

The Courier covers Clackamas Co

# OREGON CITY COURIER

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Number 6

## TEMPLETON AND FIFTH STREET DEAL

SOME FACTS THAT SHOULD INTEREST TAXPAYERS

### AN IRREGULAR, ILLEGAL DEAL

City Laws and Taxpayers Utterly Ignored in the Matter

A week ago Wednesday Councilman Templeton declared from the floor of the council chamber that the editor of the Courier was so "steeped in falsehood" and the paper so generally given to misrepresentation that it would not tell the true facts regarding the illegal improvements of Fifth street. Mr. Templeton made these remarks rather weakly "whitewash" of himself had been delivered at his earnest solicitation by Mayor Jones—who knew nothing about the real history of Fifth street—and by Councilman Meyer, whose testimony was peculiar in the extreme.

All this happened too near the Courier's time of going to press for detailed reply to have been made last week, so the Courier takes this opportunity of letting its light shine upon this Fifth street matter. Before going into it, however, the Courier desires to state that the controversy has been entirely of Mr. Templeton's making, and that ample opportunity has been given him to clarify all cloudy points in mystery. So far Mr. Templeton has done nothing but abuse the Courier and generally complicate the situation.

In December, 1912, the city council passed an ordinance declaring that the "life" of Fifth street should expire December 31, 1912. The ordinance also put the same limit on Seventh street and on Main street. "Declaring the life" of a street in Oregon City means setting a time after which no repairs shall be made on that street save at the expense of the owners of abutting property.

The "life" of Fifth street expired two years ago. He said it hadn't. Councilman Albright, member of the street committee.

"I don't know who ordered the work done"—Councilman Templeton, chairman of the street committee.

Street Commissioner Babcock supervised the resurfacing of Fifth street. He told a representative of the Courier that he believed the work had been ordered by the 1912 council and then stopped temporarily, and that when he was ordered to complete the resurfacing of the street he supposed it was all right, and went ahead with it. Mr. Babcock is supposed to obey orders that he receives from the chairman of the street committee.

Who ordered this work done? The Courier has already intimated quite pointedly that Councilman Templeton ordered it. Councilman Templeton has said that the Courier is so "steeped in falsehood" that it can't tell things straight. He has also said that he didn't know who ordered the work. And he has also said that he had all the details about Fifth street written down in his memorandum book. More of that shortly.

Now, the issue being as it is, the Courier is just going to take a chance on the libel laws of Oregon, and state here, in simple language: Councilman Templeton ordered Fifth street resurfaced at the expense of the general fund more than a year after the life of the street had been declared.

Six weeks or so ago, when the Courier was asking light on Fifth street, one of its representatives met Mr. Templeton downtown, and asked him a somewhat carefully worded question. This was the question: "Mr. Templeton, how much rock did YOU order placed on Fifth street?"

And Mr. Templeton said: "I can't tell you offhand, but I have all the figures as to the amount of rock and cost of the work in my notebook up at the house. I'm just going home, and if you'll call me up in ten minutes I'll be glad to tell you all about it."

The Courier reporter waited fifteen minutes and then he called the number Mr. Templeton had given him. And the dulcet voice of central replied: "That number does not answer." Central was asked to try again, and again she replied sweetly: "I cannot get that number to answer." And the Courier reporter was not really surprised.

In seeking information about Fifth street, a Courier reporter asked Street Commissioner Babcock what the work cost. He said approximately \$1,400. The Courier printed this.

And then Mr. Templeton, who says he doesn't know who ordered Fifth street improved, came down to the Courier office and said that the reporter who wrote the original Fifth street story was a liar.

"And I'll prove he is a liar," said Mr. Templeton. "He said that it cost \$1,400. So you see he's a liar."

The Courier reporter's secretary made the correction in regard to the cost of the work being \$1,400, but still Mr. Templeton says that his editor is "steeped in falsehood."

No bill for the illegal improvement of Fifth street was ever turned into the city council. The labor was paid for among the great mass of street labor, and the \$600 yards or so of rock that was used was all part of the general "omnibus" bill for crushed rock that comes in each month. It appears, however, that \$600 was paid in March, and the balance was due.

## ASK FOR CHANGE IN CITY AFFAIRS

MASS MEETING CALLED FOR SATURDAY JUNE 20.

### NEW MANAGEMENT PROPOSED

Recent Disclosures Arouse Citizens and Petitions are Heavily Signed

For many months the Courier has been endeavoring to convince the people of this city that its present system of government is too small and too loose for the importance of its business.

Today there are petitions in circulation calling a public meeting of the citizens for Willamette Hall on Saturday night, June 20, to take the initial steps for a change in the management in this city.

"We the undersigned citizens and voters of Oregon City, request that a public mass meeting be held in Willamette hall, Oregon City, on Saturday night, June 20, for the purpose of formulating a more businesslike, economical and responsible form of government for the city."

This call for a public meeting simply requests the people to meet and take the initial steps for a changed system that will give this city a BUSINESS administration; put responsibility where it is DIRECT and out on the extravaganza under which we now suffer.

It is a call of the people to get together and remedy the present system which is a joke and almost a scandal today.

It is a request of the people for a city administration based on business principles, whereby the present loosest of management may be changed to a systematic, practical basis, and waste and extravagance eliminated.

It is a demand of the people for direct responsibility; where one councilman can not hide his actions by the statement "I did not do it," and where any man can know by asking what is being done and WHO is doing it.

The sentiment for this change is almost unanimous. Present councilmen favor it; county officials back it. Of perhaps two hundred citizens interviewed only two have stood pat.

One of the circulators, O'Donnell, said that during a part of one day, Tuesday, he secured over 200 signatures in the downtown district, and "if I should go up on the hill the paper would not hold out."

He said he had nearly all the Main Street business men, the attorneys, office holders and four of the city councilmen. He said not more than a half dozen men had refused to sign the petition.

The looseness of the present system is a scandal, and the wonder is how the people have stood for it so long.

That Fifth street deal has opened the eyes of the people to the way this city is being mismanaged.

Today Twelfth street has been resurfaced. It is perfectly legal action, and the street needs the repairs.

BUT WHO ORDERED IT? Find out if you can.

The Courier asked a member of the street committee about the matter as he replied: "I have never been consulted. I never ordered it. I did not know it had been ordered. The council does not know it was ordered, or ever gave it sanction."

Mr. Templeton seems to be the only man who does know anything about it. He seems to be the only man who knows anything about that Fifth street deal.

## GREAT LIGHT WAY VS. CULTURE

HEART-TO-HEART CONFLAB ON PERSONAL TASTE

### FUN, FROLIC, AND FRIVOLITY

An Innocent Sermonette By a Poor Preacher—on Amusements

Occasionally some stunt is "pulled off" in this county which deserves the hearty commendation and support of every man, woman and child within its boundaries.

This fact was most forcibly brought home to the Courier editor this week as he perused the program for the coming Chautauqua—following a wasted half-day at the Portland Rose Show, from which he returned feeling rather empty—both mentally and financially.

Viewed in the broad light, what a difference between the two forms of amusement! What a wealth of intellectual treats, good music, mental inspiration and rest on one hand; and what a giddy, dizzy whirl of nonsensical so-called festivities on the other!

The Chautauqua—thought of from year to year with most pleasant memories of something really worth while; the Portland high jinks fading away on the morning after, with a yawn and a head-ache.

Mebbe it's a case of sour grapes, but the Courier man believes the Gladstone Chautauqua has the annual frolic of the Portlanders backed off the boards from the standpoint of genuine community upbuilding—the sort that produces a better as well as a bigger citizen.

Not that the Portland show isn't a thing of beauty. It is all of that—and more, but the point is that the pretty frolic isn't the joy forever. It costs money to join the mad throng of the great light way, to "do" the festival as it should be fittingly done under the 1914 Queensbury rules. And when the mad exhilaration of the grand evening is over you sink off the 1-G. M. car at the Seventh street landing and try your best to figure out just what the total gain is on the night's revelries. Ever been? Of course you have.

It's all a question of taste—and perhaps a dash of common sense.

Compare the Gladstone outing—13 days of the best in music, art and lectures, refined entertainment and amusement, innumerable morning classes of vital interest, daily baseball games and countless other features, and all taking place before your eyes in the prettiest and most ideal camping spot in Oregon—Gladstone Park. Twenty-six big programs in the main auditorium, fifty morning hour sessions and all the rest for the magnificent sum of \$2.50.

Can you beat it? Well not at the rose festival.

The editor does not profess to be up to snuff on the latest Tango melodies but as he sized up the Chautauqua program to be given next month, he was visibly reminded of the late Broadway hit: "How Can She Do It on \$6.50 Per?"

The answer is dead easy. The Chautauqua is not a commercial project in any sense of the word, and therein lies its success. It is engineered by public spirited men and women of Clackamas county who believe that the Chautauqua is one of the great factors in the upbuilding of the social, moral and mental life of our community. These men and women give their time and shoulder the responsibility for the success of the assembly without reward, and the beautiful park has been donated to Chautauqua for fifty years, that the grand old institution may more easily realize its ideals.

The coming assembly will be the 21st birthday of the institution. The program is a dandy and it looks as if the directors intended to celebrate in a fitting manner.

The Courier congratulates the men behind the Chautauqua guns for the success of their assembly—our aspirations, in fact.

Chautauqua is something really worth while. You should plan now to help celebrate the birthday party next month.

Bridges at Barton and Molalla. The state highway engineer has drawn plans and the county court advertises for bids in this issue for two steel bridges, each 210 feet in length, one across the Molalla river at Molalla and the other across the Clackamas at Barton.

Some Recommend This. Undertaker Tom Myers, who recently took the embalmers' examination, received the following letter from Dr. Calvin S. White of the state board of health:

## DOCTORS AFTER VAN BRAKEL AGAIN

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH HELPING THEM TO "GET" HIM

### STATE HEALTH LAWS IGNORED

And Vital Statistics in County Abolished by Calvin White

The fight of the local physicians against County Health Officer, Van Brakel, an osteopath, has broken out again, and this time in the form of ignoring the state law by ignoring the health officer.

The state law directs physicians to send all vital statistics, and reports of contagious diseases to the county health officer each month.

Dr. Calvin S. White, who is the czar of the state board of health, orders the physicians to ignore Dr. Van Brakel, the county health officer, and report all vital statistics to his office, in Multnomah county.

May 25th there was a meeting of the Clackamas County Medical Association, at which time it was said this matter of ignoring Dr. Van Brakel as health officer, and the state laws regarding vital statistics was taken up. The Enterprise quotes Dr. Strickland as replying to the inquiry as to what action the physicians took against the county records of such cases.

So we have the situation as reported by physicians, of Dr. Calvin S. White directing the county physicians TO IGNORE THE STATE HEALTH LAWS.

And we have Dr. M. C. Strickland, as quoted in the Enterprise, saying the action of Dr. Van Brakel, as a physician, is "NONE OF THE PUBLIC'S BUSINESS."

What does the public think of these actions?

For nearly a year the county physicians have been playing football with health conditions in this county to "get" Dr. Van Brakel. Twice they have brought actions to remove him and made them ridiculous by failures.

Court actions have been brought in "the name of the people" so that the dear tax-payers would have to pay the expenses of litigation—the expenses the doctors should have went down in their jeans for.

And failing in the courts, the State board of health directs, and the county medical association obeys, that plain state laws be violated that medical doctors may harass a doctor who does not prescribe medicine.

This is SOME delegation of power and authority.

It is SOME right of might exercised by a person in virtue of his position of public trust.

This is SOME usurpation of power and conferring of authority by an official who is no more than a hired man of the tax-payers of Oregon.

And the Courier wonders whether the people will stand for it, or whether they will rise up and abolish a public office that plays medical favorites.

Dr. Van Brakel says that he welcomes the new attack, as it gives him an opening to bring to conclusion whether or not the office of county health is to be made a farce of, or whether it is to be recognized as a public office.

It is some interesting developments in the near future.

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## BREAKING TIMBER ENDS SWIFT'S LIFE

LOCAL RAILROAD MAN DIES AS RESULT OF ACCIDENT

### FOUR OTHERS BADLY INJURED

Willamette Valley Southern Terminal Scene of Sudden Disaster

F. M. Swift, construction manager of the Willamette Valley Southern railroad, was fatally injured in the Oregon City terminal yards Monday afternoon, and four other men were so seriously hurt that they were all sent to hospitals. Early Tuesday morning Mr. Swift died of his injuries, after making a brave but futile battle for life. Mr. Swift sustained a fractured skull and internal injuries in the accident, and attending physicians at no time had hopes of his recovery.

The accident occurred when a new electric hoist, just installed to drag gravel ballast and other material from the river to the terminal yards at the foot of Fifteenth street, was being tried out. Though there was no load in the big bucket of the hoist it proved too frail to stand the strain, and the big timber that bore the parts moving down the men standing nearby like chaff.

Those injured were: Edward Rainey, conductor on the construction train, who sustained fractures of the right thigh and left leg, as well as lacerations about the head; J. Eby, timekeeper, cut on head and shoulders; Harvey Dix, laborer, injured in the back and badly bruised; A. G. Sullivan, an employee of the P. R. L. & P. Co., badly bruised. All the above will recover, physicians in attendance say, though Rainey may be crippled for the remainder of his life.

The men injured had gathered near the head of the hoist to watch its operations. The powerful electric machinery replaces a gigantic donkey engine that had been used by the Clackamas Southern management. When the local road was re-financed by the Portland Railway, Light & Power company, the donkey engine was discarded and an electric hoist, operated by power from the interurban line, installed in its place. It was this hoist that was being tried out.

The windlass and motors of the hoist are upon a platform erected some 18 feet above the level of the terminal yards, so that cars may be run underneath and loaded with the material hauled up from the river. Apparently the framework supporting the hoist was not heavy enough to stand the strain of its operation, and when a part of this gave way five of the men watching the operation of the contrivance were flayed by the pieces.

Particular sadness attaches to the death of Mr. Swift. He has been identified with the Clackamas Southern project since its inception, and has worked with all his heart and soul to make it a success. Day and night he was ever ready to do his share towards bringing the local road to completion, and the recent progress that has been made on the line since outside capital was secured delighted him greatly. His fellow workers on the line found him a constant inspiration for their enthusiasm, and his death is mourned by all with a sincerity they can but half express.

A MATTER FOR MR. TEMPLETON TO EXPLAIN

Will He Tell the People Under What Authority He Improves Streets?

If Mr. Templeton, chairman of the street committee, is not too busy trying to find out who ordered the crushed rock put onto Fifth street, we would ask him to answer these questions, he being chairman of the street committee, he SHOULD know.

Page 33 of the city charter, sec. 87, says the council shall have power to award contracts for street improvements "such contracts TO BE LET TO THE LOWEST BIDDER."

When we ask him to look up a contract for crushed rock, dated September 23, 1912, signed by G. B. Dimick, then mayor, for 1500 cubic yards of crushed rock.

Now we would like to ask Mr. Templeton under WHAT contract and under WHAT authority he is having crushed rock put on the several streets of the city?

This contract was long ago filled and has expired.

The charter says this material SHALL BE BROUGHT UNDER COMPETITIVE BIDS.

It isn't being bought under any bids. It isn't being bought under any contract. It isn't being bought with the knowledge or consent of the other members of the street committee. It isn't being bought legally. It is just being put on.

If you want to know how much and the cost, you can't find it in the city records, but in a private book Councilman Templeton carries in his INSIDE POCKET.

This column is yours, Mr. Templeton, to explain the LEGALITY of this crushed rock deal, and to explain what right you have individually, and as ONE member of the street committee to run up these big cost bills without contract or authority from the city council.

The Courier and twice a week Journal, both one year, \$1.75.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 4)

(Over 18 years of age)

TO OPERATE SEWING MACHINES IN GARMENT FACTORY

Oregon City Woolen Mills

Girls Wanted!