

MEIER & FRANK CO. TO SPEED \$1,250,000

New Structure to Be 12 Stories High.

FIFTH STREET BUILDING GOES

Ready for Business in New Home in May, 1915, Is Plan.

FAILING BUILDING LEASED

Escalator, or Moving Staircase, Nursery, Silence Room and Complete Hospital Will Be Included in Department Store.

Decidedly the largest building project in many months was put forward in Portland yesterday when the Meier & Frank Company leased the 12-story failing building, on the southeast corner of Fifth and Alder streets, until it can replace its present five-story main building on Fifth street, between Alder and Morrison, with a 12-story class A building costing more than \$1,250,000.

Two additional stories will be added to the present 10-story annex erected in 1902, on the southeast corner of Sixth and Alder streets. The new half-block building will be similar to the present 10-story annex in height and type of exterior finish.

Moving Starts at Once. The process of moving the stock from the main building on Fifth street into the failing building, hereafter to be known as the Meier & Frank temporary annex, will be started immediately. It is expected that business will be transacted in the new annex as early as April 1 and that the old building will be entirely vacated by May 15.

By July 1 the company hopes to have the old property ready for excavation. Steel construction on the new main building will begin about September 1, and it is declared that the new home will be open and ready for business by May 1, 1915.

This date will mark the 50th anniversary of the birth of the firm, which was started on Front street in May, 1867, by Aaron Meier. The company then had five employees. Today it has 2100 on its payroll.

During the occupancy of the temporary annex it is possible that an underground passageway will be in use to facilitate movement between the co-ordinated plants of the company.

Term of Lease Two Years. The deal which was closed yesterday was made directly between Julius L. Meier, vice-president and general manager of the Meier & Frank company, and William C. Alvord, manager of the failing estate, owners of the failing building. The term of the lease is two years. The negotiation had been under way for several months.

Being built for department store use and without partitions, the building may be occupied by the Meier & Frank Company immediately and without any material alterations in the present construction. It has 12 stories and a full basement and covers a quarter block. This avails a total floor space, in addition to the balconies, of 130,000 square feet, or more than three acres.

Mr. Meier Talks of Plans. "It is often said that there is no sentiment in business," said Julius L. Meier, yesterday, "but we cannot agree with that idea. In announcing that a 12-story class A building will be erected on the half block now occupied by our five-story main building, on Fifth street, we wish to say that, while we are proud of our store, we get a higher degree of pleasure in the fact that it means a greater and more prosperous Portland."

"The members of our firm are pioneers, or were born and reared in the City of Portland, and for that reason have the greatest pride and interest in the growth and development of the city and state."

"We have had the question as to the construction of the new building under constant consideration for more than two years. We erected the 10-story annex as a unit from which we planned the larger building to be of the same height, but we have decided upon its being 12 stories, and if not at the present time, at an early date we anticipate adding two stories to the 10-story annex."

"There are many reasons why we are building at this time, one being, from a national standpoint, that our laws governing finance and industries are fixed at least for a term of years.

"Another reason is that at the present time there is a lull in building operations which has thrown a large number of deserving workmen out of employment, and the construction of the building will alleviate this condition to some extent."

"As an additional reason, the firm conviction among those of us who are responsible for the welfare of this great and growing business, including owners and employes alike, is that we believe we owe it to the public.

"Next year will be an era of enormous travel, the world is coming to visit us. We will be judged for years by the showing we make in 1915.

"We intend to do our part as business men and citizens, to build up our city and state, in the future of which we are confident."

(Concluded on Page 6.)

"BLEACHED FLOUR" CASE IS DECIDED

SUPREME COURT RULES IN FAVOR OF MILLERS.

Product Cannot Be Condemned Unless Ingredients Added Make It Injurious to Health.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Millers and food manufacturers generally throughout the country won a decisive victory over the Government today, when the Supreme Court held that Federal inspectors could not condemn under the pure food law bleached flour unless they proved that the flour contained enough poisonous ingredients added in bleaching to make the flour injurious to health.

Officials of the Department of Agriculture have fought the case bitterly, contending that the adding of any quantity of poisonous ingredients was in violation of the law. The case decided today originated in the District Court of Western Missouri. The Government sought to condemn 625 sacks of flour bleached by the Lexington Mills Company by the so-called "allop process." The Government contended that in bleaching the flour to give it a color to hide its inferiority, certain nitrates, or poisonous ingredients, were added and that this violated the law, no matter what the quantity.

In announcing the decision of the court, Justice Day pointed out that the Government complained only that 1.8 parts to 1,000,000 of a poisonous character was added by bleaching. He held that every word of the pure food law prohibiting in interstate commerce of food if it contained "any added poisonous or other added deleterious ingredients which may render such article injurious to health," must be interpreted by its true meaning.

"If it cannot by any possibility, under the facts as reasonably considered, be shown that the addition of any added poisonous or other added deleterious ingredients which may render such article injurious to health, must not be condemned by the act."

MAYOR SEES CHINATOWN

Police Commended on Control Over North End District.

In order that he might obtain first-hand knowledge as to the condition of Chinatown and the North End, Mayor Albee was escorted through the byways of the district last night by Sergeant Harms and Patrolmen Long and Wise.

"I am able to say that I have found conditions well under control in the North End," said the Mayor on his return. "I am satisfied that Chief of Police Clark and the police department have their duty in carrying out the 'clean up' policy of the administration."

COMPANY SUED FOR SMOKE

Seattle Lawyer Sues Stench in Cars Made Wise III.

SEATTLE, Wash., Feb. 24.—John Mills Day, an attorney, today filed in the Superior Court a suit against the Puget Sound Traction, Light & Power Company for \$2500 damages, and a permanent injunction to prevent smoking of tobacco on the streetcar lines of the company.

Mr. Day declares that frequently the stench of tobacco in the cars has made his wife ill. In his complaint he declares that the company is responsible because it has posted signs in the cars, reading "Smoking in and behind the three rear seats."

REFERENDUM LOSES 1272

Objectors to Carver Line Say Names Secured by Misrepresentation.

Declaring that their names were secured by misrepresentation, 1272 of the persons who signed the referendum petition against the Portland & Oregon City Railway Company franchise recently, sent in a petition yesterday withdrawing from the referendum. The withdrawal was filed with City Auditor Barber.

The filing has raised a new point in connection with the referendum which may have to be settled by the courts, involving the right of persons signing a referendum petition to withdraw after the petition has been filed.

IDLENESS WILL NOT LAST

So Says Samuel Gompers in Explaining Industrial Conditions.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, asserted at a local labor banquet tonight that unemployment reported from the principal industrial centers of the United States was attributable only to inclement seasons and the transitions from old to new governmental conditions.

"The present state of unemployment will be of shorter duration than those which have marked similar transitory periods of the past," said he.

WILSON GIRLS TRY ACTING. Daughters of President Appear in Amateur Play at New York.

NEW YORK, Feb. 24.—Miss Margaret Wilson and Miss Eleanor Wilson, daughters of the President, appeared on the amateur stage in a fashionable hotel here tonight in "Sanctuary," a bird masquerade. Miss Margaret sang in the prologue and Miss Eleanor played the part of Ormis, the bird spirit.

Mrs. Wilson sent a letter expressing regret at her inability to be present.

VILLA TEMPORIZES OVER BENTON'S BODY

Exhumation But Not Removal Permitted.

WOUNDS MAY SOLVE MYSTERY

Surgeons Say Rifle Bullets Could Not Conceal Murder.

FEDERALS HANG AMERICAN

News of Death of Clement O. Vergara Near Nuevo Laredo Draws Attention to Federals—Congress Is Growing Restive.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Just what General Villa proposes to do about the request of the United States Government that he deliver the body of William S. Benton, the British subject executed by Villa at Juarez, apparently was an open question late tonight.

Secretary Bryan early accepted a message from the Constitutionalist chief of Consular Agent Carothers at Juarez as a promise that the body would be turned over to American authorities as soon as the matter could be arranged. This message was translated to read that the body would be delivered, "but not at this time."

Body May Be Exhumed.

Just before midnight State Department officials made public this announcement: "American Consul at Chihuahua reports that Villa declines to deliver Benton's body, but will permit widow or relatives to visit cemetery with American representatives; that for their benefit he will order exhumation of the body, which will then be interred in grave from which it is removed."

General Villa is now at Chihuahua and it is supposed that Consul Fletcher has been in personal communication with him. The Consul will be asked for further details of the reply tomorrow.

From the character of the wounds found on Benton's body, physicians will be able to say whether Benton was killed by a pistol shot, as his friends contend, or by a firing squad, as Villa asserts. It is generally admitted in official circles that such an examination will be of great value in either affirming or disproving an important point in the general explanation of the affair made by Villa.

Developments Follow Fast.

Developments were many in the situation that has arisen out of the killing of Benton. Secretary Bryan asked American Consular representatives at Nogales to confer with General Carranza about the affair. The Secretary talked with Acting Chairman Shively of the Senate Foreign Relations committee, and then with President Wilson. The incident was discussed at a Cabinet meeting. Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British Ambassador, later called on Secretary Bryan and had arranged for the (Concluded on Page 2.)

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NIGHTTRIDER EVIDENCE NEW

North River Woman Identifies Alleged Member of Band.

SOUTH BEND, Wash., Feb. 24.—(Special.)—The North River nightriding case, in which Mrs. M. M. Ross and sons, Earl and Frank, are complaining witnesses, began today before Superior Judge Wright. Seven witnesses testified for the state much as they did in the preliminary hearing.

A new feature was the positive identification of Mike Hanrahan as one of the nightriders by Mrs. Ross. He is a new defendant and new testimony was given by Professor Waters in an effort to prove that J. N. Howard had advance knowledge of the deportation of the woman and her sons.

WOMAN PROVES HEROINE

Seventeen-Year-Old Boy Swept Off Horse Into River.

PENDLETON, Or., Feb. 24.—(Special.)—George Fanchler, 17 years old, nearly lost his life yesterday and but for the presence of mind of Mrs. George Roberts undoubtedly would have been swept away by the swift current at a crossing a mile below Umattila Junction.

The boy, on horseback, attempted to ford the river, but the horse was swept down the stream. Mrs. Roberts, who saw the accident, summoned some men who rescued the boy.

SUBMARINES FOR PACIFIC ORDERED

Building on Coast to Be Conditional.

"LAID DOWN" MARGIN GIVEN

Committee Also Approves Two-Battleship Programme.

NAVAL BILL IS AGREED ON

Measure Carries \$140,200,000, Exclusive of Amounts to Be Expended for Armament—Great Dreadnoughts Planned.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Formal approval was given the Administration's two-battleship programme by the House naval affairs committee today after the "small Navy" men had made their final stand against it.

The Navy Department's construction plans were changed so as to provide for six instead of eight destroyers and for additional submarines. As reported to the House, the bill carries an appropriation of \$140,200,000, exclusive of amounts to be spent for armor and armament and fixes the building programme for the coming fiscal year as follows:

Two first-class battleships of the highest speed and largest possible radius of action, to rank among the world's dreadnoughts, \$1,800,000 each, exclusive of armor and armament.

Four harbor defense submarines of smaller type, \$275,000 each, intended for use on the gulf coast and at Panama.

The bill provides that the defense submarines shall be built and maintained on the Pacific Coast, provided they can be built there as cheaply as they can be built on the Atlantic Coast and "laid down" on the Pacific Coast.

The two-battleship programme was approved, 14 to 4. Representatives Tribble (Georgia), Hensley (Missouri), Witherspoon (Mississippi), Buchanan (Illinois) voting in the negative.

SUNDAY GROCERS TARGET

Ordinance Backed by Dealers Comes Up Today Probably.

If a proposed ordinance promoted by the Retail Grocers' Association is passed by the City Commission, the closing of grocery stores in Portland on Sundays will be compulsory.

The measure, as proposed, was sent yesterday to City Commissioner Bigelow and probably will be introduced by him at the meeting of the Council this morning. The grocery men back of the plan declare that the majority of stores close and the others should be forced to do so.

Advertisement for Water Department's \$500,000.00 Meter System. Includes text: 'WATER DEPARTMENT', '\$500,000.00 METER SYSTEM', 'OH YOU'LL SOON GET USED TO IT', 'TAX PAYER'.

WOODROW'S FACE LOOKS FAMILIAR

BUT AGED DOORKEEPER FORCES MR. WILSON TO TELL NAME.

President Not Recognized by Interior Department Employee Nor by Others Passed on Street.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—President Wilson took a long, brisk walk through the snow-covered streets of the capital today. Few recognized him as he swung along rapidly through the crowds on the principal business thoroughfares.

On his route to the White House the President decided to take a short cut through the long corridor of the Interior Department. At the entrance he was confronted with a sign: "No visitors admitted after 2 P. M." When the President opened the door an aged doorkeeper stepped forward and, carefully eyeing the intruder, finally asked: "Well, what do you want?"

"I'm Mr. Woodrow Wilson," answered the President with a smile. "Well," said the doorkeeper nervously, "I thought your face looked familiar."

DISABLED BOAT IN TOW

Wireless Tells of Rescue 45 Miles Out From Cape Flattery.

TACOMA, Wash., Feb. 24.—A wireless dispatch to the weather bureau reports that the U. S. S. Snohomish has picked up the disabled schooner Cape Flattery, 45 miles southwest of Cape Flattery.

She is now proceeding with her up the Straits. SEATTLE, Wash., Feb. 24.—A wireless message from the revenue cutter Snohomish to Senior Captain F. M. Dunwoody, of the revenue cutter service, announcing the finding of the schooner of the Holden, and Captain Dunwoody believes all aboard are well.

The Holden was sighted leaking and in distress last Thursday by the British steamer Messina, which reported the schooner's plight when she arrived at Portland.

AUTOMOBILE TAX STANDS

Levy on Horsepower in California Upheld on Appeal.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 24.—Owners of automobiles in California—more than 100,000 of them—will have to pay a horsepower tax on their cars, ranging from \$5 to \$30, to the state, and drivers of machines for hire will have to pay a license fee of \$6.

They will have to start in right away, for the law to that effect will be enforced forthwith, the Supreme Court of the state today having decided that the law is constitutional in all particulars.

BUDAPEST IDLE JOIN RIOT

Shops Looted, Windows Stoned, Following Demands for Work.

BUDAPEST, Feb. 24.—Serious demonstrations by the unemployed have been held the past week, culminating in a procession of 30,000 to the Parliament House demanding that the government provide work.

Finally the demonstrators began stoning windows and looting shops. The police drew their swords and dispersed the rioters, many of whom were wounded.

BOND MONEY IS READY

Jackson County Has Cash for Road Improvement Work.

MEDFORD, Or., Feb. 24.—(Special.)—Letters received Tuesday from County Judge F. L. Touvelles state that \$469,040.19 road bond money was deposited last week in the Continental National Bank of Chicago to the credit of Jackson County, and the balance of the \$500,000 will be paid as soon as the county has redeemed \$34,000 in warrants, probably by April 1.

WALLACE'S MAN IS NAMED

John M. Boyle Appointed Marshal for Western Washington.

OREGONIAN NEW BUREAU, Washington, Feb. 24.—The President on recommendation of Hugh Wallace today nominated John M. Boyle, of Tacoma, to be Marshal for Western Washington. State Chairman Todd had recommended George E. Ryan, of Seattle, for this office.

WILSON AIDS F. W. HARRIS

Man Held in Jail for Perjury Gets Two Months Cut Off.

Frank W. Harris, serving a sentence of one year for perjury, was given his freedom yesterday from the County Jail on receipt of a telegram from Attorney-General McReynolds stating that President Wilson had commuted his sentence, to take immediate effect. Harris has served 10 months in jail.

CASH REGISTER ROBBED

Highwayman Gets Drop on Clerk in Grocery Store.

Entering the grocery store of H. W. Krapke, 1301 Clinton street, shortly after 6:30 last night, a highwayman held a gun on the clerk and after robbing the cash register of \$4, escaped.

COVE IS TO BE DRY, DECIDES GOVERNOR

Miss Hobbs Reports on Her Investigation.

ACTION BY UNION COURT ASKED

Order of Prohibition, in View of Election of 1910, Requested.

GIRL SAYS LAW IS CLEAR

Chief Executive, After Conference With Young Woman Embassy, Declares Sale of Liquor in Little Town Is Illegal.

SALEM, Or., Feb. 24.—(Special.)—Governor West today, after a conference with Miss Fern Hobbs, his private secretary, upon her return from Cove, where she went to investigate saloon conditions, wrote County Judge Henry, of Union County, requesting him to issue an order of prohibition in the town.

The Governor said he was positive that the sale of intoxicating liquor in the town was illegal and he would see that it was stopped.

Supreme Court Decision Cited.

His letter to Judge Henry was as follows: "It appears that when the local option election was held in your county in November, 1910, the municipality of Cove voted 'dry' and, in accordance with section 4929, Lord's Oregon Laws, the county Court should have issued an order of prohibition as to said precinct, but owing to its failure to do so the sale of liquor within its boundaries has been permitted to go on regardless of its having voted 'dry'.

"For your information, I wish to call your attention to the case of Baxter vs. the state, 45 Oregon, 452, in which the Supreme Court held, referring to said section 4929: "The effect of this language is that the vote in each precinct upon a vote cast for the county as a whole shall stand as an independent vote for that precinct for prohibition therein, as well as a part of the county vote on prohibition in the county as a whole."

"In view of the foregoing and with a hope of straightening out the tangle which now exists, I earnestly request that your honorable court issue the said order of prohibition as provided by law."

Miss Hobbs said that her trip was one of business strictly and that she was given the best of treatment by the officials of Union County.

"I found," declared the Portia of the Governor's office, "that in 1910 two measures were voted upon in the county that failed to carry, but under the one on county prohibition the precinct of which Cove is a part gave a majority of 10 for prohibition.

"The court made an order declaring the whole county 'wet'."

"The Law and Order League and other organizations declared the order was wrong as it applied to the Cove precinct and that it should have declared 'dry'."

"Election of 1910 Is Lost. "There has been no vote on the proposition since the election of 1910. "I found that Justice Eakin, of the Supreme Court, in the case of Baxter against the state, appealed from Coos County, held that the County Court shall issue an order of prohibition for each and every subdivision as a whole voting for prohibition, notwithstanding the county as a whole voted against prohibition.

"It seems to me that the law is clear on the point, but I don't know yet what the Governor will do."

Miss Hobbs graduated from the Willamette Law School two years ago and was admitted to the bar after standing the examination last Spring.

CHARCOAL TREE IS FREAK

Immense Red Fir Specimen Shows Growth of 109 Years.

ALBANY, Or., Feb. 24.—(Special.)—An immense red fir tree with a heart of pure charcoal was cut down last week on the farm of E. B. Wallace, about eight miles east of Albany. It is a most peculiar freak in plant life.

The tree was about six feet in diameter and in the exact center of the tree for a distance of about 15 feet upward from the ground was a body of charcoal two feet in diameter. It was perfect charcoal and as nice as any manufactured carefully. The rings outside of this center of charcoal indicated a growth of 109 years around the charcoal.

BIGGER AIR FLEET URGED

Florida Representative Would Spend \$15,000,000 on Flyers.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—A \$15,000,000 airplane fleet was proposed in a bill today by Representative L'Engle, of Florida.

He painted a picture of cities being destroyed by bombs from invading air craft and compared the foreign air fleets with that of the United States, which, he said, was composed of "112 obsolete man-killing aeroplanes."