exception to the statement in your letter that I represent the 2 1/2 acre tract. That is a wrong impression, if you ever had it. Mr. McKinnon, a real estate dealer here, did represent part of the property owners in that tract, but I never did, and my work on the tract was done at your solicitation entirely and never expected to profit to the extent of one cent either personally or any company I am connected with, from the purchase by the city of that tract. It is true that this company holds title to six 25-foot lots embraced in that tract but at the time the prices on the different tracts were made you we held these lots in trust for the Empire Investment Company and this situation continued up until about ten days ago when we were forced to take them and other lots over much against our wishes.

To go back to last summer when a meeting was held in the City Hall which was attended by a committee selected from different parts of the city, did you not state at that meeting that you wanted the committee to go around to the different sites being offered and then make its recommendation to you and that you would abide by such recommendation? Following this up, did not that committee come to St. Johns with you and after looking at all the different sites then being offered recommend the 2 1/2 acre tract? In answer to this you may say that since then a petition has been turned in requesting the selection of another tract. If so I have this to say in regard to that petition: So far as I am able to learn there are three people responsible for that petition and their interests are entirely selfish. The entire petition, in my opinion, was obtained through misrepresentations or half truths and I am willing to go on record by stating that I could go to the same signers of that petition and by explaining to them that by selecting the Caples tract they are getting a playground and losing a park and that they are also losing a good chance to get the high school site of the S. P. & S. Cut at least 75 per cent of the signers would take their names off and sign another petition.

Wanted to Rent—Four or five room modern house, close in. Address this office.

Notice is hereby given that I will not be responsible for any bills contracted by any one but myself.—Jean Thompson.

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- Imported Jam in 13 oz. tins at 30c
- Raspberry Jelly in bulk per lb. 25c
- Small white Beans 10 lb. 11 lbs. \$1.00
- Red Mexican Beans 3 lbs. 25c
- Extra Fancy Lima Beans 2 lbs. 25c
- Best Rice 2 lbs. 25c
- Rolled Oats clean and white 3 lbs. 25c
- Best Elbo Cut Macaroni 2 1/2 lbs. 25c
- Spaghetti, Noodles and Macaroni in 10c pkgs, 3 pkgs for 25c
- Just arrived, pure imported Italian Virgin Olive Oil all sizes. \$2.00 to 25c
- Mazola Salad Oil, pts. 40c; qts. 75c; half gallons. \$1.40
- Swift's Silver Leaf Lard lb. 35c
- Placke White the lb. 35c
- Royal White Soap, 4 bars. 25c
- Bob White Soap, 4 bars. 25c
- Creole Oil Soap, 3 bars for 25c
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War Savings Stamps pay you 4 per cent interest, compounded every 3 months. Your War Savings Stamps are redeemable at your Postoffice with accrued interest on ten days' notice to your postmaster. The longer you hold War Savings Stamps the more money they make for you.

FACING THE FACTS
The national debt of the United States at the end of the fiscal year 1911-1912 was \$1,040,540,000, or \$10.40 for each person living in this country, figuring on the basis of 100,000,000 population. The national debt of the United States on June 1, 1919, was \$25,421,151,370. This simply means that every person in the United States faces a national debt that averages \$251.16. If conditions that have become so radically changed by this so greatly increased debt are to become in any wise normal, they can come in just one way—the absorption of this bonded debt by the savings of the people.
The answer given the Senate Committee by the governor, W. P. G. Harding, of the Federal Reserve Board, to their query as to what legislation was needed at this time and to relieve the financial situation, was: "The Federal Reserve Board believes that any currency legislation at this time is unnecessary and undesirable and would suggest that whether viewed from an economic or financial standpoint, the remedy for the present situation is the same, namely: 'Work and save'."
The people have got to spend less and save more.
The people can save. Uninvested money is dissipated too easily and is wasted too often. If the money is in the pocket, that new luxury really not needed is usually gotten, for it is easy to convince one's self that it is good business to buy the thing one wants. Invested money earns interest. It is not so easily spent, and it encourages the saving of more.

LEPER COLONY LENDS FREELY
Honolulu — The Paikese Island Leper Colony, Hawaiian Islands, bought War Savings Stamps to the amount of \$62 per capita. There were thirty-two purchasers among the lepers. This amount is three times as much as the per capita quota for the United States, which is \$20.
The total sales of War Savings and Thrift Stamps in Hawaii amounted to \$2,620,000—beating quota by \$80,000.

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son for the 2 1/2 acre tract. In fact, I firmly believe I can hand you a more satisfactory petition and a larger amount for the purchase of the 2 1/2 acre tract than you now have for the Caples tract. Had I known that you were seriously considering the Caples tract I would have been glad to get the supporters of the 2 1/2 acre tract at work but I was relying on the word which I supposed you had given out that you had settled on a larger tract, and I had also understood that Superintendent of Parks Kaiser had stated he would not recommend the Caples tract and so while I heard of the Caples petition being circulated did not consider it serious.
If I am not mistaken you were quoted in the Oregonian to the effect that the Caples tract embraced an area of about ten acres. In looking over the map in our office it appears that the entire tract bounded by Lombard, Tyler, Willis Boulevard and Buchanan Street contains, including streets, only about 7.30 acres; probably about 7 1/2 acres are streets. As I understand it only three-fourths of this tract is known as the Caples holdings while the other fourth belongs to the Osborne Estate. If I am correct in these figures which I would like to have you verify if you have not already done so, it would look as though the city, if it purchases this tract at the present asking prices of the owners, would be paying more than twice the amount per acre than the 2 1/2 acre tract can be bought for.
In conclusion I want to state, Mr. Pier, that I have no mercenary motives in this matter, whatever. I live and own my home within four hundred feet of one corner of the Caples tract so am much nearer to that tract than to the other one and my only desire is to get the best we can for the St. Johns district. We will be thankful of course for the Caples playground but we had hoped for better things and it will be a keen disappointment to the best interests here when they wake up and find what they are really getting in place of that they have been earnestly hoping for these past ten years.
Very truly yours,
F. P. DRINKER.

December 17, 1919.—Mr. F. P. Drinker, co Peninsula Securities Co., St. Johns.—Dear Mr. Drinker: Referring to your letter of the 15th in reply to mine of the 11th, I hope you will not get a wrong impression of the playground matter for St. Johns.
When I presented the different tracts to the Council for their consideration I did so without any argument on my part whatsoever. The size of each tract was fully discussed as well as the location and in view of the fact that we had before us such strong evidence in favor of the Caples tract it was deemed by the Council that they could view the property that the Caples tract appeared to them as the one the city would want. In presenting this matter I did not refer to the petitions that have come in from either the McKenna or the Caples tract, as I am fully aware that these petitions do not always represent the true wishes of the people. I simply placed before them evidence that I had that a large majority of the business people, as well as the residents of St. Johns, from whom I had sought testimony, were in favor of the Caples tract.
In my letter I did not mean to infer that you represented any tract any further than that you had sought to get all the information that was possible, and that, while you may have been indirectly interested in some portions of the tract, I was sure that that was not the influence that led to your giving me the information that you did. I wrote you on the 11th as I did because I felt in my mind that there was a serious doubt as to the Council accepting this property, and I did not want you to go to any further trouble in a matter that was clearly so unsettled.
You must remember this that while the praise or the blame of the purchase of city property for playgrounds will eventually fall on me I do not take any action whatever without first consulting the Council that I may have the assurance and support of their approval.
As soon as the snow clears away I am going to take the entire Council out to St. Johns and we will then go and get you and go over that tract again that they may be able to see the advantages you have to offer and it may be that when they go to view the property that they may see reasons why the larger tract that you

presented will be the one that is best to buy. This visit will give them a chance to clearly understand the advantage of one tract over the other. I should feel very sorry indeed if I had in any way failed to treat you fairly.
It is my purpose to do so and before the deal is closed will endeavor to prove that fact to your satisfaction.
Very truly yours,
S. C. PIER,
Commissioner of Finance.

Occasionally there are tragedies in the lives of bears just as in the lives of human beings, Mr. Enos A. Mills writes in his new book, *The Grizzly*; and he goes on to tell of an appealing incident in which a pair of cubs whose mother had been shot by a hunter were the heroes. The little bears were discovered peeping from beneath a large rock a short distance from where the slain animal lay, and after hesitating for a moment they came out and stood looking intently toward the men and their dead mother. As the men did not move, they took a few steps toward them. Hesitating again, they stopped, rose up and looked round, and then hastily retreated to the rocks. Evidently their mother had trained them to stay wherever she left them until she returned, but they had waited a long time. For a while they stood and whimpered very much like hungry, forsaken children. They could scent their mother, and they were, too, and they were hungry and lonesome. Again they started slowly toward the men, walking closely side by side. When very near they paused, rose on their hind legs, and looked in wonder and longing at their lifeless mother. Then they went to her. One little cub sniffed in a bewildered, puzzled way over her cold, still body. He gently stroked her fur with his paw and then sat down and began to whimper and cry. The other cub stood looking with awe into his mother's motionless face, but at last he shook off his fright and smelled her bloody head; then, all forlorn, he turned to look into the face of the hunter, who had been watching the little cub all this while with tears on his cheeks. After a moment he took a step toward him, rose up and, putting his forepaws upon the man's knee, looked confidently into his face. The men carried the little orphans to camp, and the hunter raised them. Their mother was the last animal that he ever shot.—Youth's Companion.

"I count myself fortunate," said a minister, "in numbering among my parishioners several who invariably tell me the truth about myself. Of a certain worthy but uneducated woman of my flock I asked whether she preferred my written or my unwritten sermons. She reflected for a moment, and then replied, 'I like you best without the book, because you keep saying the same thing over and over and that helps me to remember!'"

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