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SALEM CITY COUNCIL

Sustains Veto of Insurance Ordinance

Put Through a Large Amount of Other Public Business

All the aldermen of the city of Salem were in their chairs with the mayor presiding. There was a large attendance of business men. Mr. Bayne wanted the minutes to be read at the west end of Bush street and was ordered opened if not properly vacated.

Paving Ordinance.
An ordinance was read for paving 100 feet of State street from Commercial street east, and assessing the cost of such improvement at \$26,000. It was read second time and referred to committee on streets with power to report at any time.

Report of Committees.
Mr. Greenbaum from ordinance committee, reported favorably the ordinance to regulate auctioneers.

After reporting regular bills and after they were paid, the bill of A. J. Smith for building a sidewalk for \$40, referred to chairman street committee.

Mr. Ford, Kaiser, Slater and others for \$500 for assisting city attorney in city charter case, action carried.

Mr. Stockton reported on repairs to the old fire department building. \$265 with new sills, and \$185 without sills. No action was taken.

Mr. Low reported favorably on petition for hydrant on Church street. Report adopted.

Mr. Low, of committee on fire and alarm, also reported on crossing bells on Twelfth street. The railroad company wanted to have the city pay just as few of these alarm bells as possible. He moved that committee have power to act and report not less than at three cross-

Resolving Time on Bridge.
Mr. Gesner moved that contractors on North Commercial street concrete bridge be granted 90 working days for time. He said the contractors were anxious to do a good job and he wanted to give them a show.

Mr. Stockton said it was important that bridge for transporting rock. He wanted to go to the street committee. The motion carried.

Mr. Stolz said the people of North Salem, the street car company and the people of the city were all agreed. He suggested that a temporary crossing be devised to let the cars pass. He wanted the bridge committee to look after some way for people to get over there.

North Mill Creek Bridge.
Page of the electric company, presented the council on the subject. The company was doing business with the city, not the contractors. It was his duty to find some way to get across that bridge. The time for crossing. Their agreement with the city was null and void. It had been violated in several places. They were losing money every day, besides the city losing money. His company had promised to build a bridge. Something must be done to get the cars across there. There was a danger in extending this bridge 30 days as Mr. Gesner had proposed in making some arrangements to get across that bridge.

A White Elephant.

Mr. Stolz said the extension of the time was unfortunate. The time to make that fill would take three months more. That would carry it over to next fall. He favored waking up and doing something to relieve the situation. It was a white elephant any way you looked at it.

Mr. Bayne was opposed to doing anything or spending any money on this matter. He regretted that matters were as bad as they were. He was opposed to the street cars crossing that bridge. He hoped the street cars could be kept off that bridge and construct a crossing of their own. He wanted to refer the whole matter to the city attorney.

Mr. Smart for the contractors said that they could complete their work in twelve days. But if they made the 50-foot fill, and higher water came it will all be washed away again. They did not need the 90 days asked for.

Time for Contract Reduced.
The motion of Mr. Gesner to extend time of contractors 90 days on North Commercial street, was reconsidered.

Mr. Gesner opposed this. It was not a favorable time to make the bridge safe. It was one of those unfortunate things which we could not help. It was a great inconvenience to everybody. The public must submit to inconvenience if it wanted improvements made. Let us not be unreasonable in rushing this work in an imprudent manner.

Mr. Stockton said the people had certainly put up with a great deal of inconvenience. This company had had several extensions. It was admitted that the contractors could do the work in 14 days. It was a disgrace to the city the way public work was allowed to drag along.

Mr. Stockton moved to amend that the contractors be given 40 days. Carried.

City Attorney Condit reported that ordinances were regularly passed with a majority of those present, a majority of all 14 not being required.

City Library Sustained.
On matter of city paying salary of city librarian, city attorney reported that library association be required to make a contract with the mayor and recorder; that library be free to all citizens, and city help maintain same. Report adopted.

The Water Ordinance.
Mr. Haas, from the committee on plumbing, reported water ordinance with amendments. Report adopted. Placed on calendar.

Mr. Downing moved that city advertise for bids on the fill at approach to North Commercial street bridge in accordance with plans and specifications on fill. Carried.

Big Steel Bridge.
Mr. Frazer moved that the tie bolts on the big steel bridge be looked after. Referred to committee on bridges and authorized to confer with the county court.

Mr. Low asked that council order a sidewalk along property of D. B. Irwin on Trade street.

Mr. Radcliff moved that Rock street, between Wilson and Myers be ordered opened. Carried.

Haas Has a Kick.
Mr. Haas referred to the way street cars were handled and he moved that the mayor appoint a special committee of three to look after the matter.

Survey of North Salem.
Mr. Gesner moved to reconsider action of council in ordering a survey of streets and blocks and grades of North Salem. He moved to amend so that there be grades and monuments established instead of establishing curbs and corners. Carried.

Mr. Jacobs wanted to know how Mr. Gesner would establish a block without a corner. Mr. Gesner explained that his way was the only practical way.

Mayor Rodgers veto message of the \$50 a year insurance license ordinance was read.

Mr. Rodgers said it was unusual for a mayor to get down on the floor and argue a question with the members. It was improper to do so. He wished to have the right to differ and the difference was not personal. The question was shall the ordinance pass notwithstanding the veto.

Mr. Radcliff spoke in support of the ordinance. Corporations that had property to be taxed should be dealt leniently with. If an insurance company did but \$500 business a year it could afford to pay this license. Repeal of the \$18 license would not result in reduced rates. Raise to \$50 will not result in raise of rates. Insurance rates had been arbitrarily raised at Salem and the license fee should be raised.

Mr. Stockton said no one liked to pay taxes. His taxes were \$200 more than last year. He would not raise prices to his customers on that account. We had the best city in the whole country for profitable insurance business. The insurance companies could not raise rates any higher at Salem.

Matters Got Hot.
Mayor Rodgers: "Would you favor taxing the agent of Marshall Field & Co., because his firm is located in Chicago. Why treat a corporation different from any business?"

Mr. Stockton: "Why did you favor letting off the corporations in the legislature, as you did, and try to pass new taxes on the people over the veto of the governor?"

Aldermen objected to these personalities.

Mr. Downing expressed fears that if this ordinance went into effect insurance rates would be raised 10 to 15 per cent. He cited the instance of Medford. If the license was raised

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it would raise an indirect tax on the local agents.
Mr. Radcliff said the local agents did not pay this tax.
Mr. Downing: "Why should we put a higher tax on insurance companies than Portland, where it is only \$40 a year?"
Mr. Low: "We are a better risk than Portland."
Mr. Downing closed his argument

by saying the ordinance would drive the insurance business into the hands of a few men.
He favored a graduated license that would not put the little fellow out of business.
Mr. Gesner: "This proposition of taxing corporations is far-reaching. Many states raise all their revenues in this way and this was the only way to reach them indirectly. Annual

fire losses at Salem were not \$5000. They took annually out of Salem \$45,000. The town would be better off if a lot of the agents who only carried insurance as a side issue were forced out of the business. This license was a protection to the regular agents."
Mr. Stolz said the ordinance was
(Continued on page six.)

Record of Mrs. Vrooman's Franquette Walnut Grove Since It Began Bearing

OREGON NURSERY CO., SALEM, OREGON.

GENTLEMEN:
YOU ASK ME TO GIVE YOU A REPORT OF THE INCREASE OF MY FRANQUETTE WALNUT TREES SINCE THEY BEGAN TO BEAR. HAPPILY I HAVE THE FIGURES AT HAND.

WHEN 3 YEARS OLD, 1901.....	82 LBS
WHEN 4 YEARS OLD, 1902.....	520 LBS
WHEN 5 YEARS OLD, 1903.....	3,700 LBS
WHEN 6 YEARS OLD, 1904.....	6,000 LBS
WHEN 7 YEARS OLD, 1905.....	12,325 LBS
WHEN 8 YEARS OLD, 1906.....	24,814 LBS

THE OUT-PUT HAS PRACTICALLY DOUBLED EVERY YEAR SINCE THE TREES CAME INTO BEARING.

MRS. E. M. VROOMAN,
WALNUTMERE
SANTA ROSA, CALIF.
NOV. 22, '06.

THIS GROVE CONTAINS 55 ACRES AND IS PLANTED WITH 1,000 FIRST GENERATION GRAFTED FRANQUETTE WALNUT TREES.

AFTER FILLING ALL ORDERS TO DATE, WE STILL HAVE A FEW TREES OF THE VROOMAN STRAIN FRANQUETTE WALNUTS. THESE ARE ONE-YEAR, SECOND GENERATION FROM 1905 CROP OF NUTS, SAME AS ON BORDER. INTERESTED PARTIES SHOULD WRITE FOR FREE BOOK ON WALNUT CULTURE OR CALL AT OUR OFFICE AND SEE THIS STOCK FOR THEMSELVES.

WE PAID MRS. VROOMAN \$6,140.55 FOR THE 1906 CROP OF NUTS—OVER \$100.00 PER ACRE, THE 8TH YEAR FROM PLANTING. THIS IS THE VARIETY THAT IS DESTINED TO MAKE THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY FAMOUS AS A WALNUT SECTION. GET STARTED RIGHT—ITS MORE THAN HALF THE BATTLE AND USUALLY ALL THE PROFIT. CALL AT OUR OFFICE ON 12TH STREET, OR ADDRESS

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