City Library

OREGON CITY COURIER.

14th YEAR. OREGON CITY, OREGON, FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 1897. NO. 36.

A BAD BREAK has ended that chair, but there are others in our stock. Rockers; dining, parlor, and easy chairs; chairs of all sorts and kinds await your inspection at our establishment. More, finer, handsomer chairs are here than you can see elsewhere. That's our reason for claiming your attention to our varied array of invitations to a seat. In this case, seeing discounts description. Chairs are too large a fraction of your furniture to be bought haphazard. No occasion to look further: Six chairs for $2.10 and upwards.

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The Housefurnishers, OREGON CITY, OR.

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Leading Agency in Clackamas County

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Royal of Liverpool---Does largest business in the world.
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AND OTHER FIRST-CLASS INSURANCE COMPANIES
The Travelers Insurance Company of Hartford---Largest, oldest and best accident insurance company in the world, and also does a very large life insurance business.

....CALL ON ME FOR BLOTTERS AND CALENDARS ...

RATES THE LOWEST

F. E. DONALDSON, at Commercial Bank.

GREAT DRESS GOODS ...SALE...

OF FINE AND MEDIUM-PRICED GOODS...

Consisting of Fine Black, French Novelties in Plaids and Fancy Weaves; French Crepon and Astrachan Cloths; French Almas, Soleils, and Satin Imperials; Silk and Double Warp French Henriettas; Bengalines, Foula and Extra Double Warp Serges. The handsomest array of Fine Black Novelties ever shown or displayed by any dry goods house in Portland.

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We will place very attractive lines of New and desirable goods on sale this week at 25c a yd; several lines of heavy, all-wool, fancy Mixtures at 33c a yd.--our 50c quality; four lines of 4c-inch, all-wool, fancy Suitings at 36c a yard 27 pieces of 52-inch, strictly all-wool, Extra Heavy double warp Serge—85c quality—for 50c per yard.

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RICHARD PETZOLD'S CASH MARKETS

Seventh Street, Corner of Center, on the Hill.
Main St., Opposite Caufield Block.

Two Shops. - - - - - - - - Oregon City, Oregon

...GO TO... **G. H. BESTOW & CO**
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DOORS WINDOWS, MOULDING AND BUILDING MATERIAL.

LOWEST CASH PRICES EVER OFFERED FOR FIRST-CLASS GOODS.

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Without buying your groceries from us, but whether you can live quite so well or save so much on your grocery bill is quite a different question. We don't think you can, at least we try very hard to make it a fact that you cannot. We will keep right on selling groceries as we have the past seven years, and will spare no effort to furnish them just as good and as cheaply as we possibly can. We are sticklers for quality, in fact, we would rather you would buy a cheap and consequently an unsatisfactory article somewhere else.

WE WANT YOUR TRADE

E. E. WILLIAMS, The Grocer, 'Phone 3, Masonic Bldg.

CITY GOVERNMENT.

First Meeting of New Council Last Friday.

ANNUAL OFFICIAL REPORTS.

Regular Monthly Meeting on Wednesday Evening—Officers and Committees Elected.

A special meeting of the new city council was held on last Friday, pursuant to a call by Mayor E. G. Caufield. Councilmen Koerner, Busch, Bittner, Roake, Gault, Wilson and Harris were present; Caples absent.

The mayor stated that the object of the meeting was to elect a recorder, which office was rendered vacant on January 1st by charter.

Thos. F. Ryan was placed in nomination for recorder by R. Koerner and H. E. Harris nominated J. G. Pillsbury. On ballot Ryan received 5 votes and Pillsbury 2.

The saloon license of T. Trembath was ordered renewed.

A communication from R. & E. B. Williams, attorneys for Stratton estate, in regard to paying Seventh street assessment in installments laid over till next meeting. Report of recorder also laid over.

The committees for ensuing year were elected by the following vote:

Finance--Koerner (chairman) 7, Busch 6, Caples 5.

Fire and Water—Gault (chairman) 6, Wilson 6, Bittner 4.

Streets and Public Property—Bittner (chairman) 7, Roake 6, Harris 6.

Health and Police—Caples (chairman) 5, Koerner 4, Gault 4.

The first Wednesday in every month was designated as regular meeting day.

Wednesday's Meeting.

Regular monthly meeting of the council was held on Wednesday evening with Mayor Caufield and Councilmen Bittner, Koerner, Busch, Wilson, Roake, Caples and Harris present; Gault absent.

Petition from residents for a crosswalk on south side of Fourth street at intersection of Monroe referred to street committee.

Petition from Mrs. M. A. Stratton declaring that she will ask to pay her Seventh street assessment in installments referred to committee.

Water commission ordered notified that they will be expected to pay interest on money due city.

Ordinance regulating auctioneers ordered published, also amended ordinance for purchase of rock or gravel.

Koerner nominated Roake and Caples likewise Koerner for president of council. Vote: Koerner 5; Roake 2.

Mayor Caufield appointed C. E. Burns as chief of police and council approved action unanimously.

E. L. Shaw appointed nightwatch and he was confirmed by council.

C. H. Dye appointed city prosecutor and he was confirmed.

D. W. Kinnaird appointed city surveyor and he was confirmed.

Chas. Babcock appointed street superintendent and he was confirmed

Councilman Harris asked for removal of arc light from near woolen mill to "Kansas City" bridge. Matter referred to street committee.

BILLS ALLOWED.

Thos. F. Ryan, recorder	$25 00
Chas. E. Burns, chief	60 00
E. L. Shaw, police	60 00
Chas. Babcock et al, street work	70 00
H. E. Straight, treasurer	40 00
Wm Kidd, special police	2 00
H Gilbert " "	2 00
Wm Risdon " "	10 00
Geo Broughton, lumber	70 80
Maple & Hoffman, blacksmithing	1 45
COURIER, election ticket, ordinance	13 00
G A. Harding, electric lamps	1 85
P Hemelgarn, jail meals	2 60
W A Huntley, supplies	3 70
C. N. Greenman, hauling	1 80
Heckart & Durham, "	50
P G E Co, lights	167 50
Wilson & Cooke, hardware	2 25

The Mayor's Message.

In obedience to that section of the city charter, requiring the mayor to communicate by message annually to the city council a general statement of the condition of affairs of this municipal corporation, and to recommend the adoption of such measures as he may deem expedient and proper, I respectfully submit the following:

My limited experience in city affairs, however, induce me to make very few recommendations at this time, but confine myself principally to a general statement of the city's financial affairs in the past, present and the future prospects of the same.

In making up the following statement I have not deemed it necessary to give anything but approximate figures on all amounts. Exact figures and amounts in detail will be given here this evening in the annual reports of the different city officials. My object will be to show in as simple a manner as possible the condition of the city's financial affairs.

The growth of the present burden of debt which the people of this corporation now bear, began practically in 1885, when the city's debt was only about $5000.

This increased rapidly in a few years until in 1890 it had grown to over $15000. since then the debt has continued to make progress at an increasing ratio (with the exception of the past year) until now it amounts to about $65,000. an annual increase since 1890 of over $8000. This is certainly a very serious state of affairs, and were it not for the fact that the past year has shown some improvement the outlook for the taxpayers would indeed be very gloomy

During the past year the revenue has been about $12,230 and the expenses $12957, an excess of expenditures over revenue of $727. In making this estimate I have taken into account the amount of interest accrued during the past year on outstanding warrants, less the interest due the city on unpaid claims, held on account of street improvements. Although this interest does not appear as an actual expenditure during the year, I believe it should be taken into account when an estimate is being made of the city's financial condition. I have also counted as part of city's revenue the amount due from water commission but not collected. The result last year seems bad enough but when compared with previous ones it is some cause for congratulation.

I find by inspection of items of expense of the past year that about $2,000 of same, consisting of such items as, fire hose, engine house on the hill, bridge on the Abernethy, fire bell tower, and sundry other smaller matters will not need to enter into next year's estimate. Assuming that our revenue for the present year will at least equal last, and taking it for granted that our expenses can be curtailed in different ways, leads me to have the fond hope that by the end of this year we will have reached that condition of affairs, to be desired by every prudent man in his own business, when our revenue will at least equal, if not exceed our expenditures. To bring about this desirable end I would urge on the council the most rigid economy in all matters, and would respectfully remind you that a city with a large debt and heavy taxes offers no inducement to outside capital.

If our town is to become the manufacturing centre we have all hoped for, outside capital we must have.

Through the work of the water commission the city now has a very complete system of water works The reservoir constructed the past year is a great improvement, giving the city a reserve to draw upon in case of any accident to the pumps. The work seems to have been done in a very substantial manner making a permanent improvement that will require very little expense in future to keep in repair. The cost of constructing same exceeded somewhat the estimate made, leaving the commission with outstanding warrants amounting to $2,245. This is not a serious matter however, as the revenue from water rents will soon clear up this indebtedness.

In my opinion the commission can be confidently expected to not only pay off its own indebtedness but be one of the most important sources to which we can look for the reduction of our city indebtedness. Our charter provides that 30 per cent of the gross proceeds shall be turned into the general fund. This was not collected from the commission last year on account of the extra expense incurred in the construction of the reservoir. In my opinion the water commission should pay interest on this amount due the city, as an offset to the interest paid by the city on that part of the city debt this payment would cancel if paid.

The only recommendation I desire to make at this time is in regard to the division of the city into wards. The residents of the southern and eastern portions of the city seem to feel as if they had some cause for complaint; and I am not certain but that they have. As the city is now divided we must have either two or four polling places. Having only two polling places, it is very inconvenient to the voters of the southern and eastern portion of the city. To accommodate them it would be neccessary to have two additional polling places, one in each ward, in that part of town. If the city was divided into three wards making one ward of all that portion of the the city, one additional polling place would answer all the requirements.

This is one source of complaint, but they have another and more serious one. When city conventions are held the majority attending them is naturally from the lower and most populous part of the city. The result is that candidates for the council are always selected from this portion of the city.

The people from the southern and eastern part of town begin to have some of the feelings of our Revolutionary Fathers of "Taxation without representation." I would suggest, if it meets with your approbation, that we give our earnest support to a proposed general state law granting all incorporated towns the right to change the number and size of its wards, as its needs may suggest.

In conclusion I would respectfully solicit in the city's interests the help and assistance of every member of the council in an honest endeavor to promote the city's welfare and prosperity.

I would kindly ask of you all forbearance and assure you that in my position as presiding officer over your deliberations, my only object will be to be true to the city's interests and fair with you all.

Recorder's Report.

OREGON CITY, OR., Dec. 31, 1896.

To the Honorable, the Mayor and City Council of Oregon City.

Gentlemen:—In accordance with the provision of section 48 of the city charter, I herewith submit a brief report of the financial transactions of the city during the year 1896 and of the present financial standing of the city; also a resume of the transactions of the office of the city recorder during the said year 1896.

FINANCIAL EXHIBIT.

Warrants drawn on general fund—	
Portland General Electric Co., light	$2054 80
Chas. E. Burns, chief of police	720 00
" " " fees from sale of property	6 25
E. L. Shaw, night watch	720 00
Thos. F. Ryan, recorder	275 00
" " " work on city records	5 00
T. W. Fouts, salary as recorder	25 00
Frank T. Griffith, city prosecutor	107 50
J. W. Boatman, experting books	60 00
J. W. Kelly and Chas. Noblitt, special police	6 00
C. D. & D. C. Latourette, att'y fees	181 00
E. F. Driggs, " "	50 00
J. U. Campbell, " "	27 50
L. L. Porter, atty and collection fees	117 86
H. E. Straight, salary as treasurer	120 00
R. L. Holman, " " "	40 00
Insurance Company of North America, insurance on hose house	29 00
Work on streets, gravel and crosswalks	1056 52
Geo. Broughton, lumber	21 50
L. A. Nobel and Paul Hemmelgarn, meals at city jail	57 40
Mrs. G. W. Church, rent of hose house	24 00
Mrs. T. W. Clarke, rent of ground for pound	20 00
Board of trade, advertising	60 00
Sign for street corners	5 60
Courier, ordinances, notices, etc	115 97
ENTERPRISE, blanks and ballots	6 00
E. D. Olds, bell tower	80 85
Repairs and superintendency of Abernethy bridge	301 50
Hose house	707 50
Hose for fire department	712 37
Hydrants and nozzles	241 50
Allowance to fire companies	125 67
Miscellaneous expenses of fire dept.	100 40
Jessie Cooke, rebate on 7th street assessment	113 86
Sarah McCown, rebate on 5th street assessment	48 40
Emma McDonald, rebate on 5th street assessment	10 00
T. W. Clarke, rebate on Mait street assessment	31 50
S. J. Baechler, rebate on saloon license	32 20
Fred Meier, rebate on sale of horse at pound	5 00
Expense of city election held in December, 1895	41 00
Killing and burial of dogs	15 00
Dog tags, brooms, shovels, picks, repairs to sewers, etc	146 95
Total warrants drawn	$8694 43
Summary—	
Lights	$2054 80
Police department	1452 25
Streets and bridges	1373 62
Salaries of officers	632 50
Attorney fees	376 36
Buildings	784 22
Fire department	1239 62
Printing	121 97
Rebates for different purposes	240 84
Miscellaneous expenses	418 15
Total	$8694 43
Receipts—	
Taxes, 1894	$ 165 59
" 1895	5114 16
Saloon licenses	4000 00
Express "	134 17
Show "	45 00
Billiard "	29 16
Auctioneer's licenses	25 00
Meat peddler's "	20 00
Shooting gallery license	16 67
Bowling alley "	10 00
Spindle wheel "	8 00
Dog licenses	63 00
Sale of horses	9 00
Fines from recorder's court	46 00
Water commission, per cent of collections for Jan., Feb. and Mar.	349 25
Fred R. Charman, balance account	80 00
Thomas Charman, interest on note	34 05
Miscellaneous licenses	57 25
Main street fund	1962 86
Seventh street fund	887 83
Fifth " "	213 58
Weinhard sewer "	37 20
Total	$13911 32
Disbursements—	
Warrants redeemed	$11884 98
Interest on warrants redeemed	1477 82
" " bonds of city	2800 00
Total	$16162 76
Cash in treasury Jan. 1, 1896 (according to treasurer)	$ 2297 06
Receipts for 1896	13911 32
Total	$16208 38
Paid out by treasurer	16162 76
Balance in the treasury	$ 45 60
Outstanding warrants, Jan. 1, 1896, (as per report of expert, J. W. Boatman)	$21940 98
Warrants issued during year	8694 43
Total	$30635 34
Warrants redeemed by treasurer	11884 94
Outstanding warrants (expert)	$18750 40
Decrease in amount of outstanding warrants during year	3190 51
Total	$21940 91

The treasurer states however that there is outstanding warrants to the amount of $21,509 12, making a difference between reports of treasurer and expert of $2758 72.

Cemetery fund—	
Balance on hand, Jan. 1, 1896	$128 79
Receipts from graves and lots	74 00
Total	$202 79
Warrants redeemed	72 72
Balance, Dec. 31, 1896	$130 07
Seventh street improvement fund—	
Amount received for assessments	$180 66
Note of Methodist church trustees	326 00
Total	$506 66
Warrants redeemed	$102 85
Interest on same	58
Balance in treasury	77 23
Warrants endorsed and outstanding	500 00

RECORDER'S COURT.

During the year 1896, there were 25 cases heard for violation of city ordinances, and fines amounting to $265 were imposed, of which sum $46 was paid in cash and the balance was worked out by imprisonment or by suspension of sentence during good behavior.

THOS F. RYAN, Recorder.

Instruments and Fees.

During the year 1896 the fees collected by the county clerk amounted to $3063.74, a gain of $280 over the preceding year. The recorder of conveyances collected $2037.13, which is a loss of $283. The number of real estate instruments filed for record last year, however, exceeded those of the previous year by 95, as is shown by the following statement:

	1895	1896
Deeds	1029	1135
Mortgages	585	548
Satisfactions of mortgages	347	383
Totals	1971	2066

There was an increase in the number of deeds and satisfactions of mortgages and a decrease in the number of mortgages recorded. The comparison 1896 with 1894 showed an increase of 134 mortgages and a decrease of 21 deeds, there being no record of the number of satisfactions for comparison.

The number of marriage licenses issued last year was 140, being 11 less than for each of the previous years. Fifty-five men declared their intentions of becoming citizens of the United States, and 60 certificates of full citizenship were granted by the county court, the number of new citizens being eight more than for all of the previous three years. Twenty persons were committed to the insane asylum, being three more than for the previous year.

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