

## BASE LINE EXTENSION UP AGAIN

A few months ago there was a petition circulated throughout Eastern Multnomah, asking for an extension of the Base Line road to the Sandy river from the Troutdale crossroad, thence to the Automobile club so as to connect with the new bridge across the Sandy.

That petition was filed with the county commissioners but was promptly met with a remonstrance and the matter was delayed and the project was abandoned for a short time. It is up again now and several canvassers are out with more specific petitions, the promoters having learned something by experience and having gained some assurance that their request would at least be considered if properly presented. The petitions will be largely signed and there is sure to be an equally aggressive protest in the form of a remonstrance.

On the other occasion it was erroneously stated that several property owners near the proposed extension were in favor of it who were later found to be opposed. There is yet a spasm of opposition, especially at Troutdale and in this vicinity. The causes of the opposition in the two towns is entirely different. At Troutdale it is held that the proposed extension would divert travel away from that town which it is endeavoring to secure by having a new road opened up along the eastern bank of the Sandy river. It is estimated that such a road would cost \$60,000 and the promoters of the Base Line extension claim that such a road on the east side is unnecessary and would only serve a limited number of people. They claim that the same money expended on the Base Line would give better results and be of more use to the people of a larger territory.

The opposition in and around Gresham is based on the fear that the county commissioners will order the east side road built also if the Base Line is opened up. Two roads they claim, are not necessary. Some assurance will have to be made that only one road is to be opened at this time. Another cause of opposition in Gresham is the refusal of the county to open the Section Line extension which was approved several years ago. This, it is claimed, would be of more benefit to Gresham and would answer the same purpose that either of the other roads would provide.

Since the above was put in type the Outlook has been favored by a call from Mr. Sam Strebli who reports that he has secured 91 signatures on his petition for the Base Line extension, and that the other circulators are doing equally as well. Several more will be out tomorrow, among them D. W. McKay, Robert Cavanagh, Tom Evans and James Hillyard. They will cover the whole territory.

In this connection the Outlook has been asked to make the positive statement that the Section Line road opening will be an accomplished fact; that the time limit on that road has been extended and that Road Supervisor McKay says that the work of clearing it will be let by contract this spring.

Also, it is announced that none of the funds raised by the bond issue will be spent on any of these new roads; neither will any of the work be done this year further than to grub out the Section Line and make all necessary surveys.

In connection with the proposed opening of the Base Line the Outlook has taken pains to gather some information direct. George J. Perkins, attorney for the promoters of the Base Line project was asked for a statement. He said:

"It is contemplated to extend the present Base Line road from what is now the eastern terminus of said road, which is the point where it intersects the Troutdale road, for a distance of about half a mile, to a point within about 250 feet of the northeast corner of Section one, Township one, south range three east, thence following the bluff or slope of the Sandy river up stream, and parallel with the meanderings of said river to intersect with road No. 484, at a point near the Auto Club grounds, where a stream of water flows over the bluff or precipice on the south side of said road 484. The object of extending the Base Line road along the route designated is to connect with the Pacific Highway

## UNION HIGH CONTRACT IS FOR \$17,990

The contract for the erection of the union high school building in Gresham was awarded on Wednesday to J. H. Tillman & Co., of Portland, for the sum of \$17,990. These figures do not include the heating plant which will be let under another contract later on.

Seventeen contractors were represented at the Bank of Gresham when the bids were opened. Nearly all of them were Portland men one being from Hood River. E. T. Jones & Co., of Gresham stood eighth on the list when the figures were made known.

Only seven of the bidders were below \$20,000, and before the bids were opened it was decided to return all checks accompanying bids for more than that amount. This was done, thus eliminating those who had asked more than \$20,000.

The highest bid was \$26,700, showing a wide range in the figuring done upon the plans and specifications as furnished by Architect Kroner. The contract between the school board and the successful bidder will be signed up in a few days and will call for the completion of the building by the time that the high school is to open, probably late in September.

One action of the board was received with a great deal of satisfaction by many of the people who are interested in the school, although it was contrary to the advice of the architect. The building will be steam heated instead of by hot air as originally intended.

It was shown that steam or hot water is much cheaper than hot air besides being better in every way. The cost of heating the old building the past winter with the hot air system has been excessive. It has taken 90 cords of wood besides the ventilating system which has cost more than \$20 a month. The steam or hot water systems are said to be cheaper and will diffuse a more steady temperature, which will be desirable in the building where it is to be located. These were the arguments advanced for the steam system now adopted. There was but one director opposed to the change.

Following are the names of the bidders and the amounts they were willing to do the work for:

J. H. Tillman & Co.	\$17,990
J. P. Taylor	17,955
John Almeter	18,289
D. E. Steele	18,556
Crow Construction Co.	19,482
E. B. White	19,596
Bingham & Kelly Co.	19,877
E. T. Jones & Co.	20,425
A. Bertelson	20,762
Roy O. Powers	20,990
Cripe & Bosse	21,057
J. Zink	21,354
J. A. W. Kutsche	21,800
N. G. Patterson	22,534
Stranahan & Stevens	22,539
Palmer, Ellison Co.	24,464
Fred Phelan	25,700

J. P. Taylor submitted the only bid on hollow tile brick which was lower than that of J. H. Tillman & Co., the winners. His offer for that kind of construction was \$17,884, but could not be considered, as hollow brick was not specified.

### Baptists to Hold Special Services.

Mrs. K. J. Hagberg of Powell Valley will sing at the morning service next Sunday, March 14. The All-dridge Bros. quartet of Oregon City will be present at both morning and evening services and sing the Gospel. Don't fail to come. Rev. A. J. Ware, the pastor will preach in the morning on the subject, "Why a Baptist Church?" In the evening his subject will be "Six Modern Devils."

by the route which will be tantamount to a water grade, and will shorten the distance something like one-half a mile. A far more desirable grade can be had by following the bluff of the Sandy river than by any other course.

"The petitions are now being circulated to have the Base Line road opened and extended along this route, which I understand is highly favored not only by Road Master Yeon, but by the county commissioners as well.

"When sufficient signatures have been procured, due notice will be given and petition submitted to the commissioners for action. It is believed that this road will be of great benefit to all the property owners in the eastern part of the county, and to the traveling public in general."

## PETITION TABLED FOR ONE YEAR BY FOUR COUNCILMEN

Facts regarding the installation of water works in the city of Fairview and in reply to statements of Councilman D. W. McKay as published in the Outlook under date of March 5th, 1915, together with brief comment on action of the city council at their regular meeting of March 9th, 1915.

Despite the fact that at the last regular meeting of the common council of the city of Fairview there was presented for their consideration a suggested ordinance the enactment of which would call a special election for the purpose of giving the qualified voters of the city of Fairview an opportunity to vote on the question of issuing bonds for the purpose of securing a municipal waterworks system and despite the fact that said ordinance was accompanied by a petition praying its passage by the council and that said petition was signed by nearly four-fifths of the qualified voters of the city of Fairview, the common council took it upon themselves, by a vote of four to two, to decide what the people of Fairview should have. In other words these four councilmen, representing in their opinions only one fourth of the population of Fairview, have voted to table for one year an ordinance petitioned for by so large a majority of the people by whom they were elected and whose interests they are supposed to safeguard.

Since Council McKay has actively led the opposition to this movement both by his action in the council meeting and by his letter in the Outlook, it is presumed that he bases his claim for justification upon the statement published.

Mr. McKay has evidently made no effort to ascertain or publish facts but has rather assumed that his own distorted opinions should be taken as conclusive argument against this important undertaking and that the voters have no right to an expression of their opinion at the polls. In the closing paragraph of the communication referred to, in speaking of the taxpayer having to pay the interest on the bonds, Mr. McKay says that "it is for him (the taxpayer) to decide whether or not he (the taxpayer) is going to get a corresponding benefit," yet when this said taxpayer together with more than fifty other taxpayer's petitions the city council to give him an opportunity to decide "for himself," does Mr. McKay live up to his doctrine of giving the taxpayer his chance? No. He moves that "the ordinance be tabled until the city is out of debt." A slightly more consistent opponent amends the motion and the ordinance is tabled for one year.

Here are a few facts which the taxpayer and interested citizen of Fairview may compare with Mr. McKay's published statement.

The bonds that would be issued for the construction of the plant would probably be 20-year 6 per cent bonds. The interest on these bonds represents the total fixed charge against the water plant which on a basis of an issue of \$12,500 will be \$750.00 per annum. This interest must be met by an additional tax on all property subject to taxation within the city of Fairview. On the present valuation this will require an additional levy of four and one-half mills. The interest on these bonds must be provided for in this manner and not paid by the consumer as has been stated in Mr. McKay's letter. Bonds could not be sold under any other arrangement for interest payment. In other words all property must make proportional payment of this interest without reference as to whether the owner is a water-user. The 10-mill limitation of the city charter would be amended at the proposed election in order to provide for the additional levy necessary.

From the foregoing it will be apparent that for each \$1000.00 of assessed valuation the owner must pay \$4.50 per year for the privilege of living in a city provided with the convenience of a waterworks system. The railroads and other non-water users will have to pay their portion of this interest in the way of additional taxation.

Returning to the consideration of the consumer. He may be a large property owner and a small consumer in which case he will pay a small amount directly into the waterworks

fund for his water service. On the other hand he may be a very small property owner and yet a large water user in which case he will pay the larger amount into the waterworks fund. This waterworks fund is entirely distinct and independent from the interest fund and is used to meet current expenses of operation and repairs and any surplus may be set aside for the retirement of the bonds or for the purpose of making extensions to the system. No provision by way of taxation would be made for the retirement of the bonds for a period of ten years after their issue. Beginning with the 11th year the conditions under which the bonds are issued will require the creation of a sinking fund which at the maturity of the bonds will be sufficient to retire the same. It will be readily seen from this that the total charge against the taxpayer as a taxpayer, is the yearly interest on the bonds issued, or \$750.00. Any other charge against him will be for actual water service and for this it is assumed that he will get value received—he will be privileged to judge for himself whether or not he desires to buy water from the plant, in which he is practically a stockholder, in the same way that he decides whether to buy a sack of flour or some other commodity or get along without. The amount that he pays for water consumed goes into the fund for the maintenance of the plant and contributes toward the success of the enterprise. The burden of anticipated payment of the principal of the bonds issued need not be considered since it is evident that the principal actually need never be paid so long as the city can sell their securities and the issuance of a new series of bonds to take up those about to mature is a common occurrence in the older cities of the country.

We may therefore consider that the total and only charge against the owner of property (since water sale fees pay cost of operation) is this \$750.00 for interest.

Now what direct benefit does this Mr. Taxpayer derive?

A conservative estimate of the amount of insurance carried within the city of Fairview, or that should be carried by a reasonably careful owner of destructible property, is \$100,000.00.

This amount is divided as to rates and total premium paid about as follows:

\$35,000 at rate of \$2.00 per hundred—premium \$700.
\$50,000 at rate of \$1.50 per hundred—premium \$750.
\$15,000 at rate of \$1.00 per hundred—premium \$150.
Total annually paid for insurance, \$1600.

The foregoing estimate is made from information obtained locally and in the office of Underwriter's Rating Bureau in Portland and is reasonably close. There are considerably higher rates paid and possibly some that are lower but the above should closely approximate the total amount of premiums paid.

An examination of the reduction in rates in other cities that has resulted from the installation of a system of fire protection shows an average of from 25 per cent to 40 per cent. Using the former figure the direct saving amounts to 25 per cent of \$1600 or \$400.00. Taking this amount from the interest fund of \$750.00 leaves \$350.00 that must really come out of the taxpayers pocket each year for the benefits of this improvement to Fairview. This is less than \$1.00 per capita per year on the basis of the present population and this amount will grow rapidly less as the population increases from year to year. This then amounts to \$5.00 per year for a household of five. Doesn't it look to you Mr. Taxpayer, Mr. Petitioner-of-the-Council that Mr. McKay's figures of \$4.75 per month for this household is the result of mis-information, ignorance or an abnormal gaze at the "hole in the doughnut?" Suppose you do wait for Portland to extend her limits to the Sandy river—is there any assurance that this would provide you with a water supply or fire protection? Would it not be more reasonable to feel that if you did become a part of the city of Portland that you would more quickly be provided with mountain water if you

## INTEREST IN TOM BELL'S BIG FORTUNE

The story of Tom Bell's supposed great inheritance from a deceased uncle in England, which was published first in the Outlook last Tuesday has attracted a great deal of attention.

A reporter from the Oregonian sought for Mr. Bell yesterday and relates his interview this morning, which confirms the Outlook's story and gives some additional facts.

Who the attorney is who is intrusted with handling the arrangements, Mr. Bell is not advised, but that he will be found and negotiations started Mr. Bell has no doubt. Two cousins, Mr. Bell believes, are the only other heirs to the big estate. His uncle was a commission merchant of Manchester. He was married but had no children. Inasmuch as he has had no mail from England in years he knows little about the family's circumstances.

In the early '80s Mr. Bell's father suffered reverses in a financial storm which hit his community in England, and, with his son Thomas, he sought new fortunes in America. His venture was unsuccessful, however, and he worked hard and long in Portland and other Pacific Coast cities, eking out only an ordinary existence. For a time, about 20 years ago, he was engineer at the Portland hotel, and Thomas Bell held a position as fireman. Some years later father and son separated and for the last 15 years Thomas Bell has heard nothing from his father, supposing that he died in California, where he went after leaving Portland. The tragic loss of the father had a depressing effect on the son, who had given up hope of hearing from any of his relatives.

Mr. Bell, who has long known his uncle was a millionaire several times over, says the other two heirs probably are Harry and James Bell, of Yorkshire, England, who are his cousins.

"My mother died when I was three years old and I will be 50 years old next December," said Mr. Bell yesterday. "We were in good circumstances in Liverpool up to about 1885, when my father's fortune was swept away and shortly after he brought me to America, coming direct to Oregon. About 15 years ago I lost track of my father, he went to California and I suppose he is dead now. I worked around, never having much money, finally settling out here with James Fitzgerald, where I have been working on his farm for four or five years."

Mr. Bell, who is known as "Tom" about Fairview and Gresham, has had a struggling career, according to his friends. He became a wanderer after his father left and often was in need of a meal. He was a good worker, however, and never had any trouble in getting work on the farms in eastern Multnomah county. He has often talked of his uncle and his wealth to them, but never had expressed any hope of becoming an heir.

Mr. Bell said last night that he probably would return to England if the report of his legacy was correct.

### MORAL AND SOCIAL BETTERMENTS OUTLINED

Last night's gathering in the Commercial club hall, for men only, was large enough to fill every seat and leave a few men standing. The program as announced was carried out exactly with the addition that the local hygiene committee, consisting of K. A. Miller, Arthur Dowsett and J. E. Stubbs was made permanent by the unanimous vote of all present.

The delicate subjects pertaining to social and moral hygiene were skillfully and entertainingly handled by the speakers, the most forcible by Dr. J. M. Short from the physician's standpoint, and the moral side by William F. Woodward.

Gresham people are willing to assist in the movement, and there will be a meeting for women only in a short time which will be duly announced.

### Gravel and Sand.

I am prepared to furnish gravel and sand in any quantity from Bell pit. Also teaming, grading and excavating. J. H. Hoss. Telephone 79x. Terms Cash.—Adv. tf

### Spring Millinery.

First arrival of spring hats and new spring millinery. Davis & Son, Fairview, Oregon. 5

## FAIRVIEW'S CONTENTION OVER BONDS

FAIRVIEW, March 11—Special—The Fairview city council met on Tuesday night and judging from the attendance of interested citizens the matters under consideration were considered the most important of any before the council in the history of the city so far.

The two main issues were, the propositions to bond the city for \$12,500 for the construction of a water system, and a drastic Sunday closing ordinance.

A petition in favor of bonding for the above amount and calling for a special election to pass on the proposal was presented to the council. The petition is said to have contained the names of sixty-five legal voters, which is a two-thirds majority of the entire legal votes of the city. This appeal it is claimed the council ignored. Councilmen Brooks and Burlingame, it is stated, remained firm, but some others seem to have gotten cold feet, for although they had signed the petition, under the pressure of a strong conservative element, it is said they backed down and failed to support the petition. This seems to have blocked the movement for a cleaner, bigger Fairview for the present but, judging from the determination and sentiment expressed by some of the leaders in the better city movement they do not intend to remain silent or idle long.

The council decided to clean out the gutters on the improved streets. This it is said will give the overburdened wells and manure piles a chance to drain out and make the city more healthful if not more beautiful.

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### Shower for Miss Thompson.

The second shower given in honor of Miss Ava Thompson, whose engagement was announced recently to Claire Edwards of Portland, was given by Mrs. George Sleret and Mrs. E. Schwedler at the home of the former. The guest of honor received many useful articles for kitchen use. The evening was spent in playing games and dancing. The prize-winners of the games were Marguerite Volbrecht and Hester Thorpe, booby prizes, Miriam Brown and Pearl Ruegg. At the close of the evening a two-course luncheon was served. This is considered one of the jolliest parties of the season.

Those present besides the hostesses were Mrs. Ed. Roberts, Mrs. Guy Fieldhouse, Misses Ava Thompson, Laura Shipley, Gertrude Eastman, Katherine Honey, Marguerite Volbrecht, Hester Thorpe, Mabel Shipley, Laura Davis, Pearl Ruegg, Anna Brugger, Margaret Burke, Miriam Brown, Beulah Caplinger and Viola Dinger. The first shower was given by Miss Margaret Burke at her home last Monday night.

### BONDING PETITION MEETS WITH FAVOR

One of the bonding petitions for a vote to raise \$1,250,000 for hard surfacing the Columbia River Highway and other roads in the county, is at the Gresham drug store and is being signed by practically every voter who sees it.

It is said that the petitions in Portland are receiving signatures to such an extent that more than 15,000 names will be attached to the request for a special election. This part of the county is doing even better in proportion to the population than Portland and there is no doubt whatever about the result.

### GRESHAM ATHLETICS IN NEW HOME

Gresham Athletic club has taken the entire second story of the Jacobson building for a gymnasium where meetings will be held. A baseball club is being organized and a committee went to Portland today for a conference with some of the local magnates to arrange for entry into one of the leagues.

Plans are being made to have the club room fitted up and later on a big demonstration will be held assisted by some of the Portland athletics.