

SENTIMENT IS UNANIMOUS FOR PROPOSED SEA WALL

Fact Is Appreciated That Future Welfare of City Depends Upon Immediate Improvement of Harbor.

Committee of Ten Energetic Men Named at Last Night's Meeting to Interview Property Owners Directly Affected by the Improvement and Will Submit Report at Another Early Meeting.

◆ Sentiment in favor of the sea wall proposal is practically unanimous. Thus far there has not been one dissenting voice.

◆ A proper display of public spirit is all that is required to make the present movement successful.

◆ Upon the construction of the sea wall the future welfare of this city depends.

◆ At a meeting of tax payers last night the matter of canvassing sentiment among the taxpayers was entrusted to the following committee:

◆ Frank L. Parker,
◆ A. Scherneckau,
◆ W. H. Barker,
◆ G. W. Roberts,
◆ C. A. Coolidge,
◆ T. H. Curtis,
◆ D. H. Welch,
◆ R. B. Dyer,
◆ Dr. W. C. Logan,
◆ R. E. Carruthers.

◆ This committee will adopt a plan of work and, after making a thorough investigation, report to the tax payers at a subsequent date.

The first definite steps toward the construction of a sea wall along the water front were taken last night at a rousing meeting of the principal taxpayers of the city. The meeting was held at the Chamber of Commerce rooms and about 100 leading property owners were present. Much genuine enthusiasm was manifested, and it was evident from the expressions on the floor of the chamber that sentiment in favor of the proposal is practically unanimous. All of those who expressed themselves said they hoped the matter would be brought to a successful issue and gave their approval to the movement now under way.

"We are willing to do everything in our power to further the improvement," they declared, "and will gladly

bear our respective shares of the cost if a reasonable proposition is submitted to us. The improvement is needed and the time to make the start is ripe."

At the invitation of President Welch, of the chamber, Colonel Adair stated briefly what had transpired at the previous meeting held for the purpose of discussing the proposal. He said the present meeting had been called to devise ways and means to sound sentiment; that the company represented by ex-Governor Semple could not incur any preliminary expense until it had been pretty thoroughly ascertained that the people of Astoria really desired the sea wall.

Mr. Elmore spoke of the plans necessary for the improvement and the cost of defraying the expense. He said he regarded the matter of harmonizing the different interests involved in the contemplated improvement as perhaps the most important of all, and expressed the conviction that the proper display of public spirit would accomplish this result. It was his opinion that the first start for a greater Astoria was a sea wall from the foot of Ninth street to the Clatsop mills, and he believed the scheme for the reclamation of the property contained in such districts perfectly feasible.

No Trouble About Finances.

Frank L. Parker, who represents the younger progressive element, and who has evinced much interest in the present undertaking, said there would be no difficulty about financing the scheme if the interested property owners could be got to agree that the improvement was essential to the city's future welfare. The reclaimed land would provide ample means of securing funds, he said. Mr. Parker had devoted some time to the consideration of Mr. Semple and he had found that the average fill necessary in the district which is affected by the tides would be nine feet. The cost per lot of 50x100 would be about \$500. He was of the opinion that the improvement would not only be an inexpensive one, comparatively, but that it would be of a permanent nature. It seemed to be his idea that the present

railroad line would be the proper location for the sea wall.

D. H. Welch asked about the cost per cubic yard for filling in the tide land, and, when informed that it would perhaps be about 16 cents, said he had been told the same company had made a proposition to fill tide land at Portland for 5 cents. He believed the difference in the cost was not so great as 11 cents. Mr. Welch wanted the company to submit a proposal, and he was sure a reasonable offer would be entertained.

Harmony Is Essential.

Dr. Fulton said he believed the sea wall proposition to be a matter of very great importance and that he favored the movement now under way. However, he realized that harmony was the first great requisite. If the property owners could be made to understand that it was to their own interests to secure the building of the bulkhead, the proposition could be undertaken with every certainty of success. Dr. Fulton believed the first step would be to secure an expression from every man interested in the proposed district. If any considerable number of property owners saw fit to stand in the way of the city's progress, then the undertaking would have to be abandoned. "The best thing we can do is to talk with the owners of the property and find out how they feel about it," Dr. Fulton concluded.

Thomas Dealey expressed himself in a similar vein. He said the proposal merited the hearty co-operation of all true Astorians, and he firmly believed the matter could be successfully carried out if proper effort were made. He believed the sentiment of the property owners should be first obtained.

An Interesting Fact.

The discussion prompted Colonel Adair to make an interesting statement, which tends to show how much money has been squandered by property owners because of their failure to get together and discuss the sea wall proposition in the past. Mr. Adair said the cost of filling in the land would be less than the cost of the present method of driving piling and planking. In other words, a permanent improvement could be made at less cost than is required for the temporary improvements now in vogue. Every five or six years streets must be improved and the underpinning or planking of waterfront property replaced at constant expense. These improvements are but temporary, whereas for even less cost a permanent foundation could be put in.

Whole City It Interested.

Richard E. Carruthers objected to the statement made by some of the gentlemen that only the property owners interested in the proposed first district are concerned. He said every man, woman and child living in Astoria was vitally interested in the matter. A sea wall, he pointed out, would not only make the water front property more valuable, but it would as well add to the general prosperity of the city and have its effect upon property located everywhere.

Committee Appointed.

A. Scherneckau expressed the belief that the meeting should first undertake to canvass sentiment. He moved the appointment of a committee of such members as the chair might see fit to appoint for the purpose of thoroughly sounding sentiment and reporting its findings to the taxpayers at some future meeting, and to make such other investigation as it might find essential. Mr. Elmore believed a committee of at least 10 should be appointed, and he recommended T. H. Curtis for chairman. Mr. Curtis said he could not accept the chairmanship, because he would be in the city only for brief periods, but he agreed to serve upon the committee and do everything he could to assist in getting the matter in shape. Mr. Elmore's idea was adopted and he was first named as chairman, but declined, as he will shortly leave the city for three or four weeks. After some discussion Chairman Welch named the following gentlemen, with authority to select their own officers:

Frank L. Parker, A. Scherneckau, W. H. Barker, G. W. Roberts, C. A. Coolidge, T. H. Curtis, D. H. Welch, R. B. Dyer, Dr. W. C. Logan and R. A. Carruthers.

FLY IDIOT IS KNOWN.

Uncle of Odd Crank Discloses His Identity—Home in Chicago. Chicago, Feb. 23.—The Chicago Tribune today says:

Edward Relgar, whose persistent efforts to see President Roosevelt yesterday resulted in his arrest at the White House, is known in Chicago. P. S. Whiting, 73 Florence avenue, says the man is his nephew and his belief is based on Relgar's notion that people's names should be changed to indi-

cate their trade or profession. Mr. Whiting said that Relgar was the name his nephew, Frank Coe, frequently assumed under the delusion that he was another individual.

Mr. Whiting says his nephew killed his wife and attempted to kill himself a few days ago.

No Money at Present Session

Appropriation for Improvements to Columbia River Quarantine Station Impossible.

Recently the Chamber of Commerce took up the matter of the improvement of the Columbia river quarantine station and letters concerning the proposal were forwarded to Oregon's senators and representatives in congress. Replies were read last night from Senators Fulton and Mitchell and Representatives Williamson and Hermann. Senator Fulton's letter, which conveys the expression of all of the gentlemen, is as follows, and, apart from its reference to the quarantine matter, contains some interesting information otherwise:

"Washington, Feb. 8.—C. R. Higgins, Secretary Astoria Chamber of Commerce: I have just received your letter, inclosing a statement for needed improvements at the Columbia river quarantine station furnished by Dr. Earle. The total cost is \$39,065.81. It will be simply impossible to secure any such sum for that work at this congress. Congress usually passes what is known as a public buildings bill, but no such bill will be passed by this congress. The policy is to restrict appropriations by this congress to the absolute necessities of the government. Such is always the policy at the session immediately preceding a presidential election. If the buildings at the quarantine station were in need of repair, or there were some emergency requiring only a comparatively small amount, it might be possible to secure an appropriation for it, by having the amount inserted in one of the ordinary appropriation places; but to secure an appropriation to engage in an entirely new work is entirely out of the question. At the next session of congress we may be able to secure something for the quarantine station.

"I might add that on receipt of your letter I called on the supervising architect, Mr. Taylor, and submitted the matter to him, in hopes that he had received some recommendation in that regard from the quarantine people, but he had not. All such appropriations must be sent in to the various committees in charge of those matters in congress through Mr. Taylor, and he must recommend them, or they will not go. Mr. Taylor said that he had not had his attention called to the necessity for any such improvements, but in a general way he was satisfied that such improvements should, in time, be made. He, however, suggested that it would be utterly useless to undertake to secure any such appropriation at the present session, and that accords absolutely with my convictions. Sincerely yours,

"C. W. FULTON."

FULTON BILL MAY GO OVER

Senator Bailey Believes it is Interfering With States' Rights.

If Senator Bailey, of Texas, adheres to the position he took a few days ago, Senator Fulton will have to postpone the consideration of his salmon bill until the general pure food bill comes before the senate, says a Washington dispatch. When Senator Fulton called up his bill, which prohibits the shipment from one state to another, or from the United States to a foreign country, of any misbranded salmon, Senator Bailey objected to having the bill considered as a separate measure.

Bailey, as is well known, is a great stickler for state's rights, and will go to any extreme to prevent legislation which, in his opinion, gives the general government authority to control any act which should be left in the control of the state.

Bailey insisted that Senator Fulton's bill was on the lines of the oleomargarine bill, passed in the last congress. Like that bill, he insisted, that it gave the general government authority to interfere and prevent fraud which could be controlled and ought to be controlled by state legislation. Bailey said he was not in favor of allowing the misbranding of any articles of food, but he thought the states ought to protect their own dealers, and the general government should not interfere. Unless Bailey changes his mind, Senator Fulton's bill will probably have to go over until the pure food bill comes up, when it will probably be inserted in that measure as a separate clause.

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