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LOOKING-GLASS RIVER.

Smooth it slides upon its travel, Here a wimple, there a gleam, O the clean gravel! O the smooth stream! Sailing blossoms, silver fishes, Paving pools as clear as air— How a child wishes To live down there! We can see our colored faces Floating on the shaken pool Down in cool places, Dim and very cool; Till a wind or water wrinkle, Dipping martin, plumping trout, Spreads in a twinkle And blots all out. See the rings pursue each other: All below grows black as night, Just as if mother Had blown out the light! Patience, children, just a minute— See the spreading circle die; The stream and all in it Will clear by-and-by. —By Robert Louis Stevenson.

THE FIRST SKIRMISH WON.

In the opening skirmish of the fight to have the overhead wires placed underground in the business section the ladies of the civic club and others who champion this improvement won out.

The action of the council last evening was all that could be desired. The proposition was referred to the ordinance committee, of which Mr. Strain is chairman, and the committee is authorized to prepare an ordinance calling for the removal of the wires if the committee sees fit to do so. In other words the move is in friendly hands and will get a hearing upon its merits. No one could ask for anything more.

It is now time to get down to business and as paving work is to be done here soon all possible speed should be made. Yet a thorough investigation should be conducted so that the council may act with full knowledge of all the facts.

The problems presented by the proposed improvement are partly of a technical nature and of course it would be businesslike to consult technical men upon those points. Estimates as to the cost of the work and as to the amount of reworking that will be needed may be had from disinterested engineers as well as from the companies affected.

The solid facts are now wanted and the two companies concerned should be made to understand as much. We have had bluffs and insinuations from these companies long enough. It is now time for the electric company and the telephone company to get down to brass tacks and show cause why they should not get their wires underground and by so doing protect the lives of our firemen and add to the good appearance of our business streets.

Councilman Montgomery says it is inconsistent for the city to ask that the electric wires be placed underground immediately after a reduction in rates has been granted. But his contention is too vague. Along with that declaration Mr. Montgomery should have presented a sworn statement showing the physical valuation of the Pendleton electric plant and the gross and net profits of the corporation from its Pendleton business. Then people could judge of the matter with some intelligence, though even sworn statements from corporations are at times unreliable as Pendleton people have already learned from experience with the Pacific telephone company.

At present who knows but the electric company could make still further reductions in local rates and still make good profits on its local plant? The Commercial club is investigating that subject and may soon have some interesting information to

offer. The East Oregonian is willing to bet that the Pacific Power & Light company did not hurt itself seriously when it made its recent local rate reductions and that the Philadelphia or New York multimillionaires who own the electric trust are not losing any sleep over the matter. It is not likely that the cost of placing the electric wires underground will drive those gentlemen into poor houses. Yet even if it should it might be better to do that than to send some gallant Pendleton fireman to an early grave.

On the progress of their move to get the overhead wires underground in the business section the ladies of the civic club and Mr. Strain, their councilmanic champion, are entitled to congratulations.

It is good work. Keep it up and drive it through to the finish.

DO WE WANT IT HERE?

With the adoption of the commission plan of government by Walla Walla and with the new plan already in operation at Baker the subject is being brought close home. It will be well for local people to think earnestly upon this subject during the interval between this time and the city election.

There are some splendid points in favor of the commission plan. In brief the commission plan calls for placing authority and responsibility upon a very few men and for paying those men reasonable compensation for the work they do.

At this time Pendleton requires its most important public servants to work for nothing. We ask a man to be mayor, to do a vast amount of work bear much responsibility and suffer much headache without getting a cent of pay. Many good men won't take the job under such conditions. We also insist that our councilmen work for nothing, and incidentally we generally have trouble finding desirable men to run for the council.

At this time Pendleton is spending or is preparing to spend several hundred thousand dollars in civic improvements. Grant that our officials are honest and fairly capable, the question may still be asked with propriety: Is the city getting value received for its money?

It is hard work to spend money and do it right. Will volunteer servants do as well as paid employees? Can a mayor and eight councilmen, drawing no pay, get down to business as thoroughly and do as well by the people as could a paid commission of three members?

Some will object that the commission plan places too much power in the hands of a few men. Yet Umatilla county has its business conducted by a paid commission of three men and the county spends nearly a half million dollars each year or has been doing so.

Friends of the commission idea say it is alright to give much power to a few men if those men are well chosen, are kept in the light so people may watch them work, and if they may be recalled if untrue to their trusts. We have the recall in Oregon and likewise the initiative and referendum. So there would be no lack of proper checks upon a city commission should the people of this city decide they desire that form of government.

What do you think about the matter, Mr. Citizen?

FOR BAND CONCERTS.

Band concerts would afford very pleasant entertainment here for summer evenings and there are a host of people who will hope that the Round-up band may succeed in its plan for giving weekly concerts. The band is now more active and in better shape than it has been for many months. If it can secure the director the musicians have in mind it should be possible to give concerts well worth listening to.

Pendleton needs a good band all the time and the best way to have one is to provide for summer band concerts. There will be no good band unless it is given a proper amount of work to do.

GOOD FOR SPOKANE.

News that a large delegation from the Spokane Chamber of Commerce will make an excursion trip to Pendleton for the Round-up is cheering. It will be about the first time the people of Spokane have made an official visit of this sort to Pendleton and their coming will be appreciated accordingly. The people of Pendleton and the people of Spokane have a number of things in common and it will be a fitting thing to have a good Round-up delegation from the metropolis of the Inland Empire.

Come on, gentlemen, you will like the show.

Summer is now here for sure. The Michigan forest fires have broken out.

Evidently the council is in a receptive mood at least.



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TEXAS CROP CONDITIONS.

The unusual drouth that prevailed in the South Atlantic states for a month or more has been broken in time to benefit all crops and place the cotton outlook in normal position in that section of the belt. At different points in Georgia and Alabama the rainfall has been reported as plentiful and in good time for the cotton, which had begun to deteriorate considerably in some places. At this writing a general breaking of the drouth in Texas has not occurred and plentiful rains now would be too late for a good part of the corn crop in Central and North Texas, where it has suffered most. But there is ample time in both sections for a record cotton crop; and the heavy rains reported recently from Denton and the Panhandle country and scattered showers elsewhere are an encouraging feature of the Texas prospect, though far from what could be wished at this critical period. It is generally conceded that the corn crop of the state will be short of normal, but there has been a fair yield of oats in the central and southwest sections, and should the rains that have fallen in North Texas be duplicated farther south, a good, if not full, cotton crop is yet easily possible. The entire section south and southwest of Austin appears to have fared much better than the region immediately north and northwest. Upon the whole it is not late enough in the season for extreme pessimism. In fact, there is no proper season for that way of looking at it. Cheerfulness, hope and substitute crops where one kind has gone wrong will beat all the grumbling that all of us could do. Many sections and various states have had the same kind of trouble this season, and in some places where drouths have been practically unknown. Maybe our abounding prosperity has caused the people of the United States to enlarge their horns in contemplation of providence and need to be reminded of their erroneous assumption of importance in relation to nature's bounty and the rains that descend alike upon the just and the unjust. If so they should drop pride and self-exaltation—and plant millet and June corn.—Fort Worth Citizen-Star.

SPEECHES THAT WERE NOT.

It long has been understood that congressmen not infrequently publish in the Congressional Record speeches which never were delivered, thus giving their constituents the idea that they are being actively represented. It is a petty bit of strategy which one might hope that a congressman would be abode did not one know that congressmen rather frequently are not. It becomes the pettier when "applause," "laughter," etc., are inserted in bright spots in the speech that never was delivered. The following recently appeared in a speech thus published in the Record: "Jesus was born in a manger; John the Baptist fed on locusts and wild honey 'applause.'"

That ought to be pretty nearly the limit on that sort of thing. If it is not, and now that our congressional frauds have gone to the Holy Book for inspiration, it may not be unreasonable to expect something like the following in a Record of no distant date: "The firmament showeth His handiwork (applause); day unto day uttereth speech (laughter); and night unto night showeth knowledge (uproarious applause and cries of 'Hear, hear!'). There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard (applause on the Republican side)."

We sincerely trust that the foregoing has no sound of sacrilege, for it is submitted, not in irreverence, but as a reasonable indication of what may be expected of congressmen who in supposititious speeches, insert the word "applause" after such a sentence as, "Jesus was born in a manger, John the Baptist was fed on locusts and wild honey."

Verily, brethren, as one contemplates the matter does it not appear that the dear people select some particularly queer people as congressional timber? Does't the Congressional Record prove it—Selected.

WHY HE FAILED.

He circled in a little sphere, With slouching steps, at careless ease; He saw the same old, ragged trees Put forth their leaves year after year; He envied those who went away To journey over distant seas; With trousers sagging at the knees, He went his round from day to day. He did the things he had to do, Content to leave all else undone, He studied only how to shun The paths that were untried and new; He envied those who dared to gain The triumphs waiting to be won; Unhappy working in the sun, He looked for shelter from the rain. He watched the clock and rested when He heard the whistle start to blow; He mourned his luck and longed to know Why Fortune favored other men; With features strange to cheerfulness,

He moved with slouching steps and slow, Beholding others come and go, And hating those who won success. —S. E. Kiser, in Record-Herald.

TRAGEDY WRIT LARGE.

The people didn't merely look at Professor Branefog—they stared. He knew he was absent-minded at times, and he wondered whether he had rubbed his face with boot-polish instead of cold cream after he had shaved, or whether he had forgotten to change his dressing gown for his frock coat.

But a kind policeman put things right. "Are you aware, sir, that you are carrying a joint of beef in your arms," he asked. "Goodness me!" said the professor. "I knew something was wrong. My wife told me to put her Sunday hat on the bed to place this joint in the oven and to take the baby and the dog out for a walk."

"You've not put the baby in the oven, surely?" said the law's guardian. "I put something in it," said Branefog; "but I don't know whether it was the baby or the dog." With bated breath they hurried to the professor's house. Here, on the bed lay the baby and the dog; but it was just as bad for Branefog. It was his wife's Sunday hat that was in the oven!

George Was a Cheerful.

An ingenious young man once took his fiancée to church in a small country village and when the time for "collection" came around he rather ostentatiously displayed a silver dollar. Presuming upon their engagement the young woman placed a restraining hand upon the arm of her fiancée. "Don't be so extravagant, George!" she exclaimed. "Oh, that's nothing," he replied. "I always make a point of giving a dollar when I go to a strange church."

Just then the deacon came with the plate and George dropped a coin. Every thing seemed favorable and the young man beamed with generosity. Then the minister gave out the notices for the week and concluded with the wholly unexpected announcement of the day's collection. "The collection today," said he, amounts to 95 cents." George hadn't much to say all the way to his fiancée's home.—Houston Chronicle.

First Referendum.

Denver.—Colorado's first referendum petition has just been filed here. It has the backing of the progressive and citizens republican parties and affects an ordinance, passed by the city council granting the Colorado Southern the right to use the streets if it pays a bonus of 2 per cent of its gross receipts. The petition bars the operation of the ordinance until the people have voted on the ordinance.

In 1811 the emperor of Russia retained a colored man for one of his household.

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