

**"Why R. H. Parker Circulated a Petition Against Paving the Streets."**

I read an article in the Independent of the issue of March 19, under the above heading, signed by R. H. Parker, in which he gives some pretended figures as to the cost of paving District No. 1 of O'Neill as organized by the property owners thereof, and I note his reasons for opposing paving.

He states that "the city is \$8,000.00 in debt for sewer bonds, and \$4,000.00 in debt for city warrants;" that may be true as I have not taken the time to look it up, and if it is true, that is no argument against paving, because that amount of debt is very insignificant for a town the size of O'Neill. He states that "the standpipe in O'Neill is all in and that we need a new one." Assuming that that fact is true, that is no argument against paving. An erection of a larger standpipe, or a new standpipe needed for a larger supply of water for fire protection, that expense could be taken care of by an increase water charge for the consumer. The present charge is much too low to take care of the expense of pumping and supplying the city with water, the cost of labor, fuel, machinery, pumps and equipment of all kind necessary to pump the water has advanced with everything else, and the city is furnishing water at the old price.

He states that "the streets in O'Neill are 99 feet wide, and that the proposed paving is only 60 feet wide." The facts are that the entire street including the walks are 99 feet, taking out the width of the walks on both sides of the street, and 60 feet for paving would include the entire width of the street, and if not, the remaining portion would be thrown in for the purpose of walks, or what is termed "parking." So there is nothing to that argument.

He states that "as near as he can figure that paving would cost from \$350 to \$600, or more per lot according to the size of the lots." The estimate of the cost to pave has been advertised and every property owner will know exactly what it will cost to pave a lot before or at the time the contract for paving it let.

He states "that it used to cost \$150 to \$200 per lot to pave." I assume that he is only guessing at that for so far as I know and so far as the records of the city council will disclose, we have never had an official estimate of the cost of paving. He states "that cement, brick and labor are more than double in price than formerly, and that if prices drop 25 per cent to 40 per cent during the coming year, people would feel as though they had been stung \$200 on each lot." The same thing might be said of everything that you buy at the present time, including the price of land, and if it should drop 25 to 40 per cent, of course, the people that bought it would be stung. The same thing may be true of the purchase of city property, the construction of business buildings, residences, building of bridges or construction of roads. There is a large amount of the latter being built by the townships, county and state and Federal government the present year. Besides, we have no assurance or no right to believe that the price of any of these materials, or the price of labor will decline 25 to 40 per cent. We have no assurance that prices will not advance higher than they are now.

He says "that the total bill for paving is about \$131,486.20. This would draw 7 per cent interest which would be \$9,204.03 interest a year, and that if this \$9,204.03 were spent on grading up the streets every year that every street in O'Neill would be graded up and kept in dandy shape all over town." Is he not aware that the total expense of paving, exclusive of intersections, will fall absolutely on the property owners, and that there would be no way in the world to get the interest from the property owners that they would pay on the paving to be spent on grading up the streets in dandy shape, as he suggests?

It is true that the tax payers of O'Neill would have to pay for paving the intersection and pay interest on whatever bonds were required to defray that expense, but that is all the interest that the taxpayers would be required to pay. The rest would be paid, both the taxes and principal, absolutely by the property owners and with the elimination of repairing yearly all of proposed District No. 1, on which there is more traffic than any other street in O'Neill, then the money used annually on repairing said district, would be spent on outside streets and largely in the residential section of the town.

He states "that there will be a city council meeting about April 1, and that everybody should be at this meeting and have their say and stop the paving from going on." No, everybody should not be at this meeting to stop the paving from going on, only those who are against improvement and development of O'Neill should be at the meeting to protest against this improvement.

Any property owner who signed the petition to pave, signed at a time and with full knowledge that the price of material and labor was high and there has been no material advance in prices

since that time. They have no valid reason to withdraw their name at this time from the petition, if they were in favor of paving at that time, they should be in favor of paving now.

O'Neill the county seat, is the principal business and largest town in the County. There is no reason that O'Neill should delay making this badly needed improvement. Many towns all over the state that are smaller and insignificant as compared with O'Neill have paved and are paving under existing conditions, and if you want to boost for O'Neill, we ought to be at least willing to pave the main business and traffic streets of the city, and pick the traffic up out of the mud, the sand and the dust, and beautify and improve, at least for the present, the main business and traffic streets thereof.

Why did Parker circulate the protest to the paving? The facts are that he recently bought five business lots abutting on to the proposed paving district, two of them was owned by Mrs. Wm. Gray and three of them by Mrs. Virgin, and no doubt, in negotiating the purchase of this property from the woman, they were influenced largely in making a price to him on account of being told that the paving, which was sure to go through, would cost them a large sum of money, and that they had better sell the property to him, and that he would assume the paving obligation, and therefore he was able to buy this property for considerable less than its real value.

After obtaining this property, he immediately started out with a petition of protest against the paving, and represents to the property owners that he is circulating this protest for their benefit and that paving should be delayed until such time as he can resell this property and make a good profit without putting any money in for the benefit of the town and public. Why invite all this trouble and expense of buying these lots and assuming the paving obligation? I am reliably informed that Mr. P. E. McKillip of the Atlas Land Co., on learning that R. H. Parker was opposed to paving on account of having bought said lots, offered to take them off of his hands, and pay him a profit of ten per cent, and assume all paving obligations. I will substitute Mr. McKillip's proposition, and will at this time make the same offer.

Last summer he advertised that he had only been back from California one week and had sold a farm. "Who

sold the H. O. Jackson ranch? Parker, of course. Who sold the Manderville place? Parker, of course. I have sold 57 farms in one week, and 17 farms in one day." So on the sale of all this property, which he admits he has sold, it should not be a question of money with him, and since he has been fortunate enough to be here in O'Neill and have earned all this money as a result of living here, he should not take part in a movement to stop the development of the town and community which has helped him so much. No doubt, in all these other towns which have paved throughout the state, which are smaller than O'Neill, they had their Parkers, but it is evident in the towns that have paved that there were not enough Parkers, or men of that type to stop the progress and development of their town.

I hope that it cannot be said of O'Neill that with all its broadminded and substantial citizens and business men, that we are less progressive than these other towns. And I hope that it will not be said that a man who does not live here and has no property in the town, as in the instance of Mr. McKillip, has more interest in paving and building up the town and country than a resident property owner. Do we want Ainsworth to the west of us, Spencer to the north, Neligh to the east, Albion to the south of us, all paved, which they have done and are doing, and O'Neill not paved?

It is only a few years ago that Mr. Parker enjoyed a very profitable real estate business at a very little expense, and as soon as he had profited from his business in this town and in this county, and land sales fell off and business was dull, he skulked off to California and to the Hawaiian Islands to spend his time enjoying life in the salty waters of the Pacific, to bask in the tropical sun of the Golden West, and to walk and drive in the fern bound, and palm bedecked boulevards of California, paved, if you will. While the rest of us less fortunate citizens of O'Neill remained at home to stand the cold and the blizzards of winter, the heat and the sand and the dust of the summer, and traded with our merchants, our hotels, our garages, and maintained our schools and our churches, bought the farmers grain, hogs and produce, paid our taxes, borrowed money from our banks, invested in our land and property and advertised our country.

We expect the federal government (Continued on page seven.)

# BUY WANSER'S Big Public Sale!

—I Will Sell At My Yards In—

## Page Nebraska

—ON—

# Saturday, April 3rd

Sale will commence at 1 o'clock

## 185 Head of Cattle

125 head coming 2 and 3 year old steers; 55 head of cows and heifers; 5 good bulls.

## 15 Head Horses and Mules

Spanish Jack, 6 years old, weight 900.

## Farm Machinery

Two one-row listers; 2 gang plows; new New Century riding cultivator; 2 mowers.

# BUY WANSER

Stewart, Hamilton and Asher, Auctioneers.

E. H. Smith, Clerk.

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For a LIMITED time, with each Vacuum Cup Tire purchased at our store, we will give one "Ton Tested" Tube of corresponding size—an indispensable combination for the motorist who demands absolutely highest quality.

Though this offer is made to introduce these highest quality tires and tubes to car owners not yet familiar with their service merits, we're not putting up the bars against our regular customers. We want them to share in this distribution and enjoy all the benefits new customers enjoy.

Get your tires and FREE TUBES TODAY. If not now in need of tires, you can—by personal application, by telephone, or by letter—avail yourself of this splendid FREE offer by buying Vacuum Cup Tires for Spring and Summer use.

Adjustment basis—per warranty tag attached to each casing:  
Vacuum Cup Fabric Tires 6,000 Miles  
Vacuum Cup Cord Tires 9,000 Miles



**O'NEILL MOTOR CO.**  
FORMERLY WOIDNECK AND ANDERSON.

# ANNOUNCEMENT!

I have purchased the P. J. McManus Grocery Store, taking possession of the same last Tuesday morning, and I am now prepared to cater to your wants in the Grocery Line.

This is one of the oldest Grocery Stores in the city and has always been noted for the splendid lines of groceries that were handled and the excellent service given its patrons. It will be my ambition to keep the store up to its present high standard and I assure you you will continue to receive good treatment and honest goods and they will be sold at the lowest possible margin of profit, consistent with good business.

The old customers of the store are cordially invited to continue their patronage and I assure them that I will at all times supply them with the latest the market affords in the grocery and fruit line. To those who have not been patrons of this store we hereby extend you a cordial invitation to visit our store, get acquainted, inspect our goods and give us an opportunity to supply you with groceries. If quality, price and service count then we know we can please you.

Make our store your headquarters when in town. You will receive a hearty welcome.

# J. A. VITT Groceries