

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

The City Affairs Are in Good Condition.

LITTLE PENDING LITIGATION

City Fathers Seat Councilman Stangeland and Put Away Some Routine Business at the First Meeting of the New Year.

The council held its first meeting of the new year at noon yesterday and settled upon the seating of new members, heard the mayor's message, and then adjourned, after a short amount of routine business had been transacted.

Mayor Surprenant's message, in full, is as follows:

Astoria, Ore., Jan. 2, 1905.
Gentlemen of the Common Council:

It is customary for the mayor at the beginning of each year to communicate to the council by message, setting forth, as far as practicable, the general condition of the city's affairs, and making such recommendations and suggestions as he may deem proper. Owing to the fact that the yearly reports of the city officials are not at hand, I cannot go into details, but only treat of them in a general way.

The affairs of the city as a whole, in my opinion, are much better than they have been previously; the various officers of the city are performing their duties in a very satisfactory manner, and their work has been increased to a very great extent by the vast amount of improvement made recently, of which I am sure the public generally feels proud and thankful. Of course there are some dissatisfied, but while you are sure that you are serving the public honestly you can continue to do so without fear. As our city is growing quite rapidly, there will be a necessity for more improvements during the present year, and I hope the preliminary work will be taken up during the dry season. I would urge the strictest economy in all departments, but not to the detriment of necessary improvements. I cannot complain of lack of care in the past, for I have not been able to find where any of the public funds have been wasted through the lack of proper care.

The streets throughout the city are our greatest source of expense, and necessarily require great care and attention, for the repairs on old streets must be kept up to avoid danger to the public. In building new streets, of which you will have several this year, I would recommend that provisions be made to have someone clothed with full authority to superintend the construction of same, to see that the materials and labor are furnished in accordance with the plans and specifications furnished by the engineer. If a competent person is employed for this purpose, it will insure faithful work, and avoid a great deal of trouble to the street committee.

The fire department I find in very good condition, but its efficiency is somewhat hampered by the lack of a few more extra men. I believe that the employment of four more men for this purpose would be good policy, and the cost of such additional help would be not more than \$24 a month.

The police department I find efficient and well regulated, and the funds passing through the hands of the chief are all properly accounted for.

The auditor and police judge is performing his duties in a very satisfactory manner, and I believe the council and public generally agree with me in this. I also wish to say that the city treasurer, city engineer and street superintendent are doing all that could be expected of good and faithful public officers.

I would call the attention of the council to the necessity of creating a street cleaning department. While I would not recommend going into a very expensive outfit, I believe that the employment of two men with one horse and cart, would be sufficient at present. At least you might try this, or some other plan whereby the streets may be cleaned up and made more pleasing to the eye and more inviting to strangers.

To meet the necessary expenses that would occur if these recommendations are adopted, I would suggest that reasonable licenses be imposed on all classes that the charter provides for,

of which there are very many that are not now paying a license.

The year 1905 bids fair to be one of more than usual prosperity, and a great deal depends on the council so as to keep up with the march of events.

I take this opportunity to express my thanks to the gentlemen of the city council and all the city officials, for their uniform courtesy to me and their prompt performance of their several duties, and I hope to merit the same treatment during the balance of my term of office as your mayor.

J. W. Surprenant.

The message was well received by the members of the council who are in accord with the mayor's views.

Burns, Hansen and Nordstrom were constituted a committee on elections and retired a moment to prepare their report on the seating of Mr. Stangeland, the new member from the Third ward, who succeeds Mr. Nordstrom. After the presentation of the report Mr. Stangeland was escorted to his seat by Mr. Nordstrom, and cast his first vote approving himself.

The mayor then announced the committees for the ensuing year, as follows:

Ways and Means—Belland, Kaboth and Burns.

Police—Morton, Lebeck and Bolland. Streets—Hansen, Robertson and Stangeland.

Fire and Water—Linenweber, Morton and Robertson.

Public Property—Kaboth, Burns and Lebeck.

Wharves and Waterfrontage—Lebeck, Belland and Robertson.

This left Jack Burns without a chairmanship, which looked peculiar to the spectators, of whom there was a large number, until, upon Mayor Surprenant's suggestion, the council elected Mr. Burns president of the council for 1905.

Messrs. Prael, Jones and Carney, who were understood as contemplating application for confirmation as members of the police commission did not appear, nor was any reference made to the matter.

The report of the city attorney was short and reported a good condition. Out of \$500 appropriated for purposes of litigation last year he stated that it had been necessary to only use \$5. There is but one case against the city pending—that of a man who was injured at the foot of Sixth street about three years ago.

On motion it was decided to hold the meetings of the council until the new city hall is completed, in A. O. U. W. hall, and the date of the next meeting was set for January 9.

The petition of J. V. Burns for 40 days' leave of absence to enable him to attend the next session of the legislature, was acted upon favorably.

The mayor asked the permission of the council for the expenditure of \$100 for strengthening the trusses under the roof of the new city hall, and the matter was delegated to the committee on public property for favorable action. An appropriation of \$32 for repairs to the roof of engine house No. 1 was also made.

Councilman Belland asked for a rule compelling the filing of ordinances by 10 a. m. on the day of their presentation to the council to enable the members to give them fuller consideration. No action, however, was given the suggestion.

The council adjourned.

SECOND ANANIAS.

Thrilling Story of a Shipwrecked Sailor Last Night.

A mournful looking German sailor last night blew into town with a heart-rending story of death and devastation that could hardly have created more excitement if he had been the sole survivor of the Kronland.

He told his tale in one or two places and an Astorian reporter nearly fainted himself getting to the restaurant where the tar was hoisting aboard a cargo of ham and—

He poured into the reporter's ear a narrative of how they were on the German bark Mary, 121 days from Hamburg, Captain Davies, general cargo, lurched down on a heavy swell, struck a buried derelict and went down in ten minutes, three miles outside the bar. So related this veracious mariner; there were 18 of the crew, and they fought like tigers for the boat, only one being serviceable. He said he and the captain, by superhuman effort, managed to stave off the onrushes of their frenzied fellows, and with three others, made their way in over the bar, reaching Astoria at 5 p. m., wet, exhausted, hungry and despairing.

The reporter's hair arose with the horror of the fight for the yawl, and when the sailor asked for "two bits" to get a night's lodging, he was so moved he gave him an order on "the office" for four bits, and then tore off to find the captain.

Captain wasn't at the Occident, the pilot's office, nor the Parker house. Martin Foard had gone to a dance, and Mr. Cherry hadn't seen him; neither had he notified his owners by cable. The reporter began to doubt—not the sailor. Oh, no, but he feared for his ability to find the captain, and redoubled his efforts. No good. Cap. still missing.

On going down the line, however, he found a man racing around in a circle with the story looking for a man from the Astorian. The reporter snuggled up to him like a hobo to a square meal and ascertained that it was the bark Emily, Captain Thorson, with a crew of Scandinavians, and that they had struck on the bar and the sailor had swum all the way up the river.

Notice is hereby served that any mariner that wants to saw off a yarn on the Astorian staff wouldn't be believed if he wanted to swear to the authenticity of the New Testimony.

AUTHORS ANGRY.

American Copyright Law Causing Trouble Abroad.

London, Jan. 2.—The Standard having opened its columns to a discussion of the alleged injustice done to British law, numerous prominent writers are expressing their opinion on the subject, without, however, displaying any unanimity regarding the remedy.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is strongly for and Hall Caine as strongly against retaliation. Andrew Lang confesses the whole question of protection is too metaphysical for him. The single point upon which there is semblance of agreement is in a suggestion by Mrs. W. Clifford, approved by Hall Caine and others, that a clause should be inserted in the American law giving British as well as foreign authors the privilege of copyright within one year.

"For Mother's Sake."

Is scheduled to play at Fishers' opera house next Friday evening. The cast is composed of actors well known in the profession, not a stick among them. This is a refreshing innovation when we stop to consider that most companies carry a lot of dead wood and try to make up in numbers what they lack in talent. The play holds a distinguished place among the better class of theater goers, and the verdict rendered by the public has established its reputation beyond a doubt. The plot is not confused, its characters are well discriminated and in the hands of a most capable company. In speaking of the play the Oregonian of yesterday says: That delightful pastoral idyl,

"For Mother's Sake," with the little sunbeam, Marie Heath, will be the matinee attraction at the Empire theater this afternoon. The latest performance will be given tonight. It is a pity there are not more plays of this character, as it shows the great love a child can have for his mother, and what a mother will do for her child.

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