

SLOVER-COFFEY COMBINE ACHIEVES ITS PURPOSE; CAPT. BAILEY IS OUSTED

When the police committee of the Executive Board met on Friday, one of the early happenings was the reading of a communication from Captain Slover, Acting Chief of Police, in which the titular head of the department said he wished to withdraw the charges he had placed against Capt. George H. Bailey, and which had caused Bailey's suspension from the department some months before.

Commissioner Coffey at once arose, when the communication had been read, and moved that the committee approve it, and that the charges be considered dropped. Thus was Captain Bailey freed of the stigma placed against him by Slover; thus was he exonerated of the charges of accepting money from fallen women, of the use of profane language while on duty, and of general conduct unbecoming to an officer.

After this matter had been settled and closed, another communication was read to the Executive Board members, this one from Capt. Bailey, in which he stated that it was his desire to resign from the police department. Commissioner Coffey again arose to his feet, and moved that the committee accept his resignation. This was done and Bailey officially ceased to be a member of the Portland Police Department, and ceased officially cleansed of the mud that had previously been hurled at him.

What a travesty on justice there occurred! What a miserable light the whole thing places the police commission in. And how sadly does it reveal the "friendship" for Capt. Bailey that Mr. Coffey has so often professed.

Capt. Bailey was accused of serious crimes. Several times a date was set for hearing of the charges made against him. Always the date was postponed, and now these charges are blithely brushed aside by a letter from the acting chief in which he says he wishes to drop the entire case. Does the proceeding reflect credit upon anybody concerned—save perhaps Bailey? Does it show sincerity on Slover's part, or does it reflect the miserable intrigue that has been rampant in the police department throughout the present administration of its affairs?

Did Slover believe the charges when he made them, or did he make them for ulterior motives? And in withdrawing them, why did he not say that he was unable to substantiate them, and so at least add a little saving grace to the proceeding?

When the charges were first preferred—when it was gossip all through the city that "somebody was going to get Bailey's goat"—Commissioner Coffey declared that he was going to stand by the captain through thick and thin. Why did Coffey change his mind? Why, after the withdrawal of the charges, did he not move that Captain Bailey be re-instated? That would have been the action of a friend, that should have been the action of any man who believed in Bailey's innocence. And if Coffey did not be-

lieve that the charges against Bailey were "framed," why did he accept the withdrawal of the attack made by Slover?

Of course, these questions are useless. Everybody familiar with the case knows that the whole fu the case knows that the whole Bailey fuss was politics from start to finish, and that the "exonerated" came as a compromise if Bailey would quit the department. But the skulduggery of the committee proceeding was necessary to save the faces of the commissioners, who had been forced by some weird power to obey the mandates from "higher up".

The case in reality has but few interpretations. If Captain Bailey was guilty of the charges made against him, and if the acting chief and Mr. Coffey thought the charges could be substantiated, both Coffey and Slover were not doing their duty when they allowed the charges to be withdrawn. If, on the other hand, Bailey was innocent, and Coffey and Slover had strong suspicions that he was innocent, they were both doing wrong in entertaining the charges and in suspending Bailey.

Either way the matter is viewed, there is no credit in it for Police Commissioner John B. Coffey or for Captain Slover, Acting Chief of Police.

HOSPITAL IGNORES CITY LAW CALLING FOR POLICE REPORT.

There is a city ordinance that requires all hospitals to report to the police all accident cases and all deaths due to violent or criminal causes. This ordinance is observed largely in the breach thereof. Just why the hospitals are not forced to make these reports seems to be a matter of considerable mystery.

Oftentimes as a result of this failure to report such matters to the police authorities, cases which should be investigated by the Coroner are allowed to drift into innocuous desuetude simply because there is nobody who can take official action upon them. More often perhaps, confusion is caused by keeping police and county records correct in such cases.

For instance, it would be interesting to learn why the death of Ida Lauren, at the Good Samaritan hospital, on September 6, was not reported to the police. There are other interesting things in connection with the death of this unfortunate woman, but it is sufficient to take up one detail at a time.

City ordinances are presumably enacted to be enforced. When they are not enforced in explicit instances, there is always a suspicion that there is something irregular going on somewhere, to put it mildly. Many mysteries which baffle police investigation, and which lead to the escape of guilty parties from the penalty which they should pay the law are caused by such simple things as the ignoring of city, county or state statutes. If everybody heeded the law this would be a much simpler world for all of us.

THREE SALOONS FOR ONE DEPOT SURPRISE WEST

Governor Finds One Point in Crusade Where Real Reform Is Possible.

Governor West seems to have discovered something after all. As with many other discoveries that the State Executive has thought he made, he put the wrong interpretation upon it at first; but after the smoke of his wordy battle with C. K. Henry cleared away, there still remained something of his discovery.

The Governor found three saloons in the Jefferson-St. depot of the Oregon Electric Railway Co. Probably if the good Governor had made careful measurements, he would have discovered that between 60 and 75 per cent of the floor space of the depot in question was given over to saloon occupancy. As it was, His Excellency discovered enough to make him righteously indignant; and now a number of quite excellent people are trying to explain the rhyme and reason of this multiplicity of booze emporiums in one small office.

Travel may be conducive to thirst, especially since a wise and benign legislature has ordained that it is sinful for a public service corporation to maintain public drinking cups in its vehicles and waiting rooms. But even at that, it seems to be overdoing it a bit to have a trio of saloons all under one roof.

There are cases on record where saloons have had two doors, one on one street and one upon another, and that at such place customers have sometimes gone unsteadily out of one door walked around the corner and plunged into the other door, thinking that a new oasis in a dry world had been found. But just think of the tangles into which a man might get in trying to make his way from the labyrinth of saloons in the Jefferson-St. depot.

One saloon to a depot ought not to be objectionable to anybody, unless to a prohibition exhorter. But two, or three, thirst-quenching parlors in one building is going it a bit strong. The matter becomes still more interesting when these three saloons are all rented by the same owner, and are supplied with their stock in trade from the same source. Considered from every angle, Governor West is probably quite right in thinking that this is perhaps a little too much.

A stranger coming to our fair city and seeing the Jefferson depot, with its nice decorations of golden signs proclaiming that good brews are to be had within might well wonder what sort of an establishment he was gazing upon. It is quite possible that he might think he was being "joshed" when, upon inquiry, he was told that the place was a depot. It might seem to him that there was a waste of space, a disregard of the fitness of things, to force a poor and innocent depot into the interstices between the various nose-paint and throat-wash headquarters.

If the good Governor wants to redeem his campaign against Portland's sinfulness from the somewhat ridiculous anti-climax that it has so far attained, it

The Man on the Corner

THE first time I met Sam Hill," said The Man on the Corner, "was several years ago when he was taking Highway Commissioner MacDonald, of Connecticut, up to Bellingham, Wash., to tell the people of that interesting community how to build good roads. There was considerable fun on the jaunt, which was being made on one of Jim Hill's trains. In those days the road was operated under the A. B. C. block-system, and every time the train would stop for orders, Sam Hill and Mr. MacDon-

starts to speak about, he is sure to wind up somewhere in the general vicinity of good roads.

"Good roads mean more to Sam Hill than good eats. He would rather go to a good roads meeting than to a banquet, and when he does go to a banquet he does all that he can to turn it into a good roads meeting. His chief delight is in laying out good roads, and there is a globe in his office that is all streaked over with marks that he made to indicate good roads that he has met or that he thinks ought to be



ald would go out on the rear platform and address the multitudes on good roads. Once they spoke to two section men and a mule, but they were so enthusiastic upon their subject that it didn't make any difference.

"Sam Hill, who in these days of seriousness, is a shining light in Independent telephone circles. The Independent phone system according to him, is but an application of the good roads idea, inasmuch as it is designed to give better communication between points than some other services. No matter what Sam Hill is doing, he always has this good roads idea down in the base of his brain, and no matter what he

might be well for him to forget his plan of setting the state's militia upon the express companies, and instead specialize upon the removal of about two of these saloons from the depot in question. To remove all three of them from the place would be asking too much, and might interfere with election returns at some future day; but nobody of real broad mind would say the Executive was going too far if he Carri-Nationed a couple of these places. One saloon could probably care for the trade that the three now divide.

Eastern papers have already printed the Governor's allegation that Portland was a sinkhole of iniquity. They have also doubtless mentioned the fact that His Excellency has found three saloons in one depot. This will aid in spreading the unfavorable impression of Portland abroad—only in this last case Governor West will not be to blame; the fault will lie with the grasping and

laid out. Good roads, according to Sam, make it easier for people to be gregarious, and he is the chief exponent of modern times on this same ideal of gregariousness.

"He has done a lot to bring good roads into the Northwest. And he is hoping to do a lot more too, before he stops, for he believes in good roads. Good roads make it easy for the farmer to bring his produce to the railways for one thing; and for family reasons. Mr. Hill has a deep interest in railroads, too. But he does so much good work for good roads that I guess we can forgive him for this same family interest."

selfish local interests that established these three traps for weak menfolk, so that the utmost toll of nickles, dimes and two-bit pieces could be gouged from the departing and arriving guests of the city who may enter our portals via the Jefferson-St. gateway.

It is not nice to think that Portland business men are assisting in the unfortunate campaign against the fair name of the city which is now being waged in certain jealous eastern communities.

TAILORS' COMBINE GIVEN CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH HERE.

After careful investigation by the detective bureau of the police department, an official clean bill of health has been given the Great Northern Tailors' Combine, of which mention has been made in these columns recently. Detective Royle went over the books and business methods of the firm,

IS COMMISSION FORM OF RULE MODERN PLAN?

Why Should Portland Return to Bureaucratic Government at This Day?

Rumblings of more or less authority come to the front from time to time to the effect that sometime in the very near future Portland voters will be asked to express their opinion in regard to the commission form of government. A number of charters have been prepared, providing this form of rule for the Rose City and the electorate will be asked to adopt at least one of these.

Why? Oregon is the home of true representative government. What is known as "the Oregon System" is the last word in placing legislation directly in the hands of the citizens. Under its varied provisions the people of Oregon can pass such laws as they desire, can nullify other statutes, can recall officers and can amend the constitution. Oregon has been proud of her governmental system, and has worked constantly to enlarge and perfect it in all its democracy.

Why, then, this movement in the chief city of the State to reverse this proceeding, and to take away from the people their councilmen, who are directly responsible to the voters? Why attempt to foist upon the free citizens of Portland a bureaucratic rule that will stifle public expression, and that will place a mere handful of men in absolute control of the public affairs?

Are there only five honest men in Portland, or seven, as the case may be, that they must be chosen to administer the public affairs? Is there going to be any greater safeguarding of the public affairs when but five or seven men run the city business than there is now when a majority of nine in the council can run the city if they will? Is it better to have a clique of three or five dictating to the people at large than it is to have a clique of nine?

Fudge and pooh-pooh. Likewise (Continued on page 4.)

and declared that a legitimate business was being carried on.

Manager Stein, in a statement issued from the offices of the firm in the Swetland building, declares that the unfortunate notoriety the firm recently received was due to the combination of a crooked solicitor and to a misunderstanding on the part of a few people as to the manner in which the firm advertised. The fact that good suits are given to prominent women in different sections of the city as an advertisement of the firm's workmanship caused the impression to prevail that the business was similar to the old-fashioned "clothing club" or to a lottery.

Investigators who have looked into the firm's affairs however, say that the Great Northern Tailors' Combine is conducting a straightforward and simple installment tailoring business. The proprietors declare they have come to Portland to stay, and add that they expect to build up a patronage by turning out only first-class work. Inquiries as to business methods will be answered at the firm's address.