

THOSE PECULIAR METHODS.

Our criticism last week of the manner in which the city council had been conducting business elicited considerable comment and many have made inquiries as to our reasons.

To establish and regulate grades of the streets, and to define and fix the boundaries of the streets with proper monuments; to remove all obstructions from public highways, streets, sidewalks and cross-walks, and provide for the construction, improvement, repair and cleaning of the same, and of the gutters and sewers; and to compel, by ordinance, the owners of lots to make such improvements and repairs adjacent to such lots, at the cost of such owners, and to provide for selling the lots adjacent to which any such works may be constructed, ditches dug, sewers constructed, or improvements made, to pay all costs and expense thereof in the same manner as like property is sold on execution, under and in pursuance of the laws of this State; and to compel, by ordinance, all lot owners or occupiers thereof to keep the sidewalks in front thereof clean and free from any kind of obstruction.

To lay out, establish, vacate, widen, extend and open streets or parts of streets, and alleys or parts of alleys, in said city and to appropriate private property for that purpose. The powers hereby granted shall be executed under such rules and regulations as the common council shall by ordinance establish, not in conflict with the laws of this State and of the United States.

The improvement, repair and construction of all streets, sidewalks and public ways, and construction of sewers, shall be made and paid for by the land or lot-holders, whose land or lots front upon such streets, walks, ways and sewers, in the proportion of the frontage of the respective lots, but the construction, improvement and repair of the intersections of all streets, shall be paid for out of the general fund of the city; Provided, That no land or lot-holder shall be compelled to grade, construct or improve any street, side or crosswalk or public ways, if a remonstrance against the proposed improvement, signed by the owners of two-thirds of the frontage along the street to be graded, constructed or improved, is filed with the Recorder within ten days after notice is first given of the proposed improvement. Provided further, That if a petition signed by the owners of two-thirds of the frontage on any street or portion of a street be filed with the Recorder, asking for the improvement of such street or portion of street, the ten days' notice of such improvement shall not be given.

When any improvement of a street or the laying of a sewer is ordered the Street Commissioner shall immediately invite proposals for making the same in accordance with the ordinance provided, which proposals shall be opened in the presence of a majority of the street committee, and the contract be awarded by him to the lowest responsible bidder. Upon the sealing of the contract, the Recorder shall assess against each lot the contract price for the improvement in front of said lot, which assessment shall become due upon the acceptance of the work by the committee on streets, and be collected by the city Marshal after the manner of collecting other taxes. The amount of such assessment shall also be declared by ordinance immediately after making the contract.

It will be seen that the charter expressly prohibits the council from ordering and making street improvement, unless it is done by passing an ordinance. The city council has never passed an ordinance relative to street improvements, and had no authority to order the work now being done at the crossing of Catherine creek, at the expense of the city, the property holders adjacent, or any body else. The street commissioner, who by intimidation has been induced to carry out these illegal orders made at an illegal meeting is laying himself liable to prosecution. The council, on July 7, 1885, passed a very good ordinance in "relation to the construction and repair of side and cross walks." The ordinance, in accordance with the charter, after providing for the proper notification of the property holders adjacent, and the methods of procedure of the street commissioner in case of their refusal to do the work, says in section 5:

"The amount of the expenses of the construction of such sidewalks, or repairs thereof, as in this ordinance provided, shall be assessed to the owners of such ground or lots according to the frontage thereof upon such sidewalk, and notice of such assessment and the amount thereof shall be given to such owner and if same remains unpaid for

thirty days the council shall order, and the recorder shall cause to be city marshal a warrant for the collection thereon, out of such ground or lot, and thereupon the marshal shall levy thereon and sell the same in manner as like property is sold upon and sold upon execution of the laws of this State."

The above quotations from our laws will show the way in which the improvement of the streets and sidewalks shall be made. The law is founded on right, and proven by the experience of every city to be equitable and just. The proceedings of the city council as published last week will show what little regard is paid to the laws by some of the members. Even the newspaper, across the way, tries to the nature that is inherent in it, sanctions the action of these men. But such is the way of the world.

As a member of the council we have opposed these proceedings as editor of an independent newspaper which is not compelled to trouble and fawn to any class whatever, we make public the actions of the council as they occur. Having performed our duty in both capacities we leave the people to act as they choose in the matter.

We have been informed by parties living on Lewis Street that it is almost impossible for them to get to Union on account of the almost impassable condition of Lyon's hill. It seems the county court established a new road around the hill, sometime ago, on a much easier grade than the old road, which they passed. The court had about \$200 worth of work done on the road and completed it with the exception of two or three hundred yards. For some reason the work was discontinued and now neither road is passable. The parties inform us that an expenditure of one hundred dollars would put the new road in good condition for travel. They say they interviewed Judge Sanders about it and were informed that there is no road fund now and nothing can be done about it till next spring. This is certainly a sad state of affairs, and if the court cannot render any aid in the matter the citizens of Union should take it in hand and see that the money is raised and the road opened at once. We certainly do not want an impassable wall to exist between us and the people of that section for the next six or eight months when a hole could be knocked in it so easily. This matter should be considered by the Board of Trade at its next meeting.

POSTMASTER-GENERAL WANANAKER and his partner, Brown, have sent us instructions how to measure our feet for a ready made suit for which they propose to charge us \$3.00 and upwards. They write: Please fill out and mail to me the enclosed blank—see when you get a measure of our neck and shoulders, and return it to me ready to demonstrate that it is to your advantage. Now, see here! Wanan, we don't want you to monkey with us any more until you pay that dollar you owe us for advertising and for which we have dunned you five or six times. When you settle the old score we will see what can be done about this last proposition. If you knock off the "upwards" on the clothes maybe we can come to an understanding.

Elsewhere in this paper is published Elva Davidson-Blackburn's appeal to the Liberals of Oregon. Read it! The annual congress of the State Secular Union will convene at Portland on the 11th inst. Among the brilliant array of speakers who will address the meeting are the names of a number of prominent and influential bodies, who have ever been recognized as the leaders of advanced thought and every progressive movement. When such as these cast off the shackles that have bound them so long, and step out upon the broad liberal platform, the outlook for the progress and happiness of the world is bright indeed.

The will of the Baker City Blade man is something remarkable and unlike anything of the kind ever witnessed. His blade does not cut, but like the polished steel of Damascus, but rasps across the understanding like unto a coarse hand-saw over a knot. And that's what makes us smile. Long may the saw-blade saw.

If the heavy property owners could pay their taxes with the same fluency, so to speak, that they are levied upon by worthies who do not represent a dollar, the old town would boom along, to be sure.

The Jacksonville Times exhibits excellent taste by copying H. C. Ensey's last poem published in The Scott but fails to credit either the author or this paper.

THE CORRECT WAY.

The true way to make a happy, prosperous and contented community, is for every household to own a home. Every head of a family should make it his first aim to secure a home—save every cent possible with that aim in view. When they have secured a home then let them beautify it and make it attractive, not alone for those who dwell therein, but neighbors and the outside world. Their families, neighbors and the community in which they live will be socially and morally benefitted by such examples, and all stimulated to do likewise. Union is naturally a beautiful location, nature has done her part, and it now remains for man, the home-builder to beautify the home. Secure the services of the architect, the painter, and gardener, and plant vines, shrubbery and trees. Every home should have a few fruit trees, at least, and abundance of small fruits. Many buildings and homes in Union would present a more pleasing appearance to the eyes of those visiting the town, and also residents and owners thereof, if treated to a fresh coat of paint. Paint is a wonderful beautifier and preservative. What a change a handsomely painted house with a well kept yard in which are beautiful roses and other flowers, plants and shrubbery, makes for the better in the immediate vicinity thereof. It is a thing of beauty and a joy forever. A compliment is given the owner by every beholder, and the stranger in our midst carries away with him a favorable opinion of the town and residents. Try the effects of a little paint, and other improvements about the home, which to a great extent can be done by the owner, or at a very little cost, and see if it don't pay big interest on the investment and time and labor. In making improvements don't neglect that very important matter to the individual property holder, as well as to the general public, make good substantial sidewalks. Put down good foundations and heavy plank at the start and walks will need but little repair for years.

It makes us tired to hear a young fellow talking about "moss backs" who does not pay a cent of tax himself, whose name never appeared on a subscription list or subsidy for the benefit of the town, and whose schooling was procured at the expense of the State. The shallow-brained are always arrogant.

A Scrap of Paper Saves Her Life.

It was just an ordinary scrap of wrap paper, but it saved her life. She was in the last stage of consumption, told by physicians that she was incurable and could not live only a short time; she weighed less than seventy pounds. On a piece of wrap paper she read of Dr. King's New Discovery, and got a sample bottle; it helped her, she bought a large bottle, it helped her more, she bought another and grew better fast, continued its use and is now strong, healthy, rosy, plump, weighing 140 pounds. For further particulars send stamp to W. H. Cole, druggist, Fort Smith. Trial bottles of this wonderful Discovery free at Brown's drug store, Union, Oregon.

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EXECUTRIX'S NOTICE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO ALL whom it may concern, that Lavina Outhouse, Executrix of the estate of John T. Outhouse, deceased, has filed in the county court of Union county, Oregon, her final account as such administratrix, and the said court has set Tuesday, Nov. 4, 1890, at one o'clock p. m. for the hearing of said report.

Frank Bro's. Implement Co., LA GRANDE and ISLAND CITY.

Advertisement for Frank Bro's Implement Co. listing various agricultural machinery: HAVANA PRESS DRILLS, GANG, SULKY and WALKING PLOWS, STODDARD HARROWS, RUSHFORD and FISH BROS. WAGONS, HACKS, CARRIAGES and BUGGIES, "ELI" SULKY PLOWS.

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Tickets

Table of train schedules and fares for Union, Oregon. Includes columns for Union, Oregon, A. E. Ellis, Ticket Agent, TIME TABLE, Trains depart from Union daily as follows: WEST BOUND, East Mail, No. 1, Express, No. 7, EAST BOUND, East Mail, No. 2.

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