

# DOING SOF CITY COUNCIL

## 'CUT EXPENSES' IS COUNCIL'S SLOGAN

OFFICIAL SCISSORS CLIP OFF BAND, STREET CLEANER AND MAYBE MORE ON RETRENCHMENT POLICY.

"Retrenchment all along the line," declared the city fathers last evening, and the clip of the official shears was clearly audible in the Council chamber as they were directed here and there among the current expenses of the municipality, plucking official heads after the fashion of a bouquet-picking contest. When the smoke of battle had cleared there lay sacrificed on the altar of retrenchment the city band, a street cleaner and the dire probability of losing one paid fireman and no money hereafter for firemen on drill nights.

Grouped under four heads were the recommendations brought forward by the finance committee, changes they said are necessary to reduce the \$16,000 of outstanding city warrants which there are no funds to meet. "And if we want out paper to pass," said Councilman Copple, chairman of the committee, "we must have the necessary funds on hand to escape the discontinuance of payment on our warrants. It is not within our power to materially increase the revenue of the city, hence we must reduce the expenses."

He then pointed out how the committee have been working for several weeks on their report, not making any hasty conclusion in their findings, but picking where the reductions in expenses would be the least noticed and the easiest dispensed with.

Under legislative restrictions, said the chairman, it will not be possible next year to raise the city tax more than six per cent of what it is this year. Also there will be a loss of \$7500 in saloon licenses to be reckoned with. And on top of all this there is a chance of adding only about \$2000 to the city treasury through the increased tax assessments.

"Facing such a condition," said the chairman, "it was up to us to take the best means of reducing expenses."

**How Its To Be Done.**  
The four recommendations, in brief, are to take off one of the two paid engineers of the fire department, to discontinue the payment of \$150 monthly to the Coos Bay Band, to take one of the three men from the street cleaning department and last, to discontinue the 50 cents a drill night to the volunteer firemen.

These clippings, reported the finance committee, will amount to approximately \$335 a month, or \$4020 a year.

"I don't believe we're clipping enough," volunteered Councilman Albrecht.

"We've tried to be economical this year, but have been running behind," said Mayor F. E. Allen. "There have been several legal suits that have involved us somewhat unexpectedly."

"And then we lose the saloon licenses, too," chorused Councilman Harry J. Kimball, and the official snipping was on.

**Not Cripple Fire Department.**  
That the taking away of a paid engineer at the fire station will not cripple the department is the expressed belief of the Councilmen. The plan is to have Gordon Smith always on hand during the day time and, until June, when his family returns from the South, he will also be sleeping at the station, while for the nights at least two men of the fire department, experienced in handling the apparatus, will have

quarters in the city hall. They will probably be paid a nominal sum, and will, through the night, be subject to call.

When he returns to his home a private fire alarm will be installed for Gordon Smith, said the Councilmen, and this will make him, too, always available for night duty when necessary.

**To Use Pest House.**  
While talking on the subject of having firemen easily available at night time, Dr. Straw, health officer, recommended the use of the city pest house for the quartering of at least five men. "With \$40 the place could be fixed up in great shape," he said. "There is absolutely no danger. I have fumigated that place until I would not be afraid to take my own family in there. As far as needing the place is concerned, there has been only one use for it during all of last year."

The idea was discussed of bringing the boat house up the waterfront to a point nearer the fire station. The boys would be given the quarters free in return for being available to calls in the night.

**To Meet With Firemen.**  
But to talk these proposed changes over with the firemen, a meeting has been arranged for Thursday evening when, in the Council chambers, the city fathers will explain to the men the necessity of retrenchment and show to them that in no way are they willfully seeking to cripple the service.

To allow the firemen to use permanently for meetings the Council Chamber, and convert their present meeting place at the station into a small dormitory was also discussed. But this and the cutting down of the pay on drill nights together with the abolishment of one paid fireman will be discussed with the fire department on Thursday.

**Band Is Nice, But—**  
"The band is a nice thing to have," said Councilman Copple, "but we need the money." He explained that facing the necessity of cutting expenses it is foolish to pay \$150 a month for a luxury.

Some members argued that inasmuch as the band was sanctioned by the citizens at an election the question should again be submitted to them. This idea was finally dropped and four of them, R. A. Copple, H. J. Kimball, G. W. Cook and Carl Albrecht voted for the abolishment. Carl Evertsen was absent and Duncan Ferguson, while not in favor of the band, still voted to put the measure before the people. The band money will be discontinued April 1.

**More Dirt, More Money.**  
"More dirt, more money," said Councilman Kimball, and one of the three street sweepers at \$65 a month had been snipped from the city's pay roll.

### NEWS OF NORTH BEND

Mrs. E. R. Hodson, of South Coos River was a Marshfield visitor today.

The official board of the Methodist Episcopal Church will meet tonight.

Miss Ida Gamble, a teacher in Coquille, spent the week-end with her parents in North Bend.

A Congregational meeting will be held in the Presbyterian Church on Wednesday evening. A program and social evening will be enjoyed.

Mr. and Mrs. R. McCann, who have spent the last ten days with relatives and friends on South Coos River, returned to their home last Saturday.

A very successful two weeks' revival service closed Sunday evening in the Methodist Church.

The WOMEN'S AUXILIARY of the PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH will give a CHICKEN DINNER in the EPISCOPAL GUILD HALL, beginning at 5 p. m., WEDNESDAY, MAR. 17.

## NEW FIRE ENGINES TO STAY IN CITY

TAKE OUTSIDE LIMITS ONLY IN EMERGENCIES—CITY SCHOOLS WELL SUPPLIED WITH FIRE EQUIPMENT.

Fire apparatus and fire escapes in both schools of the city are in perfect order, nothing more is needed and the pupils are now able to leave the building after the fire alarm signal in from 35 to 90 seconds. Such was the report of Fire Chief Dan Keating last evening. The taking of the new auto fire truck from the city limits, other than in emergencies, places the property here in danger, he also reported. The Council unanimously voted that hereafter the auto truck and the big steamer shall go out of the city only when it is absolutely necessary.

Mr. Keating told how he went with a committee to the high school and found there are three fire escapes on the building, the equipment is all right and the building can easily be emptied. At the Central school there are no fire escapes, he reported, for the reason none are necessary. By sufficient stairways the children left the building in 35 seconds at an impromptu fire drill.

**Equipment to Stay in City.**  
"With an auto truck that cost us \$9500," said Councilman Kimball, "it seems poor policy to send it joggling over the roads in either direction from the city, under almost any excuse, leaving our property here in danger while it is gone." He believed the old equipment, either or both of the steamers, should be sent when necessity demanded.

To take the auto and steamer away from the city only in emergencies was the opinion of Councilman Copple. "The old steamer protected us for years," he said, "and it is still able to do good work. I believe that we should hook this onto an auto for work in districts outside the city limits."

"We have received plenty of compliments for our work," said Fire Chief Keating, "but compliments will in no way pay for the wear and tear of the machinery and the ruining of firemen's clothes and shoes." He stated that with the new truck available at all times North Bend would not fix her salt water hydrants.

**City to Pay Judgment.**  
City Attorney John D. Goss reported there is a judgment of about \$1800 against the city and Port, jointly, for damages awarded by the Circuit Court to property owners on the Western border of the Mill Slough fill. He believed the money should be paid at once. The City Recorder was authorized to draw up a warrant for the city's full share.

**Declare Sidewalks Dangerous.**  
That the strip of sidewalk along the east side of Broadway between Commercial and Market avenue is in a dangerous condition, was the belief of Councilman Kimball and notices are to be posted warning pedestrians from the walk. Meanwhile notices of a concrete improvement are being posted and plans and specifications for the work are being drawn up by the City Engineer.

Ordinances levying the assessment for street improvements were passed for the replanking of Broadway, Hall to Kruse avenues, and for the sidewalk on Hemlock between Sixth and Front streets.

Four wholesale liquor licenses, under the new city ordinances, were allowed last evening, \$500 in bonds being supplied in each instance. The licenses run for only four months.

Plans and specifications for planking Tenth street South, from Elrod 137 feet north to the bridge were authorized by the Council. It was declared that the present planking is in bad shape.

**Levy Assessments.**  
As a board of equalization the Council levied the assessment on the property owners for the sidewalk on Hemlock avenue, this to have a frontage cost of \$134.75, and for the replanking of Broadway, the cost will be 41 cents per front foot.

D. L. Rood brought a petition asking the opening of Birch avenue between Second and Third streets. There would be a 17 per cent roadway he said. Not all the property owners had signed. Some of the Councilmen thought best to open the street through to Broadway in the same project. The matter was referred to the City Engineer, and the street committee.

They will decide whether the road should be bridged or made by a fill. Permission was granted at the last meeting for the laying of a sidewalk, this to be done by the property owners. Variance of sur-

veys has caused no limit of trouble there, said the City Attorney.

**Dray Breaks Curbing.**  
That drays and wood and coal carriers are in the habit of backing their heavy wagons against the concrete and wooden curbing, damaging them severely, was the report of Councilman Kimball. He asked that the ordinance prohibiting this be enforced.

"There are some places I have noticed," he said, "where the curbing has been broken off. It will have to be repaired one of these days and then the same thing will be done over again. Some of the wooden curbings have been smashed in two. I have seen wood teams walking over the board walks. This ought to stop."

## MOVE STATION NOW OR LOSE \$47,000

APPROPRIATION FOR LIFE-SAVING STATION TO LAPSE JUNE 30 IF WORK IS NOT STARTED—HURRY STATESMEN.

Money amounting to \$47,000 appropriated by Congress for the moving of the Coos Bay Life Saving Station will not be available after June 30 if actual work is not started before that time, is the word that has been received here. Captain J. C. Cantwell, inspector of life guards, 13th district, who left for Eureka this morning, when asked if this was so stated that it is. He advised immediate pressure on the Oregon Senators and Representatives at Washington.

An endless amount of work in joining the Life Saving Bureau and the revenue service is now going on. This entails detail after detail and in the maelstrom projects, hundreds of them, for which money has been appropriated, must be taken out one at a time and unraveled.

With this fact in view an immediate effort will be made through the Chamber of Commerce to bring the question to the attention of Oregon statesmen that work at least can be started before June 30.

Should the appropriation lapse, is pointed out, all efforts and work previously done to secure the money will have been lost and the entire proceedings must be gone over again. Inspector Ropes when here about two months ago, looked over the proposed new site at Charleston Bay and stamped it with his approval, and as he left stated he would do his best to have the moving commenced. Since that time nothing more has been accomplished.

Under Congressional appropriations are hundreds of projects. With the increased tangle of joining the two services, many of these are being held up and on some of them the grants of money will "go by the board." Mr. Cantwell stated he knew little of what is going on in that department, but advised immediate action.

The changing of the life-saving bureau has resulted in a change of rating, all life savers now being called life guards. No increase is made in their pay, though under a new rule it is provided that an increase of ten per cent shall be granted for every five years in the service, up to a maximum of 40 per cent. Thus the local keeper, now receiving \$1000 per year, will be able to raise to \$1400 in addition to the money allowed for rations. At the end of 30 years, or at 64 years of age men are allowed to retire on two-thirds of the pay they are getting at the close.

## SEEPAGE ANNOYS PROPERTY OWNERS

DAVID MUSSEN ASKS PERMISSION FOR PORT TO BUILD SURFACE DRAINS—TO REBUILD TIDE GATES.

Seepage to the Mill Slough flats that gathers about houses causing odors and possibly disease, is a grave danger to the city, according to David Mussen, who came to the Council last evening and reported that during the past few days the seepage has become almost unbearable about his place at 223 South Second street. He asked that the Port be given permission to dig the necessary ditches for conveying the water from the rear of his place, and this was granted.

"And be sure that we have nothing more to do with it than granting permission," declared City Attorney John D. Goss. "Let them have their engineer work it out with his own plans and specifications." He was thinking of the \$900 to be paid by the city this week for Mill Slough damages.

**To Rebuild Tide Gates.**  
The necessity of a tide gate was emphasized by City Engineer Gidley who stated that the present one allows the tide to back up in the box. Both he and Engineer Char-

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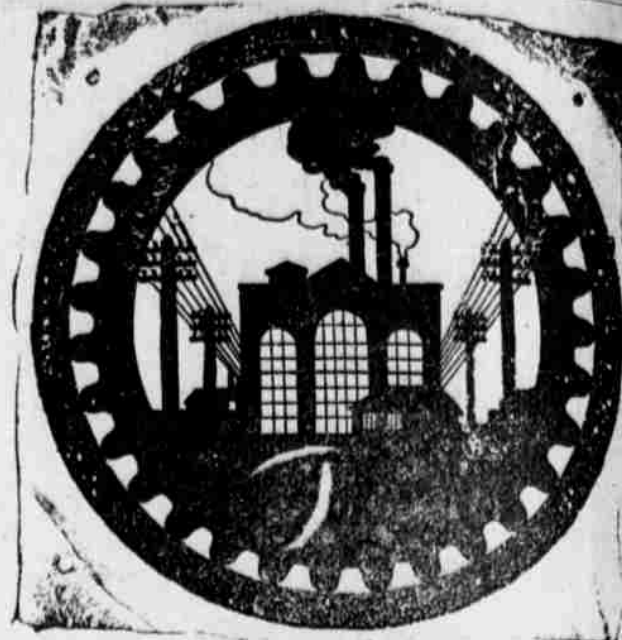
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### Along the Waterfront.

Coming in at nine o'clock last evening the Adeline was all loaded and going down the bay this morning at eleven o'clock, loading in record time at the Smith mill.

In yesterday afternoon about 3 o'clock, the Breakwater left out at eleven this morning bound for Eureka. She was late yesterday because of contrary tides at the Columbia and a 55-mile wind down the coast, according to the officers.

On Thursday the Nann Smith is due in from San Francisco. She is expected to leave out of there either this evening or tomorrow morning.

PUBLIC STENOGRAPHER—150 Front street.

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