

EVENTFUL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL

Last night's meeting of the city council was an eventful one. At that time the new councilmen took their seats, the mayor's new appointments were read, another application for a street railway franchise was introduced and an offer to sell to the city the present water system was made.

The meeting began with the reading of reports. Chairman Matlock, of the fire and water committee, read a lengthy report upon what had been accomplished during the past year toward municipal ownership of public utilities. He also reported that the sum of \$15,851.22 had been spent in constructing new sewers during the year.

City Treasurer Frank Reiser read his annual report. It showed the following balances on hand at the end of the fiscal year: General fund, \$902.62; sewer fund, \$198.52; total, \$1,101.14. Outstanding warrants, general fund, \$13,691.46; sewer, \$1474.33, and two library warrants to be paid from the general fund, \$1000.

The mayor was authorized to appoint two accountants to check up the city's finances from the time they were last checked up, which is three or four years ago.

STREET REPORT.

Some interesting figures were presented in the annual report of the street committee and Street Commissioner Turner. The report is as follows:

To the Honorable Mayor and Common Council of the City of Eugene:

The undersigned street committee and street commissioner hereby submit the following annual report of street work for the past year:

New lumber used for construction of street crossings, alley crossings and culverts, and repair work, amounts to 128,591 feet.

Old lumber used for repairs, 3300 feet.

Total number of feet used, 131,891.

Lumber now on hand, 29,700 feet.

There are 24 new street crossings where none existed a year ago, also 13 new alley crossings, and one new bridge.

Twenty-three new culverts or drains have been built during the past year. There has been built during the past year 9244 feet of new sidewalk where none existed before, or one and three-fourths miles.

There have been 20 blocks of streets newly graded and gravelled, or a fraction more than one and a half miles; also 1200 feet of alleys improved in like manner.

There have been 2200 loads of gravel used in repairing streets during the past year.

Two hundred feet of 8-inch tile has been used on Twelfth street, and 170 feet in Fairmount addition to Eugene for the purpose of drainage.

There has been more sidewalk rebuilt in the past year than usual.

Cement sidewalk constructed during the past year amounts to 1340 feet.

Respectfully submitted,

J. P. TURNER,
Street Commissioner.
L. O. BECKWITH,
J. D. MATLOCK,
K. B. HENDERSON,
Street Committee.

HEALTH REPORT.

Chairman Henderson, of the health committee, reported the following number of contagious diseases in the city during the year: Scarlet fever, 14; diphtheria, 4; measles, 2; smallpox, 21. There were several cases of smallpox at the university, but these were handled by the university authorities and the city kept no record of them.

Recorder Dorris stated that his report had not yet been completed, and it will be read at a future meeting.

NEW ADDITION.

An ordinance ratifying plat of Kitson's addition to Eugene was passed. This addition lies in the western part of the city, adjoining Parkerson & Quimby's addition.

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS.

Mayor Wilkins announced his annual appointments as follows:

E. A. Farrington, chief of police.
Geo. F. Croner, first night watch.
Walter Purdy, second night watch.
James Turner, street commissioner.
Albert Baker, assistant street commissioner.

L. E. Bean, city attorney.
Dr. F. W. Prentice, city physician.
Geo. Waggoner, city surveyor.
G. W. Taylor, police at Fairmount, without pay.

Council committees were named as follows:

Fire and Water—Bristow, Calkins, Spencer.

Streets—Beckwith, Gilbert, Garrett.

Finance—Spencer, Henderson, Bristow.

Judiciary—Calkins, Bristow, Beck-

with.
Printing and Police—Garrett, Beck with, McCrady.

OFFER TO SELL WATER PLANT.

Chas. A. Hardy, attorney for the Willamette Valley Co., read the following proposition:

Eugene, Oregon, April 9th, 1906.
To the Honorable, the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Eugene:

Gentlemen:—Inasmuch as it seems to be the desire of many of the people of Eugene that the water works shall be owned and operated by the city, we submit the following proposition, namely:

We will complete the one million gallon reservoir now in course of construction, install the new pumps, put in a well across the river, including one acre of land, install the filters in first-class order, finish putting in the large service pipes to cut out the dead ends and turn the plant over to the city at any time within five years from date.

The city shall have an option on the plant for five years and whenever the city desires to complete the purchase of the same the value of the plant shall be determined by three competent appraisers. The city shall select one appraiser, the Willamette Valley Company shall select one and the two appraisers so appointed shall select a third disinterested appraiser, and these men determine the value of the water plant.

Each person so appointed as an appraiser shall be thoroughly competent to pass on the value of a water plant.

Respectfully submitted,
WILLAMETTE VALLEY CO.
Per A. Welch, Manager.

The offer was referred to the committee of the whole.

FRANCHISE FOR RAILWAY.

Councilman Beckwith presented an ordinance granting a franchise to the Willamette Valley Co. for the construction of a system of street railways in Eugene. The franchise is quite similar to the one recently asked for by G. B. Hengen, A. B. Wood, F. L. Chambers and O. F. Paxton. The difference is that the franchise is wanted for 30 years and it is agreed to begin construction work within six months and finish the system eighteen months thereafter. Another feature not incorporated in the Hengen et al franchise is that a yearly tax upon each car operated is to be paid as follows: \$15 for the first ten years, \$20 for the second ten years, and \$30 for the third ten years. The streets to be used are a little different from those asked for by the other applicants.

The ordinance was referred to the committee of the whole.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

Mayor F. M. Wilkins read his annual message to the council, which is as follows:

Eugene, Oregon, April 9, 1906.
To the Honorable City Council:

Gentlemen:—I herewith submit for your consideration my annual report and recommendations, with suggestions as I see them, for the betterment of conditions and building up of our city.

The year just closed has been one of improvement and prosperity, the only thing to mar our peace and good will being the epidemic of typhoid fever which has been attended with loss of life in several homes and in many others trying hours of anxious watching and waiting. But I feel that we can now congratulate ourselves that the trouble is practically over and with the installation of the filters, new wells and reservoirs I feel that we are certain of no return of the dreaded malady.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

A few recommendations and suggestions at this time I want to make, and urge that the work needed be taken up at once and worked out in the best manner possible for the city.

First—Upon taking my seat as mayor, I recommended that the fire and water committee investigate the question of municipal ownership of water and light. As it involved a large amount of money I felt it my duty to give this matter my personal attention. I believe in city ownership of these utilities under right conditions, but whatever sentiment we may have about things of this kind they cannot be safely and rationally considered except from a business standpoint. And if they do not promise success they should never be undertaken. Since the recommendation was made a change of ownership of these plants took place, the new people pledging to put in a more complete plant than the city had contemplated, by putting in a first-class filtration system, in addition to new wells, new reservoir and extension of water mains to all parts of the city.

It is essential that the city have abundance of pure water. Now the question comes, will the city get any better water or furnish it at a less price than the private corporation—can we afford to bond ourselves for the amount necessary, about two hundred thousand dollars, for the mere satisfaction of owning the water plant. I think it is an admitted fact that we must pump our water from wells, as the expense is far too great to put in a gravity system. Then the quality of the water must be the same under municipal ownership or corporate ownership. As to price, Portland and Astoria have not been able to furnish to consumers at a lower rate than we are paying in Eugene. Now, I doubt the wisdom of our city placing such a bond on her people if no special benefits are to be derived from it. With men hunting homes it is a question of bonded indebtedness and taxation very often. They are satisfied where they find pure water and care but little who owns the system. The revenues from the plant for several years must be put into extending the system, and this added to the extra expense of conducting municipal owned plants over corporate owned ones does not look like a paying proposition. If the city must own the water plant let us go at it in a business like manner: First, go before the next session of the legislature, have our charter amended so that we can issue bonds sufficient to enable us to purchase the plant already here at its worth and have no competition, as in my judgment two water systems in a city of the size of Eugene would mean financial suicide to this city. Second: Arrange in some manner to have a permanent board or commission to handle the plant, taking the whole matter from the hands of the city council, and in this way place the future of the water system beyond all political strife.

Second—One year ago I recommended that a suitable site be selected for a city park. This has not been done and I want to urge the importance of this work, as every year is lessening the chance for securing a suitable tract, with prices climbing all the time.

Third—I would recommend that the city parks be lighted with incandescent lights. This is a much needed work, as these parks have been made a resort for the immoral and bad of the city. Also that 32-candlepower lights be placed at alley crossings adjoining business streets. This would lessen the danger of crime and be of great assistance to the night police.

Fourth—Some plan must be worked out for the disposition of city garbage, and this will have to be done at once.

Fifth—The time has come when our city needs some additional or better fire apparatus. We have been standing still along this line while our city has doubled in population, and while we have been extremely fortunate in regard to fire, yet we cannot hope to escape much longer, and I hope the council will settle this question at once by providing the city with a first-class team and combination chemical and hose wagon. I would also suggest that some sort of fire alarm system be put in, something along the line recommended by our fire chief, Yorlan.

Sixth—An ordinance was passed by the council fixing the curbing line at 16 feet from property line. I hope some plan can be determined upon whereby the work of parking the streets can be started and carried out, even if the city has to lend a helping hand in the work. Nothing would add so much to the beauty of our streets and lawns as uniform curbing and a nicely graded street from curb to curb.

And I would especially recommend that the city parks be curbed 16 feet from the property line, the space between walk and curb line filled with loam, then seeded and lawned as the parks are. This would keep the streets clean by putting the teams where they belong—on the south, east and west sides of the parks, where hitching posts and chains are provided. The park can never be what the city wants until this is done.

In addition to this the city should encourage, in every way possible, the putting in of cement sidewalks. While the first expense is something in excess of wooden ones, yet the added durability and satisfaction of such walks, coupled with the improved sanitary conditions, would warrant this excess cost.

Seventh—In the very near future this body will undoubtedly grant a street car franchise covering the city to some one. I hope the interest of the city will be guarded, not in a narrow, selfish and restricted sense, but in a broad and public-spirited way to at once give us an up-to-date electric road throughout the city, planning for its future development of the entire county, as this is the only way the business of our county can be centralized and make our city what it should be.

Eighth—Owing to the fact that our home lots are large and many of them not improved in any way, we haven't

water enough to properly flush our sewers, and I hope the committee will investigate the plan of taking water from the millrace near the university and running it through all sewers that can be reached, and on all others, where needed, but in flush tanks.

Ninth—The state board of health has recommended that the main or brick sewer, which now empties out below the flooring mill, be extended down the millrace to a point near the river. This should be investigated, and if found practical and needed, the extension should be made.

Tenth—The finances of the city I hope will be guarded in every possible way. We now have about thirteen thousand dollars in outstanding warrants against the city, and this added to thirty-five thousand dollars sewer bonds, makes a total of forty-eight thousand dollars. And while the city's needs must be met, I hope we can work together in such a manner as to prevent our indebtedness getting larger.

In conclusion let me urge a year of work, the kind that brings returns. We are a great family engaged in the many and varied vocations of life, all working to better his or their condition. But only by united effort can we build a city. Let us, therefore, devote a part of our time to this upbuilding for one year and note the result.

Without compensation the members of this council are giving their time for the good of Eugene, and I bespeak for them the earnest support of all good citizens.

F. M. WILKINS,
Mayor.

CRESWELL SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION

The thirteenth annual convention of the Creswell District Sunday School Association convenes at Trent schoolhouse April 22, at 10 a. m. The program is as follows:

Praise service, Mrs. Maud Elliott.
Opening of convention by the president.

Address of welcome, E. R. Parker.
Response, M. J. Hillegas.
Reading of minutes.
Reports of schools by secretaries.
Appointment of committees.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Song service.
Recitation by Dexter school.
"Reaching the Unreached," D. Read.

Solo, Maud Gilroy.
Recitation, Eddie Baxter.
"The Worth of the Wayward Boy," Mrs. K. B. Melton.

Exercises by Trent school.
Solo, Esther Bradley.
"Winning the Little Ones Through the Cradle Roll," Mrs. M. O. Howe.
Recitation, Glenn Guiley.
"Holding the Scholar in the School," Mrs. A. J. Cruzan.

Song, by convention.
Business session.
Adjournment.

W. L. WHEELER,
President.

IRMA HOWE,
Secretary.

Crow Items

Crow, April 11.—Merle Nighswander, who was recovering from pneumonia, has suffered a relapse.

Road Supervisor Jenkins and a crew of men began work Monday.

Farming is nearly all done for this season.

W. B. Smith and wife came up from Hale Saturday.

J. W. Doster, of Panther, spent Saturday night at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Earl Gates.

Miss Mary Doster has come to attend the Palestine school, which is prospering under the management of Mrs. Nettie Fleck.

Development work continues at the Mirth coal mines.

Messrs. Crow, Clark and Rieck have finished spraying their orchards.

Miss Grace Crow, Mrs. Alva Hollandsworth and Albert Rieck spent Sunday afternoon at Earl Gates'.

Mrs. Chas. Hadley's horse ran away while she was on her way home from Crow, throwing her from the buggy beneath the wagon driven by Mrs. Lydia McCulloch and bruising her painfully, though it is thought not seriously. The horse ran on until stopped by a post, and was caught.

Married in Portland

Clinton D. Chorpensing and Miss Alta Hawley were married in Portland yesterday. They will make their home in Eugene.

The groom has been a resident here for several years, at present being employed by the Willamette Valley Co. The bride is a daughter of B. E. Hawley, a well-known mining man who formerly resided here. Their many friends here tender hearty congratulations.

The BON MARCH

The Underselling Store.

Grand Special for Friday and Saturday

2,000 yards 40-inch novelty wool suitings, in fancies, Panamas, excellent values 75c. Underselling Price, the yard

50 pieces best 12 1/2c India Linen Friday and Saturday. Underselling price, per yard

Best six-cord five cent Spool Cotton. Underselling Price

28 styles in Boys' Nobby Spring Suits. Underselling Price \$2.00

300 pairs Women's Fine Chrome Kid \$2.25 Welt Shoes. Underselling Price \$1.00

1,400 yards fine Embroideries, from 6 to 10 inches. Good values at 15 cents. Underselling Price

TWO GRAND SPECIALS

In Our Lace Curtain Department

75 pairs extra value \$1.75 Lace Curtains. Underselling price, the pair \$1.00

130 pairs Irish Point effect, a very stylish \$3.50 curtain, Underselling Price, pair \$2.00

Underselling in Our Notion Department

35c Hook-On hose supporters 21c Underselling Price

15c Bixio Shoe Dressing. 9c Underselling Price

Best 5c Ball and Socket Fasteners. Underselling Price

Armour's 10c Butter Milk Soap. Underselling Price

Best 5c Pearl Buttons. Underselling Price, dozen

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