

The Democrat.

MAYOR COWAN'S ADDRESS.

Following is Mayor J. L. Cowan's address delivered to the new City Council. It is a live, progressive effort.

To the Honorable, the Common Council of the City of Albany:

GENTLEMEN:—By municipal law it is the prerogative, and in fact becomes the positive duty, of your presiding officer to, from time to time, communicate with your honorable body, reviewing the public works and enactments accomplished, and also submitting such suggestions as to future improvements as would seem most to conduce to the general welfare and prosperity of our citizens; and it is in the fulfillment of this duty that I shall claim your attention this evening to briefly offer such thoughts, touching the general advancement of our fair city, as appears to me to be just, wise and prudent.

To you, gentlemen of the retiring council, I feel that I am fully warranted in congratulating you upon the work accomplished during the twelve and eighteen months last past. The contrast in the appearance of your city of today and the date at which you took office is most marked, and favorably so, to the present condition of city affairs. During your incumbency we have witnessed the retirement of the old coal oil street lamps, which had to give way to make place for the more progressive electric light system, which now adorns the city and illumines our streets at night, as if by the blazing noon day sun; and as the demand may require, we earnestly expect in the very near future, to see gas jets bristling from every street corner and business house in Albany.

It is now no longer necessary for our citizens to trudge their way through wind and storm, or midday heat, to reach their passenger trains, for under your wise encouragement the Albany Street Railway, that great engine for the development of realty and general business is an active and established fact in our midst, and while being in operation only a few months and its lines at present only covering two important streets, we may confidently expect within the next two years to see the western, southern, eastern and northern limits of the city covered by the line of this important enterprise, when the suburban property of our community will be made fit and convenient homes for our business men, who now occupy First and Second streets.

You have done wisely and well in extending financial aid and assistance toward the perfection of your fire department. There is no city to-day of any magnitude that is devoid of a good fire service which is not in rust, ruin and decline. There is no merchant that would carry an important business who would seek a city without at first enquiring as to the efficiency of the fire department. No man of means would rear a beautiful and costly residence, the home of his wife and children, unless there was evidence of the means of protection of their lives and its beauty and value. It was an act of prudence, and you did nobly, in providing No One's with their beautiful and reliable steam fire engine, and while the cost of the same may have been deemed considerable at the time, you have the sanction of your constituents, who are resting under the security, and who feel that with the present efficient appliances of our fire department, combined with the known zeal and the heroism of our firemen, no such calamity can befall Albany as came rushing upon our neighbors of Seattle, Ellensburg and Spokane, during the past year.

You are also to be commended upon the wisdom you have shown in the appointment and selection of your executives. There has been no one named for duty on the police force who has not proven himself a sound, brave, and faithful officer.

The demands upon you for absolutely necessary public improvements have been in excess of revenues at your disposal. You can point to the appearance and condition of your streets, sidewalks and bridges, which is evidence plain that the people's money has not been misapplied, and I am happy to inform you that notwithstanding the usual amount of work done, we are yet within our constitutional limits for public expenditures.

And now, gentlemen of the old council, let me thank you for the uniform courtesies extended me during the time that I shall have been called upon to preside over your deliberations, and I assure you that my best wishes shall go with each and every one of you. And while much has been done the past year to advance the interest of our city, Albany is just now on the threshold of her great activity, and her permanent prosperity. And allow me to suggest to you, gentlemen of the incoming council, that her growth and importance largely depend upon the wisdom, prudence and foresight of your deliberations. Albany to-day holds the natural position for the railroad and commercial center of the wonderful Willamette Valley. But even these great natural advantages become slumbering and valueless, unless the opportunities they offer are seized and utilized by the energies of her own people.

There appears to me many matters of pressing importance that demand your thoughtful attention, some of which may be mentioned as follows: The paving or permanent improvement of First street; the early purchase of grounds for park purposes; and the completion of a good sewerage system, covering the entire city. The early extension and completion of Calapoola, Baker and Railroad street sewers seem to me to be especially urgent. Your constituents are unanimously demanding that something be done in this direction. Every block of sewerage perfected adds immeasurably to the value of real estate. Every rod of sewer pipe laid lessens the griefs and desolations of our homes, and reduces the number and the magnitude of our doctor bills. A city without good sanitary provisions is shunned alike by capital and intelligence. Without further argument I take it for granted that you realize the great need for the completion of this important work. How is it to be accomplished, is the only question. I would urge the immediate and vigorous attention of your finance committee to provide some legitimate means whereby the necessary revenue could be secured to defray the expense incurred in the building of these sewers, and if a sufficient amount could not be realized from taxation or other legal sources, I am free to say to you, gentlemen of the council, that I would recommend that our charter be amended as to allow a bonded debt, ample to carry this work to completion. Instead of this being an extravagant idea, it would eventuate in a wise and an economical expenditure. The people are not capricious about the appropriations of needed money, but are exceedingly jealous as to the manner in which the same is applied.

There is an urgent need for the improvement of First street and the property holders thereon are ready with the means to complete the same, when the best, most economical and permanent system of improvement is discovered or established. Your committee on streets and public property would serve the city well by making careful examination and inquiry in regard to this matter.

Should the purchase of suitable grounds for public park purposes be long delayed I fear that the rapidly advancing values of realty in our midst would in a few years place the value of such site beyond our reach. This matter should not be overlooked.

I deem it your duty to exercise a just and liberal policy as to the granting of franchises to all legal and legitimate enterprises that may come among us, always and at all times guarding the rights of the people whose servants you are.

And finally, gentlemen, there are many important matters touching the interests of our citizens that will be constantly crowded upon your attention, too numerous in fact to here make mention. But I beg to pledge you my hearty co-operation and assistance in furthering any measures that will tend to promote the welfare, prosperity, and happiness of the citizens of Albany.

RANS.—One of the finest lots of guns and revolvers ever received in Albany are now in stock at Stewart & Sox's. Hunters should call and see them and get prices before buying.

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COUNTY TREASURER'S NOTICE.—This is to notify all concerned that there is now sufficient funds in the County Treasurer's office of Linn county Oregon to redeem all outstanding warrants. Interest on all endorsed warrants will cease from this date.

H. FARWELL
Treas.

To All Whom It May Concern.

The Germania Fire Insurance Co of New York, having reinsured its entire business in the State of Oregon, said company (having on deposit with the State Treasurer, \$50,000) hereby give notice of its discontinuance of business in Oregon, and its intention of withdrawing its deposit now with the State Treasurer at the expiration of the six months printed notice required by law.

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