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COMMON COUNCIL HAS MUCH WORK

(Continued from page 1)

To this the councilmen listened attentively. Mayor Smith might have added, had he deemed it necessary, that the whole theory of a committee is that each member shall have equal voice in its deliberations and actions as every other member, while to permit a single member of a common council to control matters is violently opposed to the whole theory of the workings of the American common councils. The duties and privileges of a chairman are commonly few in number; being usually those of calling the committee together and of presiding at its sessions. The evils of the one-man power have been well illustrated in Astoria, it is commonly said.

Mr. Schmidt Seated.

Mr. Schmidt, who defeated Mr. Kaboth in the Second ward contest, took his seat last night, and as his presence was formally announced by the city auditor, he was given applause. Mr. Schmidt responded by stating that he was glad to be there, and that he thanked the council for the square deal and fair vote accorded him.

Street Committee.

The street committee is, as usual, going to have much important work for its consideration and some of it demands immediate attention. The members of this committee are Fox, Belland and Wilson. They announced last night that at 9 o'clock tomorrow morning they will meet for the pur-

pose of looking into some of the matters which they will have to pass upon, and intend to make personal inspection of the Adair drain, the West Commercial street improvement and the damage that is resulting from it, and other similar matters. In his December report submitted last night Superintendent of Streets J. F. Kearney stated that the Adair drain is "all shot to pieces" and that the ground in that vicinity is sliding in a manner to cause much damage.

Street Car Franchise.

The franchise asked for by the proposed street car line was introduced last night by Councilman Prael, and some desire was expressed to hasten it through the council, but it was merely read for the first and second times and put over. The ordinance is said to be the same as before. The ordinance proposed by Councilman Curtis, relating to the appointment of the various standing committees and defining their duties, and also providing for the manner of purchasing supplies, was also read for the first and second times. Mr. Curtis explained that the old ordinances on these subject apparently do not cover the ground thoroughly.

An ordinance providing for the vacation of the east 40 feet of First street near the Hinman tract was also read for the first and second times, and then referred to committee. Ordinance read first and second times for building street through block 69, McClures.

Resolutions Carried.

Resolutions were introduced by Councilman Fox, providing for the boards of equalization to meet in the council chamber on the afternoon of January 30 at 2 o'clock, to meet all who may wish to remonstrate against their assessments on the improvements as follows: sewer, 17th, Irving



SCENE FROM "SHORE ACRES"

to Jerome; Jerome, 14th to 17th; sewer, Irving, 150 feet east of 11th; sewer, Birch to beach.

To Expert Books.

Resolution introduced by Councilman Prael to employ one or more experts, at a cost not to exceed \$100, to expert the books of the city auditor and police judge, and the city treasurer. Carried.

An Inspector Needed.

J. F. Kearney, street superintendent, reported in the matter of improving the alley running through blocks 2, 3, 4 and 5, Adair's, that he believed it necessary to have an inspector there all the time, to see that piles are well driven and work properly done; and that Jens Nelson has been recommended by property holders interested as a proper man for the position. Referred to committee with power to act.

Crushed Rock.

Superintendent of Streets Kearney reported that during the month of

streets has slid more in the past three months than it did in the seven years previous, and a great deal of property has been damaged."

Fire Department.

Chief Foster of the fire department made his annual report. There were 73 alarms during 1908. The loss on buildings and contents was \$36,938; insurance on same, \$36,716. In July there were 13 alarms, in October 10, these being the greatest number of any of the months of the year. As regards causes of fires, 15 resulted from electric wires, this being the most prolific source of fires. There were 20 brick chimneys burned. Two of the blazes are laid to incendiaryism. Principal fires were at North Pacific Brewery, February 20; A. Dunbar & Co., August 10; Astoria Lumber Co. mill on September 13. The total expenses of the department for the year was \$17,477.68. There is in service 6900 feet of 2.5 inch hose, 2000 feet of which is rubber, and 4900 feet cotton, rubber lined. There are nine horses, some of which are getting old and others are light for the service, and may have to be replaced this year. The fire apparatus, horses and feed and stores are valued at \$26,500. Chief Foster makes various recommendations, among them being that Uniontown be given better protection. Also that it would be a great help if pumps were installed on certain small boats for use in waterfront fires. Also that question of a salt-water main in business section should be considered, as experience has shown that the gravity system is apt to get out of working order. The report is a very complete and a very interesting one.

PETITIONS.

For saloon license by John C. McCann, secretary of American Importing Co., Carlson Bros., Durham & Dibble, and John C. Tiberg; referred. Petitions for saloon licenses from Lund & Carlson and S. E. Harris, granted.

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