

OUTGOING CITY OFFICIALS HAVE GOOD RECORDS

Mayor Alenderfer and Councilmen Hubbard and Jacobs Retire After Long and Noteworthy Service—New Officials Highly Qualified.

The annual change in the city administration which occurs Monday night, January 3rd, when A. W. Pipes becomes mayor, succeeding Mayor O. G. Alenderfer, who retires to private life after four years of notable service, and A. C. Hubbard, councilman of the first ward and vice-president of the council, and J. W. Jacobs, councilman of the fourth ward, retire after years of like efficient service, to be succeeded by E. M. Wilson and R. E. McElhiney, who are regarded as highly qualified to fill the positions.

The largest growth of the city of Medford in recent years has brought added responsibilities to the mayor and council, in meeting the necessary needs of a growing city. Moreover, these needs have been met without an increase in the tax levy, and as this growth is continuing the new mayor and city council, the latter with six hold-over members, will face the responsibility in the matter of handling the city's finances economically while keeping pace with Medford's development and progress.

Incidental to this coming change in administrations a review of the notable achievements during the past four years under Mayor Alenderfer is given, as follows: The most important improvement during the recent growth of the city undoubtedly has been the new water system which was completed a little over a year ago. It replaces the old water system which had its source in the murky waters of Fish Lake with a pure water system gathered from springs which does not see the light of day until it emerges from the faucet of the home owner, 20-odd miles away in Medford. What such a system means in the health and future prosperity of Medford and its environs can hardly be estimated.

recreation hall, shower baths, etc. There is also provided extra vaults and a drill tower where necessary fire drills can be put on without interfering with traffic.

The New City Hall. Another important improvement to the city is the building of a new city hall costing \$60,000, which was authorized by vote of the people in order to move the courthouse to Medford. It is furnished free to Jackson county for five years, at the end of which time it will revert to the city for use as a city hall. This new building is located at Fifth street, just one block from one of the main business streets, is ideally located as a city hall, is of concrete construction, three stories high, and while it will shortly be inadequate for use as a county courthouse it will be adequate for many years to come to house the city offices.

Quite a bit of the cost of this building will be paid for by savings made by the citizens and the city itself in not having to go to Jacksonville on all city and county business. Provision was also made that when the old city hall is sold the money received is to be used in taking up the new bonds, with the result that with those two sources available very little, if any, of the cost of the city hall will be reflected in increased taxes.

Warehouse. A new warehouse, used jointly by the water department and the street department, is another much needed improvement. An up-to-date building of concrete, it houses all of the city equipment. This building cost much less than the others, only some \$10,000, and is paid for by the sale of a couple of vacant lots which the city owned on South Riverside avenue which, due to the growth of that section of the town, had increased materially in value.

Sixth Street. Among other improvements during recent years has been the opening up of Sixth street as a major traffic artery; nicely paved with concrete, it will increase the values all along the thoroughfare. More recently a movement has been started for a modern lighting system, and bids will be let at the first meeting of the new year for its first installation, thus in a few short months transforming Sixth street from a non-important closed thoroughfare to a major business artery.

Other Improvements. It might be thought that the above enumeration is quite a sufficient recital of recent improvements, but they are not all.

The city purchased the Jacksonville railroad, in order to hold it for railroad developments and a possible sawmill, has dredged Bear creek for some four or five blocks in order to remove the menace of flood danger, and purchased a grader and street roller which the city sadly needed in order to grade and repair its streets; this latter equipment being purchased without cost to the taxpayers out of the city's part of the county road money which it obtained for the first time this year.

Street Improvements. In the past year or more the city has laid four miles of water-pipes, three and a quarter miles of sewers, graded and gravelled four miles of streets and paved, either with concrete or asphalt, about three miles of street, a total improvement of approximately \$200,000, one-half of which has been for paving. Compared with the vast amount of work done in 1919 to 1922, the recent paving program has been less than 10 per cent, but sewer improvements have been approximately one-third of those of former years, while the water mains recently laid have been more than equal to the amount laid in the former years, due to the laying of a new distributing system in connection with the new Big Butte water system.

Building Permits. Building permits during the past four years having held up remarkably well, showing practically no decrease for 1926 over 1925 when they were \$779,000, and only an approximate \$100,000 decrease for each of the years, 1927-1928, running well over a half million dollars for the year just closed.

City Lots. Not a little of the building has been due to the policy of the city in selling off the city lots taken over by it for delinquent assessments, on convenient terms that could be met by its citizens and at reasonable prices. For the first time in ten years the year just past saw the city with its shelves cleaned of practically all of its paved lots.

While it still has a few, and a good many lots off the pavement which it has had to take over, yet compared with something more than 2,000 lots that were originally delinquent, a great part of which it actually had to take over, the assessment problem is well on its way to solution, after many years of the most arduous work on the part of former mayors, councilmen and city employees.

It is estimated that another year or two of continued growth, the city will have cleaned up all the lots, marking the completion of ten years of work in clearing up this most difficult problem.

One might go in for another column if one were to relate all of the improvements which have come to Medford in the past little while, but suffice it to say that all these improvements show a big growth but hard work and intelligent efforts of the recent administrations and of the various mayors, councilmen, water commissioners and city officials who have had these tasks in charge.

With the advent of a new, highly efficient incandescent lamp, commonly called Mazda lamp, a wave of better illumination for the American city is now in progress.

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A Happy New Year is our wish to our many friends and patrons. We are grateful for your part in making 1928 a year of successful accomplishment. Our pledge to you is to serve you even better in 1929—with better values, better service and bigger savings. J.C. PENNEY CO.

Ringling the Bell for 1928 with 157. Real Estate Sales and Exchanges. We take pride in the fact that, in addition to our extensive rental, town and insurance business, we have made 157 Home, Orchard, Ranch, City Lot and Business Establishment sales in 1928, completing the most successful year in the history of this agency.

Here Is a Partial List of 1928 Buyers. Table listing names and purchased properties.

THE BIG NEW YEAR SHOW STARTS TODAY FOR THREE DAYS CONTINUOUS TOMORROW 12:30 TO 11 P. M. It's the Season's Big Laugh and Tear Picture YOU'LL TOUR BROADWAY WITH A BOY FROM THE STICKS JACK MULHALL AND GRETA NISSEN IN The BUTTER AND EGG MAN. RIALTO. Also Good Added Short Features. Rothermel's Music. Usual Admission.

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