

HIGH COST OF FUEL NOT DUE TO TRUST

Mayor Baker Receives Report of Special City Investigator Humason.

DEALERS CALLED TO MEET

Attempt Will Be Made to Get Agreement on Price to Be Charged for Wood and Coal Next Winter. City May Compete.

There is no trust, combination or secret agreement among the fuel dealers of Portland, in the opinion of Ivan Humason, special city investigator, who filed a lengthy report yesterday with Mayor Baker.

Price increases have been due to shortage of fuel. Responsibility for increases are laid by Mr. Humason to the mills of the city, as well as to the dealers.

The city, Mr. Humason reports, is short from 75,000 to 100,000 cords of cordwood as compared with the supply of a year ago.

Mayor Calls Meeting of Fuel Men. As a result of the fuel shortage and the other conditions, Mayor Baker has called a meeting of all fuel dealers for 4 o'clock tomorrow afternoon in the City Council chamber at the City Hall.

It is planned to have the city enter the fuel business unless the dealers are willing to agree on prices that will not be exorbitant during the Fall and Winter. Mr. Humason reports that he has made arrangements whereby the city can at any time step in and take the entire output of three coal mines for local sale.

Following is Mr. Humason's report: "After thorough investigation of the fuel condition of the city of Portland I beg to submit the following report: "In my opinion, there is no trust, combination or secret agreement between the fuel dealers of the city of Portland. The existing conditions were brought about by two things—the high price and scarcity of labor and the shortage of cordwood as a result thereof."

"A year or two ago cordwood could have been contracted for \$1 per cord—this season it costs \$1.50 and \$1.75 per cord. Then there were plenty of horses to haul the wood, sawmills is the term used, from the timber to the railroad. This year they report that all the large horses have been sold for the war and that the small horses left can haul only half as much, thus increasing the cost."

"I have written to all the cordwood producers whose names I could get from the different railroads, companies and while all the answers are not yet in, those that are in give the same reply—shortage of labor; production not up to ordinary."

"D. C. Zink, of the Portland Railway, Light & Power Company, who has charge of the transportation of cordwood, is probably well informed on this subject as anyone in the city and he states that, in his opinion, there is a shortage of the 75,000 to 100,000 cords of wood under the ordinary production."

"The following is an average cost of producing a cord of wood: Stumpage \$1.00 Insurance 10 Cutting 1.50 Freight 100 Swamping 1.00 Tools Total \$4.70"

"To this must be added the cost of delivery, varying from \$1 to \$1.50 per cord, also the cost of the mill. It happens that when a car arrives there are no orders for immediate delivery and the wood has to be piled in the yards and sold from there, the cost of two handlings must be added."

"This shortage of cordwood has driven many users of wood to the use of slabwood and as the result the dealers are swamped with orders for four-foot green wood, and it will be September 15 or October 1 before they are caught up with back orders."

"To cover this shortage, I have written to all of the mills within 150 miles of the city, asking for slabwood. I know that all of the mills within a certain freight rate radius of the city had contracted their product, but I hoped to get supplies from those farther away. Practically the same answer came from every mill—local demand is taking our slabwood owing to lack of other fuel."

"Our mills are turning out a product that is an excellent fuel for furnace or large stove use and, judging from the lack of demand, it is not well known. The dealers who handle it are piling cords of it in their yards every day—I refer to block wood. This is the ends cut from square timber of various sizes and is solid heart wood. It comes in 16-inch lengths. This is good wood and I advise our people to use it."

"The dealers are only from 10 to 14 days behind on 16-inch green slab and are taking orders for delivery in that time and, since the chance for getting four-foot slab is small, I advise early ordering of the 16-inch wood in its place."

"While the prices are higher than last year, they are in line with the prices charged for the mills with the increased cost of overhead expenses. The dealers are paying from 50 cents to \$1 per day more for labor and they figure that beside the added cash outlay they are losing as much in loss of efficiency. Oats have advanced from \$25 and \$28 per ton to \$30 and \$35 per ton. Hay in proportion; harness, iron work on wagons, general repairs, all cost about 50 per cent more."

"The mills have advanced prices. The mills that are the part of the blame—those dealers who are not protected by contracts have been advanced from 25 cents to 50 cents per cord by the mills within the last 30 days. One mill is charging small dealers \$2.25 per load for 16-inch green slab; it has to be hauled several miles to be delivered and then the dealer's profit is very small. I understand that

Applications for Positions Received at Our 6th and Alder Street Entrance, 8 A. M., Until Further Notice

All Charge Purchases

Today Go On the August Accounts and Are Made Payable September First



Newest Wirthmor Waists

FOUR NEW MODELS AT ONLY \$1. These new Wirthmor models are just as pretty and pleasing and winsome waists as one could wish for mid-summer wear.

What Thousands Came Yesterday! And Thousands More Will Come for This Last Day of Our Great

Month-End Cleanup Sale

It would be astonishing if they didn't come, with hundreds of such good bargains as we are giving in everyday wanted articles for the person and for the home. It's the year's greatest opportunity to save on quality merchandise of all kinds, such as

- Women's Suits, Coats, Dresses, Waists, Millinery, Gloves, Shoes, Neckwear, Veilings, Kerchiefs, Corsets, Underwear, Sweaters, Bathing Suits, Kimonos, Children's Wear, Laces, Embroideries, Trimmings, Table Linens, Blankets, Bed Spreads, Housewares, Toilet Goods, Stationery, Rugs, Draperies, Summer Goods, Etc.

In some instances, of course, lots are small—prudent shoppers will come early—but everyone will be handsomely repaid for coming to Meier & Frank's today.

LOOK FOR THE SALE CARDS—THEY POINT THE WAY TO GREAT SAVINGS

These Additional Offerings for Tuesday!

\$7.00 Silk Waists \$4.65. This season's styles in Crepe de Chine and Pussy Willow Silk. All the popular light shades in plain and striped effects.



Crepe de Chine Waists LESS THAN HALF THEIR WORTH! Just 10 dozen crepe de chine waists in white, flesh, yellow, maize, green, rose and gold.

No Approvals. No Exchanges. Try and arrange to be here early.

Mme. Coates Who Originated and Instructed the First Dept. Store School of Dressmaking in This Country.

Dressmaking and Designing AT MEIER & FRANK'S BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER

Madame Coates, the foremost authority on dressmaking and designing in this country, will come to Meier & Frank's direct from New York City to bring to Portland women the inspiration of the latest authentic modes.

Tickets for the complete course, \$1. Register now at our Notion Shop, Main Floor.

Great Sale Women's SKIRTS



A great clean-up of women's white duck, repp, pique and gabardine wash skirts in sports and dress models. The season's leading styles in plain gored, shirred top, yoke and belted models.

Voile Dresses \$4.45. 100 Summer voile dresses in plain colors, as well as a good assortment of fancy flowered and checked effects.

In Addition to the Above Sales All the Apparel Specials Listed Sunday Are Held Over for Today's Selling.

Vacationists! Send Us Your Films

We will correctly finish your films and mail them to you, one day after we receive them, to the address designated, or hold them till called for. All work carries the Meier & Frank guarantee of satisfaction.

Curtains 65c

Exactly 24 pairs of scrim curtains with trimmings, three patterns. Formerly sold from \$1.20 to \$1.60, for the last day of our clean-up sale, pair, 65c.

Portable Bath Shower \$18

Extra good quality portable bath showers—made to fit any bath tub, easily attached. Complete with curtain. Specially priced \$18.

Cushions 23c

Just 50 excellent quality cretonne cushions at this specially reduced price. Very pleasing color combinations. Good for porch chairs. Sold regularly at 39c.

Scrim, Yard 15c

A few bolts of excellent curtain scrim for rapid clearaway today at, yard, 15c.



Men's 98c BELTS

With Sterling Silver Front Buckles Today

69c

Belts of extra good quality leather with plain and fancy engraved sterling silver top buckles. All sizes. Limited quantity. ONE INITIAL ENGRAVED FREE.

50c to 65c Barrettes 25c

A big final clean-up of 125 women's barrettes in several different sizes and styles. Blonde and demi-blonde colors. These barrettes sold formerly at from 50c to 65c. Special today only 25c.

Does Sunlight Irritate Your Eyes?

Have your eyeglasses made of the celebrated Sir William Crookes glass, which eliminates the irritating ultra violet rays of light without altering color or color perception.

Any Eye Trouble?

If you have any trouble with your eyes, our registered optometrists will thoroughly examine them and will prescribe glasses, if needed, to your individual requirements. Lenses duplicated from the pieces.



\$1.75 Sphinx Alarm Clock \$1.39

A special purchase explains why we can sell them at this low figure. Metals and materials that go into the making of a clock have greatly increased in cost, hence any one requiring a good alarm clock should take advantage of this sale.

slabwood is not considered in fixing the price of lumber and that what is received from the sale of it is clear profit, so those mills who have advanced the price, or who are charging higher prices than others, are not doing their bit to help the situation.

HEALTH LECTURES ARE SET

Railroad Employees to Hear Physician Talk on Insurance Basis. Dr. Franklin C. Wells, medical director for the Equitable Life Assurance Society, has started on a tour of the Union Pacific System lines in the Northwest for the purpose of lecturing to employees on the principles of health

conservation. He is accompanied by C. G. Sutherland, assistant to the general manager of the O.-W. R. & N. Company. Recently the Union Pacific insured the lives of all its employees through the Equitable and the Equitable now is co-operating with the railroad in protecting the health and lives of the men and women. Siletz Indian Fair Announced. TOLEDO, Or., July 30.—(Special)—

The third annual Siletz Indian Fair will be held at the agency August 29, 30 and 31. A three days' programme has been arranged, consisting of livestock exhibit, farm produce, domestic arts, Indian needlework and curios, musical and literary numbers, games and racing. Prineville Man Gets License. TACOMA, Wash., July 30.—Frank Mertching, Prineville, Or., and Mrs. Elma Rushford, Orting, Wash., obtained a marriage license here today.

Meier & Frank Co. LOWER PRICE Down Stairs STORE

Some Specials for Dollar Day

- WOMEN'S WHITE SHOES Formerly sold as high as \$4. Odd lots of high shoes and Oxfords. Also children's gun-metal calf shoes. \$1
- HOUSE DRESSES, 2 FOR Women's well-made percale and gingham house dresses in light and dark patterns. In good styles. \$1
- TO \$2.50 SILK WAISTS Women's China silk waists, also a clean-up of several other kinds of silk waists. Broken lot of styles and sizes. \$1
- TURKISH TOWELS, 12 AT Regularly 10c to 12 1/2c each. Bleached and unbleached Turkish towels of a good generous size and weight. \$1
- \$2.00 JUVENILE SUITS A limited quantity of juvenile suits, black and white checks, plain blues and salt and pepper effects. Sizes 3 to 8. \$1
- TO \$1.50 MEN'S PANTS Men's khaki pants, also a cleanup of odds and ends men's dress trousers. Broken sizes. \$1
- TO \$2.49 SPORTS SUITS Women's sports suits—separate skirt and jacket. Also some wash skirts and odds and ends dress skirts. \$1
- TO \$2.98 SPORTS HATS A wonderful assortment of women's and misses' sports hats in ready-to-wear midseason styles. \$1
- \$1.50 BED PILLOWS PR. Medium sized bed pillows covered with fancy art ticking in tan and pink. \$1
- MEN'S, BOYS' SWEATERS Men's and boys' heavy sweaters in Oxford. Also a limited quantity of flannel shirts, broken lots. \$1
- COTTON BATTS, 12 FOR A limited quantity of good quality cotton batts in a fair size. Regularly 12 1/2c each. \$1
- INFANTS' COATS ONLY A small odd lot that we are closing out regardless of former selling prices. \$1
- 12 YDS. EMBROIDERIES 5000 yards of embroideries in Swiss and nainsook. Widths to 18 inches. Regularly to 20c a yard. \$1
- \$1.50 BLANKETS ONLY Wool nap and cotton blankets in full regular sizes; also single blankets, about 100 in lot. \$1
- TO \$2.49 KIMONOS FOR Japanese crepe kimonos, flannelette bathrobes, gingham and percale house dresses and breakfast sets, etc. \$1
- TUB FABRICS, 10 YDS. An immense table of yard goods, ginghams, bleached and unbleached muslins, voiles, etc., lengths, 2 to 10 yards. \$1
- \$1.50 BED SPREADS FOR Large size crochet bed spreads of a good heavy weight; are mill runs, with slight imperfections. \$1
- MIDDY BLOUSES, 3 FOR Broken lines and sizes. Misses' and women's middies in good washable materials. Reg. to 75c each. \$1
- 12 PAIRS HOISERY FOR Broken sizes and colors of women's hosiery. Mill runs and seconds of the regular 25c quality. \$1
- UNION SUITS, THREE AT Women's fine ribbed union suits with tight and extra knee. Regular and lace sizes. Second-onds of 50c grade. \$1

