

MUNICIPAL PLANT SAVING MONEY ON PAVING EXPENSES

Record Cited to Show That City Institution Has Proved Beneficial to Taxpayers as Whole.

You are the owner of a 50-foot lot fronting on a dirt street somewhere on the east side. Property owners along that street, yourself probably included, petition the city for paving, and naturally you wonder how much the bill will be.

The improvement includes sidewalks, curbs and paving, and the latter includes the laying of a four-inch crushed rock base under two inches of wearing surface. The curbing and sidewalks contracts are a subset to other contractors. You are concerned most in the paving cost.

The lowest bid submitted by the private contractor is \$2.35 for base and surface. The street area to be paved is 36 feet wide. You are to be assessed for half the width and 50 feet of frontage.

PAVING ASSESSMENT 1925

For your half this figure two square yards, 18 square feet, for each front foot of the lot. Your total assessment for the paving alone would be \$4.50 per front foot, or \$225 for the lot.

The city of Portland now has a paving plant of its own. The \$2.35 a yard mentioned above is the average of low bids submitted by private contractors on paving work in the city since a competitor since April 1 this year.

The municipal paving plant, in open competition with the private contractors, has bid an average of \$1.60 a square yard. This price covers both base and surfacing. A little calculation shows front-foot assessment cost to the property owner of \$3, or \$150 for the lot. The saving to the property owner is \$75 when the city is doing the work.

This figure sounds so big as to be incredible, but it is shown in the record at the city hall. The city plant is an actual going institution, and not only is saving money for property owners, but is paying for itself.

CITY PLANT ACTIVE

Nearly one-quarter of the paving in Portland this year, the greatest paving year in the city's history, will be done by the municipal paving plant, at a cost (including everything) much less than it was ever done by private contractors in normal times when paving was cheaper than it is now.

City paving, done on the same specifications offered private contractors, laid just as skillfully and as quickly, is costing this year about 20 per cent less on the average than paving work in the hands of private contractors.

The city bids cover everything in the expense budget of the plant. They not only cover labor, materials, upkeep overhead, but the cost of the plant's construction, totaling \$95,000, borrowed from the city's general fund, is being repaid on an installment basis.

CITY CONTRACTS LISTED

The first 28 paving jobs taken by the city cost a total of \$399,977.77. The aggregate lowest bids of private contractors on these 28 jobs amounted to \$440,709.59, the difference in favor of the city, and consequently of the taxpayer, being \$74,712.82. Seven of these jobs have been completed and the rest are in progress. Since these figures were taken, the city has taken five more contracts, the same differential being maintained.

On these first seven jobs completed the city costs were under the bid figures, in some cases the margins being quite large.

The four largest paving enterprises now being carried on by the municipal plant are the improvement of Killingsworth avenue from Thirtieth street to Forty-second street, East Forty-seventh street from Stark to Glean, Ramona avenue district in Sellwood, and Harold avenue from Milwaukie to Twenty-third street.

MUNICIPAL BID LOWER

On the Killingsworth job the city bid \$148,445. The lowest private bid was \$20,045.24. The city bid on East Forty-seventh street was \$21,422.50, as compared with the lowest private bid of \$36,483. On Ramona avenue the city bid was \$67,321.98, as compared with \$87,392.94, the lowest private bid. On Harold avenue the city bid was \$125,532.46, as compared with the lowest private bid of \$14,025.83.

On these four jobs the city aggregate was \$117,236.08, as compared with the aggregate lowest bids of \$147,917.11.

If the city is able to do paving on this scale, the taxpayer naturally asks, why doesn't it do all the work? In line with the answer to this question is the Barbur, whose pet hobby is the paving plant, the city will do all of it. Just now the amount of work is limited by the capacity of the plant, and the city is not anxious to increase the plant because of the scarcity of materials.

RECORD IN CONTRACTS

For 1920 contracts for some \$60,000 yards of paving have been, or will be, let by the city. The paving plant is scheduled for one year in Portland. Much of this is work that was planned for the war years. It will not be so large next year, for most of the back work will have been caught up. The city's average per year is a little better than 200,000 yards, and in time the present plant will be able to take care, including it.

In a few months Commissioner Barbur went into the paving business, competing in bids with the private contractors and by underbidding secured the contract for the paving plant. The limit of the plant for a year, the city ceased bidding.

The greatest difficulty now being encountered is to secure a supply of crushed rock. The supply, purchased from private quarries and taken to Jefferson street dock by barge, is curtailed through labor troubles. This condition will be eliminated, the commissioner now plans, through the city acquiring its own rock quarry, and this may be done before the end of the year. The paving plant will probably be made to pay for its investment.

JOBS ARE RECALLED

The paving plant dates from April, 1918. Until last September it was used almost entirely as a repair plant. It was first operated at the foot of East Alder street.

In that period the plantsurfaced Terwilliger boulevard and a couple of other small street jobs were done, all on a strictly cash basis. These pieces of work showed conclusively, according to Commissioner Barbur, that private contracting charges for laying asphaltic concrete were far higher than the cost per yard of the municipal plant.

On Terwilliger boulevard the contractor's offer was \$1.43 per square yard for laying a two inch wearing surface, whereas the cost of the work by the city plant, including 10 per cent charge for overhead, was only 65 cents per yard.

In 1919 the county gave the city the opportunity of laying a two inch wearing surface on Jefferson street in direct competition with the Warren Construction company, which was awarded another part of this same street. Here the city, in suit of the paving plant, and a market test, did the work for 87 cents a yard, including 10 per cent depreciation and overhead, while the contractor's price was \$1.52 per square yard.

ENABLING MEASURE PASSED

The city attorney in 1919 ruled the city charter permitted maintenance of a paving plant, and enabling ordinances were prepared. The enabling ordinance was given to the city by the commission of public docks for a plant site. The plant and bunkers were completed by April 1 of this year.

The plant has capacity of over 2000 yards of two-inch asphaltic concrete wearing surface per eight hour day. The total appropriation for the plant, including a working fund, amounts to \$95,000. The city is to contribute 10 per cent of the cost of laying the paving is added to all new jobs to reimburse the general fund for the \$95,000. The life of the plant is estimated at 10 years. Past experience with depreciation it was arbitrarily determined that \$9500 should be returned each year to the fund as a 10 per cent installment, and interest on the \$95,000 on the total, in 1920 amounting to \$9700, should also be paid.

The cost sheets for the first 20,000 yards laid after April 1 show that the 10 per cent return to the general fund will amount to approximately 10 cents per yard, so that at least \$18,000 will be returned to the general fund when the 180,000 yards contracted for by the city so far have been laid, or some \$2800 more than the arbitrary payment fixed upon.

UPKEEP IS INCLUDED

Included in the contracts bid by the city is 12 per cent to cover cost of upkeep and repairs and miscellaneous overhead expenses, such as insurance. This, on the basis of 181,000 yards already contracted for, will yield in estimates of \$20,900. Past experience with the original plant shows this amount will be amply sufficient.

The cost of laying the two inch wearing surface on jobs already completed by the plant varied from 77 cents per square yard on East Fifteenth street to \$1.03 on the work at municipal terminal No. 4 (St. Johns), which involved a 14 mile haul from the mixer. These costs compare with bids of \$1.62 per square yard and upward of private contractors for the same sort of work.

Flag Day Program

The Dales, June 11.—Queenet chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, and other patriotic organizations, will celebrate flag day here Monday evening, June 14. The day will be burned and an appropriate program rendered.

Elks of Vancouver To Hold Flag Day Exercises Monday

Vancouver, Wash., June 12.—Extensive flag day exercises are planned by the local Elks for Monday evening at their lodge rooms here. An invitation has been extended to the Spanish-American War Veterans, numbering about 300.

The program is as follows: Selection, orchestra. Introductory exercises, lodge officers. Prayers by Rev. H. H. Pender. Vocal solo, Miss Lurline Williams. Flag record, Brother Louis Schaefer. Elks noble square and officers of Vancouver lodge No. 322. Selection, orchestra. Elks' tribute to the flag, Brother John Wilkinson. Patriotic song, male quartet. Allegiance to the flag. Audience requested to join. Patriotic address, Brother Clement Scott, district deputy grand exalted ruler. "America," by entire audience. Music finale, "Star-Spangled Banner," orchestra.

Dye Works Wins Damage Suit

A verdict for the defendant was brought in Friday by a jury in Circuit Judge Gates' court in the suit of Paul Emerson Noble against the Dye Works. Noble secured and officers of Vancouver lodge No. 322.

Governor to Be Speaker

Astoria, June 12.—Governor Ben W. Olcott today accepted an invitation to attend the American Legion state convention here July 30 and 31 and address the ex-service men of Oregon. The invitation had been extended by the committee on arrangements.

To The Flower Lovers:

We would like to share with you the pleasure of seeing our Peonies in blossom and extend, therefore, a cordial invitation to you to visit us between now and June 27th, when the Peony season is at its height.

HOWARD EVARTS WED MARGARET S. WED
Weed Landscape Nursery, Canyon Road (Six Miles West of Portland).

PLANS COMPLETE FOR BIG KIWANIS CONVENTION HERE

Hundreds Are Speeding Toward Portland for Gathering of Big International Organization.

"Kiwans" is the corruption of a Chippawan Indian phrase which truly interpreted means "we build." Its spirit is exemplified in the International Kiwanis clubs, the fifth annual convention of which takes place this week in Portland.

A distinguished gathering of business men from all parts, not only of the United States but of Canada are speeding toward the Rose City today, Tuesday will see imposing representations at the conference gatherings which precede the actual opening of the convention on Wednesday in Elks temple.

IS FAMED ORGANIZATION

An organization which brought international fame and honor to itself during the war by its works and afterwards distinguished itself by appearing in the forefront of the American movement, Kiwanis is now reaping its reward with a huge increase in membership, the doubling numerically of its clubs, and attention to one of the leading civic bodies on the North American continent.

Foreguard of the city's Kiwanian guests is Henry J. Elliott, international president, formerly corporation attorney or "king's counsel," as he is called at Montreal, Canada, who has devoted more than half of his life to the promotion of interests of the clubmen in Canada and the United States.

EISENWEIN EXPECTED MONDAY

Expected Monday is Dr. J. Berg Eisenwein, president of the Springfield, Mass., Kiwanis club, and editor-in-chief of Lippincott's Magazine and, among other honors, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts of London. A host of others, nearly all from the United States, are expected to attend the city's hospitality. George A. Lovejoy, general chairman of the convention committee, who received much attention at Birmingham in 1919, is favored as a candidate.

CHILD ATTACKED; FIEND IS SOUGHT

Man Described as About 22 Years of Age, Six Feet Tall and Wearing Glasses.

A fiendish attack was made upon a 6-year-old Genevieve Haeflinger, daughter of G. E. Haeflinger, 1127 Carlton avenue, about 4 o'clock Saturday afternoon, a short distance from the child's home. The fiend walked by the Haeflinger home and asked Genevieve and her 4-year-old brother, Foster, to go for a walk in the woods.

The children declined, but he repeated his request, this time asking them to merely walk with him to the next house. When he got the children out of sight of their home he sent Foster on a false errand to buy a box of "1127" letters. The unsuspecting lad went. In the meantime the criminal assaulted the girl, after enticing her into a nearby thicket. The track of the kidnapper, man Jones searched the entire neighborhood between the home and Reed college and all they could learn was that the man had been seen walking toward the "1127" letter store.

Several women in the neighborhood saw the man with the children, but supposed he was a visitor at the Haeflinger home, and was taking the children out for a walk. These women describe him as being about 22 years of age, 6 feet tall and weighing about 160 pounds. He wore glasses with a gold chain extending from his ears to his neck, and a striped suit and a gray slouch hat. The police department asked the cooperation of the public in the apprehension of the criminal.

GOVERNOR TO SPEAK

Governor Olcott and Mayor Baker will give opening addresses. A response will follow from President Elliott and the session will recess until the afternoon, when with Vice President Barnett presiding, M. A. Macdonald, attorney of Vancouver, B. C., will give an address on "The Kiwanis Spirit: A World Need." The international secretary, O. Samuel Cummings, will speak. A matinee party will be given for visiting women at the Elks temple on Tuesday evening. The international secretary, O. Samuel Cummings, will speak. A matinee party will be given for visiting women at the Elks temple on Tuesday evening.

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Big T. P. A. Chief To Swing Gavel

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