

FRIDAY, JULY 18, 1902.

Council Notes.

The city council met in regular session last Monday evening. There were present Mayor Woodcock and councilmen Allen, Hodges, Crees, Henkle and Wilbanks. The special committee, to whom had been referred the matter of the payment of assessments for lateral sewers, made a report favoring an extension of time for the payment of these assessments, and recommended that the sewer committee be authorized to extend the time of payment, provided the property owner wishes to execute to the city a note for the amount or part thereof due, said assessments secured by mortgage upon the property upon which the city has a lien.

The Corvallis Fire Dept. committee made a verbal report favoring the allowance of \$20 per month to the City Transfer Co. for sprinkling. This report was adopted.

The proposition of A. B. Young to paint the warehouse recently erected in the rear of the GAZETTE building, was referred to the fire and water committee, with instructions to receive bids for the painting of this warehouse.

E. Allen demanded roll call, when the vote was taken on the liquor license bond of Wiley & Zeis. The vote resulted as follows: Those voting for the motion to grant the license, Hodges, Henkle and Wilbanks; against, Allen and Crees.

No action was taken on the verbal application of J. R. Smith & Co. for an extension of 30 days time to complete the sewers they have under construction.

The following bids were opened for construction of sewers: Through block 34, J. R. Smith & Co. \$345.85; Jacobson, Bade & Co. \$370; through blocks 6 and 7, J. R. Smith & Co. \$601.65; Jacobson, Bade & Co. \$630 through block 10, J. R. Smith & Co. \$289.85; Jacobson, Bade & Co. \$293; through block 18 and 19, J. R. Smith & Co. \$448.80; Jacobson, Bade & Co. \$510; through blocks 5 and 19, J. R. Smith & Co. \$518.35; Jacobson, Bade & Co. \$450; through block 20, 21 and 22, J. R. Smith & Co. \$56.88; Jacobson, Bade & Co. \$810; through block 23, J. R. Smith & Co. \$292.60; Jacobson, Bade & Co. \$290. The contracts were allotted to the lowest bidder.

Bills were allowed amounting to \$354.27 on the general fund, and \$59.67 on the street fund.

Thanked Mr. Goodnough.

"A knight is never without honor, save in his own country."

This is not always true, but the exceptions are few. We have an exception at home in the appreciation shown the piano playing of Mordaunt Goodnough, our brilliant young pianist. Mordaunt is a musician from the crown of his head to the tips of his toes and anything that is illegitimate in art grates on him and receives immediate condemnation. He recently concluded to duplicate a copy of Rubinstein's "Valse Caprice" in E-flat and ordered a copy from the well-known publishing house of Theodore Presser, of Philadelphia. The copy was received in due season and the waltz had been simplified. It bore no announcement of its having been "simplified" or "revised" and Mordaunt felt that he and others who might have ordered a copy of this world-famous musical composition had been imposed upon by the publisher.

A couple of weeks ago Mordaunt wrote Mr. Presser a personal letter bearing on the matter of the incorrect editing of the waltz. Last Tuesday he received a reply. From the letter it appears that a Mr. Landon had been in Mr. Presser's employ and was responsible for the incorrect copy. Of all the pianists in this country who have likely played this composition, Mr. Goodnough was the first to call attention to its incorrectness, as is shown by the following extract from the letter received by Mr. Goodnough last Tuesday:

M. A. Goodnough,
Corvallis, Oregon.

Dear Sir:

You are quite right in what you say, and this is the first time I knew that Mr. Landon had made any corrections on the original copy of Rubinstein's

piece and this is the first complaint we have had. I will look into the matter immediately. Of course when we found out what Mr. Landon was doing along this line we immediately withdrew from him *** I will now see if we cannot correct the Rubinstein waltz and bring it back to the original. Many thanks for your letter. We do not consider it in any way a complaint, but a very good suggestion. Yours respectfully,

THEO. PRESSER.

A Word From Mr. Davis.

ED. GAZETTE: I note that "Citizen" continues his attacks on the Coast Land & Live Stock Co. in the tax matter. Although in my former letter I gave a plain straight statement of the matter, every allegation of which I am ready to verify, and which, to any unbiased mind, was a complete answer to all of his insinuations; still, I desire to add a few words. So far as any benefit to the taxpayers is concerned, there is no point to his articles. We have already tried to secure either a settlement, or an opportunity to have the master tested.

If Citizen is honest in his pretensions that he is actuated in this matter solely for the good of the taxpayers and the public, why does he disguise his name? Surely it would be an honorable distinction to be the champion of the people in such a case as he would have them believe this is, and most men would be proud to be known as such.

However, I think it will be proven that there is a motive behind all this, but I will leave the public to guess it for the time, or gather it from his last communication.

I conceded in my last letter that Citizen was better posted on the history of the land transactions, prior to my becoming interested in them, than I was myself. I now also concede, that owing to his long experience in such matters, as well as by his legal training, he is probably as well posted in tax matters as any man in Benton county.

I think also, if my memory serves me right, that Citizen was the first one to advise me that those taxes were not a valid lien against the lands. This, however, was after I had purchased my house in Corvallis at the tax sale in December, 1897.

It will be noted that these delinquent taxes commence with the year 1895. To collect delinquent taxes assessed against all of the Geo. S. Coe, trustee, property for that year, the sheriff in 1896 levied upon, and sold the 20-acre tract on College Hill, known as the Col. Hogg property, and this was bid in by J. H. Wilson for the amount of taxes and accrued costs.

Mr. Wilson did not pay for his purchase at the time, but allowed it to run until about six months after the next tax sale had taken place, when he wrote a letter to the sheriff, the following extract from which will explain the matter:

"Corvallis, Or., June 29, 1898.
P. Rickard, Esq., Sheriff Benton Co., Oregon,

Dear Sir:—Referring to a bid I made on the 20 acres west of Corvallis for the year 1895, I have had the record examined, with reference to the correctness of the proceedings on which the sale is based, and I am advised that a tax is due to that property for that year would be null and void.

I therefore, state this to you as my reason for not completing the purchase, so you may make your return to the Court on the matter. (Signed)

Yours truly, J. H. Wilson."

Citizen refuses to allow his name to be divulged, but I know that Mr. Wilson is a very good authority on tax matters, and as all the assessments of the succeeding years are practically the same as for that year, it will readily be seen that he has some good authority for our contentions.

"Taxpayer" takes a hand and asks, why the property not been sold for taxes? The probable answer would be, that Sheriff Rickard did attempt to sell for the years 1895 and 1896, with the result as above, and he was then notified that the property was in the hands of U. S. Court and he could not sell it.

But even without that knowledge, it is hardly probable that, after the former experience, he would have done so without an express order of the County Court.

After my company purchased the lands, I notified Judge Woodward personally of the purchase; also that we had been advised that the taxes against Geo. S. Coe, trustee, and A. Masten, receiver, were not a valid claim against our lands, and that we would not pay them except we were compelled to by law. Again, before the tax sale of last year, I saw him and suggested that the remedy was in an order of sale. This is simply a plain business transaction. The taxes are not ours, and if void why should we pay them?

We have been ready at any time to test the matter, but it was not our business to point out the irregularities until the proper time. It will be noted that Mr. Wilson, who is an attorney, did not point them out in his letter to the sheriff quoted above.

Our company, while a corporation, is composed of parties who are all individual taxpayers in from one to all three of the counties of Linn, Benton and Lincoln, and who pay their taxes as promptly and as regularly as any, and who as a company desire to, and do pay their just taxes without evile or delay.

I attended to the assessment for 1901 in Lincoln county. The taxes amounting to about \$40, being found correct, were paid without question. The Benton county taxes for the same year, were paid and on an assessed valuation of \$1.25 an acre, the same as all the other

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Remnants in all colors and materials.

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Twenty per cent reduction on all Dimities, Challies and Lawns.

We carry a full line of W. B. Corsets—Girdles, Summer Weights, and Straight Fronts, 50 cents to \$1.50.

Ladies 2-clasp Gude Lisle Gloves in Black, Grays and White, at 50 cents.

F. L. MILLER, Corvallis, Or.

When you see it in our ad, it's so.

Phone 191.

"grant lands" were assessed, although Citizen, after I had corrected him on this, again declares that we only paid on them at an average assessment of 80 cents an acre, and is so very particular as to name the page and line on the roll, when that same roll shows that the valuation was \$20,560,—an average of \$2.25 per acre. The levy was 24 mills and this made the taxes amount to \$493.11. A portion of this was assumed by purchasers, and the balance paid by us as appears by the sheriff's books.

In Citizen reiterating this statement after being once corrected, we are just in assuming that it is a wilful misrepresentation, audit is a well established charge in law that a witness who is false in one statement, may be presumed to be false in all. He waxes very eloquent and writhes over the fact that these taxes are as just as any in Benton county, and I agree with him that they are probably as just as many of the taxes that are paid without question, but that does not prove that they are just, for there are many paid that are not, for the simple reason that the taxpayer does not know it, and cannot afford to fight it for the amount involved. I have paid such myself, and I warrant that "Citizen" also knows of many such.

In the last paragraph of his article of Correction (?) he says that "it is stated that this company has negotiated a sale of the lands to Eastern parties, at a price two or three times greater than their assessed value, but they have to square the back taxes first."

We are negotiating a sale of the lands, but at no such price as he suggests, neither do we have to square up the back taxes. If we succeed in this sale it will also prove of great benefit to the county. It will also benefit every citizen of the county, as the purchasers will arrange to have the lands settled as soon as possible. This will mean at least one hundred more families added to the producing and taxpaying population of the county.

That last paragraph explains the animus of all of his articles. Citizen knows all the circumstances; knows that our claims are correct, and also that nothing he can say will deter us from pursuing the course we deem to be right; but in his envy and malice he probably hopes that he may cause us trouble or loss in this transaction, and he dares not make the charges he has over his own signature.

I crave your pardon, Mr. Editor, for taking so much of your valuable space in answering a fatherless article like that and will leave the matter so far as such are concerned.

M. M. DAVIS.
Newport, Oregon, July 13, 1902.

Condition of Fruit.

The fruit crop of Oregon, generally speaking, is good, prices fairly good, with a prospect for better prices for prunes, says the Telegram. The fruit conditions were discussed at the quarterly meeting of the executive committee of the State Board of Horticulture. Those present were President E. L. Smith, of Hood River; L. T. Reynolds, of Salem, and George H. Lamberson, the secretary. The usual accounts were audited.

"We have no reason to complain of crops generally," said Mr. Smith.

He said the apple crop of the Hood River district was an average crop. There was a full crop of cherries and these had the advantage over the ones raised west of the Cascades, as there was less rain to crack them. He said they were proving a good shipping product and would be raised more extensively in the future. In fact the acreage had already increased considerably the last year. The strawberry crop, he said, would yield 55,000 crates.

Quoting from the report of Commissioner Judd Geer, of the Grande Ronde Valley, Mr. Smith said the prospects were good for a full apple crop.

A larger quantity of apples, owing to increased acreage and full crop, would be shipped this year than for any previous year.

Prunes would give about a 50 per cent. crop, with some orchards a total failure.

Pears were looking fine. Cherries would average 50 per cent. and the strawberry crop was good.

The report of A. H. Carson, of Southern Oregon, to the president, treated mostly upon the spray question. He said that he had inspected a number of

richards in Douglas county, where Dunn's solid spray compound for scale had been used with poor success. The salt, sulphur and lime spray had also proved ineffectual, because it was applied by hand power. It lacked force and thoroughness where hand power was used and only hit the trees in spots, therefore he found more live scales than dead ones.

He compared commercial orchards in Jackson county where gasoline engines are used, with orchards in Douglas county, where hand power prevailed, and found the percentage was 100 to 50 in favor of the former. More important still, he says hand spraying costs more than other power.

Speaking of the crops around Salem, L. T. Reynolds says there is about half a crop. Around Rosedale there was a full prune crop, but the fruit in other sections was scarce. Apples were about up to the average. Late rains were responsible. He thought prunes would raise in price this fall, as the crop was short throughout the Northwest and all the old crop had been cleared off the market. The California Association had not yet fixed any price but prunes were being contracted at 25 cents.

The members of the executive committee inspected a sample of new species of seedling cherries presented by Judge W. D. Hare, of Hillsboro. No name has yet been given them. They are somewhat similar in appearance to the Royal Anne, and have a delicious flavor.

We are negotiating a sale of the lands, but at no such price as he suggests, neither do we have to square up the back taxes. If we succeed in this sale it will also prove of great benefit to the county. It will also benefit every citizen of the county, as the purchasers will arrange to have the lands settled as soon as possible. This will mean at least one hundred more families added to the producing and taxpaying population of the county.

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