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## HOLDS ADJOURNED MEETING

### CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEMBERS DISPOSE OF SEVERAL MATTERS BROUGHT UP SINCE THE LAST MEETING.

The Chamber of Commerce held its regular meeting last night, adjourned because there was no quorum on Monday, and disposed of routine matters brought up by Manager Whyte. The attendance was somewhat small and the matter of having a larger attendance at future meetings, popped up at intervals during discussion.

The report of Secretary Whyte was read and the sentiments it embodied were disposed of piecemeal. The disposal of the key badges secured by the organization aroused some heated discussion. Some members wanted the badge to be confined as an emblem of the chamber, while others, who could see further, wanted the badge to become public property for the purpose of boosting the city.

The report of Manager J. H. Whyte, of the Chamber of Commerce for the adjourned regular meeting held Friday, September 6, is as follows:

Since the last meeting of the Chamber of Commerce the manager has received a telegram from William Reid saying that President H. Hawgood of the Portland-Oregon & Seacoast Railway Company suggests that if the Astoria Chamber of Commerce will induce the landowners upon whom condemnation suits have been served to accept the respective tenders in cash which the railway company has made them, the railroad company would guarantee to begin construction at once.

The Promotion Committee has perfected a plan which promises to speedily overcome all objections from both the landowners and from Mr Reid so that Mr Reid may have an opportunity to build the road as he believes he can now do.

At the present moment all of the legal papers are in course of construction and while progress only can be at this time reported, yet it comes likely that by the next meeting of this body an amicable solution of all difficulties will be reached so that Mr. Reid may have an opportunity to construct the road along the lines he has suggested.

The legal papers referred to in brief provide that the executive committee of this chamber, George W. Sanborn, G. C. Fulton and F. L. Parker may hold the deeds to the rights-of-way sought, in trust for two years, during which time Mr. Reid will have an opportunity to build the road. If at the end of this period the road has been completed and is in operation then the deeds will be transferred to him. Otherwise, they will be returned to the landowners.

Should the landowners require it, it is proposed by this executive committee that a sum of money shall be raised by popular subscription sufficient to pay them for the rights-of-way according to the prices they may fix on the same. Mr. Reid will be asked to deposit in trust with this committee the amounts of money he has tendered to the various landowners, and in case the railroad is not completed and in operation at the expiration of the specified two years, then this money tendered by Mr. Reid will be used to apply on the purchase price which will be forfeit to the landowners.

Local Manager Brunold of the Telephone Co., which Whom I have had a conference regarding the condition of the local telephone service and the installation of an additional long distance wire between this city and Portland, has received this message from J. H. Thatcher, superintendent for this district with headquarters in Portland, dated September 7, as follows:

"I am this day advised by our engineering department that they are to spend considerable money in Astoria dur-

ing the balance of this year (1907) and that early next year they will rebuild the whole city. This means a new central office, new equipment and new tele-phones for each subscriber."

Mr. Brunold also states that his company now has on hand fully \$15,000 worth of materials for the rebuilding of their entire line throughout the city as well as their long distance line between this city and Portland and other places. I told him that the Chamber of Commerce could probably not be persuaded that so simple an improvement as the placing of an extra wire on the poles already up between here and Portland, should be delayed on account of any future building operations that his company might expect to do. I also stated to him that the Chamber of Commerce felt that this promise to build a new central office here including a new electric switchboard, was one of rather long standing and that the reiteration of this promise would in all likelihood fail to satisfy the Astoria citizens unless they saw that the work was actually begun and then carried forward with reasonable dispatch. I further pointed out that the new equipment which the 800 odd subscribers of the local telephone service wanted, would not be a detail of great expense, probably not more than \$5000 maximum. He agreed with me in this matter.

Mr. Brunold stated that the company's division chief operator has visited this city since the letter received by this chamber dated August 7th from Mr. J. H. Thatcher, and had thoroughly revised the local force in the central office with the result that the service so far as the local central office is concerned, is now better than it has been for a long time.

A deferred matter that should be brought up at this meeting from the one held on August 19th is that of whether or not this chamber wishes to become a member of the International Rivers and Harbors Congress in Washington, the yearly dues being \$25. Mr. E. Z. Ferguson, chairman of the committee which investigated the matter, recommends that such a membership would be desirable. This congress probably has the greatest influence on appropriations for river and harbor improvement of any organization in the country today outside of the rivers and harbors committee of congress itself.

We have here in the city at this time a man who is very much interested in locating a brick-making plant. On Thursday afternoon I took him to see the clay deposits on the Bartoldus place and today he is visiting other localities. Should he find a suitable location with the proper kind of clay he states that a brick-making plant will be started here immediately with a making capacity of 15,000 brick per day. We shall hear more of this man's plans before he leaves the city which will not be for several days yet.

We have now received the report of the analysis of the samples of clay sent to Prof. John Fulton, at Corvallis, Or. This report in substance says:

"Either of three samples will make good brick. They will also make good drain pipe. We are weathering the material to determine whether or not it will make good earthenware. We mixed the clay with limestone and found that it could be turned into good cement."

Three kinds of clay that Prof. Fulton reported as being the most valuable for brick-making purposes came from the farms of Fred Bartoldus on Young's River; of William Matheral on Young's River; and from that of John Lundberg on Upper Blind Slough.

I have received a letter from Richard J. Grace, the Portland civil engineer in which he states he will be in Astoria in a few days now to arrange for an early date on which he will deliver his lecture on the seawall or revetment proposition. General Manager Nutt of the A. & C. R. R. has written me stating that he will be in the city with an engineer to look over the proposition with a view of co-operating with this city in the filling in of the river front as soon as Mr. Grace has delivered his lecture. Mr. Nutt is anxious to have an opportunity to read Mr. Grace's plans for this work before instructing one of his engineers to

take hold of the important work. Since our last meeting Mr. Nutt was again in this city and we had quite a long conversation concerning this work and Senator Fulton also spoke to Mr. Nutt encouraging him in our proposed plan of co-operation.

The emblem keys for the Chamber of Commerce have arrived and they seem to be very popular with the citizens and members. The chamber is now in possession of these in quantity and will be glad to furnish any member with one upon the payment of 50 cents. These jewels cost 34 cents each in a quantity of 250.

Fruit Commissioner C. S. Dow is now engaged in moving that part of the County Fair to Salem that can be used as an exhibit there during the State Fair. He will add to these exhibits to the extent of his ability to do so and the promotion committee feels confident that it can trust Mr. Dow to arrange a most creditable exhibit for the county at the State Fair at Salem.

A communication from Congressman C. R. Davis, of Minnesota, was read. It asked the co-operation of the Chamber of Commerce to find out the sentiment of the voters toward joining in with other cities throughout the country to secure a percentage of money for technical studies in each city from the national treasury at the next congress. The bill to be presented was enclosed with the letter. The communication was referred to the legislative committee for disposal.

A resolution was passed endorsing the work of the executive committee appointed to look after the opening of arrangements for a right-of-way through the county for the Portland-Oregon & Seacoast Railway. Manager Whyte reported that the legal documents for this transaction were being drawn up and that something would be done toward carrying out the plans of the executive committee before the next regular meeting.

The local telephone company again came in for a number of roasts, the long distance facilities, especially, being unfavorably commented upon. Manager Whyte was instructed to write another letter to the concern's headquarters in Portland, stating that unless something had been done to better the service within a certain time, the city council would be asked to revoke the franchise and give it to some other company.

After considerable desultory discussion the meeting came to a close.

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