

The Santiam News.

Politically Independent.

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SHOULD ACT AT ONCE.

JUST AT the present time Scio is up against a pretty serious financial proposition. It was reported several months ago by Electrician W. Bilyeu that the city's two electric dynamos at the power station were badly out of repair, and that it was with difficulty that he could make them do the work required. Last Sunday night the machine that furnishes electric energy for our street lighting system, utterly refused to perform, and, as the other dynamo is loaded to its full capacity in supplying the private lighting system and could not supply the street lights in addition, our streets are now in darkness. The matter seems now to be up to the city council for action.

The expense of putting the dynamos in good condition again, it is said, will be \$200 or over. But when in first-class condition these dynamos are unable to furnish the amount of electric energy necessary to supply the lights required, for the simple reason that they are too small. Scio has outgrown the capacity of the machines. At the present time, at least 100 additional lights would be taken, could the city supply them.

Our light and water systems barely pay the expense of operation. If the power and extent of each were increased so that the entire city would be covered it would pay a handsome profit. There is not a question but what this would be true, for the reason that the number of consumers of both light and water could be doubled, while the expense of operation would remain the same.

We understand that the old dynamos can be sold for near half what a new and more powerful machine will cost. Is it not good business sense to make the exchange, even if a debt is incurred in doing so?

Our water plant, also, is badly in need of reconstruction as well. In time of a fire, such as we had a few months ago, the need of a greater water supply is very evident. Indeed, if we could have thrown two good streams of water at that time, fully one-half of the property destroyed could have been saved, and which amounted to double what the cost of improving the light and water plants would be. We know not how soon the fire fiend may visit us again and it would be good business sense to be as well prepared as possible to meet it.

It is certainly up to the city council to take these matters up at once. Delay in the matter, is both dangerous and unprofitable.

Scio is evidently on the eve of making extensive improvements in the building line. Within the past few months a number of good citizens have come to our town. Our location and environment is bound to attract others. Let us place our municipal water system in first-class condition that property may be made as safe from destruction as possible. Scio is one of the very few towns in the state that owns its own light and water plants. Let us have pride and enterprise enough to keep both plants in good condition and up to what is required of them. If the city council is at all timorous about the matter, let a special election be called and a referendum vote be taken. Let us do something and do it quickly.

PERSONAL ENDEAVOR THE KEY.

LET us assume that all men are favorable to higher education and that all believe in and favor the highest degree of intellectual development for every citizen. We all know that,

MR. BRYAN

A Washington dispatch to the Journal tells of a decided movement in the east toward Mr. Bryan, and the statement is doubtless correct. It is wholly within reason that Mr. Bryan should be more popular throughout the country than at any time in his career. He is a man of distinctly original mold, occupying a place unlike that held by any other man of his time. It is a position in which, with the exception of a selfish few, he holds the confidence and esteem not only of the rank and file of his own party, but of a wide section of the opposite party. It differs from that of Mr. Roosevelt, because Mr. Roosevelt is the president of the whole people, while Mr. Bryan is only a private citizen. The presidential office and the unexampled opportunity it offered for popularity when Mr. Roosevelt entered office was

the means and making of Mr. Roosevelt's distinguished place in the hearts of his countrymen. Without the opportunity of the presidency Mr. Roosevelt would be comparatively unknown. In the case of Mr. Bryan it is his own personality and talents that have placed and maintained him in the foreground. He is discredited by having been twice defeated for the presidency. It is a blow that would have destroyed the career and relegated any other man to obscurity. A single defeat has always been effectual in destroying the career of any man save Mr. Cleveland, and Mr. Cleveland was an ex-president when defeated. Such a defeat was wholly destructive of the prominence and public importance of Mr. Parker, in spite of his masterful ability. But instead of destroying him, two defeats have only given Mr. Bryan a higher place in the esteem of his countrymen. His magnetism, his ex-

traordinary talents and his known sincerity have raised him from the oblivion that has come to others, and lifted him higher and higher in public faith and esteem. He has made egregious blunders politically, enough of them to have overwhelmed a man of less power and purpose. At the moment of his proudest triumph he has said things disappointing to his friends and enormously unfortunate for himself. He has been so indiscreet and so audacious as to denote him to be a mere child in the wiles of political sagacity. He has been combative in his purposes, uncompromising in his policies, and so aggressive as to many times estrange his most devoted supporters. He has defied the ordinary methods of popularity, trampled over the usual avenues to prominence, and tempted fate politically in multiplied fashions and in unaccounted times. But he has survived all the unaccounted spe-

cies that pulled down lesser men and has grown in public favor until he has become, and is, the most distinguished private citizen in the nation. It is true of Mr. Bryan that his influence in swaying the political policies of his country has probably been greater than that of any man, either in or out of office. It is an indisputable fact that Mr. Roosevelt's popularity is itself due to his espousal of policies of which Mr. Bryan was a foremost champion a dozen years ago. They are policies that Mr. Roosevelt and every leader of his party combated at that time as unsound and impossible. In their adoption and application by Mr. Roosevelt there is witnessed the most extraordinary changes of public policy ever made in this country and the almost unanimous verdict is that these changes are a great and good work. It is a work so acceptable that a wide demand has gone up for the nomination of Mr. Roosevelt for a third term. The demand for Mr. Roosevelt is testimony that the country has discerned and recognized the wisdom of Mr. Bryan, both of yesterday and today, and it is one reason why he is distinguished above all other private citizens in the esteem and faith of his countrymen.—Oregon Journal.

A DAY WITH THE 14TH.

The News editor enjoyed a visit last Sunday at Vancouver, Wash., as a guest of that aggregation of splendid musicians the 14th U. S. Infantry band.

The 14th regiment is now under marching orders to sail from San Francisco, for a two-year stay in the Philippine Islands. Every company of the regiment has been recruited to war footing and the band numbers full strength as well. The sailing will be made in the first week in January.

As a volunteer soldier of the Civil war days, the News man viewed everything which he beheld and heard as compared with the old days. What a vast improvement Uncle Sam has made in the method of caring for his soldier boys! In the olden times the soldier found all of his comforts and conveniences; he had his own winter quarters if he had any and had time to build them; found his own cooking utensils to a great extent; did his own cooking and much of the time, when in the field rustled for his grub. Now all of this is supplied by our Uncle Sam and judging from what we saw at Vancouver, regardless of expense. Each company has a domicile or barracks to itself. The building is composed of two stories and basement. The second floor being used for sleeping quarters, the first for offices, kitchen, dining room, etc., and the basement for heating plant, closets, lavatories, store room, etc., the whole being steam heated. Iron beds, cotton mattresses with blankets, sheets, pillows, etc., furnish the men with sleeping quarters that would simply have amazed the old soldier boys of '61 to '65.

As a model military post, Vancouver seems to be all that could be desired for an army post. Healthful location, splendid water, ample parade and drill grounds, it seems to an old time soldier, to be all that the government or the soldier of today should require. The present service uniform of a drab color or the khaki is, no doubt, most serviceable; but it will not appeal to the boys who wore the blue during Civil war days.

The 14th will leave for San Francisco, Jan. 2th. Then two batteries of artillery will constitute the garrison at Vancouver.

OUR CLUBBING OFFER

For the convenience of the readers and patrons of THE NEWS, we have arranged clubbing terms with a number of other newspapers and periodicals. In each of the quoted prices a year's subscription to THE SANTIAM NEWS is included.

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