

SUPERIOR ROUTE TO GULF AND HILL Contract Is Let for Building of Powder River-Oring Junction Cut-Off.

\$1,000,000 TO BE SPENT Construction to Be Finished This Year to Give All-Rail Line From Portland to Galveston as Means to Meet Canal Competition.

Two Brothers, of Portland, have secured the contract for building the Powder River-Oring Junction cut-off of the Burlington Railroad in Wyoming, which will provide the Hill system an all-rail project from Portland and Galveston, Texas, and afford a possible means of circumventing the adverse effects of the Panama Canal on the railroads.

The contract calls for an expenditure of more than \$1,000,000 for labor, material and supplies. Much of this money will be spent in Portland, where Two Brothers maintain their general offices and shops.

Actual construction will start at once on those portions of the territory that are not inaccessible on account of the weather. As soon as the snow disappears the entire project will be tackled vigorously. The entire contract, which involves approximately 100 miles of track, must be completed by the end of the present year.

Short Route Is Aim. Judge John Twohy, head of the company, will arrive in Portland today to prepare for the shipment of heavy outfit of grading machinery for a road on the North Pacific Coast to the Gulf of Mexico with every inch of track owned by the Hill railroads. From Portland to Spokane the route will be over the North Bank line, from Spokane to Billings, Mont., over the Great Northern or the Northern Pacific, over the Burlington, the present Burlington line extends only to Powder River and it is the gap between Powder River and the Colorado and Southern, which is now to be constructed.

Canal to Be Coped With. By this construction the Hill interests hope to prevent the extensive diversion of transcontinental traffic away from the railroads to the Panama Canal. There is a constant heavy movement of traffic from the Northwest to points in Texas and other territory served by the new line. Inauguration of steamship traffic between Portland and the Orient will divert a lot of cotton and other products of the Southern states to this port and the Hill officials intend to handle a large part of this business. This new line will enable them to carry it all the way over their own tracks.

Plans for this construction have been under way for the last two years. The Hill interests have attached much importance to the project from the start. Although the large part of the expense and difficult construction, they are determined to prepare for heavy and continuous traffic. The contract calls for a high-class roadbed with heavy rails.

Over much of the distance the new road will parallel the Colorado and Southern tracks. Northwestern officials a few months ago offered the Hill roads a contract to carry their traffic over the Colorado and Southern, which they refused. The fact that the Hill people want an independent road free from affiliation with other interests indicates that they consider the new line an important and valuable one.

Steamship Line Prohibited. Traffic experts have figured that the Hill lines will be in a position to compete with the other railroads for business moving between New York and other Atlantic seaboard points and Portland by using this new route. This would involve the operation of a steamship line between Galveston and the Atlantic Coast, but such a venture might prove profitable inasmuch as it would develop a large part of the traffic from which the Hill interests would derive all the revenue.

While this route is designed principally for freight traffic, it is probable that passenger business will develop from it. There is a fair movement of passengers between Portland and Galveston and through trains between this city and Galveston is a possibility. It is almost certain, however, that through service between Portland and Denver will be inaugurated from the start. The movement between Northwestern points and Colorado always is handicapped in handling it by a roundabout haul. This will give them an exceptionally short cut and save about 19 hours in time.

section of the highway this year with the expenditure of \$2,000,000 according to the bulletin. The decision to cap the proposed interstate bridge across the Columbia by the Pacific Highway bridge is regarded as being very appropriate. The bulletin sets forth the advantages that will accrue to Oregon by reason of the construction of the highway and reviews the work that has been done in Washington, California and British Columbia.

EASTER EARLIEST IN YEARS Only Once in Past Century Has Holy Day Come Before March 23.

Only once during the past century has Easter Sunday occurred before March 23—the date of its observance this year—the earliest Easter of modern times being in 1818, when the holiday fell on March 22. Twice before within the past 100 years Easter Sunday was on March 23—in 1845 and 1856. The latest Easter of recent years was in 1886, when it was on April 25, coming over a month later than the date this year.

EX-CONVICT IS ARRESTED Member of Notorious Family Held on Burglary Charge.

Just out of the penitentiary, where he served five years for burglary, Joe La Barge, one of a family of notorious criminals, was caught Saturday night by Special Officer Potter, in a San Antonio street in Portland. La Barge had been patrolling a private beat around the foot of the Hawthorne bridge.

ROCKPILE STAY WELCOMED L. J. Watten Found in Montavilla in Deplorable Condition.

Saying that he had not tasted meat or potatoes for six months, L. J. Watten, a special officer in the year that he was offered an opportunity to spend 30 days at the rockpile, where those who were arrested for a crime by the city are kept until they are able to pay their last day of staple food was about contemporaneous with his last change of clothing, according to his own statement, that he had not removed the rag he wore in half a year.

COPPER SLAB IN EXHIBIT Ore From Curry County Is Added to Chamber Collection.

A mass of copper ore, so rich as to practically a solid slab of pure metal, has been added to the exhibit of the Chamber of Commerce. It was sent by the Gold Beach Commercial Club, of Curry County.

IDLE PRANK COSTS \$50 William O'Donnell Punished for Sending in False Fire Alarm.

William O'Donnell, who confessed to having turned in a fire alarm, "just to see the horses run," was assessed \$50 yesterday. He appeared to be without funds to pay the fine, it is probable that he will serve 25 days at the rockpile for the offense.

OLD OFFENDER UP AGAIN Jesse Merritt Makes Effective Plea and Is at Large.

If Jesse Merritt comes before the Municipal Court a few more times and pleads as effectively as he did yesterday, he will have a life sentence hanging over his head, and, as he is wasted by his dissipation, this may not be long.

PORTLAND MEN TO FIGHT PORT CHANGE Multnomah Delegation Caucus Recommends Spencer to Replace Dodge.

PROTESTS GO TO CAPITAL For Business Reasons Proposed Law at This Time Is Resented as "Unprofitable and Harmful" Despite Action at Salem.

MULTNOMAH DELEGATION IN CAUCUS PROPOSES SPENCER TO REPLACE DODGE. STATE CAPITOL, Salem, Or., Feb. 17.—(Special.)—The Multnomah delegation met tonight and decided to recommend D. C. O'Reilly, Captain E. W. Spencer, Joseph Goodman, Captain E. W. Shaver, H. D. Inman, A. L. Present and S. M. Messers, to the Legislature to replace E. H. Dodge as members of the Port of Portland Commission.

The only change in the proposed personnel of the commission is that E. H. Dodge is displaced by Captain Spencer. The delegation discussed the situation at length. Several members spoke, but Senator Day, who moved the nomination of the old members of the port, said that the present members have worked hard for the port and that they should not be displaced. Other members spoke in favor of the proposed change.

CITY CHARGE MAINTAINS COURT CHANGES COMPLAINT TO FOIL GOVERNOR. When Old Offender Appears Before Judge Taxwell After Being Pardoned Action Is Taken.

Circumvention of Governor West was frankly avowed by Municipal Judge Taxwell yesterday, when he caused a charge against a man to be removed from the state to the city docket and then gave the defendant the maximum sentence of a charge over which the state executive has pardoning power. The reason for the act was that Cifer, convicted of stealing and running off with a number of automobiles, was pardoned by the Governor recently, after serving part of a sentence of one year.

Legislators Are Petitioned. Led by the Chamber of Commerce, business interests of Portland, previous to the caucus at Salem last night, went on record almost unanimously against making any changes in the personnel of the Commission and have sent messages to the members of the State Legislature urging that no such changes be made at this time.

VICTIM SEES PURSE TAKEN Hand Through Window Snatches Wallet as It Is Laid on Table.

Within a moment after he laid his wallet on a table near a window of his house, 391 Sixteenth street, C. B. Brown, of the Pacific Biscuit Company, saw a hand stretch through the open window and grab the wallet and a loose purse.

ANTI-HEALING BILL FOUGHT Arizona Christian Scientists Make Protest to Legislators.

PHOENIX, Ariz., Feb. 17.—Memorials to Congress advocating independence for the Philippines and the Government ownership of railroads, telegraph and telephone were voted down today in the House of Representatives.

SEATTLE, Wash., Feb. 17.—(Special.) Charles H. Shields, president of the

Washington Equal Taxation League, leading opponent of the single tax issue, which is to be voted upon at the city election March 4, today asked the courts to rectify the alleged error that was made in placing on the ballot a citizen of Seattle, qualified to vote, by filing a petition asking that City Comptroller Carroll be required to show cause why he should not cancel the registration.

PROSPECTIVE BENEDICT 77 Austrian, Whose Impending Marriage Is Delayed by Illness, Tells How Ancestors Gave Country for New Religion.

"Cupid may be detained by the condition of my health, but he will not be thwarted," said J. J. Kern, of 500 Miller street, the 77-year-old man who is to marry Mrs. Julia Panek, aged 64, of the same address. Mr. Kern has been at the Solvold Hospital for two months, suffering from asthma and other ailments, but expected to return to his home last night. The marriage will occur as soon as Mr. Kern is able to enjoy a honeymoon.

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MARRIAGE LICENSES HARRIS-ROMAN—George F. Harris, City, Ore., 43 and Mable Roman, 43. MARTEL-MEYER—Carl Martel, city, 25 and Silton Meyer, 26. HEDGECOCK—Robert H. Hyde, Tacoma, Wash., 32 and Bulah Loomis, 37. ZIMWALT-RYERSE—J. M. Zimwalt, Bricketon, Wash., 35 and Jessie E. Ryerse, 35. RAKER-CONREY—K. D. Raker, Vancouver, B. C., 38 and Cora E. Conrey, 38. COOPER-HARTUNG—D. L. Cooper, city, 23 and Alma Hartung, 23. LOONEY-INGOLD—M. Looney, Jr., 30 and Ella N. Ingold, 22. DUNHAM-SPARGLER—Res. C. Dunham, city, 30 and Cora Spargler, 30. NOBLE-FREYER—Claude Noble, Marshall, Ore., 27 and Harry Freyer, 27. WILSON-GRÖL—W. J. Saunderson, city, 30 and Maud Gröf, 32. CAMERON-ROBERTS—M. Camm, Clatskanie, Ore., 28 and Estelle Rice, 18. RAMSEY-HOOK—Martin J. Ramsey, city, legal, and Elizabeth Ann Hook, 33. 34 Vessels Take Cargoes. ASTORIA, Or., Feb. 17.—(Special.)—During the month of January 34 vessels loaded at the mills in the Astoria customs district, and their combined cargoes amounted to 27,956,750 feet of lumber, as well as 1199 piling and 20,000 lath. Of these vessels, 19, with 20,704,567 feet of lumber, went to domestic ports, while six vessels, carrying 4,251,185 feet of lumber, sailed in the foreign trade.



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