

Corvallis Times

Official Paper of Benton County.

CORVALLIS, OREGON. TUESDAY EVENING JAN. 9, 1906.

THE FRANCHISE.

In the opinion of the TIMES, the city council made a mistake in fastening a 30 year's franchise on Corvallis. Is, or is not, Chicago suffering because of the long franchises she has granted in the past? Why were both parties in the last Chicago municipal election vigorous in the denunciation of the franchises, and loud in the demand that they be bought by the municipality, even at a fearful cost in cash? Did Yerkes, one of the beneficiaries of those franchises, become fabulously rich while Chicago poor became constantly poorer? Did, or did not New York rally to and probably elect Hearst recently as a protest against the fabulous profits franchises are giving to Tammany favorites and Manhattan millionaires? Is there or is there not, almost every day, a protest in Portland papers against the iniquities resultant from long franchises that have been bestowed in that city? Do all these ringing protests and bitter denunciation of the policy of granting long franchises mean anything? A light franchise touches every hearthstone in Corvallis, and with the town tied for 30 years to a corporation that boasts that it owns the light plants in Silverton, Woodburn, Salem, Albany, Eugene, and practically now Corvallis, what is to be the outcome?

The TIMES hopes its opinion will turn out to be wrong? It hopes time will so demonstrate; but when from every city in the country there is arising the bitterest of protests against the franchise system, protests that all the country cannot help but hear, wherein and whence is there assurance that the Corvallis council has not made a fatal mistake? Who knows that it has not?

ESCAPES TAXATION.

Big Farm near Corvallis—No Taxes Paid on it for Several Years.

There is a half section of land a mile west of the college, about whose status there has for years, in the absence of information, been much speculation. It is known as the Geer farm. It is owned and managed by By Geer, ex-stats land agent. Though about as good a half section of land as lies out of doors; it has not been on the tax roll. Some kind of hocus pocus seems to have prevailed in its case, wherein no sheriff, assessor or other functionary could make its owner pay his proportion of the taxes.

The tract was formerly a part of the John Osburn farm. Away back in the Pioneer days, it was one of the Mulkey donation land claims. It is what is known as the east half of donation land claim 57. As a consequence of the Osburn financial trouble, a mortgage on it was foreclosed and the piece went to the state. That year, Sheriff Burnett made a sheriff's assessment on it and got tax money W. H. Odell claimed to have purchased it, and he was compelled to pay the taxes that year. But since that time, not a dollar of taxes has been collected on it. None will be collected this year unless something develops. Assessors have not been able to find a way to get the property on the rolls. By Geer came onto the land, and with his boys occupied and farmed it. That was four or five years ago, and while other property owners have regularly paid in their money, this farm has gone on untaxed.

It is untaxable now. It cannot be taxed because the owner manages to have the title remain in the State of Oregon, though he is, in deed and in fact, the rightful owner. It is a strange condition, but delightfully true, at least to Mr. Geer.

This is the way the farm has for the past several years escaped taxation. It was bought of the state by W. H. Odell for \$5,500. The sum of \$4,500 was paid on it. A certificate was issued, but the title will remain in the state until the remaining \$1,000 is paid. Manifestly, Odell has sold the place to Geer, or else he bought it for Geer in the first place, for within a short time after the foreclosure, Geer appeared on it and related that he was its owner. So long as the \$1,000 remains unpaid, just that long Mr. Geer's farm will be non-taxable, because the title is in the state, and nothing that belongs to

the state can be taxed. The scheme is the slickest thing in the world, as a device for dodging taxes. It will not be business for Mr. Geer to pay the remaining \$1,000, and so he is not likely to do it, unless required so to do by the State Land Board. That is a thing that may happen. Sheriff Burnett has taken the matter up for the purpose of forcing this farm to pay its just share of taxes. He is in correspondence with the clerk of the school land commissioners, who have matters of that sort in charge. He has called their attention to the abuse that arises out of the condition and is urging that something be done to force the title to pass where it belongs to the end that the Geer farm may be made to pay taxes like the rest of the farms and homes.

GRANTED THE FRANCHISE.

The Council did—Eight Votes for, and one Against—Bill not yet Signed.

At a meeting last night, the city council, by a vote of 8 to 1, gave to A. Welch, a representative of Eastern capitalists, an electric light and power franchise for a period of 30 years, and turned down an offer of P. Avery of \$4,400 for a similar light concession. The light franchise does not take effect until the expiration of the Porter franchise. That is to say, as soon as one of them ends, the other begins. The advantages Corvallis is to gain from granting the franchise, were explained to the city council by Mr. McNary, of Salem, attorney for the people represented by Welch. Mr. Porter, one of the holders of the present franchise, and who is interested in getting the extended 30 years' franchise, also explained to the members some of the benefits of a 30 years' concession.

The only opponent on the floor of the council was Mr. Avery. He made several speeches against the measure. He claimed the best way to get cheap lights in the future is not to be tied up with franchises when the Porter grant expires eight years hence. If then a new franchise steps in as is proposed by the measure, there will be no bidders to offer cheaper lights. He finally offered the council the sum of \$4,400 or \$200 per year. If they would grant to persons whom he would name a light franchise for the period proposed.

In his address, asking for the franchise, Mr. McNary, the lawyer for the corporation, stated that his company owned light plants at Woodburn, Silverton, Salem, Albany and Eugene. He explicitly stated that his company had no purpose for the present, of building an electric road to Corvallis, and that it must be understood in advance that no such promise is held out. The belief of many people is that the corporation in question will ultimately get in its grasp all the light plants of the Willamette valley, and become a gigantic monopoly under which the people will suffer many an exaction in the future.

Councilman Covell made a speech in advocacy of the franchise. He said Corvallis has lain dormant too long already and that she should start out for progress. Councilman Wiles expressed some doubt as to the long period of 30 years, but thought that if a small per cent of the gross receipts could be provided for when the new franchise begins, that the dose might be easier to swallow. The mayor said, that in view of Councilman Avery's offer of \$4,400 for the franchise, and Mr. Wiles' suggestion, he might have to veto the measure even if the council passed it. One member promptly insinuated that if the mayor dared to veto it, that the council would have something to say afterwards.

After some discussion a committee was appointed to put in the Wiles provision which provides that two per cent of the gross receipts shall be paid to the city on the new franchise. Of course the lawyer for the company promptly accepted the change.

The provisions of the franchise were explained in the Times last week. The only change made since is the two per cent draw down the council gets after Porter's franchise ends. The rates now in effect, both for city and for private use are fixed as maximum, above which any new rate may not go. The ordinance has not, so far, been signed by Mayor Johnson.

For Rent.

Nice office rooms to rent in my concrete building. Also cheap back room.

B. R. Thompson.

Remember Nolan's Great Annual Mid-winter Sales will begin Saturday morning December 30th at 9 o'clock. This will be a Bona Fide Sale in every respect.

BILLS ALLOWED.

List of Warrants Ordered Paid at January Term of Court.

The following bills were allowed by the county court at the regular January 1906 term thereof, Benton county, Oregon to wit:

Table listing names and amounts of bills allowed, including R. H. Colbert Juror Cir. Ct. \$ 8 00, A. J. L. Cator 11 20, John Bier 8 00, Robt. Richardson 16 00, J. S. Ireland 13 20, J. P. Gragg 15 20, Peter Bilyeu 8 00, M. L. Barnett 16 00, John Cresswell 11 60, Chas. Hector 11 40, R. Dunn 15 20, Geo. Bennett 10 80, J. P. Anderson 17 20, G. E. Barchard 15 60, W. A. Beal 11 20, Paul Johnston 12 00, J. F. Buchanan 12 00, J. F. Aldrich 8 00, Walter Maxfield 16 00, T. A. Logsdon 10 40, W. N. Alford 10 80, John Lemon 16 00, J. L. Caton 16 80, Lee Henkle 6 00, H. Hammersley 8 00, Jasper Hayden 20 00, J. B. Arrants 11 20, H. M. Fleming 6 60, J. W. Buster 12 00, W. A. Bates 6 20, Edward Buxton 2 00, Elvin Witham 2 00, E. J. Harrington 6 00, D. D. Berman 2 00, Henry Witham 2 00, W. R. Hansell 2 00, S. L. Henderson 2 00, Ruthyn Turney 8 00, H. H. Cronise 6 00, Benson Martin 6 00, B. Woldt wit Cir. Ct. 23 40, J. D. Mann 23 40, Asa Taylor 8 20, Chas. Winant 19 50, J. F. Powell 8 80, J. D. Wells 2 00, G. A. Houck 8 00, Peter Whitaker 10 00, John Kiger 6 00, G. W. Plaster 5 00, E. A. Miller 4 00, George Wyatt 8 00, G. J. Orning 8 00, J. W. Lenger 6 00, G. E. Lilly 2 00, John Kiger 4 00, W. D. Morris Con. fees 3 40, J. Fred Yates court reporter fees 56 00, R. C. Kiger stock inspector 25 00, J. D. Wells janitor 40 00, Corvallis I. T. Co telephones 4 50, Corvallis Gazette printing 5 00, Glass & Prudhomme tax receipts 40 00, C. J. Ralls sawing wood poor 4 75, Mrs D Huggins care county poor 119 57, E. Bennett county physician 32 00, H. S. Pernot health officer 4 64, H. S. Pernot 59 00, Glass & Prudhomme election supplies 67 90, Leder Brothers road work 2 00, R. M. Gilbert 10 50, G. A. Cooper 3 00, D. H. Fleming 4 40, B. B. Woodridge 2 50, J. R. Smith & Co road snp 17 68, O. W. Beckwith road work 1 00, C. R. Ballard 4 50, Green Fawver 3 75, J. R. Crow 9 00, Geo. Dixon 3 00, C. A. Woods 6 50, D. R. Tom 27 50, Jasper Hayden 22 00, M. Hayden 10 00, E. M. Kimball 18 00.

Continued in next issue. —For the Christmas and New Year's holidays the following rates are authorized between all points on the C. & E. One fare for the round trip, minimum, 25 cents. From Philomath to Corvallis tickets will be sold on the 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 29, 30, 31 December and January 1. The limit of tickets for return is January 8.

A fine line of fishing tackle and the best shells in the market, cheap at Hodes gun store.

Railroad Lands for Lease.

Lands of the Oregon & California Railroad Company, in Oregon, will be leased for the year 1906 subject to sale. Owners of farms and ranches adjoining railroad lands should file their applications not later than February 1, 1906, after which date applications from others will also be considered. Address: Charles W. Eberlein, Acting Land Agent, 1035 Merchants Exchange, San Francisco, Cal.

Seeds. All kinds of clovers and grass seeds. Grub oak wood, all sawed. Vetch hay. L. L. Brooks.

This cold chilly weather you need something to protect your chest and lungs. Nothing will protect you like one of those "Frost King" or "Frost Queen" Chamois Vests, at Graham & Wells.

36th ANNUAL CLEARANCE SALE 36th

AT

The People's Store

Time to clean up now, before spring goods begin to arrive; time to cut the prices deep enough to make sure the work of Clearance in the next thirty days. Every department contributes special features. Money-saving sales are to be lunched in every section. Your interest is obvious if you want to save money.

Corsets

In order to make room for new styles of Thompson's glove fitting corsets, we have gone through our stock and sorted out broken lines of W. B's. which we shall discontinue.

Regular price \$1.00, Special 39c " " 1.50, " 74c

Men's Suits and Overcoats

All our mens high grade suits and overcoats, in worsted, fancy tweeds and cheviots styles of this season showing in Hart, Schaffner & Marx hand tailored garments.

Table listing prices for suits and overcoats: \$25.00 suit and overcoat \$19.95, 20.00 " " 15.95, 18.00 " " 14.40, 16.50 " " 13.00, 15.00 " " 12.00, 12.50 " " 10.00, 10.00 " " 7.95

GROCERY SPECIALS

Some people don't know that we have a grocery department, so we are making prices that will cause you to get acquainted.

- Diamond C soap regular 5c, special 8 bars 25c. 16 oz. cans Schilling's Baking Powder, special 45c. "Best" Cornstarch regular 10c, special 5c. 15 candles full weight 12 oz. 25c. 30 pounds best beans \$1.00. K. C. baking powder 25 oz. 25c. 16 pounds best No. 1 Rice, \$1.00. 1 pound package bird seed with bone 8c. I X L Tamale regular 15c, special 10c. I X L macaroni and cheese regular 10c, special 5c. Elite, Bixby, or Whittemore's Shoe Polish regular 25c, special 14c. Long's Woodlawn maple syrup; guaranteed best grade on the market, regular 75c, special 60c. Star tobacco per package 45c. Armour's washing powder regular 25c, special 15c. Cut nails per pound 2c. 1 pound oysters per can 10c. Decorated mush bowls each 5c. "DAIRY SALT" 50 pounds regular 50c, special 30c.

Great Clearance Sale of all Waists

Wool, flannel, albatross, and fancy waists, plain and trimmed, black, white, red, blue and green. All the newest and prettiest styles.

Table listing waist prices: \$1.25 waists, each .69, 1.50 " " .78, 2.00 " " 1.19, 2.00 " " 1.38, 3.00 " " 1.53, 3.50 " " 1.74. Values up to \$10.00 each, all at low prices.

Rubber Boots

We have an over supply of rubber boots and we don't want to carry over a pair. We are going to let "Clearance Sale Prices" do the work.

Table listing rubber boot prices: Men's Thigh Saag Proof Boots \$5.21, " Short " " 3.58, " Thigh Friction " 4.17, " Short " " 2.81, " " Pebble " 2.81, Boys' " Friction " 2.22, Women's Pebble " 1.64.

Knit Goods

Ladies knit skirts all wool blue, red, brown and black

Regular 85 cent, special 64 cents " \$1 50 " \$1 08

Regular \$1 25, special 93 cents Golf vests regular \$2, special 98 cents

You can save money by visiting our store during the next 30 days

Every department offers surprising values. Watch this space for further bargains next issue.

25 per cent discount on remaining holiday goods

S. L. KLINE

The People's Store

Corvallis, Oregon.

Mail orders filled

Sale prices during the month.