

The Santiam News.

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NO. 40

FLOURING MILL BURNED

A Hot Box Was the Probable Cause of the
Loss of the Jordan Flouring
Mills Last Friday

The Jordan Flouring Mills were destroyed by fire April 21, at 9:30 p. m. Mr. Kimball, the proprietor, had shut down the mill about 9 o'clock and every one in town was, it seemed, in bed asleep. Mrs. Kimball heard a tinkle of the phone and thought she saw peculiar lights, she arose and saw the top of the mill on fire. About half of the upper part of the roof was burning fiercely. So rapidly it went that, in ten or fifteen minutes more fire chunks were falling on the ground floor so fast no one would enter. Flour, feed and some tools were in the mill; but only three or four men and women had arrived, so very little was carried out. In less than an hour the mill was burned down. Very soon after the outbreak, a hundred neighbors came to the rescue with willing hands to help, but could do nothing possible but save the county bridge, a wood covered structure only thirty-five feet away. That they did, by working heroically under disadvantages. The great heart of the people everywhere can be depended upon. Had the bridge went, several business buildings would have burned also. Mr. Kimball's loss is \$6000, about half covered by insurance. He thinks the fire originated by friction in the elevator head.

Mr. Kimball can not say at present what he will do, but thinks he will make an effort to rebuild. The writer has heard nothing but expressions of sympathy and regret over the loss and of real desire to see the mill rebuilt.

Albany's Big Day Light Store Announces a Sensational Challenge Sale Opening Saturday April 29

Of their entire \$60,000.00 stock of New, Clean, Up to Date, spring and summer dry goods, millinery, shoes, ready to wear apparel and ready to use Merchandise. An event of vast and vital importance to every woman and family in the Willamette valley. Right in the heart of the season when you need a new spring suit, coat, dress, hat, skirt, shoes, or muslin under wear, and which the weather demands you must buy, we announce to you the choosing from the largest stock of dry goods and ready to wear apparel for women misses and children between Portland and San Francisco, at Challenge Sale Prices. The sale continues for Twenty Days and will be a most interesting event, as every thing in this big store of high class quality, clean, new and right up to the minute in style.

\$250.00 Shetland Pony buggy and harness given away to boys an girls under the age of twelve years.

CHAMBERS & MCCUNE
Albany's Leading Cloak and Suit Store.

New Hotel

The Doctors Cole have leased the hotel on the South Side and will be ready for business next Monday. Everything in the way of furnishings is new—bedroom fixtures, carpets etc. Most of the rooms have been repapered and everything is neat and clean. A first-class cook will supply just such meals as "mother" used to prepare and the charges will be in keeping with the times.

In cases of rheumatism relief from pain makes sleep and rest possible. This may be obtained by applying Chamberlain's Liniment. For sale by all dealers.

Now is the time to spray your fruit trees with lime and sulphur solution. We handle the 100 per cent. pure quality. For sale in quart, gallon or barrel quantities at Wesely's Grocery. 1.

Replies to Opponents of New Charter

To the Editor of the Santiam News.

Dear Sir,—Being one of the "Promoters and defenders" of the proposed charter for the city of Scio, to be voted on May 1st, 1911, the writer feels it a duty as well as a privilege to present some reasons which he hopes may tend to disabuse the minds of some of our misguided citizens relative to the purpose and motive of these avowed disturbers of the peace and quiet of our little municipality.

The basic cause of opposition to this charter movement is taxation. Were it not for this very unpopular word "tax" we would have progressive citizens where we now have nonprogressive ones. We would have a furnace for heating our public-school building where we now have none. We would have a 5 mill road tax where we now have a 3 mill. We would have no opposition to our new charter. In fact could we eliminate tax every thing would indeed be lovely.

But through all these years of educational growth and progress, taxes have remained with us, and it is not likely that the opponents of the new city charter will succeed in changing, materially, the natural course of events in this respect.

Every citizen owes the community in which he lives, something in return for what that community does for him. The unselfish man pays the debt willingly. The selfish man pays it grudgingly. In most all questions of public enterprise, the former proposes, the latter opposes.

Let us examine into the matter and see if the people residing within an area of one mile square, should have a right to determine by majority vote what laws shall regulate and govern them. If a fire should break out among the residents of this section, would they expect protection from the city fire department? If so they are asking protection, in return for which they should be willing to share some of the burdens that makes it possible to maintain a fire department.

Do the people residing within the borders of the proposed new city of Scio consider their lands more valuable than lands lying outside and beyond this area? If they do then they should be willing to contribute to the cause which makes that valuation greater.

Are the social, moral, spiritual and educational privileges better and more accessible within this one mile square than outside of it? If true, then the residents within that section should be required to share the burdens which make these conveniences possible.

The impression seems to prevail, that all the residents, within this one mile square, as proposed by the new city charter, do not have a right to vote at the coming election unless they have been a resident of the old city of Scio at least 30 days. This is an error. The election to be held on May 1st, next, will be for the incorporation of a new city, with its boundaries specifically described, and all those residing within those boundaries, have a right to vote on the new incorporation. If the new city carries, then it will require 90 days residence within the city limits to entitle one to vote, while under the old city of Scio, 30 days residence only, is required.

The new charter is submitted to the voters within the boundaries named therein, in accordance with, and pursuant to, chapter 226, General Laws of the State of Oregon, 1907. The same kind of election was held and carried successfully by our neighboring city of Lebanon, in October, 1907, it being the first town, known to the writer, taking advantage of the new law. That part of our new charter relating to the term of office of the mayor, the term of office and number of city councilmen, as well as some other features, is an exact copy of Lebanon's new city charter. The main body of the charter, aside from a few abbreviations and changes, was taken from the charter (passed in 1905) of the city of St. Johns, acknowledged one of the best governed municipalities in this state. The writer is informed that Cottage Grove will hold a like election on May 1.

One of the principal arguments used by the opponents of the new city charter against its adoption, is the clause relating to the appointment of a city engineer. As this section, as well as all other sections of the charter, must be covered by ordinance passed by the city council before it can be made effective, there will be no city engineer for some years to come, or at least not until one is needed, which ought not to be before the town has reached a population of 2000 or more inhabitants. When appointed the salary is regulated by the city council the same as the city marshals salary is regulated under the present charter. If the opponents of the new charter can find nothing more important than the arbitrary appointment of a city engineer on which to base their criticism, they are indeed lacking for a pretense to bolster up their cause, and the same should be accepted as a mere bluff by those on whom it is used as an excuse for argument.

Another question which is coming in for a large share of criticism from the opposition, is the tax levy as provided in the new charter. The city council, under the new charter, is limited to a 10 mill levy, while under the old charter the levy is 8 mills. The new charter further provides that an additional levy may be made, sufficient to pay interest on the bonded indebtedness. As bonds cannot be issued under the new charter without the consent of a majority of the voters of the town, the additional levy rests entirely with the city and not with the council. Under the old charter the council may vote a debt of \$5000 on the city, without the consent of the voters. Under the new charter no debt can be incurred without the consent of a majority of the legal voters of the town. Which, think you, protects better the financial interests of the city, the old or the new charter?

That the new charter opens the way for a saloon in Scio, is another illustration of the unfair means of the opposition to defeat the measure. The state law provides as to how saloons may be established in the incorporated towns of Oregon. This law confines the saloon question in cities, to the rules and regulations of the local option law, which is, that the legal voters residing inside the city limits must vote on the question of having saloons. Should the majority favor saloons, the city council is required to regulate them. The regulation of saloons, as provided in the new charter, is the same in the old charter except that the new charter does not allow a saloon within 400 feet of the public school building, while the old charter is silent on this point.

That the old city charter is inadequate to the needs of a modern municipality in many ways, is true as the following will show:

First.—It does not provide any specific rules for governing and regulating city elections.

Second.—It does not provide protection against damage suits brought against the city for injuries from defective sidewalks.

Third.—It does not provide against exorbitant interest on city bonds.

Fourth.—It does not allow its citizens a voice in opening and grading streets through or adjoining their respective property.

Fifth.—It makes no provision whereby a citizen may be paid damages where a street is opened through his property, by order of the city council.

Sixth.—It provides no right of appeal from the municipal court to a higher court.

Seventh.—It provides no rules or regulations as to how to proceed to compel the repairs of sidewalks, within its limits.

Other points of weakness might be mentioned, all of which are corrected in the new charter.

Another important reason why we should have a new charter is the fact that in order to keep pace with, and conform to our state laws, it becomes necessary to change our city laws from time to time.

Since the year 1905, practically all the cities of the Willamette valley have

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Look Before You Leap Says W. A. Ewing

T. L. Dugger, Editor Santiam News—

In our meditated actions a deceptive termination may sometimes result. In our impulsive actions we often make mistakes, and almost without exception display the true status of our dispositions, so then, if these be true the hasty action of the city council, in preparing for us a new Charter, heralds the exact trend of the object in view by this movement by setting forth therein what they consider appropriate to our needs. So I desire to investigate some of the principal changes made in this new Charter, and the motive therefor, through your valuable paper, if not deemed objectionable by you.

Immediately after the preliminaries of the organization of the new Council, on the 2nd day of January, a resolution was introduced saying in part that "after careful examination and legal advice I have found the present city Charter of the city of Scio defective in many particulars, and that therefore many of the ordinances could not be enforced" also "to provide in said Charter an accurate description of the city limits as they shall hereafter exist." Now herein we have the fact set up, at the organization meeting of the new council, and before any petition was presented, that our present Charter is very defective, and then the fact is introduced to us that the new Charter shall contain an accurate description of the city limits as they shall hereafter exist. Now it is very evident that one of the principal objects is to change the city limits, for if we are to be prepared against the danger of defects only in the present city Charter? why is it found necessary to mention the limits as they shall hereafter exist? and as there has been no petition placed before the city council for a change in the boundaries, it displays one of the real objects of the resolution to be the extension of the city limits, and not to remedy defects as we are advised, and the further motive can only be surmised and determined by the powers manifested in the proposed new Charter.

In a former article I set forth my views towards the city limits without the expressed wish of the new territory, and when no good reason existed for the forcible acquisition of the district, as an unwarranted and unjust proceeding, and I have not been caused to change my opinion in the matter.

The principal changes made by the new Charter are the city limits. The council shall be composed of 6 members instead of 7 with 3 retiring and 3 elected each year. The marshal to be elected by the council instead of by the people. The powers of the Mayor are somewhat extended. The city Treasurer is placed on a salary. The limit for the tax levy is changed from 8 to 10 mills on the dollar for general purposes, and an additional levy sufficient to pay the interest accruing on the bonded indebtedness, which can not be definitely determined, but if the bonded indebtedness should be only the 8 per centum of the assessed valuation, it would be about 5 mills more, so the possibility would be close to 15 mills instead of 8 mills under our present Charter. The amount of general indebtedness is unlimited. Now to be frank with ourselves and our neighbors, if these changes cover the defects of the old Charter, do you really consider that we are in much danger morally or financially from its deficiencies?

The most vital and the most dangerous change, made by the new Charter, affecting the financial status, is the elimination of the indebtedness limit of \$5000.00, given to the council by the present Charter and granting the authority to make debts to an unlimited amount as they may deem advisable. In my opinion our property should not be subject to the whims and fancies of any council consisting of 6 men without an established limit to govern them in contracting debts for us. Would we turn our private property over to 6 men without provisos? if not why should we as a corporation do so, and grant to them the privilege of making debts upon our property for advertising, and the promotion of enterprises in which they might be interested. Our present council no doubt will be careful about

MOHAIR BRINGS THREE-BITS

Three Firms Were Represented By Bidders,
But Metzgar Was the Highest
Bidder

On Tuesday afternoon of last week, Scio's Mohair pool, composed of over 4000 fleeces, was auctioned off by R. Shelton, who had the pool in charge. Representatives of W. M. Brown & Co., of Salem, and A. J. Ray & Sons and Herman Metzgar, of Portland, were rival bidders. The first bid was 34½ cents. The average raise in bids was ½ cent and the final and winning bid was 37½ cents per pound. Herman Metzgar making the bid.

The aggregate amount of the product will be about 15,000 pounds and which amounted to over \$5,500. Delivery was made at West Scio yesterday.

making unnecessary debts for us but some future council might be very liberal, and as we are making this Charter for the future as well as the present the granting of this privilege might prove disastrous to us when our property has to pay for the extravagance of some misguided council.

The absence of a limit for general indebtedness in the proposed new Charter is enough to relegate it to oblivion by any property owner or tax payer, in the city of Scio, who desires safety for his present and future interests. The constitution of the State of Oregon and the regulations for the County recognize that a debt limit is absolutely necessary for safety from unnecessary indebtedness and establish them accordingly in the respective sums of \$50000.00 and \$5000.00. If there was no other objectionable feature in the proposed Charter I would consider this reason sufficient to condemn it, and would vote against it, as I do not desire to subject my property or my neighbors to the erratic disposition of any 6 men without bounds for its protection from a burdensome debt.

The limit for a bonded indebtedness is 8 per centum of the assessed valuation until the enterprise for which the bonds were issued pays from its revenues the interest on the bonded debt the operating expenses and one per centum for three years, at which time it is not considered as a debt limit for the contracting of another 8 per centum, and as this is somewhat indefinite, for a bond indebtedness, where will we be when we finally conclude the old Charter was good enough, and most generally it is best to let good enough alone.

In a former article I made the statement that a 30-day qualification was necessary for a legal voter in the city of Scio and that the residents outside of our present boundaries are not entitled to vote at our election May 1st as they are not residing in the city limits, for which I have been gainsayed, so then if no electoral qualification is necessary all property owners especially are entitled to vote and all other who wish at this election.

If there is no qualification for a voter, then our election is a farce, as a time limit is an absolute requisite for an elector at any municipal election, and as these are not within the corporate limits they are not legally entitled to vote at this election, but if these outside people meet and hold an election for themselves and decide thereby to ask us for citizenship then my objections will be immediately cancelled.

Our meditated actions, can readily be determined to be the enlarging of the city boundaries, under a deceptive illusion of a Charter weakness. Our impulsive actions in omitting a limit for the indebtedness against our property betrays, to my mind, a very careless blunder or a disposition to open the gateway for municipal extravagance

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