

PUBLIC UTILITIES TO GO ON GRILL TODAY

Action Begins Under Malarkey Bill and Results Will Affect People's Purse.

RATE SCHEDULES TARGET

Aim is Directed at Companies Which Have Changed Schedules Without Permit Since Jan., 1911. Sessions Open to Public.

SALEM, Or., Dec. 26.—More than 1000 public utilities of Oregon will go through a grilling here before the railroad commission tomorrow and Saturday. The conferences probably will have a more far-reaching effect on the intimate expense account of the people of the state than any that have been held under public supervision.

Not a village, hamlet, community or city but will be interested. The conferences will have to deal with the remote telephone wires which stretch over sage brush and desert wastes of Eastern and Central Oregon or into the mountain fastnesses of Western Oregon.

Power Firms Come First.

The first conference is to be held with the electric light and power plants and street railway systems, but the conference Saturday is with the water, telephone and telegraph utilities," said Chairman Clyde B. Aitchison, of the State Railroad Commission.

"In order to determine what utilities were within the jurisdiction of the commission and subject to regulation by the state, the commission some weeks ago addressed to the Mayors of the various incorporated cities and towns of the state inquiries as to what utilities were located in their vicinity. The answers received have been tabulated and about a thousand persons, firms and corporations have been reported to the commission as engaged in business which brought them within its supervision.

A preliminary report form was thereupon sent out to each of the supposed utilities, with the request that the information called for be returned forthwith. This report form designated the nature of the business of the utility and its capitalization, officers and such other facts as were necessary to enable the commission to know with whom it was doing business.

Uniform Accounts Proposed.

"Simultaneously the call for the two conferences to be held on Friday and Saturday was transmitted to each utility. It was manifestly impracticable to deal with all of the subjects which are to be considered in one day hence the division by industries into the two days. The matters to be taken up are generally similar in the case of the various utilities within the jurisdiction of the commission is the establishment of the proper and correct system of uniform accounts in each rate case the primary question to be determined is whether the corporation is earning enough money or is earning too much money, and unless the accounts are kept in uniform manner according to economically sound basis the regulation of rates will somewhat be in the dark. Many of the utilities are also operating in other states and it is highly desirable that the system of accounts prescribed shall be uniform over the entire Northwestern section of the country.

The Washington Public Service Commission has undertaken the establishment of uniform accounts for the utilities within its jurisdiction, and has also the Railroad Commission of the State of California. The commission will arrange with the various utilities that they shall hereafter keep proper construction accounts which will show the quantities and the unit prices entering into all of the various items of construction, either by way of new property or additions and betterments.

Schedules to Be Probed.

"Unquestionably the utilities will be advised to get their accounts in such shape that it will be as easy as possible for the commission to estimate the reproduction cost and the original cost of each of the utilities, both the amount by the physical property and that paid for franchises, etc.

"By law the commission is directed to ascertain the cost of production of each of the units of service of the various kinds of public utility services. This is one feature of the accounting system which will be gone into at the two conferences.

LEBANON POOR GET GIFTS

Methodists Provide Christmas Presents for Needy of Any Faith.

LEBANON, Or., Dec. 25.—(Special.)—The Methodist Church of this city departed from the usual method of having a Christmas tree to distribute presents to the children of the church people. They held their tree in the church but only contained presents for the poor and needy of the city.

Committees were appointed to look into the matter of the poor of the city and any family who was unable to provide their children with presents were reported to the general committee who provided all such with suitable presents.

The giving was not limited to poor members of their own church but the poor outside of the church were provided for as liberally as any.

The church gave a concert Christmas night, Sunday school children taking part.

West Studies Judiciary Revision.

SALEM, Or., Dec. 26.—(Special.)—While Governor West has received both majority and minority reports of the commission to revise the judicial system, nothing was given out on either report from that office today. The Governor states that he has had no opportunity to look over the report and it will probably be a day or two before he makes the contents of the reports public. Both are of some length. The commission was appointed by the Governor to report to him and he states he desires an opportunity to go through the reports before he finally issues them.

of the company with other utilities for interchange of business and the like. Particular attention will be directed to the question as to whether there are any discriminatory rates or contracts at the present time.

PORTLAND OFFICIALS ATTEND

Delegation From Light & Power Company Leaves at 8:20 A. M.

Officials of the Portland Railway, Light & Power Company will go to Salem today to meet with the State Railroad Commission sitting at the newly ordained Public Utilities Commission, and discuss with them the

FATHER OF MRS. JOHN H. BURGARD VICTIM OF PARALYSIS.

WILLIAM E. CLARK

RICKREALL, Or., Dec. 26.—(Special.)—William Edward Clark, pioneer of Oregon and an esteemed citizen of this community, died at his home yesterday as the result of a paralytic stroke with which he was seized December 29. Mr. Clark was born in Missouri in 1834, and crossed the plains to Oregon in 1852. His father and mother died and were buried on the plains, and it remained for Mr. Clark, who was then but 18 years of age, to bring his younger brothers and sister to their destination in safety. Upon arriving in Oregon Mr. Clark settled in Polk County, where he resided continuing east until his death. He came to this state penniless and with family responsibilities thrust upon him, but by energy and thrift accumulated a competence. He was a successful farmer and stockraiser and owned a valuable farm two miles north of Rickreall. The funeral will be held tomorrow.

NO CHARGES ARE PLACED

Prisoner Chafes Under Three Days' Jail Life When Prosecuting Attorney Fails to File an Information Against Him.

SEATTLE, Wash., Dec. 26.—(Special.)—Chafing under three days' imprisonment in the County Jail without any charge being filed against him, Clem H. Shepard, arrested as a suspect in connection with the Humboldt gold robbery of September, 1910, today stated that he would at once institute habeas corpus proceedings for his release.

Jailer Allan Stark called upon Prosecuting Attorney John P. Murphy Wednesday and asked for some authority to hold Shepard in jail. Mr. Murphy promised to file an information against him today. The information had not been filed up to closing time this evening.

"I am not authorized to hold prisoners here for any length of time without some authority," said Jailer Stark today.

Business Men Promise Support.

Shepard has been assured of support in fighting for his liberty by prominent business men who have known him for many years. His former employers have also assured officials of their confidence in his integrity. It is contended by Shepard's friends that Cavaneas and Barrett are relied upon by the insurance company which guaranteed the safe carriage of the Humboldt gold to fasten the crime upon Shepard's shoulders and to give comprehensive details of how Shepard, as purser of the boat, unlocked the door of his office and allowed the thieves to go in. Friends say that charges of this kind can easily be disproved and promise a hard fight for the defense.

Government Starts Probe.

It is not improbable the Federal Government will proceed against those alleged to be bearing fruit in the eastern as well as in the western end of Clackamas County. The following supervisors report the approved taxation of their road districts as follows: A. N. Jensen, No. 9, 10 mills; G. T. Hunt, No. 49, 10 mills; Charles Duncan, No. 10, 5 mills; J. A. Reid, No. 38, 6 mills.

Jensen, of George, district, A. N. Jensen is supervisor, voted a 10 mill tax, and made plans for blowing out stumps on the Estacada road in preparation for grading in the Spring. Springwater voted a tax of 6 mills and elected J. A. Reid supervisor.

From one end of the county to the other citizens of different communities are fighting the battle of good roads.

Contracts Not Affected

Ruling on Hood River \$90,000 Bond Issue Arouses False Fear.

HOOD RIVER, Or., Dec. 26.—(Special.)—Since the news came from Salem that the Supreme Court had

The Emporium's 5 Day Pre-Inventory Windup of Suits, Coats, Dresses

which began Thursday morning, has set all feminine Portland a-talking! Scores invested their Christmas gift money yesterday in new Suits, Coats and Dresses, at these compelling, low Pre-Inventory prices. —and just think of it! Besides the tremendous reductions, NO CHARGE IS BEING MADE FOR ALTERATIONS, WHICH MEANS AN ADDITIONAL SAVING OF \$2 TO \$4.

All Tailored Suits Reduced

Our regular \$17.50 Suits at \$11.70 Our regular \$22.50 Suits at \$15.30 Our regular \$19.50 Suits at \$13.25 Our regular \$24.75 Suits at \$16.85

Smart Winter Coats

Stunning models in two-tone diagonal boucles, great wale chevrons, plaid back and double faced cloths, serges, velvets, plushes and caraculs.

English Cloth-Top Raincoats

All \$8.95 and \$10.75 Junior Coats, ages 13 to 17 years. \$6.95 \$14.75 Junior Coats \$9.85 \$16.50 Junior Coats \$10.95 \$17.50 Junior Coats \$11.65 \$18.50 Junior Coats \$13.35

White Coats

\$17.50 White Coats, \$13.25 \$19.50 White Coats, \$15.95 \$24.75 White Coats, \$19.75 \$30.00 White Coats, \$19.75 \$32.50 White Coats, \$26.35

Junior Coats

Alterations Free

Alterations Free

Alterations Free

Alterations Free

Alterations Free

Alterations Free



No Charge for Alterations

DRESSES

Our regular \$30.00 Navy Serges \$19.85 Our regular \$35.00 Navy Serges \$23.35

Navy Suits

\$17.50 Navy Serges \$13.25 \$19.50 Navy Serges \$14.65 \$22.50 Navy Serges \$16.95 \$24.75 Navy Serges \$18.65 \$30.00 Navy Serges \$22.50 \$35.00 Navy Serges \$26.25

Navy Norfolks

\$17.50 Navy Norfolks \$12.35 \$19.50 Navy Norfolks \$13.65 \$22.50 Navy Norfolks \$15.75 \$24.75 Navy Norfolks \$17.45 \$27.50 Navy Norfolks \$19.25

Suits, Coats, Dresses, Waists

EMPORIUM PORTLANDS

124-126 SIXTH, Bet. WASHINGTON & ALDER STS.

SHEPARD TO FIGHT Gold Robbery Suspect to Begin Habeas Corpus Action.

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KLAMATH LAND RECLAIMED Government Will Lease Former Bed of Tule Lake to Highest Bidder.

KLAMATH FALLS, Or., Dec. 26.—(Special.)—The United States Reclamation Service officials have posted notices that about 1100 acres of land, uncovered on the shores of Tule Lake by the recession of its waters will be leased for three years to the highest bidder, on January 13, 1913.

This is the first tangible result of the large amount expended by the Government in building the Clear Lake reservoir and the Lost River diversion constructed on the shores of Tule Lake by the recession of its waters will be leased for three years to the highest bidder, on January 13, 1913.

The action on the part of the Federal Government is the direct result of a conference held at Oregon Agricultural College last November when H. Newell, director of the United States Reclamation Service, met the college authorities and took up the matter of adopting some practical means by which the Federal Government could work to the best advantage in aiding the farmers of Southern and Central Oregon to cultivate their lands most profitably.

"It is estimated that Klamath County alone has something over 275,000 acres of tillable land," said Dr. Withycombe, in commenting on the recognition by the Government, "so it can be seen at a glance that the agricultural possibilities in that county are enormous.

In addition to the regular work to

Safe, Convenient and Economical Every-Ready Flashlights, \$1.50

Absolutely safe around gasoline and combustibles. Invaluable to the autoist, the mechanic—anyone who has need for a reliable, efficient light. Style illustrated may be carried handily in pocket or handbag. Leather covered. Guaranteed Ever-Ready battery lasts for months with ordinary use. Complete at \$1.50

Largest Line of Flashlights in Portland. Every size and style, from small nickel-plated Vest Pocket Lights at \$1.25 to the largest at \$3.50. Ever-Ready Guaranteed Flashlight Batteries, 30¢ and 40¢ "Portland's Largest Electrical Supply House."

Stull's Electric Co. SIXTH ST. at PINE

YOU ARE IN TROUBLE EVERY DAY With 2 Pair of Glasses or Just Reading Glasses

When you wish to read or sew it is a case of "run for your glasses. You find them, and perhaps sit by the window or sew on the piazza with your eyes straining. Some one goes by and speaks to you. You can't answer them intelligently until you change your glasses or take them off. By that time the person has passed on. You feel annoyed and perhaps annoyed at the person with Kryptok when fitted by me. You can read, sew, attend church, theaters, without the annoyance of changing or removing glasses. They are very reasonable in price. Call and investigate them. They are always guaranteed fully when I fit them.

FARM AID ASSURED Klamath County to Get Experiment Station.

OREGON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, Corvallis, Or., Dec. 26.—(Special.)—President Kerr is in receipt of a telegram from the United States Department of Agriculture stating that the Federal Government will co-operate with the State of Oregon in the establishment and maintenance of an irrigation experiment and demonstration farm for Klamath County, the purpose being to provide scientific aid in demonstrating to the farmers the possibilities of production on reclaimed tillable land of that county.

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J. D. Duback EYESIGHT SPECIALIST Sixth Floor Selling Building, Sixth and Alder.

BOY BREAKS THROUGH ICE Klamath Falls Skater Rescued by Companion After Chilly Plunge.

KLAMATH FALLS, Or., Dec. 26.—(Special.)—Joe Skelton, a member of one of several skating parties on Upper Klamath Lake, broke through the ice and had a narrow escape from drowning. Where he fell in the ice was so brittle that it broke constantly under his efforts to climb out of the water.

Two of his companions were near and Maurice O'Connell skated as near the edge of the ice as was safe and then made a rope from his clothing and that of Harding Cater, who went for a pole to help in the rescue. By using the pole and the clothing, the boys were able to pull their friend out and then clothing him with their own effects, they rushed him to the nearest fire. He suffered no ill effects.

Whitman's Rhodes Man Named.

WHITMAN COLLEGE, Walla Walla, Wash., Dec. 25.—(Special.)—William James McKay, of Almira, Wash., a member of the senior class, has been chosen a Rhodes scholar for an appointment as Rhodes scholar at Oxford. The University of Washington also has a candidate, and the decision between the two men will be made next Friday.

Palace Reproduced on Agate.

FOREST GROVE, Or., Dec. 26.—(Special.)—M. S. Taunton, a capitalist of this city, is the possessor of a beautifully shaped and large sized agate, which contains, in miniature, an almost perfect reproduction of the dome of the Palace of the Doges, rising above a network of canals upon which several gondolas can be observed. The stone was secured at Newport.

Three Hurt in Shawnee, Okla., Fire.

SHAWNEE, Okla., Dec. 26.—Fire here today destroyed the Postwattomnie building, one of the largest structures in the business district, causing a loss estimated at \$100,000. Three men were hurt.

Xmas Greetings!

For those who know that the Removal Sale of high-class Diamonds, Jewelry, Clocks, Silverware, etc., at Abendroth's, Jeweler, 342 Washington Street, between Seventh and Park, is to continue until Dec. 31st, when the building is to be torn down. This sale is at 342 Washington Street. The new store is 313 Morrison Street, opposite Postoffice.

F. ABENDROTH, Jeweler 342 WASHINGTON STREET