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FRANKLIN AVENUE IMPROVEMENT.

Councilman Nordstrom is righteously indignant because of the sudden turn of affairs in the matter of the contemplated improvement of Franklin avenue in the east end.

Mr. Burns, chairman of the street committee, is the author of the bill which the mayor vetoed. The ordinance was intended to place the council in possession of accurate information as to the cost of the work.

Generally speaking, we are opposed to the city making improvements for the property owners. Astoria has gone into this sort of business altogether too extensively.

But there are exceptional cases. Our charter provides that property shall not be taxed for street or sewer improvements in excess of 75 per cent of the assessed valuation.

There are other considerations to be reckoned with in this matter. So long as Franklin avenue remains unimproved, just that long will property valuations remain at bedrock.

Perhaps, as some of the members of the council aver, the city is financially unable at the present time to assist the Third ward; but it is equally plain that the council will disregard the rights of the people whom it represents if it fails to override the mayor's veto of the ordinance for the Franklin avenue improvement.

THE JETTY AND THE BAR DREDGE.

If the bar dredge Chinook accomplishes no more for the mouth of the Columbia river than has been accomplished by the jetty, the depth will not be materially affected.

given a chance to demonstrate its usefulness, but for that matter neither has the Chinook. In all fairness, and for the advancement of our own interests, we should not take snap judgment on either of the methods now being employed at the mouth of the Columbia.

Extension of the jetty is not the easy matter many of us believe it to be. It has been demonstrated that, as the jetty is built seaward, the bar is forced out. The extension carries the work into deep water, the depth having been 30 feet when operations were suspended last fall.

Everything thus far points to the success of the work of the bar dredge. The vessel has been able to operate only at times during the winter, but it is believed she is doing good work.

It's all very well for the engineer department to make periodical soundings, but it is not fair for the department to pass judgment on the Chinook after she has worked only 60 or 70 hours.

We want greater depth on the bar and it is a matter of no consequence whether the depth is provided by the jetty or by the Chinook—or by both.

The excellent plan of pensioning superannuated employes which was inaugurated by the Pennsylvania and Chicago & Northwestern companies on January 1, 1901, followed by the Illinois Central six months later, has proved so satisfactory that it is gradually being adopted by other companies.

The 4000 telephone girls in Germany are government employes. Each must be of good character and live in a respectable family.

The members of the council at Monday night's meeting agreed to an amendment to the appropriations bill whereby the entire library tax is to be turned over to the public library.

Harbin, Manchuria, is but three years old, but is one of the greatest cities of Asia, and has the largest European population of any Asiatic city.

If the correspondent signing himself "Observer" will send his name to this office as an evidence of good faith, his letter will receive due consideration.

As President Harper, of Chicago, is able to handle all his professors, he might make a good campaign manager for the democrats.

The democrats claim that Mr. Roosevelt has not a divine right to the presidency. This is true; but he has the right of a majority vote holder.

Not a mule was killed in the Japanese bombardment of Port Arthur.

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