

Mexico City is Horribly Battered

DEADLOCK IS OBDURATE; ALL CLAIM "DUTY"

MAYOR'S RECOMMENDATION OF
STONER FOR STREET SUPT.
IS KILLED.

FORMAL CHAT IS HAD

In Making Recommendation, Mayor
Explains His Position, and His An-
tagonists Explain Theirs—Effort to
Amend Charter by Ordinance Is
Worth-Provoking—Authorship Un-
known.

No break in the mayor-council deadlock over the appointment of city officials who take office by appointment, is visible. The test came again last night, and with the rejection of the first of two appointments there were to be presented by the mayor, the council got no further. The only possible rift that looms in the clouded horizon of municipal ship of state, is that the mayor calmly and plainly expressed his personal opinion of the deadlock, and the opposing councilmen in the same un-warlike manner expressed their positions. The mayor point blank asserted his belief that the opposition was aimed at him and not the men he was appointing, but this brought protests from both Councilman Davis and Councilman Fitzgerald who voted they said, on these matters as their minds told them would be best for the constituency. Mayor Hall intimated that he would make no further appointments, though this was not a direct statement. Only one solution now exists to get the mayor's appointees into office by term appointment and that is for a majority of the council to ask him to re-submit such names as have once been named and turned down.

Stoner Meets the Ax

The mayor last night appointed W. I. Stoner as street superintendent, explaining as he did so that he had no debts to pay, no axes to grind, but was merely appointing the man he thought best qualified. On the vote for confirmation, Davis, Halsten and Fitzgerald voted against Stoner, Wright being absent on account of sickness, and Jones, Campbell, Lincoln and Sargent voting for Stoner. It requires a majority of the council to ratify appointments. Councilman Jones pleaded for harmony over these appointments and took occasion to regret that so much publicity had been given the city's financial affairs which he said were no worse now than last year, and he expressed the belief that the efficiency of the present council was no higher than the preceding one or any lower. The situation was dismissed in a sober and fairly non-combative manner, the time that such a peaceable chat prevailed over these appointments. However, Stoner's non-confirmation classes him with Hoyt but the city needs a street superintendent right now as badly as any time. It is supposed that the mayor will continue to make recess appointments, although some of the councilmen hold he has no authority to do this. An interpretation of the misleading

charter clause on appointments was made by the mayor last night when he held that only in case of lack of ability or unqualifications could the council oppose any appointment. "I have yet to be presented with substantiated charges of incompetency against any of the men I have named for office," said he.

"No wonder people talk commission form of government," said Councilman Jones, "when we can't get together any better than we have. All can't be of the same views and someone has to give in somewhere; it would be a long job to get every councilman to agree without opportunity for any criticism, on any man. Let us get together and do something," he concluded.

FRANCHISE SENT BACK.

Judiciary Again Has Telephone Franchise Ordinance for Consideration.

Members of the judiciary committee last evening reported to the council the Eastern Oregon Co-Operative Telephone franchise ordinance as they found it suitable. It was picked to pieces after the first reading for several reasons, one being that there is no proviso to put the wires in conduits without a year's notice, and that there is no permission for the city to use its poles for fire alarm wires. Many hold that the time is near when all wires must get underground in paved streets, and they hold it unfair to the city to have its already many-poled streets added to, or to the company to put in poles now and shortly remove them. Other minor discrepancies were found. In one instance the tax feature is conflicting. The life of the franchise is for nineteen years and in order to make its gross earnings tax coincide with the home company, the ordinance provides for three, four and five per cent tax on gross income, for periods of five years respectively during the last fifteen years. In one case it says the tax shall commence in five years and in another four, in one instance it requires that the ordinance shall become effective 10 days after its publication, and in another that it shall be posted. It is apparent, however, that the new company is willing to pay a tax on the Home company basis.

After reading it the second time by title only, the measure went back to the judiciary committee for remedies.

Charter Infringed on.

Ludicrous attempts to amend the charter of the city of La Grande by passage of an ordinance, cropped out last night when a radical ordinance

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'HEADLIGHT' BILL PASSES

NOW UP TO GOVERNOR TO MAKE IT A LAW.

All Headlights on Locomotives May Soon Be Electric in Nature.

Electric headlights on all O.W. engines became one step nearer to a reality last night when the house at Salem passed by a big margin the electric headlight bill which the senate has already passed. This news was forwarded here today from lobbyists who have been close to the job since it came up. It is generally believed the governor will sign the document, and except in Portland, the effects of the law will be felt more strikingly in La Grande than anywhere else in the state on account of the number of locomotives here.

EXECUTION OF MADERO NOW DEEMED TO BE A CERTAINTY

Mexico City, Feb. 20.—Execution of ex-President Madero is predicted on all sides. Color is lent the belief by the fact that Madero and former Vice President Suarez, were not permitted to start for Vera Cruz this morning to catch an outbound steamer, as had been planned. The feeling against Madero is growing hourly. General Huerta in command of the city, has never mentioned two attempts made

on his life until after Madero's death-list was found.

Madero's family gathered at the station last night and prepared to catch a train. They had been told that Madero and Suarez would join them as soon as congress accepted the resignations. Neither of them appeared.

At midnight Pedro Pascuarin appeared and announced that Huerta had decided that neither should go to Vera Cruz. Madero's family fears execution.

City Balance Sheet Struck

CITY BALANCE SHEET IS STRUCK.

The city of La Grande has an excess of resources over its liabilities of \$16,843.27, according to a report of the appraisement committee consisting of the finance committee and Messrs. M. B. Donohue, Bernard Legadon and Jack Childs. The report was received and accepted and the committee profusely thanked. The total liabilities amount to \$391,887.64, the resources \$408,730.91. Of the liabilities, the general bonds of \$284,000 and general fund warrants outstanding of \$89,925.54 form the two chief items. The detailed report will be published over the signatures of the finance committee tomorrow.

MANY MATTERS GET ATTENTION

CITY PAYS ITS BILLS AND DOES OTHER ROUTINE WORK.

Regular Session Results in Considerable Detail Work Being Transacted.

Considerable routine business was transacted at the meeting of the city council last night.

Last month's budget of bills were reported O. K. and ordered paid.

The petition of N. K. West for special cellar stair privileges in his new building on Elm and Adams, were al-

EASILY FRIGHTENED.



—Harding in Brooklyn Eagle.

lowed with the proviso that the city stand no obligations.

The manner in which transcripts of bond issues are made under bond issue contracts, and not required in improvement bonds, was criticized by John L. Mars, in a communication that was referred for action.

The city has discovered through its finance committee that it owns an alley in lot 20, block 155, in Chapman's addition that is now fenced in and has a barn constructed on it. Improvements have been assessed to it.

Extras needed in completing the fin-

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BOTANICAL GARDENS BURNED.

English Suffragettes Carry on High Carnival of Crime, Arson.

London, Feb. 20.—The pavilion and restaurant of the famous botanical gardens around the king's palace were fired by suffragettes today and destroyed.

Lillian Lenton and Joyce Locke, were captured while trying to escape. Each carried a portmanteau containing paraphernalia for starting fires. The walls of the pavilion were soaked with kerosene and shavings and cotton were piled on the floor. "Votes for women" cards were scattered everywhere. They were committed to jail without bail.

When arraigned in the Richmond court the two girls assumed a defiant air. Miss Locke demanded her release on bail. When this was denied she threatened a hunger strike. "You cannot frighten or intimidate this court," the magistrate answered. Miss Locke seized several law books and papers and hurled them at the magistrate.

The judge escaped unhurt. Attendants seized and overpowered the girls, but they fought back fiercely. Miss Drummond, the militant leader, is jubilant over the vandalism. She said: "How perfectly lovely of them. I am proud of such women."

Consumptives Commit Suicide.

Washington, Feb. 20.—Cheating the "great white plague," Lewis Watt and wife Jennie are victims of a probable suicide pact. Both were in the last stages of tuberculosis and he bodies were found with throats cut with a razor. It is supposed that Watt killed himself and then his wife ended her misery.

American Homes Looted, Ruined.

Washington, Feb. 20.—The United States government must now adjust claims for damages in Mexico's revolution which promises to reach millions. Many Americans returning to Mexico City found their homes wrecked and looted. Wilson is investigating the claims and will report to Washington later.

M'COURT QUILTS PORTLAND JOB

WILL BECOME SPECIAL PROSECUTOR IN SEATTLE.

American Telephone & Telegraph to Be His Special Foe.

Portland, Feb. 20.—District Attorney McCourt has announced his resignation to take effect March first to become a special assistant to Attorney General Wickersham, to prosecute for the government, subsidiaries of the American Telephone & Telephone company, now being investigated by the grand jury at Seattle. Criminal action against the company is expected soon after McCourt reaches Seattle which will be tonight.

RESIDENTS AND BUSINESS PLACES RUINED

UNITED PRESS GETS A GRAPHIC ACCOUNT OF CONDITIONS THERE.

CREPE DARKENS CITY

Human Toll to Date Is Enormous, With Two Thousand Non-Combatants Among the Dead—Three Thousand Non-Combatants Says Eye Witness to the Entire War Drama in South.

BY U. P. STAFF CORRESPONDENT (Personal description, and first of its kind to get by censors, written by newspaper representative on the scene of Madero-Diaz warfare since its inception.)

Mexico City, Feb. 20.—So swift were current and startling events since Tuesday's conclusion of a ten-day conflict that not until today has the half crazed population found time to look about it and note havoc wrought. Hundreds of the beautiful homes carry gaping holes, and tottering walls can be seen on all sides. Scores of splendid public buildings and business structures were battered and marred but in the poorer districts the tragedy manifested is terrible. Hundreds of houses in this quarter are literally ruined while upon the doors of thousands of scared and crumbling dwellings, hang bands of crepe. The destruction of the city couldn't have been more complete had it been visited by an earthquake.

The total cost of human life is enormous. It is estimated 2500 soldiers and 2,000 non-combatants were killed, with about 4,000 soldiers and 3,000 non-combatants were wounded.

I was an eye witness to the opening act of the fearful war drama in Zozalo and Plaza before the national palace. On Sunday morning, Feb. 8, the news flashed over the city that a new revolution had begun and that Diaz and Reyes had been liberated. I saw both of these leaders escorted to the palace by soldiers through crowds. All were cheering. Machine guns and skirmishers were lined up on all sides but neither I nor anyone apparently had any idea of the pending crash.

I was slowly crossing the Plaza when the lines of soldiers I had so casually inspected opened fire with scattering volley. Machine guns instantly answered, sweeping the crowded street and sending a storm of bullets into the throngs of unsuspecting women and children.

Pandemonium Breaks Loose.

The first volley sent terror into the men, and the crowds scattered, everywhere women shrieking, fainting and falling to be trampled on by men. I ran with the rest from San Francisco street and saw men and women fall on every side shot down with bullets from the federal machine guns which flew high and wide in every direction except into the ranks of the rebels. Two hundred and eighty bodies were removed from the streets as a result of this first volley.

Day after day and often at night these same fearful conditions prevailed.