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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. Whether or not Mr. Nordstrom's charge of political trickery is well founded, it is evident that the people of the Third ward, and, for that matter, the people of the entire city, have not been make periodical soundings, but it is not fair for the fairly treated in this matter.

Mr. Burns, chairman of the street committee, is the atuhor 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. It authorized the street committee to invite bids, but the actual awarding of the contract was a matter to be acted upon at a later date by the council. Mr. Burns asked that the ordinance be passed so it might be positively determined just what portion of the cost of making the improvement would fall upon employes which was inaugurated by the Pennsylthe city. In all fairness, this much, at least, was due vania and Chicago & Northwestern companies on the people of the Third ward. No one knew how much January 1, 1901, followed by the Illinois Central six of the cost of the improvement would have to be paid months later, has proved so satisfactory that it is out of the general fund, and, in view of the fact that gradually being adopted by other companies, says there had been considerable expense attached to pre- the Railway Age. The latest to announce the esliminary work already done, the council should have tablishment of a pension system is the Atlantic Coast taken steps to thoroughly and authentically post Line Railroad Company, which operates some 4,200

making improvements for the property owners. As- sions are figured is practically the same in all comtoria has gone into this sort of business altogether panies, namely: an allowance for each year of service too extensively, as our immense municipal debt will of 1 per cent of the average regular monthly pay show. People who want streets ought to pay for received for the 10 years preceeding retirement; but them. No other equitable manner of street improve- whereas some companies require 30 years of con-

vides that property shall not be taxed for street or the service on their reaching the retirement age of sewer improvements in excess of 75 per cent of the 70 years-or of 61 to 69 years in cases of incapacity assessed valuation. This provision makes it necessary for further service. The usual clause prohibiting the for the taxpayers at large to occasionally assist the regular employment thereafter of any person over people of a certain district. Nearly all of the im- 35 years of age is modified by this company to read: provements recently made have been partly paid for "No person inexperienced in railway work over 35 out of the general fund of the city. The east end ought years of age, and no experienced person over 45 to be entitled to equally as much consideration as years of age shall hereafter be taken into the serthe downtown wards, and certainly was entitled to vice," subject to exceptions for temporary or special the privilege of demonstrating just what the pro- service. posed Franklin avenue improvement would cost.

There are other considerations to be reckoned with unimproved, just that long will property valuations and live in a respectable family. The pay is 53% remain at bedrock. With an improved street from cents a day, with an advance of six cents in two the money which it would advance at this time. two years for an opening. There's nothing temporary about the city government it will be here after we of the present generation are gone. It can well afford to assist in the upbuilding of its several districts, for the east end is as much a part of the whole city as the First ward or the Second ward.

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 one of the greatest cities of Asia, and has the largest avenue improvement, which is purely a preliminary European population of any Asiatic city, containing measure and calculated only to place the council in 60,000 Russians, besides the soldiers, and 40,000 possession of facts and figures which are now lament- Chinese. It will be the great flouring mill city of ably lacking. If Mayor Suprenant and Messrs. Handthat region. sen and Lebeck are anxious to do the right thing in this matter, let them agree to passage of the ordinance, and then, if the cost to the city will be too great, let them reject the bids at the proper time. The improvement is needed and every reasonable means should be employed to secure it. There is nothing reasonable to the action thus far taken.

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. We have been depending upon a divine right to the presidency. This is true; but the jetty for a great many years, yet today there is he has the right of a majority vote holder. no more water on the bar than there has been in the past-not nearly as much as during the period from Not a mule was killed in the Japanese bombard 1892 to 1896. We believe the jetty has never been ment of Port Arthur.

given a chance to demonstrate its usefulfiess, 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. A few hundred yards beyond the end of the breakwater the depth is 10 fathoms, and a mile or so farther out is 100 to 150 feet. Construction of the jetty in such depths as these is no small matter. The undertaking calls for the best work of our scientific engineers. Should they fail in the future as they have in the past the Columbia will be left with only 25 or 30 feet depth, the millions already expended will be lost and our harbor deprived of a suitable entrance.

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. Those men who work on the bar in the capacity of pilots, and who should be most thoroughly posted on matters of the kind, express the belief that the dredge will give us the desired depth. Perhaps they are mistaken, but it is only logical to suppose they know, more about this matter than the average landsman.

It's all very well for the engineer department to department to pass judgment on the Chinook after she has worked only 60 or 70 hours. The Chinook is entitled to as much consideration as the jetty-if anything, is entitled to more consideration, for it gives more promise of results.

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 miles of road, and controls companies representing Generally speaking, we are opposed to the city over 5,000 miles more. The basis upon which pentinuous service and others 20 years, the Atlantic But there are exceptional cases. Our charter pro- Coast Line pensions all who have been 10 years in

The 4000 telephone girls in Germany are govern in this matter. So long as Franklin avenue remains ment employes. Each must be of good character Thirty-fifth to Forty-third property would become years, and those four years in servise secure 71 cents more valuable and the city would in time get back a day. Applicants for these positions usually wait

> 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. This action was commendable, and, if the emmbers of the council de not change their minds, the public library will re ceive the money.

Harbin, Manchuria, is but three years old, but is

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. If not, it will be thrown in the waste paper basket.

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



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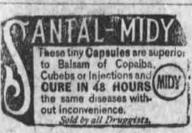
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