City and County Official Paper

On the 28th of May,-nearly three weeks ago-THE MORNING ASTORIAN gave the news that Messrs. Harris and Halsey, of Chicago, Ills., wanted to get control of the Columbia Water esmpany, and a thirty year franchise from the city, the city to pay them \$5,000 a year for water for fire pur-

CITY WATERWORKS.

cussion in the city council to-morro night. A few remarks are in order.

With no more than passing allu sion to the fact that the Columbia Water Co., from its start in '83 never complied with its contract, and the additional fact that the city never complied with its contract with the Water company, it is to be said that the present facilities for supplying water are inadequate to present needs. Even at its present size Astoria has not the daily supply of water it should have. Its certain and manifest growth makes it necessary to cause instant provision to be made for needed denands in the near future.

This is so manifest as to require no argument. We all agree that a larger and more uniform supply of water for our city is an existing necessity.

How best to secure it is the que

These Chicago men propose to put in about \$100,000. For that amount a perience. San Francisco is ground probable that the requisite system of securing adequate water supply could be put in for less-but allow for all contingencies say \$100,000.

Money is now worth five per cent in the east. These men ought, therefore, to secure a net annual profit of \$5,000 on good to let go. their investment to have their money earn them what it would in a Chicago savings bank or a Chicago city or own waterworks and save its citi Cook county bond. It would be no more than fair that it earned an additional one per cent. by investing in Hence, if they put in \$100,000, or anything like that sum, it

ought to net them \$6,000 a year. They ask that the city pay them this sum for furnishing water for fire purposes. Thus the city is asked to proposed arrangement with the Chisecure them fair interest for their investment.

The citizens-the private consum-

the Chicago men. They invest \$100,- works and give citizens abundant wa 000 here; the city secures them or ter at low rates. guarantees them a six per cent. interest annually on their investment, and they, then, in addition, collect water rates from the citizens for what they The investment, whether \$100,-600 or more would be an exceedingly profitable one.

poses and lower rates than the present for private consumers.

To do this it suggests that the city

vate individuals can make big money in this matter, why can't the city save big money by itself buying and running the water works?

Astoria is now in the same position that a good many other growing cities have been and are. It has a great deal to give away that will grow more and more valuable as the years go by.

Though experience, like the stern lights of a vessel, illuminates only the water over which we have passed, yet the experience of other cities furnished Astoria important and practical advice in this and other cases of present im-

Cities that when small hasten to ive away valuable rights, always recret it. It is the custom among wise iers, public and private, to pay no more for anything than is neces-

Some of the biggest and most pros-perous cities in the Union own their own gas works, their own waterworks. In some cases the profit—even at a low rate charged private citizens— comes near running the city govern-

If it be wise to give all our franes away, gas, electricity, telepho ear, water, and so on, why let us to it. If we want to discount the fuure and tie ourselves up and have OLIVER STEWART, Pres.

D. M. STEWART, Treas.

A. E. CYkUS, Sec'y.

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private corporations levy toll on Ast ria for the next generation, by all means let it be done. But if it is good finance business, wise economy, to retain and

administer public privileges, and public requirements—water for instance-let those in authority pause and consider which is best. As years go by franchises

more valuable. The time arrives wh cities realize the mistake made in giv ing franchises that at the time of gift were lightly thought of.

Let it not be said in days to come of our present council, "Oh, they were good men; well-meaning men, but they didn't realize what they were

Philadelphia, New York, Boston Chicago, have been through costly exvery good system can be placed. It is in the toils of the Spring Valley Water company. That octopus can pay bribes of \$1,000,000 a year, to the city supervisors, employ an army of highpriced lawyers, and still declare big dividends on watered millions of flo titious stock, which is not for sale, too

Astoria is not a big city yet: when it is it will be well for it to own its annual millions.

We groan now under taxation and complain about so much money being sent away.

Wouldn't it be good it arrange that at least for water, no money be sent away? If no better can be do

cago men, for Astoria needs better water supply. THE ASTORIAN thinks that it would ers, will have their bills to pay, as at be better for Astoria to do as hundreds present. From this comes the profit, of other cities have done and are do-The proposition is a good one-for ing-own and administer the water

Passengers to Portland.

The following is the list of pa gers having rooms who went up the river last night on the steamer Tele-phone: W. H. Barker, S. Broch, H. Wise, L. F. Hodges, Captain Hanson and wife Mrs. If Astoria can't do any better the proposition should be accepted at once.

Can Astoria do any better?

The Astori

The New Discovery.

To do this it suggests that the city buy, own and maintain the water works.

This is the true policy: the broad gauge plan that will result in larger benefits than can be derived in any other way.

The Astorian favors the scheme of enlarging the present water system; of adequate water supply for fire purposes; it directs the attention of the city council to the big profit in it for private capital, and asks them if pri-

The Hoffman House Cigar. The La Paloma cigar and other fine brands of cigars; the finest in the city, at Charley Olsen's, next to C. II. Cooper. Ludlow's Ladies' \$3.00 Fine Shoes; also flexible hand-turned French Kida, at P. J. Goodman's.

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He is a gray; seveletate ballies night, years old, and writes 1.78 pounds, and is nevery way a fine animal, sevelet ; will insure foal for set. Made oil jbe phatured and cared for at if a handle playing will not be responsible for sectionally.

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