OUR NEW LOT OF FATHERS.

(Continued from page three).

assume the role of engineer. They put the bridge on the side of a hill, and bid the stream come to it. They smeared plaster over a slippery gravel bar and tried to stick the bridge to it. Then they had to get under it as you would a lame automobile, and with pitchforks staff their wedding under it to keep it from sidestepping down the stream. They made it narrow-shouldered and hollow-chested, and expect it to do a bridge's work in carrying a railroad track and wagons, too. They put down four plaster of Paris wings that you could squirt through with a garden hose, but the wings were like the boys' under garment, they shrank so they had to be added to at the top and the bottom. The bottom patch on the northwest member was not big enough, so the current got under it and swallowed the stuffin' that held it in place till it cracked and hung like the wing of an over-baked turkey. They put in fills with sides as steep as Bunker Hill monument. The fills cost $4000 and have already slufled off $1000 worth.

Hard-headed men are now trying by common sense methods to save the bridge.

I think we need a real engineer pretty badly.

Bridge Controversy.

The track of the Portland General Electric Company now occupies the concrete bridge and approaches on North Commercial street, to the exclusion of all other traffic. By agreement with the city this company was to have built a paralelling bridge of its own, and was given 90 days in which to do so, which time has expired some weeks ago. The company was offered a right of way over the city's property on the east side of the bridge, and likewise was given the privilege of the street along the west side, but they have accepted neither.

The council should do something to get them off that bridge or to one side, so as to admit other traffic.

There should be no question as to who has the direction and control over the highways of the city, and I strongly recommend that firm measures be taken to secure to the people of the city the free use of this bridge.

Street Repairs.

I beg to call attention to the fact that the council has, by resolution, repeatedly ordered the construction of crosswalks and repairing of streets at the expense of the city, contrary to ordinance No. 296, section 1 "That all improvements or repairing of streets and all sidewalks to be built or repaired shall be done wholly at the expense of and assessed against abutting property."

I quote also ordinance No. 452, section 1, as amended December 19, 1904, "Whenever the common council shall deem it expedient that any new crosswalk should be constructed they shall make an order, etc., and designate the time within which the same shall be completed by the adjacent property holders—and that in default, etc., the city shall proceed to construct the same and assess the cost against such owner."

These ordinances seem clearly to have for a purpose the conservation of the street fund, so that it may be applied more to the constructing and repair of bridges and larger public works. The council should comply with its own ordinances.

Unenforced Ordinances.

Your attention is respectfully called to the following unenforced ordinances:

No. 126, Requiring S. P. Co. to plank crossings on Trade street. Not enforced.

No. 155, Relating to miners smoking cigarettes. Not enforced.

No. 177, Requiring appointment of city surveyor. Not enforced.

No. 196, Requiring permit to connect with sewer. No enforced.

No. 264, Prohibiting signs over sidewalks. Not enforced.

No. 285, Prohibiting sign posts. Not enforced.

No. 293, Pertaining to notice of street assessment. Not enforced.

No. 294, For protection of horses in winter. Not enforced.

No. 297, Prohibiting minors from frequenting certain places. Not enforced.

No. 324, Anti-spit. Not enforced.

No. 344, Prohibiting exposure of food products 22 inches from sidewalk. Not enforced.

No. 377, Steamboat license. Not enforced.

No. 402, Requiring permit for sidewalk construction. Not enforced.

No. 419, Licensing physiologists, harness makers, etc. Not enforced.

No. 423, Regulating hitching rail ing. Not enforced.

No. 434, Requiring imprint of street name on cement corners. Not enforced.

No. 439, Relating to house numbering. Not enforced.

No. 452, Relating to sidewalks. Not enforced.

No. 482, Relating to office of treasurer. Not enforced.

No. 483, Relating to public health. Not enforced.

No. 490, Licensing dogs. Not enforced.

No. 492, Regulating second-hand dealers. Not enforced.

No. 493, Prohibiting excavations in streets. Not enforced.

No. 203, Section 18, obstruction of streets. Not enforced.

Section 11, Opium smoking. Not enforced.

Section 14, Obstruction of sidewalks. Not enforced.

Section 25, Regulating barns, garbage, etc. Not enforced.

Section 38, Speed over bridges. Not enforced.

Section 42, Curfew section. Not enforced.

Most of these are wholesome laws and should be enforced. Ordinance No. 51 says that the marshal "shall arrest and make complaint against all persons violating any city ordinance." The marshal alone constitutes our day police force, and to expect him to enforce all the laws is to expect the impossible. I would suggest that the street commissioner and health officer be given police police powers and be required, with the marshal, to enforce the particular classes of ordinances coming within the line of their work.

Fire Department.

There has been added to the equipment of the fire department during the past year a combination chemical engine, costing approximately $2000, which has demonstrated its efficiency, and is giving good service. An increase in the force was made by providing a chemical hoseman at a monthly salary of $60.

The department is well organized, and is rated as one of the most efficient in the Northwest. Provision should be made soon to give the expanding outlying districts of the city better fire protection.

Police Department.

Considering the small force employed, Salem's police department has done very good work in the past year. The city is remarkably free from crime, though the records of the department will show a marked increase in the number of minor arrests. The chief and two patrolmen constitute the entire police force. The council only is authorized to appoint special policemen. In cases of emergency, however, the chief or someone should be given the power of appointing special police to serve without pay. The jail is well kept and cleanly.

The Public Library.

Last year the city appropriated $1400 toward the maintenance of the public library. This year $1200 was provided. The growth and good work of the library is shown by the surprising increase in its circulation as presented in the report of the librarian.

The selection of books is made by officers of the library association, composed of members of the Salem Woman's Club, and is to be highly commended. Authorities say there are few libraries of its size showing greater adaptability in this respect.

Efforts are now being made by the ladies of Salem to secure a Carnegie library building for the city. I trust the council, when called upon, will do its share in providing a sufficient maintenance fund to insure the success of this worthy movement.

Respectfully submitted,
GEO. F. RODGERS,
Mayor.

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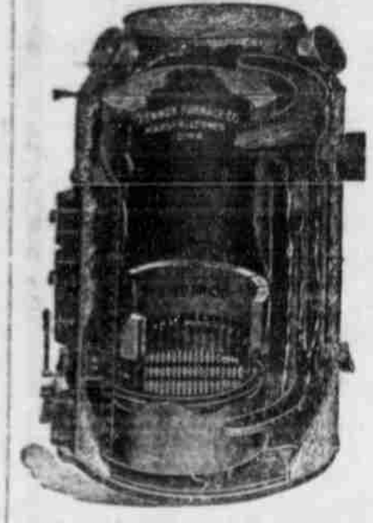

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