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CITY COUNCIL GRANTS PLATTSMOUTH WATER COMPANY NEW FRANCHISE

Ordinance Granting Ten Year Franchise Is Passed by a Vote of Six to Four—Committee Reports on the Condemning of the White Buildings, Other Routine Matters.

From Thursday's Daily.

The city fathers were all in their chairs last evening on the call of the roll at the regular meeting. The minutes of the previous session were approved with amendment.

A petition of Mrs. Curtis and Joseph Silence for grading for permanent walk on North Sixth street was acted on favorably.

A communication from the committee appointed to appraise the three shacks on Main street, between Fourth and Fifth, reported appraisement had been made. The original cost of the buildings was estimated to have been \$1,800; the buildings were now estimated to be worth 7 per cent of that amount. The value of the east building was fixed at \$56, the middle one at \$40 and the west one at \$30. Before accepting the report Mayor Sattler said there was a petition on file which would be read. A petition signed by numerous business men and others setting forth reasons why the buildings should be allowed to stand, and the owner allowed to repair them as he had set out to do. Among other reasons it was urged that the owner, Mr. White had already done a great deal for the city; it was mainly through his influence that the Masonic Home was established here, which was an investment of several thousand dollars. Councilman Dovey then moved that the petition be granted, and on roll-call it was suggested by City Attorney Tidd that as Mr. Dovey had signed the petition he would not have a vote nor could he make the motion. Mayor Sattler then declared there was nothing before the house. The petition was then received and placed on file. On motion of Councilman Patterson the report of the committee on appraisal was received and placed on file. On a call of the roll the ayes were: Patterson, Kurtz, Hallstrom, Richey, Lushinsky and Johnson; the nays, Dovey, Buttery, Shea and Vondran. Mayor Sattler announced the motion carried.

The oaths of C. A. Rawls, W. L. Lorenz and P. Egan as park commissioners were read, and the mayor called on the city attorney to clear up the minds of the council regarding the park commission. Mr. Tidd stated, in substance, that in the charter governing cities having over 5,000 the judge of the district court was the proper appointing power and authorized to name the commissioners, but under the charter governing cities of less than 5,000 the city would have to provide its own park commission, which would be done by an ordinance for the purpose. Councilman Lushinsky then moved that the city attorney be instructed to draw such an ordinance if he found the same necessary.

Clerk Wurl read communications from different street sweeping concerns, none of which appeared to be just the sort of machine wanted, and the matter was referred to the streets, alleys and bridges committee for action.

The finance committee reported the following list of claims allowed: Cass county, boarding prisoners, \$16.80; L. G. Larson, appraiser, \$2; Ray Sawyer, San Goehenour, Charles Manners and

P. H. Kinnamon, for testing hose, \$1.50 each; W. B. Rishel, street work, \$42; P. Harrison, street work, \$42; James Rebal, street work, \$36; L. Rotter, street work, \$8.20; Ed Snodgrass, street work, \$44; Allen Jones, street work, \$18; M. McCool, street work, \$24; Joseph Silence, street work, \$4; Wurga & Cecil, \$9.25; Hans Rothman, street work, \$12; P. H. Kinnamon, labor, \$3.50.

The following claims were passed by the claims committee and recommended for payment: Wurga & Cecil, 50 cents; Lorenz Bros., \$9.80; Rynott & Co., 50 cents; Nebraska Light company, 45 cents. The claim of E. B. Perry for hauling hose cart, \$2, was referred to the claims committee.

Mr. Vondran, chairman of the water committee, reported the hose tested and 650 feet in bad condition, and suggested that the committee had bids on hose and the men making same were present and would show them to the council.

The fire hydrant at the Masonic Home, discussed at the previous meeting, was ordered placed. On motion of Mr. Vondran a recess of five minutes was taken to inspect the samples of hose and to interview the agent of the hose company. On re-assembling Mr. Lushinsky moved the purchase of 650 feet of hose from the Manhattan Rubber Manufacturing company and twelve expansion rings. On the roll-call all voted in the affirmative.

An electric light was ordered placed at the corner of Main and Seventh streets, near the Methodist church. The light committee reported the light requested by the Presbyterian church had been placed.

Under the head of unfinished business the ordinance granting the Water company a franchise for ten years was read for the third time, preparatory to a final vote on its passage. On a roll-call of the members those voting aye were: Patterson, Kurtz, Buttery, Lushinsky, Richey and Shea; those voting nay were Dovey, Hallstrom, Johnson and Vondran. The mayor then announced the ordinance passed.

Bids for construction of walks and crossings were read, H. C. McMaken & Sons company being the only bidders. Cement walks in residence district to be 14 cents per square foot; crossings 23 cents per square foot; in the business district, sidewalks to be 15 1/2 cents per square foot. The bid was referred to the streets, alleys and bridges committee.

Among some of the miscellaneous business, warning cards, stating the speed limit, on motion of Councilman Richey, were ordered printed and placed in conspicuous places near the city limits.

The building committee reported that nothing could be done toward the acquirement of a city hall until the appropriation was made for the year.

Mayor Sattler then requested the council to meet at the Hild furniture store on Decoration day at about 9 a. m., as the service is to begin at the Presbyterian church at 9:15, and the council would attend the services in a body.

Shower for Miss Helen Travis.

A most enjoyable evening was spent at the home of Mrs. Agnes Chapman last Friday evening, when Miss Helen Travis and Mrs. Mildred Morgan were hostesses for the T. W. M. club, the occasion being in the nature of a shower for Miss Helen Travis, who is soon to leave for a new home. The first feature of the evening might be termed the bridal procession of "The Big Spoons," which were presented to Miss Travis, each one bearing a poetical inscription original with

the donor. An elaborate three-course luncheon upon a flower-laden, candle-lighted table proved so enticing that there was barely time for the veritable "rain" of miscellaneous articles or aids to housekeeping that descended upon the bride-to-be. Good advice and well wishes concluded a delightful time, mixed with regret at losing one of their number.

Elmer Amick and wife of Tekamah arrived from Louisville this morning to visit Ray Beaver and wife for a time.

"OREGON AND POPULAR GOVERNMENT"

Validictory Address of John Elmer Hollstrom to Class of 1912.

Unrest at the present time exists throughout all civilized nations. Daily uncertainty grows stronger as to future events. The basic cause is that the people have lost confidence in many of their public servants and bitterly resent attempted dictatorships by would-be political bosses and representatives of special interests who desire to direct public servants and legislation for their own selfish interest, rather than to assist in the making of laws guaranteeing justice to all and special privilege to none.

There was a time when a few self-constituted leaders in Oregon politics arrogated to themselves the prerogatives of government, and made their assumption effective through illicit combinations and through the use of money. They commercialized conventions, legislatures and the administrative branches of the city, town and state governments.

In the legislatures there were briefless lawyers, farmless farmers, Fourth of July orators and political thugs. The larger part were ignorant, illiterate, lazy, politically and personally immoral. Drunkenness and debauchery prevailed throughout the sessions. These legislators organized in the interests of the corporations, the latter named the officers and committees and directed legislation.

Any man who would propose a law against the corporations was instantly put out of office, or he was offered a sum of money, and that was the last heard of the bill. The people finally revolted against this condition, and led by a few men, among them Uren and the present United States senator, Bourne, established the best known system of popular government.

Uren and Bourne conceived the idea of establishing the initiative and referendum and began working to arouse the people. They secured enough legislators promised to vote for their bill to make it a law. Somehow or other the interests heard about this and instantly the lobby of the Oregon legislature was crowded with men who had rolls of money in their inside pockets and orders to bribe right and left in order to defeat the measure. As a result the measure was lost, not because the people did not want it, but because the interests were opposed to it.

But Uren and Bourne were not disheartened. They became even more determined to have the people's wishes obeyed. At the next legislature Oregon was to elect a United States senator. John H. Mitchell was a candidate for the position, and so they went to him in order to find out where he stood in reference to the people's wishes and the initiative and referendum. They found that Mitchell was favorable, and accordingly Uren and Bourne proceeded to get enough votes pledged for Mitchell to elect him. They secured the necessary number, but just a short time before the legislature convened Mitchell, after the state republican machine had made dire threats against him, came out openly against the initiative and referendum. Thus Uren and Bourne had enough votes pledged to elect a man who was opposed to their ideas, and it was up to them to defeat him.

The interests and the republican machine sat back and smiled because the legislature was soon to elect a man favorable to them, without their expending a bit of money. So confident were they of victory that they ceased to carry on any active campaign. But Uren and Bourne were busy, and when the legislature convened the interests were given a surprise. Uren and Bourne had secured enough men to stand by them, so that the legislature could not carry on legal business. They refused to hand in their notices of elections and proposed a list of demands which should be met by the other faction before they would sit as regular members. The "interest" faction refused to

do so. The Uren faction then refused to attend the meetings of the legislature. As a result the machinery of government was at a standstill for forty days; law-making stopped and no appropriations were made. Forty years of corruption in the legislature had reached a logical outcome in anarchy.

The legislators hung about the state capital, spitting tobacco juice, swapping stories and drawing their pay. There was no outcry against this by the people for they knew if they held out long enough it would mean the defeat of the corporations. As a result a special legislature had to be called the next summer to elect a United States senator. Mitchell was defeated, while Simon, a man who represented the people and not the interests, was elected. A year after, in 1899, the legislature, by a large majority, passed the law providing for the initiative and referendum. Directly after this measure had been passed the men representing the interests declared that the laws would be hastily framed and would only be for one section of the country. But in actual practice the case has been different.

Oregon's initiative measures do not originate in the cracked brains of irresponsible people. In fact, the proceedings are almost the same as those of the legislature. The people have two years for preparing and discussing the laws, whereas the legislature has only forty days. In the last eight years the people have registered their opinion on 64 measures, the largest at any one time being 32. In the same period the legislature has acted on from 3,000 to 4,000 measures and has had before it in a single session as high as 800. The laws proposed are framed by the best educated men in the community, and in many instances these are members of the legislature.

One of the provisions of the initiative and referendum law was that the state should issue a pamphlet known as the "publicity pamphlet," in which all of the laws to be voted upon were to be fully inscribed and pages were to be devoted to arguments for and against the bill. The political pessimists declare that the people do not read these pamphlets and that the state is covered with clean uncut copies from one end to the other. Possibly this is true in certain parts of the city, in the clubs, the houses of higher social classes, but it is not true in the farming country. If you travel through Oregon today you would find the people everywhere reading them, and instead of clean, uncut copies you would find evidence that they had been read extensively.

To see the referendum in use one should visit the farmer's home. There, by the dinner table sits the head of the family pouring over a well thumbed pamphlet. Perhaps he will be reading monotonously to an attentive group gathered around the fireplace. A running comment: "He's wrong there." "No, that's right," and "He can't fool us this way again," punctuates the proceedings. The next day at the village store other copies are discovered and then a good old-fashioned debate is held. At dinner the workers snatch a few minutes to read this little book; even the sheep header, resting on the hills hundreds of miles from the nearest town, passes many silent days with this volume as his sole companion. The arguments written in the book are well written. The contents are sane, wise, pointed and shed abundant light upon the questions at issue. Therefore, when the farmer goes to the polls he is well instructed.

Analyzing the elections for the last eight years, shows us that the people are interested enough to vote on the measures. On an average 75 per cent of the actual voters exercise their opinions on these matters. The other 25 per cent are found to be largely residents of the "slums," where the greatest per cent of ignorance and illiteracy prevails.

From the results in Oregon it appears that in spite of all of the harsh things said against the Aenriac mob, that this same mob stands for political decency. The citizens of Oregon have opposed all the practices that have

brought American public life into general disrepute. Every time they have a chance they will vote for measures that have a tendency to decrease graft and boozism. In spite of these "insurgent" tendencies the composite citizen does not go readily for new fangled ideas or attack on property. The noisy agitator, the labor union leader, the advanced thinker, these do not voice the sentiments of the rank and file. Can this composite voter be fooled by jokers? Do jokers slip into these measures as they constantly do in those passed by the legislature?

The leaders for woman suffrage having failed three times to have an amendment passed to the constitution excluding the word male from suffrage requirements, planned to pass a bill which said that all persons paying taxes should be allowed to vote. In reality it was a bill which granted universal suffrage. But the voter was not to be fooled and at the election the bill was defeated by a majority of 24,000.

Occasionally the interests, although they have lost much control, attempt to use the referendum to "put one over" on the people. But they have not been so successful as they were with the legislature. A good example of this was shown when a bunch of capitalists bought an old toll road over the Cascades for \$8,000 and conceived the idea of selling it to the state for \$25,000. They circulated their petition, got the measure on the official ballot and carried on an active campaign. At the election the bill was voted down overwhelmingly, and since then no one has attempted to wade into the state treasury by way of the initiative and referendum.

For a long time the nominees for all offices were nominated by the political machines of the state, together with the heads of the "interests" at their regular state conventions. All sorts of men were shoved into office, and the people lost interest in the state elections. Affairs reached a crisis when the factional disruption in the republican party broke out. Just a short time before they were to hold their convention there was a split in the party over some technical political differences. Accordingly, on the day, at the same time and at the same place two sets of delegates met. Each set had its own organization and chairman, and both tried to hold a meeting at the same time, thus causing a terrible hubbub. Finally the two chairmen tried to settle their differences with the weapons nature had given them. The people of Oregon wanted deliverance from politics of this sort. Since the people had been given the legislative power, why not give them the power to elect their own party candidates? The method was simple enough; other states had improved their condition by adopting a direct primary. The direct primary is but an election, based on universal suffrage, within the party for the election of candidates. The political connections abolished, party voters, instead of voting for delegates to the state convention to choose their own candidates, choose their candidate directly themselves. Twice the progressives of Oregon passed their law and humbly asked the legislature to pass it. The lawmakers and bosses simply ridiculed them, because if the people secured this power they themselves would no longer have a position. But the people got busy, secured the required number of signatures, put it on the official ballot and at the election passed the direct primary bill by a vote of 55,000 to 16,000.

Another of the reforms in politics in Oregon is that wherein the people indirectly elect their United States senator. Men running for state legislature pledge themselves to vote for the people's choice for United States senator, regardless of the fact whether this man is his political opponent or not. As a result of this the last senator from Oregon, a democrat, was elected by a republican legislature. Many claimed that this was the greatest scandal that could ever happen to the republican party, but in reality it showed that the source of power in Oregon is in the hands

of the people, where the authors of their constitution intended it to be.

The elections in Oregon are quiet and orderly. The towns are closed tight. The voter casts his ballot, not in a dirty room back of a barber shop or cigar store, but in a neat, white, municipality owned tent. On his way to the polls the voter does not have to run the gauntlet of a line of bleary-eyed workers. Election day under the new law is given over to election and not to electioneering. It is made a crime for anyone to solicit another man's vote. One may answer questions, but no one may volunteer any information or advice. There are no hired workers at the polls except the challengers, watchers and counters of voters. Another serious offense is to transport a voter to the polls in a hired carriage. He must get there himself, or he cannot vote. Thus, in a few years, by the enactment and enforcement of a plain matter-of-fact law, elections in Oregon have been transferred from riotous mobs into proceedings as quiet and dignified as ordinary church service. And this change has been brought about by the enactment of a law which the legislature failed to enact, but which the people themselves adopted at the polls.

In behalf of the class of 1912 I wish to extend our sincere gratitude and thanks to the members of the school board and faculty. We realize, on this evening, as we have never before realized, that all your endeavors have been for the best. You have inspired us with noble inspirations and ideals, and in times to come, when old members of this class assemble together to talk of times gone by, you and your endeavors will occupy a large place in their thoughts and conversation.

Dear classmates, tonight, as we are gathered here together for the last time, each and every one of us can remember how we have often met and mingled our thoughts in confidential friendship and how we have often planned and worked together. Little do most of us realize what this might mean to us. For four years have we eagerly looked forward to this night with great joy and expectation, imagining that it would be one of the happiest moments in our lives. Now that we are graduating and entering the world's great work, we find that all is not happiness, but there is a trace of sadness because we must separate and enter life's competition through various channels. "In the future we shall send vessels far out to life's sea," the cargoes of which are full of hopes as fair and bright as the butterflies of summer, and as light as the silvery notes of merry childish glee. We shall bid them bring fruition back to us, we shall watch them till they waver out of sight against the far-off larder, in their flight into the country of destiny. The days will wear on and our ships will not return. But ships we know not of will drift in, laden with treasures we would have spurned when youth was with us.

May the divine spirit guide our every efforts and may the earnest endeavors of the members of the days of 1912 be crowned with glorious success. Remember, "Tis a man's to work, but Heaven's to give success."

Levee Repaired.

The Levee between Folsom and Pacific Junction, where such an effort was made to hold back the flood this spring, has been repaired, strengthened and can now hold back any usual rise in the river. The conditions at Folsom in regard to the river cutting, is unchanged. The new current against the shore on this side continues to increase in swiftness. As the river recedes it is seen that the bar on the Nebraska side, which caused the recent trouble by turning the current, extends much further out into the river than was supposed. The river is extremely narrow and swift at one place.—Glenwood Tribune.

B. B. Warthen left for Omaha on the morning train today, where he was called to the bedside of his son, Roy, who is threatened with an attack of appendicitis.