

FAVORS CITY PLANT

East Side Club for Municipal Rock-crusher.

EXPEDITE STREET PAVING

Vaughn Suggests That Material for Roadmaking Be Taken From the River Bed and Surplus Used for Retaining Walls.

At the meeting of the East Side Federated Push Clubs Wednesday evening, it developed that there are now 200 applications for street improvements in the hands of the City Engineer, and that 99 other streets are in process of improvement. Many of the latter are at a standstill because of a lack of material to complete them. For the macadam improvements there is no crushed rock to be had, the supply being practically all held by one company which operates at St. Helens, and that company is not able to produce a surplus for sale to other contractors.

It was suggested at the meeting that the street contractors might be in collusion to hold prices of improvement up, because it was found that bids as a rule are much higher than the estimates furnished by the City Engineer. Mayor Lane scouted that idea and said the cause of extravagant bids lies in the fact that contractors have frequently been compelled to wait for their pay after their work was done. The Mayor suggested that some plan should be adopted whereby the city could pay for improvements upon completion and acceptance, and collect the money afterward.

Propose to Dredge Willamette.

It was stated that the basaltic rock now in use is poor material for streets, and that there is a superior rock to be found in upland gravel or at the bottom of the Willamette. As the supply of gravel of either kind is unexhaustible, the city could go into the rock-crushing business and sell the products of three or four crushers to contractors at actual cost. Their crushers, costing \$10,000, would be located at different points so as to avoid hauling for any considerable distance.

Pass Resolutions on Subject.

The delegates were unanimous in their expressions that something must be done and the member from the Nolita Improvement Association offered the following resolution bearing on the matter, which was adopted:

Whereas, the economic and permanent improvement of streets in our city is one of the most important as well as vexatious problems we have to deal with at this time; and

Whereas, it appears to us as taxpayers we are continually grafted by certain combined interests in this line; and

Whereas, it is almost impossible to get our streets improved on time after a contract has been let; and

Whereas, hundreds of streets in our city are today waiting for improvement, the cause of contractors being that they cannot get material; and

Whereas, we have practically an inexhaustible supply of the very best material on earth for such purposes lying at the bottom of our harbor, if raised and properly crushed; and

Whereas, the removal of such deposit from the bottom of the river would materially improve the same; and

Whereas, it seems reasonable to us that the port of Portland would bear a large part of the expense of the removal of said gravel from the harbor; therefore,

Resolved, We pledge ourselves to take this matter up in our several clubs, and urge the municipality, through our Councilmen, to furnish this material to the property-holder at cost for street improvement, to be paid for as at present by bonds.

A committee consisting of J. H. Nolita, Dr. Davis and Dr. Moore was appointed to take the resolution before the Council, Mayor Lane promising his assistance in the matter.

Build Seawall as Well.

Councilman Vaughn was present and endorsed the idea. He advised that the bed of the Willamette be dredged, the rock therefrom to be used not only in

making street, but to build a wall along the river banks from Sellwood to the northern city boundary. The idea was favorably considered.

City Engineer Taylor stated that he had 11 surveying crews at work and could use no more men without swamping the other departments, as the advertised bids now ready are not sought for by contractors. Over 40 streets are now being made at a cost of \$250,000 and work amounting to \$250,000 is now on file but not yet acted upon. He advised that something be done to relieve the situation, as the demand for new improvements would increase.

Opposes City Plant.

The engineer did not agree with the others about the economy of the city owning its own crushers, and thought it would be cheaper to buy crushed rock if it could be had.

On motion of W. L. Boise, the club resolved the Mayor to appoint a Council committee to investigate the matter of the city establishing rock crushers. Mr. Boise said it was the duty of the city to take the matter up.

CO-OPERATION IS SOUGHT

California Improvement Committee Writes Chamber of Commerce.

The following letter received yesterday by the Chamber of Commerce from Rufus P. Jennings, chairman of the California Improvement Committee, indicates a desire for more thorough co-operation between the two organizations which will undoubtedly result in much benefit to Washington and Oregon:

The California Promotion Committee is desirous of receiving some printed matter to hold before your organization and its representatives. The literature you supply will be placed on the counters at the headquarters of the committee, for distribution and will also be circulated when occasion requires, in other ways. We desire to keep in close touch with your organization and will be glad to refer to you any inquiries that may reach the committee regarding our vicinity, and we invite your co-operation and also ask that you refer to this committee any persons desirous of being informed regarding matters pertaining to California.

We should like to hear from you at an early date that you have forwarded us circular matter as requested, and that the relationship previously existing between the California Promotion Committee and your organization will be renewed.

The Portland Chamber of Commerce has always co-operated in a way with the California organizations; its method of procedure in securing settlers being to first get them to the Pacific Coast and then talk Oregon to them. If after that has been done the immigrant does not feel inclined to establish his home here, he is urged to go either to Washington or California, thus insuring his settling on this coast.

The Chamber has arranged to forward to Mr. Jennings a large supply of booklets descriptive of Oregon for distribution under his direction.

BADLY BEATEN BY GREEKS

Young Men Pay Penalty for Refusing to Buy Drinks.

Set upon and beaten unmercifully, without apparent provocation, by a gang of five Greeks, of whom it is said J. Pulos, proprietor of the International Grocery Store, was leader, John Crowley and J. Lynch, two young men, were saved from severe injury last night by the prompt arrival of Patrolman Thorpe. Crowley and Lynch, only a few years from the "old sod," had passed through a saloon at the corner of Fourth and Davis, on their way to a toilet room in the rear. On their way out, they were approached by the Greeks, who demanded that they buy drinks. When they refused, the crowd set upon them. Crowley and Lynch dashed for the door, followed by the Greeks, but were overtaken at the corner of Fifth and Burnside. Crowley was knocked down and kicked by Pulos. Passers by who witnessed the outrage called the police and Thorpe arrived on the scene a few minutes later.

Three of the Greeks escaped, but Pulos was arrested with Nick Kalamatas, and taken to the police station.

After hearing both sides of the case, Captain Slover decided to hold the two Greeks and the injured men for trial in the court Monday. Pulos and Kalamatas were released on \$5 bail each, and Crowley was obliged to deposit \$5 to insure his appearance as a witness.

COUNCIL RAISES THE LIMIT

BRICK BLOCKS MAY NOW GO TO SIX STORIES.

Hotels Over Four Floors Must Be Constructed Strictly Class A Hereafter.

Reconsidering its action last Wednesday, the Council yesterday passed by unanimous vote the ordinance regulating the height of brick buildings in Portland. Under the measure, brick blocks may be built to six stories, while the limitations on steel and reinforced construction remains the same. By an amendment that was adopted hotels of mill construction are still limited to four stories and jolt construction is eliminated.

The reconsideration of the measure came as a surprise and those who had fought against the more liberal building provision were absent from the meeting. George S. Shepherd, ex-Councilman and father of the old law, was not present. Shepherd has always been present when previous attempts were made to change the law and has consistently fought for his favorite piece of legislation. The Council stole a march on its one-time member and inaugurated the six-story limit without even summoning Shepherd to attend and make a speech.

The motion to reconsider was made by Vaughn, who at the previous meeting had voted against the measure. Vaughn said he had investigated the situation since Wednesday, and was convinced that the old law was too stringent. A six-story limit for brick buildings equipped with metal lathing he did not consider too high for safety and the regulation was no more liberal than is in force in other cities.

An amendment introduced by Belding, and passed, prohibits jolt construction, and also stipulates that brick hotels, other than Class A buildings, shall not go more than four stories. The amendment was drawn up and approved by Building Inspector Spencer.

It is believed that the passage of this ordinance will give new impetus to construction work in Portland. Many buildings that have been planned have been held up because they came within the ban on the law limiting brick blocks to four stories. It is now expected that permits for these blocks will be taken out without delay.

It is feared that the exception limiting hotels to four stories will keep a number of proposed structures from being erected. At the same time it is generally conceded that greater precautions should be taken against the erection of unsafe hotels than any other class of buildings. Owners who wish to build hotels above four stories high will have to construct them of steel or concrete.

The new law is expected to serve as a portion of the lengthy building code that is now before the special building committee. This committee will meet at 1 o'clock this afternoon and will hold several sessions next week. It is hoped by Chairman Annand to have the measure ready for presentation to the Council at its next regular meeting.

Ask Bids for Steel Bridge.

The Council yesterday authorized the Executive Board to advertise for bids on the construction of a steel bridge across Sullivan's Gulch at Union avenue. Plans for the bridge have been drawn up by City Engineer Taylor on recommendation of Menefee. The structure will extend 408 feet from East Everett street to 112 feet south of East Gilsan. It is estimated to cost \$25,000.

STENOGRAPHY AT NIGHT

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