

LAND OWNERS WILL HELP MOVE FOR MODERN HOTEL

Proposal Arouses Great Enthusiasm and Many Sites for New Structure Have Already Been Offered.

Prominent Citizens Attend Second Mass Meeting, Hear Preliminary Report of Committee Named on Thursday Night, Pledge Support to Proposal and Adjourn to Tuesday Night to Hear Final Report.

The hotel proposal is rapidly assuming definite form. Messrs. Harrison Allen, A. M. Smith and W. E. Schimpff, the committee appointed to canvass sentiment, reported at a second mass meeting held last evening, and their verbal report was most gratifying. Several heavy property owners have offered sites for the building, because of its influence on property values and it is certain that many other sites will be offered. The men who have agreed to give sites realize the vast benefit which the location of the hotel will have on property values, and perhaps this factor has been as influential as the desire to assist Astoria.

Briefly stated, the hotel proposition occupies the following status: Everyone who has expressed himself in favor and ready to lend his financial assistance; half a dozen sites have been offered, the owners agreeing to take stock to the amount of the value of their property, and in some instances donations of sites have been tendered, the property owners expressing a desire to further assist by taking large blocks of stock; just as soon as all the proposals for sites are in, organizations will be effected, the most desirable site selected and the stock books opened.

A Rousing Meeting.

Last night's meeting was a rousing one. On the previous evening only about 30 men were present, but last night the capacity of the Chamber of Commerce was taxed to its utmost. The meeting got down to business when the report of the committee was presented. It was addressed to "the citizens of Astoria who are interested in securing a modern hotel," and was as follows:

"We, your committee appointed to confer with the business men of Astoria in regard to financing a hotel proposition along the lines indicated at the meeting held last evening, most respectfully report that we have been very much encouraged by the interest which has been shown by business men in the project.

"We have every reason to believe that there will be no difficulty whatever in securing the full amount of stock subscribed to the hotel and guarantee company, provided the money to build the hotel can be secured on the first mortgage bonds as proposed and proper location is selected for the hotel.

"The selection of a proper location is one of the most important questions, as the parties agreeing to take the bonds will, of course, want to know what site the hotel is to be located upon, as well as the plan of the hotel.

"We have interviewed several property owners with a view of securing a good site for which the owner will accept bonds of the company as payment. Among the sites that have been proposed is one, 100 feet by 125 feet,

facing on Fourteenth street, Duane street and Exchange street, and on the east side of Fourteenth street, and which belongs to the Taylor family, but, owing to the limited time, we were not able to get a definite proposition upon this site. Upon the opposite side of the street a site 100 feet by 125 feet, similarly situated, can be secured for \$10,000 in bonds of the company. We also recommend for consideration a site of 100 feet on Commercial street and running back 125 feet to Duane street and facing upon Fifteenth street on the west side of the street—the property occupied by August Danielson—which would make an admirable hotel site, and would make a revenue producer from the start on account of the stores that could be rented on Commercial street, the south end of the lots being amply high above the water line for basement rooms; but, owing to the fact that Mr. Gratke, who owns one of these lots, is at present out of the city, no definite proposition could be secured upon this property. We think that the hotel should be constructed near the business center of the city, so that the ground floor can be utilized for stores and thus insure an income independent of the hotel for the payment of interest on the bonds, and at the same time we think that consideration should be paid to the tendency and direction of the future growth of the city, so that as the city grows the site will improve in value.

"We would recommend that the committee be given further time to secure definite offers from the various property owners who have available hotel sites, when a meeting can be held to consider them and the proper site selected, and then a corporation be formed and subscriptions to bonds and stock be opened and the town thoroughly canvassed, and we have no doubt of the success of the venture.

"From our conversations with various business men we are inclined to believe that the plan of financing the proposition ought to be changed, so that the hotel and guaranty company will guarantee the interest on the bonds for 20 or 30 years instead of 10 years. Very respectfully yours,
"A. M. SMITH;
"W. E. SCHIMPPF,
"HARRISON ALLEN.
"Committee."

Messrs. Smith, Allen and Schimpff explained the matter at length. They stated that they had informal talks with several large property holders, all of whom expressed a willingness to assist financially, and that several sites had been offered. However, they wanted further time, as they were unable at last night's meeting to give a detailed report, such as was expected of them. Their wishes in the matter were respected, and at a late hour the meeting adjourned until next Tuesday night at 7 o'clock, when the

committee will make a final report, submitting all the site proposals received. Then the hotel company will be organized, a site will be selected and the work of securing the necessary funds will proceed.

All Are Enthusiastic.

The enthusiasm which characterized last night's meeting was of the old-time order. The city was well represented, and the discussion brought out many admirable ideas. F. D. Keuttner evinced lively interest in the proposal and his advice was listened to with interest. He was one of the original hotel agitators, stands close to Mr. Hammond, and last night pledged his personal support and said he was satisfied Mr. Hammond would assist.

Architect Lazarus was present. Mr. Lazarus has already started upon preliminary plans, and will do everything in his power to assist the venture. He said last night that he had the utmost faith in the hotel scheme, and he was so well satisfied that it would pay that he offered to prepare plans and accept his fee in stock. "I would much prefer stock to cash," said Mr. Lazarus. "Stock would be a good thing, for it would net me a sure return."

Among the other men who pledged their report were ex-Mayor Bergman, C. H. Cooper, E. Z. Ferguson, C. M. Celler, Dr. Ball, Frank L. Parker and J. S. Dellinger. Mr. Dellinger was willing to subscribe for several shares of stock and pay 25 per cent or more of his subscription immediately.

D. H. Welch believed the hotel Astoria's greatest need. He said he would offer a site near the business section and that he would agree to have a committee of three appraise its value. Then he would consent to have the valuation decided upon by the appraisers cut in two, and he would take stock to the amount, not asking one cent of money. This is a sample of the offers made. Mr. Welch's offer will be considered at the next meeting.

It was agreed last evening that the location of the site was most important, and that it would be wiser to pay \$10,000 or \$15,000 for a good location than build upon one of less business value, even though it were secured without cash outlay.

By giving the committee a few more days' time, definite proposals can be secured from property owners who have not had time to consider the matter, and the matter can be sifted down to a business basis.

One thing is certain—the hotel is assured. The sentiment is firmly established and the present movement will not be brought to an end until work on the building is commenced.

Confessions of a Priest.

Rev. Jno. S. Cox of Wake, Ark., writes, "For 12 years I suffered from yellow jaundice. I consulted a number of physicians and tried all sorts of medicines, but got no relief. Then I began the use of Electric Bitters and feel that I am now cured of a disease that had me in its grasp for 12 years." If you want a reliable medicine for liver and kidney trouble, stomach disorder or general debility, get Electric Bitters. It's guaranteed by Chas. Rogers. Only 50c.

World's Fair Rates Extended.

Through the efforts of the GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY, world's fair excursion tickets will be sold on October 27, 28 and 29, in addition to October 3, 4 and 5. For full information apply to any Great Northern agent.

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Assessment Roll Complete.

County Clerk Clinton yesterday completed the work of extending the 1904 assessment roll as equalized by the board. The board made corrections that resulted in a reduction of \$101,762, the total original roll amounting to \$4,733,124 and the total as equalized to \$4,631,362. The total of the equalized roll was found to be but \$8132 more than that of last year, last year's total amounting to \$4,613,230. In 1903 exemptions amounting to \$116,951 were allowed on personal property, but under the law now in force those exemptions could not be allowed this year, so in reality the assessed value of real property has been lowered over a hundred thousand dollars since last year.

Broke Into His House.

S. Le Quinn of Cavendish, Vt., was robbed of his customary health by invasion of chronic constipation. When Dr. King's New Life Pills broke into his house, his trouble was arrested and now he's entirely cured. They're guaranteed to cure, 25c at Chas. Rogers' drug store.

October 27, 28 and 29.

World's fair excursion tickets to Chicago, St. Louis and all eastern cities will be sold by the GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY on October 27, 28 and 29, in addition to October 3, 4 and 5. Apply to any Great Northern agent for rates and full information.

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Next Friday and Saturday, Oct. 7 and 8, 1904.

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