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NEW COMPANY GETS ITS FRANCHISE

COMMON COUNCIL ACTS UPON AUTOMATIC PHONE MATTER LAST NIGHT, WITHOUT A DISSENTING VOTE.

An ordinance granting a franchise to the Northwestern Long Distance Telephone Company was passed on its final reading by the common council last night. This action by the council was somewhat unexpected, as it had been said that the matter would not be rushed through, but apparently the men back of the automatic 'phones were desirous of securing the franchise as soon as possible and the council evidently saw no valid reason for delay. The action by the council last night means that the new company now has its franchise and is in a position to commence work on the establishment of its new automatic system as soon as it wants to. By the terms of the franchise it must complete the entire system within seven months or forfeit \$2500 to the city of Astoria, and it was announced last night that the company will begin operations without any delay.

The ordinance was passed without a dissenting vote from any of the seven members present, Henderson, Kaboth, Leinenweber, Stangeland, Hansen, Logan and Robinson. It had been amended in some particulars since the special meeting a week ago, and it is believed that the city's best interests are conserved under the grant.

Other Matters.

Half a dozen other matters came up for discussion, among them being an ordinance introduced by Councilman Hansen with the object in view of keeping the streets free from obstructions, such as piles of timber, wood, and booths on the streets, etc. Dr. Henderson took the floor on this matter and in a vigorous talk called for the passage of an ordinance which would do away with the practice that now prevails of piling fire wood upon the public highways for days and even months at a time. He characterized the present method as being provincial, fit only for a "backwoods town." Dr. Henderson's rather caustic criticisms are well borne out by the present condition of many of the streets in town, for all over the city are piles of fire wood thrown indiscriminately about the streets. But it was pointed out, per contra, that the streets are an excellent place to dry fire wood.

"But makes us the laughing stock of other towns," broke in Dr. Henderson. "It excites ridicule; it makes us look like villagers, and all the while we are attempting to pose as a city." The council didn't seem to care what outsiders thought of us, and despite a further warning that the city is courting a damage suit by leaving its streets full of obstructions, whereby an accident is likely to occur, decided not to take any final action upon the ordinance. Meantime people can dry all the fire wood they want to out in the streets, and probably can dry their clothes out there also if they want to. In some parts of the city the piles of wood virtually block the streets.

The Pest House.

Dr. C. Reames, the city physician, called the council's attention to the dilapidated condition of the pest house. It is unfit for use. It was suggested that it should be repaired to meet the present need for it, but Dr. Henderson explained that the modern tendency in the treatment of small-pox is to use tents whenever practical, and he suggested that the could be used in Astoria at an season. When through with, the tent can be fumigated and put away for future use.

The matter was referred to the proper committee with power to act.

Thistles.

A communication was received from the county court calling attention to the thistles that are permitted to grow within the city limits and especially in and about Smith's point. This communication was sent several weeks ago by the county court, just when the thistles were getting pretty nearly into full bloom, and perhaps by this time their seeds are already being scattered by the breezes from the sea. The council did not take the thistle matter very seriously, and did not wait to explain to the street superintendent whether he had a right to "trespass" on property around Smith's Point to kill them off.

The Smoke House.

A remonstrance against Johnson Bros. smoke house on Twelfth street—a pretty strong remonstrance—was finally referred to the committee on fire and water. The smoke house was pointed out as being a constant source of danger and it was alleged that it is not watched properly at night, even when fire is left there. This is the place where a blaze occurred a few nights ago.

To Build Dock.

An ordinance was introduced to improve Forty-sixth street by the construction of a trestle about 800 feet in length, extending out into the water with a dock at the end.

Miscellany.

Petition of B. L. Ward to grade Jerome street, in front of lot 5, block 11, McClure's addition, was granted. It was recommended that \$5000 insurance be taken out on the furniture and fixtures in the city hall, in addition to the \$20,000 on the building. A representative of a mutual company was present and asked that he be allowed a share of the insurance. It was decided to have an 18-inch crown on the street work to be done on Astor street between Sixth and Eighth. It was discovered by Asmus Brix, who had been appointed an assessor in the matter of the street improvements to be made on Twenty-third street, that he was an interested party, and therefor the council appointed K. Osburn in his stead. Chief Foster of the fire department called the council's attention to the leaky room on the Hose Company No. 1's building. It was decided to build a new roof not to exceed \$300 in cost.

New Business.

From Mrs. J. G. Hustler, asking that she be exempt from paying interest on amount due account of improvement on Tenth street, from Commercial to Exchange. She stands ready to pay assessment, but did not know there was \$478 interest due. Referred to ways and means committee and city attorney.

Petition of S. E. Harrison and 22 others asking that a street arc light be established at corner of Ninth and Kensington. Referred to committee with power to act.

Petition of George S. Vlacko for saloon license for Athens saloon, Astor street; bond also filed; referred to committee on health and police.

Petition of Lee Strauss for saloon license at "The Raymond," Bond street; bond filed; referred to committee on health and police.

Petition of Victor Carlson for saloon license at Fashion saloon, Astor street; bond filed; referred to committee on health and police.

Remonstrances.

Remonstrance against acceptance of street work on Columbia avenue, from Melbourne to Lincoln, for the reason that said work does not conform to established grade, because it is not done in a workmanlike manner and because surface drainage is not properly constructed; signed by Frank J. Taylor, for himself, and for Ione E. White, E. A. Taylor, Mary T. Strong, and as president of Peninsular Land & Trust Co. Placed on file.

Remonstrance against the manner in which Fourteenth street from Duane to Franklin is being improved; signed by Gust Holmes and J. L. Kline. On grounds of improper foundation for concrete and for other

reasons. Placed on file.

Communications.

In a communication to the council C. C. Rosenberg alleges that the premises formerly known as the Irving Club and now used for a bowling alley are now used in an improper manner. Mr. Rosenberg stated that the dances given there are very noisy, so that he cannot get any sleep while they are going on; also that they are in the habit of turning out the lights and dance in the dark, which, he says, "may be a lot of fun for some, but it doesn't look right to see young girls and boys between the ages of 14 and 20 years carry on the way they are doing at said premises." He asks that said nuisance be abated. Referred to committee on health and relief.

M. N. Adams alleges that he was improperly assessed on street improvements on Twelfth street and asks that the sum of \$7.59 be returned to him. Lot 5 on this street is assessed \$16.50, while the west two feet of said lot is assessed \$8.25 of this amount, which he alleges is too much. Referred to ways and means committee.

Communication from county clerk calling attention to the thistles growing within the city limits, particularly at Smith's Point. Referred to committee on streets.

Claims Allowed.

Claims were allowed as follows: O. Ames & Son, \$5; various claims of Astoria Budget; H. Humbel, feeding prisoner, \$36.60; Alex Johnson, killing dogs and scavenger work, \$10; Central Drug Co., sundries, \$4; John Corno, hauling, \$1; L. Lebeck, building sewer box, \$65; Astoria Electric Co., arc lights for July, \$491.40; Jacob Edison, hose, \$100; S. H. Willett, repair to steam roller, \$3.95; City Lumber & Box Co., lumber, \$29.88; S. Elmore & Co., coal, \$11; Pacific States Telephone Co., phone, \$3; Astoria Electric Light Co., light, power and gas, in city hall, \$24.75; A. G. Long, supplies, \$99.70.

Miscellaneous.

Remonstrance against assessment of Eighth street signed by Joseph Bernard. Placed on file.

Petition from Frank Patton to redeem property. Favorably acted upon.

Time extended to complete sewer on Seventeenth street. Passed.

On Street Work.

Alpha S. Lee, city surveyor, submitted statement of work done by inspectors and assistants during month of July, totalling \$159.25. J. F. Kearney, street superintendent, submitted report of work done during July, totalling \$159.55.

Reports Adopted.

Acceptance of street improvement on Columbia avenue, Melbourne to Lincoln.

Acceptance of improvement of Seventh street, Grand to Harrison.

City Surveyor submitted report of work done by W. A. Goodin on his contract on Irving avenue, recommending he be paid 80 per cent of contract price or \$1028.57.

City surveyor reported that Heckard Bros. are entitled to a payment of \$1600 on their contract to improve Tenth street.

City surveyor reported that W. A. Goodin's contract on Irving avenue stands as follows: \$8867.60 work to date; \$6934.08 equals 80 per cent; \$3595.38 equals payments; \$3338.70 equals amount due.

City surveyor reported that A. R. Foote has moved 6000 yards of earth on Commercial street improvement and is entitled to \$1555.20.

Ordinances Passed.

To improve Astor street from Eighth to Sixth streets.

To improve Third from Commercial to Astor.

Accepting improvement of Seventh from Grand to Harrison.

Accepting improvement of Columbia from Alameda to Lincoln.

Ordinances Passed.

Paying Heckard Bro. \$1600.

Paying John Slotte \$1212.20.

Paying John Slotte \$407.80.

Paying John Slotte \$2350.60.

Paying Jacob Edison \$100.

Paying W. A. Goodin \$1027.57.

Paying W. A. Goodin \$3338.70.

Paying A. R. Foote \$1555.20.

Resolutions Adopted.

Directing assessment to be made for improving Commercial street from Third street to lot 1, block 3, H tract.

Directing assessment to be made for improving Jerome avenue, Fourteenth to Seventeenth.

Directing assessment to be made for sewer on Seventeenth street, Irving to Jerome.

Directing assessments to be made for improving Ninth street, Jerome to Kensington.

Directing assessment for improving Fourteenth street, Duane to Frank-

lin.

Directing assessment for improvement of Eighth street, Harrison to Irving.

Bids Accepted.

Birch & Johnson, Twenty-third street, Commercial to Exchange.

E. A. Gerding, Twelfth street, Exchange to Grand.

Chris Larsen, Irving avenue, Ninth and Eighth.

Chris Larsen, Eighth street, Harrison to Irving.

INNOCENCE ABROAD.

Syrian Baby Travels 10,000 Miles To Find Her Father.

BENTON HARBOR, Mich., Aug. 3.—Ida Baccash, a black eyed, curly haired child of eight years, stepped off a steamer from Chicago yesterday, having journeyed alone 10,000 miles from Damascus, Syria. The child's trip was the more notable, owing to her having been stranded without friends in Marseilles, France, a Syrian who had offered his protection to the little girl, having robbed and deserted her at Marseilles. Appealing to the proprietor of her hotel, the child succeeded in having word of her predicament sent to her father, who was then in New York and additional funds were promptly sent her. Relatives met her in New York and placed her on board the West bound train, and her father was awaiting her arrival here on yesterday's steamer from Chicago.

AMERICAN IN HOCK.

Chicago Business Man In Trouble Down In Old Mexico.

CHICAGO, Aug. 3.—Chicago friends may obtain the release of W. H. Ausin, manager of the Pacific Copper Co., from the City of Mexico prison where he has been confined since Wednesday on charges of procuring the detention of Lawrence B. Ross, bookkeeper of the Buena Vista Plantation Co., in Vera Cruz. Austin has had absolutely no communication with the outside world since he has been locked up and his Chicago business associates learned of his dilemma through reports furnished to the newspapers. A detective agency yesterday dispatched an agent to Mexico to investigate the affair.

Austin came to Chicago from Boston and has been in Mexico about a year. He has business interests in Denver and Seattle. The Mexican authorities will neither permit Ausin to write friends of his predicament nor will they allow any one to visit him at the prison.

CLIMAX IN TENNIS.

Western Championship Played At Kenwood, Yesterday.

CHICAGO, Aug. 3.—The climax of the Western tennis season will be reached this afternoon when the challenge rounds in both the men's and women's singles of the Western Championship tournament will be decided at the Kenwood country clubs grounds.

The challenge round in the men's singles, in which L. Harry Waidner, the winner of the tournament, will challenge his historical rival, Nat Emerson of Cincinnati, the holder of the title, will be called promptly at 2 o'clock p. m. to allow these men to catch a late afternoon train for Lake Minnetonka, Minn., where they will participate in the Northwestern championships this week.

The match in the women's tournament will be between Miss Stever, the winner of the tournament and Miss Carrie B. Neely the holder of the title, and will be called at 2:30 o'clock p. m. The finals in the men's doubles between Emerson and Waitner and Hayes and Peters will in all probability go to the former team by default, owing to the refusal of Hayes and Peters to play on Saturday.

SHOULD GET GOOD RATES.

Harriman Says Railroads do Not Get Adequate Returns For Service.

CHICAGO, Aug. 3.—E. H. Harriman proceeded his departure for the west tonight said by a short discussion of the possibility of the general increase in freight rates in the United States. The American people ought to be willing to pay the railroads a reasonable compensation for transportation service," he said.

"Such service as they were now performing, but for it we are not receiving an adequate return." Harriman said that if the railroads continue their extensions and providing new equipment they must have more revenue. Harriman seemed to favor the general re-adjustment, rather than the general increase. In reply

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to a direct question whether there is to be any increase, he said with an disparaging wave of the hand: "How can I tell." Harriman declined to enter into a discussion whether the failure to increase the rates would lead to a decrease in the wages of employees.

WILL USE PHONOGRAPHS.

Judge Taft Makes Speeches in Talking Machines For Reproduction.

HOT SPRINGS, Aug. 3.—Judge Taft has consented to make several speeches into talking machines for reproduction. Several experimental talks were made today and were reproduced with varying degrees of satisfaction. Taft has fixed August 21 for the date for the rally of the Virginia republicans here. He will give a political address from the porch of the club house adjacent to the hotel. Taft will address the Virginia Bar Association Thursday and was invited to assist in an entertainment and at a banquet.

MASON WILL PRESIDE.

In the New York Republican Committee in Absence of Hitchcock.

NEW YORK, Aug. 3.—The management of the New York headquarters of the Republican National Committee in the absence of Chairman Hitchcock will be in the hands of Victor L. Maso of Passaic, New Jersey, who today was appointed assistant secretary of the committee. Hitchcock intends to direct the work in all parts of the country, but will later name a vice-chairman who will be in charge at Chicago while Hitchcock is not there. The headquarters of Elmore Dover, will also be in Chicago.

ATHLETES RECEPTION.

Roosevelt is Chairman of Committee to Entertain Athletes Aug. 29.

NEW YORK, Aug. 3.—Sunday, August 29th, is the date set for the reception for the returning athletes who participated in the Olympic games. President Roosevelt will be chairman of the committee of 500 citizens. He and Governor Hughes will be asked to assign regiments of the regular army, and officers of the new National Guard of New York to attend the ceremonies.

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