

Polk County Observer.

VOL. XVI.

DALLAS, POLK COUNTY, OREGON, MAY 8, 1903

NO. 8.

CLOSING OUT SALE

On account of various reasons, but mainly continued ill health, I have decided to sacrifice my goods here and get into something in which I will not be so closely confined.

Everything Goes Without Reserve

HATS, CAPS, LADIES', MEN'S AND CHILDREN'S SHOES LADIES' WAISTS AND MEN'S FURNISHING GOODS Many of these lines are just in, and some are still on the road All will be included in the sale. Many things at less than cost and you don't have to buy \$5 or \$10 worth to get the discount

Men's \$2.25 Pants, to close, at	\$1.75	Ladies' Shirt Waists, \$1.50 values	\$1.15
Men's \$1.75 Pants, to close, at	\$1.15	Ladies' Shirt Waists, \$1.00 values	.75
Men's \$3.75 Pants, to close, at	\$2.50	Ladies' and Men's Shoes, \$3.00 val.	\$2.25

SALE COMMENCES FRIDAY, MAY 8
This Is Your Chance To Get New Merchandise AT Your Price

SALE PRICES CASH

S. C. DODSON,
Racket Store Dallas, Or.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Gentlemen of the Council: The charter of the city of Dallas makes it the duty of the Mayor to annually, at the first regular meeting in the month of May of each year, communicate by message to the Council a general statement of the condition of the affairs of the municipal corporation, and to recommend the adoption of such measures as he may deem expedient and proper. Owing to the excellent charter and code of city laws under which we are working, to the prosperous condition in which the city finds itself financially, and to the progressive course pursued by the Council just retiring, the affairs of the city are today in a far more satisfactory condition than at any former time in the history of Dallas, and it would seem as if little remains to be suggested in the way of changes or improvement.

Dallas occupies a proud place in the ranks of progressive Oregon towns. Her business men are prospering; her manufacturing institutions are all running on full time, and finding a ready sale for their products; substantial new business blocks adorn her main thoroughfares, and prospects for great activity in the building line in the immediate future are bright; handsome churches and school buildings testify more eloquent than words to the moral and intellectual tone of the city; neat, and in many instances costly and palatial homes, grace her residence streets; labor finds steady employment at remunerative wages; railroad and mail facilities are constantly being improved; new industries are projected, and important public improvements having for their object the health and convenience of the people are under way. The railroad to Falls City, secured through the tireless energy of our people, and now nearing completion, will open to the markets of the world the largest and best body of timber on the Pacific Coast, and will eventually make Dallas a lumber manufacturing town of the first rank. In the light of all these conditions, it is not surprising that our population is increasing at a rate little dreamed of by the earlier residents of the city.

It lies within the power of the Council to perform an important part in promoting the general prosperity and upbuilding of Dallas. The duty is yours, gentlemen, to take the lead in the work of making the city attractive to men who have capital to invest—to men who will come here and establish mills and factories and stores and all the business enterprises that go to make up a progressive, modern town. To you is entrusted the work of securing the peace and good order of the city, and of guarding well the health of its inhabitants; of keeping the streets and sidewalks in repair; of providing an abundant supply of water for domestic use and for the protection of public and private property from the ravages of fire; of managing the financial affairs of the city in such a manner as to keep the rate of taxation at the lowest possible figure consistent with progress and the needs of an enterprising people. If this course is pursued, beneficial results will be sure to follow.

CITY WATER WORKS.
Early in September of last year the Council took up a matter of vital importance to the city—that of water-works. H. V. Gates, of Hillsboro, appeared before the Council and submitted a proposition to build a system of water-works and to operate the same under a lease from the city. The plan was thoroughly discussed and considered by the Council, with the result that the ordinance committee was instructed to meet with Mr. Gates and prepare an ordinance looking to the acceptance of his proposition. The ordinance was prepared upon terms agreeable both to the city and Mr. Gates, and was passed on the 17th day of September, 1902. The ordinance then went into the hands of the Mayor, and was approved by that officer on the 24th day of September, 1902. This ordinance has been published several times, and has been so thoroughly discussed by the people of Dallas that every member of the present Council is doubtless familiar with its provisions, and no detailed explanation of its terms or contents is necessary at this time. A special election was called to be held early in October asking the people to grant authority to the Council to sell bonds to the amount of \$12,000 for the purpose of carrying out the terms of the ordinance. This \$12,000 was all to be used towards paying for the water plant, and no provision was made for issuing bonds in excess of this amount, as it was then believed by the Council that little or no difficulty would be experienced in obtaining the necessary rights-of-way and water rights from persons owning land along the proposed conduit line from the city to Canyon Creek. The Council proceeded on the theory that the expense of securing these rights would be nominal, and that they had the right to pay the same out of the general fund of the city. This position proved to be erroneous, as it was afterwards found that all moneys used in any way in the construction of a water plant must be raised by issuing bonds of the city. Upon consulting legal advisers, it was also found that the law of Oregon provides that where it is necessary to condemn land, or water, or water rights for municipal purposes, no action for such condemnation can be brought therefor by the city until authority therefor is obtained from the taxpayers by a special election called for that purpose. As the Council had already encountered opposition in the work of securing rights-of-way from certain land owners, and no agreement could be reached as to the value of the land sought to be appropriated, but one course remained open to the city, and that was to bring actions against these parties for the desired rights. The city was unable to bring these actions in the December term of Circuit Court, for the reason that the time was too short to allow the required notice of election to be given. Then came the Winter season, and all work on the project was abandoned until early in March of the present year. The Council then took the matter in hand again, and ordered another bond election—this time asking for \$12,000 to be paid to Mr. Gates for the water plant, and an additional \$3,000, or so much thereof as might be necessary, for the purpose of purchasing and acquiring the needed rights-of-way and water rights. At the same time a special taxpayers' election was called, asking authority to begin condemnation proceedings where a peaceful settlement could not be reached. These elections were held on the day of regular annual city election, and resulted in the bonds being voted and the Council being authorized to begin condemnatory proceedings. The work of securing the right-of-way for the pipe line was then taken up again and carried on earnestly and vigorously. Rights-of-way have been secured from the following-named property owners at a nominal cost to the city: W. H. Kraber, Robert Howe, David Hubbard, Oliver Dennis, Castle & Shaw. The only persons with whom the Council has been unable to reach a satisfactory settlement are Reuben P. Boise and Mrs. M. E. Hallock, and against these persons actions have been filed in the Circuit Court and will be tried at the coming May term. If a favorable verdict is reached in these cases, the city will have fulfilled its part of the contract in so far as the right-of-way is concerned, and the contractor will be enabled to begin at once the construction of the plant. The city has exercised the greatest precaution in every step taken in the matter of securing water-works, in order that the same may be in strict accordance with the provisions of the charter and the laws of the state regulating such improvements, and skilled counsel has been employed to represent the city's interest in the trial of the two actions now pending in the Circuit Court. In pursuing a steady and unswerving course to the end that the town may be supplied with an abundance of wholesome mountain water, the Council is obeying the will of the people as clearly expressed in two elections, and no thought of rest should be entertained by this body until the proposed plans are carried out and the water plant becomes actual reality. In the work of carrying out this great and much needed improvement, the city officers will have the hearty approval and loyal support of a large majority of the citizens of Dallas.

STREET IMPROVEMENT.
Much work is needed in the way of street improvement, and the Committee on Streets should give the same their immediate attention. A number of the side streets that have never been improved in any manner should be brought to the proper grade and thoroughly gravelled, and some of our main traveled thoroughfares are in need of repair. Many sidewalks in the city are also in a state of dilapidation, and should be placed in a safe condition at once. When a sidewalk with a missing or broken board is found, the owner or occupant of the premises should be required to replace the same without delay. The Street Commissioner should make frequent inspections of all walks in the city, and see that the same are kept in good repair. By exercising a careful supervision over all sidewalks and crosswalks, the possibility of damage suits for broken or fractured limbs will be reduced to the minimum.

The gravel taken from the bed of LaCreole Creek is not of the best quality for street work, and soon wears out when placed on the streets where traffic is heavy. However, it will be necessary to use this gravel until a better quality is found, or until such time as the city shall be able to purchase a rock-crusher. It might be well for the Street Commissioner and the Committee on Streets to try the experiment of screening this gravel, in order to free it from all dirt, trash and sediment before placing it on the streets. The cost of handling it in this way would be slightly greater than at present, but the increased lasting qualities of screened gravel over the mixture now in use would doubtless more than pay for the extra labor and money expended in preparing it for use.

CITY ORDINANCES.
The general ordinances of the city were revised by the Council two years ago, and so thoroughly was the work done that but few new laws have since been found necessary, and no change of importance has been made in the laws placed upon the city statute books at that time. Prior to the time this work was done, the ordinances of the city were for the greater part in an unsatisfactory condition. Many of them were loosely drawn and carelessly worded; in some instances two ordinances covering the same ground were to be found, both having the same object in view and yet differing widely as to the method to be pursued in attaining the desired result; in some cases the ordinances were in direct conflict with the charter, and numerous crimes against the peace and good order of the city could not be reached at all. The ordinance committee, under the direction of the Council and aided by the City Attorney, spent several months in revising the ordinances, retaining what they considered good, cutting out all that were lame or objectionable, and formulating new laws where necessity seemed to require. The numerous criminal ordinances were gathered together, revised, amended, and placed in one ordinance; the nuisance ordinances in another; and so on down the line, thus cutting down the number of laws nearly or quite one-half. The new and amended general laws were recorded in a book furnished to the Auditor for that purpose, and are kept entirely separate and apart from the special sidewalk and street improvement ordinances, and in their present shape are convenient for reference. I would recommend that each new member of the Council give these ordinances a careful reading in order that he may become thoroughly familiar with the laws under which the city is working.

While these ordinances would be much more accessible and convenient for reference if printed in book form, I would not advise that they be ordered printed at this time, as the demand for such publication would hardly justify the expense that would be incurred in printing them.

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NUISANCE ORDINANCE.
The nuisance ordinance of Dallas covers a wide scope, and under its provisions cleanliness and neatness can be strictly enforced. Its terms are not harsh or unjust, but under its operations it is possible to make Dallas a clean town, so far as the removal of loose filth and rubbish is concerned. I would especially urge upon the Marshal and the Committee on Health and Police the importance of seeing that this ordinance is strictly enforced. The streets should be kept clear of rubbish and refuse vegetable matter, and ash-heaps, manure-piles and trash and decayed fruits and vegetables in the back yards and in the rear of business houses should be conspicuous by their absence. Now, that the Summer season is approaching, it would seem to be in order to suggest that a general

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THE OLD RELIABLE



carrying out the work. At some future time, however, when the condition of our finances will warrant, it would be well for the Council to provide for the publication of the general ordinances in pamphlet form for public distribution, in order that the people may have the same for handy reference and thus become more familiar with the city's laws.

MARSHAL'S SALARY.
The attention of the Council is called to the salary paid to the City Marshal. This salary is clearly inadequate, when the duties performed by that officer are taken into consideration. The salary was fixed by the Council at a time when Dallas was a much smaller city than at present, and at a time when the services of a Marshal were not required for more than one-half the number of hours that are now required. Dallas is one among the few towns in Oregon that have no night-watchman, and it is in the afternoon and evening that the services of a police officer are most needed. And while offenders are to be promptly apprehended and punished for their misdoings, the peace and good order of a city depends in a greater degree upon the alertness and efficiency of its police officers in keeping the city free from the criminal element. The officer who does his whole duty is not the one who contents himself merely by placing under arrest those persons who commit crimes, but is the one who is vigilant in keeping the city clear of lawless characters; who makes it his business to see that the laws are properly observed, and who visits all places where disorderly scenes are likely to occur and by his presence exerts a restraining influence upon those who are inclined to create a disturbance. Such an officer is worthy of his hire, and I would recommend that the ordinance defining the duties of the City Marshal and fixing his compensation therefor be so amended as to increase the effectiveness of the night service, and that his salary be placed at a figure more nearly commensurate to the work performed. The condition of the city's finances and the extent of its resources at the present time will not permit any large increase, but a reasonable monthly salary for that officer is hereby suggested.

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