

# WINNERS DEFIES CITY COUNCILMEN

## Expert Accountant Refuses to Testify Before Special Committee.

### GEORGE BLACK OBDRATE

#### Declines to Answer Questions Regarding Delinquent Taxes—Ways and Means Members Also Recalcitrant—Papers Missing.

An important part of the report made by Experts Clark and Buchanan on the city's auditing system is missing, and no one is able to account for its mysterious disappearance. No copies of it are in existence and the special committee from the City Council which is going over the report will conduct an investigation to ascertain what has become of the paper.

The special committee held a meeting at the City Hall last night when it was discovered that all of the original report was not on hand. A supplementary report, which was made the object of criticism by the ways and means committee, was missing, and the parties who are responsible for it were called upon for an explanation.

City Auditor Devlin said that when they left his hands the report and the supplementary report were together and that he had turned them over to the Mayor's private secretary, Miss McDonald. He produced a receipt for the papers.

Miss McDonald was called up over the telephone by Councilman Vaughn, one of the members of the special committee. She said that she had received but a part of the report and knew nothing whatever of the missing paper. The special committee will hold another meeting Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock, when Miss McDonald will be asked to appear and testify.

All who are concerned are much surprised and say that they do not see how the paper could have been mislaid. It contained itemized and comparative tables from city records, and it was alleged by the ways and means committee that it had been taken from the published annual reports.

Expert is in Contempt. The missing report was not the only interesting feature of the meeting last night, as George Black, public accountant, was cited for contempt for his refusal to answer certain questions when interrogated by Councilman Vaughn. Mr. Black is the accountant selected by the special committee of citizens at the request of the City Council to expert the city records. He was subpoenaed to appear before the committee, and was present in last night's session. He pleaded the privilege of his profession.

The members of the committee demanded that he answer certain questions which he refused to do. Councilman Vaughn warned him and read him the ordinance which makes it a misdemeanor to refuse to answer questions put by members of any special committee of the City Council, such offense being punishable by either fine or imprisonment or both. Nevertheless, Black steadfastly refused to answer. Councilman Vaughn said later that he thought Black would be prosecuted.

"I prefer to exercise the privilege of my profession and not be subjected to questioning at this time," said Mr. Black. "You do so at your own peril," thundered Vaughn, reaching for a copy of the city ordinances.

Asked Regarding Taxes. Mr. Black was asked relative to the report he made several years ago on the records of Mayor Van Vleet relative to taxes due the city which were never paid over. Every year there are delinquent taxes which never reach the city treasury and Clark and Buchanan in their report declared that these losses were unaccounted for. Mr. Black said that his report was a matter of public record and that he was prepared to answer questions concerning it.

Mayor Lane took a hand in the proceedings and asked Mr. Black whether there was anything of the nature of a truthful statement that he might make in answer to questions which would embarrass him in his relations with the committee. This question also Black declined to answer. Many different questions were hurled at him by the committee members but they could not induce him to answer.

The proceedings last night consisted largely of a cross-examination of Auditor Devlin by Councilman Vaughn. Vaughn appeared anxious to establish the point that the report of the ways and means committee criticizing the report of the experts was in reality the report of Auditor Devlin.

"As a matter of fact, Mr. Devlin," inquired Vaughn, "was not the report of the ways and means committee made up in the main from your answers to their questions?"

Devlin on the Grill. "No," replied Devlin. "I acted as clerk of the ways and means committee and wrote the report, which was later approved by the members of the committee. I acted merely as clerk. I told the members of the committee repeatedly that I did not want to have anything to do with making out the report. I insisted that I should, as I had acted as clerk of their meetings. I compiled the report according to their directions and suggestions. It is my report, but the report of the members of the ways and means committee."

The members of the ways and means committee were subpoenaed to appear at the last meeting of the special committee, but none of them attended except Rushlight, who is also a member of the special committee. There is some talk about the City Hall that the members of the special committee will be prosecuted for not obeying the summons and Councilman Vaughn said last night that perhaps something will be done in that regard.

The members of the committee are: Wallace, Rushlight, Masters, Bennett and Gray.

MARQUAM MAY BE OPENED Possibility That Theater Will Be Remodeled by the Owners.

It is not unlikely that the Marquam Theater, after having been closed for a year, may, within a few months, be reopened as Portland's leading place of amusement. J. Thorburn Ross, president of the Title Guaranty & Trust Company, which owns the theater, favors reopening it, provided satisfactory alterations are found to be feasible. In discussing the matter yesterday, Mr. Ross said:

We have had various propositions from men who desire to rent the property for other uses, but when we came to figure on the rental we found them unprofitable. One man wanted it changed into a better theater, and we had up for office, and still others wished to have the building fronted on Alder street for stores.

# WANT HALF A LOAF

## Musicians Are Backing Another Salon Ordinance.

### FEMALE PLAYERS BARRED

#### New Measure Will Allow Men Only to Render Instrumental Selections in Drinking Places. Is Likely to Pass.

Unable to obtain the whole of the loaf they asked of the City Council, the musicians of Portland are now willing to take half rather than no bread, and are backing an ordinance permitting men only to play instrumental music in saloons. An ordinance with these provisions was introduced at the adjourned meeting of the Council yesterday and was referred to the liquor license committee.

There seems to be little doubt that the new ordinance will be passed. Nearly all the Councilmen are willing that men should play in saloons, but there are enough of them opposed to women musicians to defeat any measure that would extend the privilege of playing in drinking places to both sexes, provided it were vetoed by the Mayor.

The original saloon music ordinance was struck at the meeting held Wednesday afternoon. It had been vetoed by the Mayor and the Council sustained his action by refusing to pass it over the veto.

There is a possibility that Mayor Lane will not veto the substitute bill if it is passed. At one of the meetings when the measure was up for consideration he stated that the enforcement of the law prohibiting music in saloons was aimed directly at the women and not the men musicians. If he vetoes the bill, it is believed there is a sufficient majority in the Council to pass it over the veto.

The ordinance was introduced yesterday by Councilman Annan, by request of the Councilman Belding yesterday presented a resolution calling the attention of the Mayor to the fact that liquor is rendered in the Hotel Portland, where the Oregon Hotel in rooms where liquor is sold. The Councilmen regarded the resolution in the light of a joke, although Belding is contending it seriously. He adopted Belding is one of those who supported the original saloon music ordinance and believes that the law should be enforced without exception.

"Liquor is sold in the grill rooms of the Hotel Portland and the Oregon Hotel, which is contrary to the statutes of this city," declared Belding when he championed his resolution. "You can buy all the liquor you want in those places."

"I would like to inquire of Mr. Belding," said Mayor Lane, "if there isn't a bit of difference between the surroundings at those hotels and those at Erickson's?"

Informing of these facts and he immediately placed the matter in the hands of Attorney Logan. Manager Erickson of the Star had the following to say regarding the trouble:

"When we decided to present 'Monte Cristo' we ordered a large quantity of special printing from Ackermann & Co. at the Hibograph house of St. Louis, ordering it according to their catalogue. In this catalogue the name of James O'Neill was not mentioned with the title of the play, and when the paper arrived at the depot it came C. O. D. and had to be paid for before we could open the packages or examine the contents. When the paper was opened a considerable portion of it carried the name of Mr. O'Neill, but not in such a manner as to lead the public to believe that the 'Monte Cristo' appearing at the Star Theater for 19, 20 and 30 cents. Any blame should fall to the printing firm for using Mr. O'Neill's name on the paper."

## Houses Rocked as If by Earthquake

### Occupants of Dwellings at Edge of East Washington Street Felt Shaking in Night as Homes Slak With Earth.

PEOPLE living in the houses on the south side of East Washington street between East Ninth and East Tenth streets were awakened yesterday morning at an early hour by what they thought was the third house from East Ninth street and settled under them. They sprang out of bed in a hurry, especially the two families who occupied the third house from East Ninth street, as it settled down several feet and was on the point of collapsing. The other houses did not settle much, but trembled slightly.

These houses stand on high trestles and face East Washington street, where there has been an extensive fill of solid ground. Part of this fill becoming saturated with water, slid down against the foundations of the third house from East Ninth street, and the building, where there has been a sound of broken glass and straining timbers, and they did not expect to get out alive, but the house did not fall any further, and they escaped as quickly as possible. At daylight they moved.

The foundations of the other houses do not seem to have been affected in the least. The bank caved down directly in front of the one occupied by the Smith and Crider families. This fill was made several years ago and had the appearance of being thoroughly compact. Dr. C. H. Rafferty owns the dwellings.

## MARRIED AT HARRISBURG

### Dr. S. C. Sloum Weds Miss Virginia DeLano, of Tacoma.

Dr. Samuel C. Sloum, of Portland, and Miss Virginia DeLano, of Tacoma, were united in marriage Saturday evening, December 15, at the residence of Dr. W. H. Dale, in Harrisburg, Oregon, by the Rev. J. H. G. Lewis, pastor of the Methodist church.

Mr. Sloum is a graduate of the University of Oregon, and is now practicing medicine in Harrisburg. Miss DeLano is a graduate of the University of Oregon, and is now practicing medicine in Tacoma. They have one child, a daughter, who is now a student in the University of Oregon.

## JUST RIGHT.

"Our Own Mixture," a perfect pipe tobacco. Sig Sichel & Co. agents. Mr. Hogar, Garcia and Lord Baltimore cigars.

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"Our Own Mixture," a perfect pipe tobacco. Sig Sichel & Co. agents. Mr. Hogar, Garcia and Lord Baltimore cigars.

# JAMES O'NEILL MAY SUE

## His Name Used in Advertising "Monte Cristo" by Star Theater.

### GRANTED MORE PAY

#### Application of Switchmen for Increase Successful.

Switchmen employed by the Northern Pacific, Northern Pacific Terminal Company, Southern Pacific and O. R. & N. have been granted an increase in wages, to date from November 1. The increase was asked some time ago, but a decision has just been reached. It was agreed to date the advance from the time it was asked.

Switchmen will be advanced 4 cents an hour, on a basis of a ten-hour day, with half an hour's extra work to be recognized as overtime. Day foremen in first-class yards will be paid 35 cents, and night foremen 37 cents an hour. Day helpers will receive 32 cents and night helpers 34 cents. In second-class yards, the scale is 1 cent lower.

With the exception of clerks, all employees of the railroads have taken up the question of a raise in wages. Conductors and brakemen on all lines west of Chicago are to ask for a 15 per cent advance. In asking for a raise all along the line, the men have the support of the organizations of trainmen on the Western lines.

The granting of the request of the switchmen for the increase in pay is taken by others to mean that the desired increase of wages of engineers, which is now pending with the railroads in this state, will also receive favorable consideration.

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