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Woolen Mills Celebrate

Following its usual custom of celebrating Christmas with feasting and other festivities, the Portland Woolen Mills company gave their employes a half holiday Saturday, and extended an invitation to all to bring their whole families and have a jolly time for the balance of the day. Elaborate preparation had been made this year to make the celebration excel any former demonstration, and it was conceded by all present that this result was fully attained. The lower floor of the large mill was dressed in gala attire, a huge table occupying a portion of the space and a temporary stage was also erected. The feast was announced to take place at the noon hour. The table was loaded down with good things. Cake, pies of all kinds, sandwiches, pickles, cheese, coffee, candy, nuts and other edibles that pleased the eye and tickled the palate were neatly arrayed in endless quantity, and variety, and when the noon hour arrived all were cordially invited to "fall to." It required no second invitation. The tables were soon lined with hungry people, and the way things began to disappear was truly amazing. But as soon as one platter was emptied another full one took its place, and in spite of the fact that over 500 people participated in the feast there was plenty left. The youngsters made the best showing at the table. The way some of them got away with the good things one would imagine they would not need anything more in the eating line for a week or so. Each and all had as much as they could very well find room for, and the feast was voted to be a grand success. It could not be otherwise. After the appetites had all been appeased, the management sprung a big surprise when the curtain of the stage was drawn aside and the University of Oregon Glee club was disclosed. Handsome souvenir programs with a holiday greeting from the management attached were distributed. Frank L. Test, who was master of ceremonies, and who looked after all the details in his usual hustling and beaming manner, made a happy little address, and wound up by introducing the Glee Club, which he stated would present its "whole show." The club, which was composed of about 20 members, have splendid voices, and the program throughout was a delightful treat and each number was roundly applauded. Nearly two hours were consumed in the rendition of the program, after which E. L. Thompson and John Hartog each made neat and appropriate addresses which were warmly received. Mrs. DeWitt Gillam sang a solo in a beautiful manner. Rousing cheers were given the owners, Mr. Test and the employes. The mother of Mr. Test, eighty years of age, was present and after the glee club had concluded was conducted by her son to a place of honor on the platform, and amid the rousing cheers of the assemblage he gave his mother a warm kiss of love and affection. Mrs. Test, proud in the knowledge of the high esteem in which her son is held and the kindest feelings which both the owners and employes have toward him, was the happiest person present. One and all were then given another invitation to surround the festal board, and, surprising to state, a number accepted the invitation with more or less alacrity. The balance of the afternoon was taken up in merry making and social mingling to gether. The Woolen Mill management is deserving of unstinted praise for inaugurating this annual event, which each year grows more interesting and more elaborate. The glee club was secured at a large expense, and the celebration represented the outlay of a goodly supply of money. The result, however, fully justifies the generous treatment of the management. A better and more kindly feeling is engendered in the employes, and in this institution there is no friction between capital and labor. It has ever been the custom of this company to look after the welfare of its employes to a far greater degree than at present obtains with most any other corporation. And the workmen appreciate this policy to its fullest extent. May the celebration of 1912 be on a still grander scale, may the company double its plant here, and may other industrial institutions in the city soon display the same concern for the welfare and happiness of their employes. Morning and evening services at the United Evangelical church the coming Sunday. Sunday school, at 10 a. m., preaching 11 a. m., and 7:30 p. m.—G. R. Stover, pastor.

Who Got the Goose

Somewhere and somehow, in this city of ours, a goose of goodly proportions mysteriously and surreptitiously left the home of its owner one night last week. It was a bird that was full of promise, large, fat and juicy, and Christmas was only a few short days away. Every time the owner thought of the goose he was going to have for his Christmas dinner, he snatched his lips in joyful anticipation. There is oftentimes many a slip between the cup and the lip, and this proved to be one of the times. One morning bright and early the proud possessor of the luscious bird made his usual visit to where the goose was confined, and great was his dismay when he discovered that the bird had flown. Whether it was lost, strayed or stolen, the owner had no means of knowing. Sometimes in the dark hours that followed he was inclined to the belief that his prize had just "flew the coop;" at other times he concluded that a thief had taken same in the dark of the moon. Again it darted through his mind that it might be the work of some one or two of his friends, who had taken the goose for the purpose of giving the owner a few bad moments, and that it would be returned to him hale and hearty in time to grace the center of his Christmas table. However, he instituted a vigorous search. His greatest difficulty, he found, was in not making himself acquainted with any special marks the bird might have for identification purposes. He knew it was large, plump, and a cure for the sore eyes, but farther than this he was very much in the dark. Therefore in making his search he was at quite a disadvantage, as all geese looked more or less alike to him. But he began his tour of investigation systematically. He attempted to secure a list of every person in the city having a goose, and then he made a personal call upon each and all to learn the pedigree of each goose and how it came into the possession of its present owner. He knew he would have to conclude his search at a minimum of time, because he realized that after Christmas there would be few, if any, live geese in St. Johns, and the bones would be of no benefit to him. High and High and low he hunted, even investigating a bird caged outside of a window in the upper part of an apartment house. He saw many geese that resembled his, but then he could not be sure, and the owner ever had a plausible reason for being in possession of a fat goose. Finally he was compelled to give up the search. It was of no use. As a consequence there was mourning dire and deep in the heart of the chief of police when he passed through his Christmas dinner with only visions of what might have been. Meanwhile someone somewhere in the city of St. Johns feasted, no doubt, upon the lost, strayed or stolen goose, and possibly enjoyed it the more because it cost so little. Lumber Prospects Bright With nearly all the big mills in operation in the Portland district and mills in other parts of Oregon to resume activity after January 1, the lumber prospects for the coming year are exceedingly bright. The lumber manufacturers seem to be agreed that a big year's business is in store. Better freight rates on special finished products which have just become effective will be a substantial aid to the car trade, while coastwise shipping will be much heavier than it was this year, according to Portland lumbermen. California will draw heavily upon Columbia river mills and already several large orders have been placed for early delivery at San Francisco. It is believed, also, that foreign lumber shipments will reach a big total in 1912. A deep sea fishing industry may soon be added to Oregon activities. Owners of the estate of R. D. Hume are likely to carry forward the plans left by Mr. Hume for placing in service a fleet of fishing craft on the banks of the Southern Oregon coast for taking halibut and other valuable food fish. The new railroad from Vail westward, an extension of the Oregon Short Line, will soon be an accomplished fact, as all arrangements have been made to start construction. It is expected work will be continued throughout the winter months. Hear the Willamette Four at Calé Bros. New Year's Day. It

Caused a Commotion

At almost the conclusion of the Christmas exercises at the Evangelical church Monday night an arrangement constructed to represent an airship caught fire and caused quite a commotion with very little damage being done. The church was crowded to the limit, and the exercises, which had been unusually interesting, were about to terminate with the spectacular appearance of the air ship. This was run on a pulley from one end of the church to the other, and the framework was cushioned with cotton batting, the whole resplendent with electric light bulbs of colored lights, making an ingenious and unique contrivance. Upon a basket or appendage below was seated Ruth Stover, the minister's seven-year-old daughter. The ship made its appearance in fine style, but soon tongues of flame were seen to shoot about the occupant. A portion of the audience made quick time in getting to the flames, and the little girl was at once released from her perilous position by J. E. Kilkenny before she was injured, with the exception of some very slight burns. The little lady was one of the calmest and most composed of the assemblage, and was cool as a cucumber throughout her thrilling experience. Rev. Stover was rather painfully burned on the wrist in helping to beat out the flames, which required only a few moments on the part of those who rushed to the rescue to subdue, but which might have assumed grave proportions had it not been for the prompt assistance of the spectators. The fire bell was rung, but the recall was sounded before the firemen got their apparatus to the scene. Outside of an injured carpet, a few slight burns and a few badly frightened individuals, no actual damage resulted. There was a wild rush for the door at first, but through the efforts of Geo. Hall and one or two others, those who had not made their escape through the door were gradually calmed. The fire is supposed to have been started by the heat from one of the bulbs igniting the cotton, although some claim that a bulb burst and caused the conflagration. It was an alarming climax to the celebration, yet it is fortunate that no one was seriously injured. Work to Start Soon With completion of plans for the Schwartzchild & Sulzberger plant, it is announced that work on the big packing plant on the Peninsula will be started soon after January 1. The plans were prepared by a Chicago architect and call for a plant to cost in excess of \$600,000. The North Portland plant will be similar to that which has just been completed at Oklahoma city for Sulzberger & Sons. It will be of reinforced concrete and will be equipped with the latest types of packing house machinery. The site for the proposed plant is located about 2000 feet east of the Swift packing plant. Central Oregon's opportunity is shown in a recent address of President Carl R. Gray of the Hill lines in this territory, who pointed to that section as the coming granary of the Pacific Northwest. He said five counties in the interior have four times the area of Maryland, with one thirtieth of its population, and more than one-half of Iowa with one-sixtieth its population. From this great area in the future, he believes, will come large quantities of wheat. The United States crop is decreasing and here is the chance for Central Oregon to supply this much needed commodity. Wheat exports have been cut more than half in two years, showing the American surplus to be rapidly diminishing. In President Gray's opinion, Central Oregon's future is brightest as a great wheat growing district. That the Pacific Northwest need not take second place with any other section of the country in feeding and fattening livestock is shown by the recent killing of a 2100-pound steer at the Portland stockyards that dressed 72.14 per cent. So far as shown this is the best percentage ever shown anywhere. The much boasted corn belt is surpassed. The champion steer at the recent National Livestock show in Chicago dressed 66.2 per cent. A-Ha! Look out! Right after New Year's Graves, the picture man, 502 South Jersey is going to give away cabinet photos.

Not in Jest

Editor Review: When making the suggestions last week to withdraw the suit now pending on appeal to supreme court on the annexation question, I was not jesting, but was very much in earnest. In the first place the only grounds for bringing the suit was the question of some hair splitting possible constitutional questions that might arise just before the sounding of the final trumpet. And in the second place I charge them with dilatory tactics; that they are not proceeding with the case with vigor. In the first place the suit was not started until just the last moment, and when the hearing was finally had and an adverse judgment given, they took the full count of nine before perfecting the appeal to the supreme court. We were told that the matter would be rushed along, and an effort made to get the supreme court's decision by October, or not later than November, 1911. As a matter of fact the case is not yet set for hearing in the supreme court, and in my opinion the ants are in no hurry to have it set. If the appeal was withdrawn the decision of the district judge—that the election was legal—would stand, and that would end the matter. This, if accomplished, (withdrawing appeal) is only the first and necessary step in a well directed plan that can be carried out within the near future—one year or less—that will add more to the prosperity of St. Johns than you would believe should I tell you. S. C. Cook. If Mr. Cook had brought forth his argument before the annexation case was appealed it might, perhaps, have had more weight. We believe it had never been the intention of the ants to hasten a decision in the supreme court, and, therefore, Mr. Cook's understanding or ours in this connection is at fault. The ants believe if it is a good thing to keep out of Portland for a long while, it is also a good thing for a short while; hence the delay. The district judge advised taking the matter to the supreme court. What better advice could be followed? It may be that better things would come to St. Johns through annexation at this time, but few cases are recorded in history where it has proven a success—for the smaller territory—unless it possessed no city government of its own. If the following questions could be answered satisfactorily, however, we would favor withdrawing the suit at once. They are things that should be learned to some extent at least before annexation: Would our taxes be less? Would the price of water be reduced at once, and stay reduced, and would we get the same abundance of it? Would we get a paid fire department? Would we get better car service? Would the city dock at once be occupied? Would we get better police protection? Would we have saloons on Jersey street and more of them? Would we get a road to the Swift packing plant? Would we get a public park? Would the assessed valuation of our properties be less, and if so could we sell them at a higher price? Would the high school be operated? Would we have a ward of our own in St. Johns. Would we get the same quality of gas at a reduced price? Would insurance rates be lower? Would we get more industries? If so, how? Would we get better streets? Would business be better, and why? Would the red light district be allowed to extend this far? Would we get more street lights? Would building permits cost more? Would it cost more to build an ordinary residence, under the regulations of Portland, than it now does in St. Johns? Would rent be cheaper? Would a representative from the peninsula on the city council or on a commission do as much for St. Johns as the present representative on the board of county commissioners? If these questions can be answered in an assured manner we will quickly become an ardent booster for annexation. It must be remembered that Portland has promised absolutely nothing.

The Tax Levy

Owing to the fact that the former council was rather penurious in making up its tax levy last year, a heavier tax was necessitated by the present council in making its levy Tuesday night. The skinny allowance made for it to carry on the business during the present year proved very much deficient, and as a result indebtedness to the amount of \$10,000 or more has piled up. The dads believe in cleaning this up and having enough funds to run the city government for the next year free from indebtedness. This really is the only way. It is a fact that for one reason and another the last two or three councils made the levy too low, as there was always a deficit at the end of the year. In spite of the large indebtedness this council has managed to stall off the creditors without borrowing money. The two former councils were not so successful, although no interest was exacted by the banks lending the money. While a low levy one year and a higher one the next year has practically the same result on the taxpayer, yet some might infer that the higher levy this year was occasioned by extravagance on the part of the present council. This, however, is not the case. There has been slight raises in salaries in several instances, but the aldermen believed that they were justifiable. Keeping the streets in repair has been costlier than was expected. The improvement of the streets adjoining the city hall has cost quite a little; the bell tower, adding the books, cost of several special elections, street inspection, fire apparatus, and other incidentals has taken money that was not anticipated by the former council. The levy of 6.5 mills may seem heavy to some, yet it is below the Portland levy by .3 mills, and there is something to show for our taxation. Few cities are as well lighted, have more public buildings, better police protection and more public improvement, all taking place within a few short years.

Council Proceedings

All members were present at the regular meeting of the city council Tuesday night with Mayor Couch presiding as usual. Scoutmaster D. N. Beyerlee extended an invitation for the body to attend an informal reception at the barracks of the Boy Scouts in the McChesney building later in the evening. Accepted, provided the business before the meeting was finished in time. The police department petitioned council to provide in its levy budget for raising salaries of each member of the force. A petition from the Business Men's Association and Board of Governors of the Commercial club asking that this be done was offered in connection. Socialist Perrine disapproved the appropriation, believing that there were plenty of men who would be glad to get the jobs at the same old price; that if it was a question of petitions from the public, he would like the names of the wage earners thereon as well as the business men. Other members of the council also seemed adverse to granting the petition, and on motion of Alderman Valentine, the matter was ordered filed. Bills to the amount of \$734.60 were allowed on motion of Alderman Davis; all yes. It coming to the notice of council that the contractors on Edison street side walk were not employing local men, on motion of Alderman Muck the recorder was instructed to notify the contractors to correct this irregularity; all yes. The improvement of Crawford street from Pittsburg to Tacoma and Crawford from Richmond to Salem was accepted on motion of Alderman Valentine; all yes. Attorney Esson rendered a written opinion to the effect that property may be assessed up to its full valuation where more than one improvement is involved. Until brought to light by Recorder Rice it was generally understood that no property could be assessed more than 50 per cent of its assessed valuation for public improvement. An ordinance assessing the cost of laying water pipes on Jersey street from Catlin to Richmond was passed on motion of Alderman Muck. An ordinance placing a tax levy for 1911 at six and one-half mills was passed on motion of Alderman Muck; all yes. Alderman Hill took occasion to score the previous council for making levy so light last year, thus forcing a higher mill rate at this time to take care of deficiencies. The water and light committee recommended that the arc light at the corner of Willis Boulevard and New York street be not granted at present, owing to the low state of exchequer and the fact that there are now four lights within a radius of two blocks of this point; accepted by council; all yes. The attorney was directed by the mayor to render an opinion upon advisability of drafting an ordinance making it a misdemeanor to drive on the sidewalks where unimproved streets exist. Adjournment then took place to accept the invitation of the Boy Scouts. Baby Show A baby show will be held by the Multnomah Theatre beginning on next Monday. All persons in St. Johns having babies are invited to send in their pictures to the management and be entered in the contest. Pictures must be presented not later than the middle of next week. Valuable and handsome prizes will be given the winners by popular vote. The first prize will be a beautiful child's bed and mattress worth \$15.50 given by the St. Johns Furniture Co. and which is on display at their store. The second prize will be a large doll and cart worth \$12 by Johnstone's Toggery. Third prize, child's sulky given by the St. Johns Hardware Co. Fourth prize, a chemical crying doll by the St. Johns Pharmacy. The contest promises to be a most interesting one. Get the baby's picture taken and give it a chance to win a prize. A small blaze occurred at the Congregational church during Christmas exercises Saturday night. Some tissue paper caught fire on the Christmas tree, but was extinguished before any damage was done. Good thing the Oregonian did not get hold of the item, or it would likely have had half a dozen badly injured, the audience frantic with fear, women fainting, children crushed under foot and the windows torn out in making a wild escape.

Evangelical Church

Christmas has come and gone. Everything did not work out as nicely as we had planned. We put a great deal of work into our program and decorations and thought we were rewarded until the accident happened which burned up our air ship. But then who ever heard of an air ship excursion without an accident of some kind? Next Sunday will be given over to fathers as their day. All children are invited to bring their mothers to Sunday school at 10 o'clock where a special program has been arranged in their honor. An ex-senator will give an address to the fathers and the pastor has prepared a sermon for them. "Now, what's the matter with dad? He gets up early and fights the dew of the dawn, with his bosom while many a mother is sleeping. He makes a weekly handout to the butcher, the grocer, the milkman and baker, and his little pile is badly worn before he has been home an hour. If there is a noise during the night, dad is kicked in the back and goes down stairs to find the burglar and kill him. Mother darns the socks, but dad bought the socks, in the first place, and the needles and yarn afterward. Mother does up the fruit; well dad bought it all, and jars and sugar cost like the mischief. Dad buys chickens for the Sunday dinner, carves them himself and draws the neck from the ruins after every one else is served. Dad, here's to you; you've got your faults—you may have lots of 'em—but you're all right, and we'll miss you when you're gone." Reporter. Epworth League Notes The business meeting which was to have been held at the Home of W. S. Childers on January 21 will be postponed one week, coming on January 29th. The place of meeting will be changed also. Announcement later. On December 31, a watch night meeting will be held in which the regular church services, Women's Home Missionary society and Epworth League will be represented in the order named. Services at 8 to 9 by the pastor; from 9 to 10 by the W. H. M. S.; 10 to 11 the Epworth League, and at 11 o'clock letters to the pastor will be read, which were written by the church and societies. The Christmas exercises given by the Sunday School in which some of the Leaguers assisted were a pronounced success. The church was filled to overflowing and everybody present enjoyed themselves. The officers elected last month to serve six months will serve from January 1 to July 1. This promises to be one of the best 6 months in the record of the League. Come out and help us make it so. Owing to lack of time the full program for the devotional meeting on last Sunday evening was not carried out. However a good meeting resulted under the leadership of Mrs. H. O. Brown. Come to the watchmeeting next Sunday evening, Dec. 31, come and stay through it all or part. You will be benefited by it. From 8 to 12:00. Will Hold Reception The members of the business men's association named below will hold New Year's reception at their respective places of business next Monday afternoon between the hours of 1 and 5 o'clock. Business will be dispensed with and the proprietors will devote their time to entertaining patrons and friends. Special entertainment in the way of music and other diversions will be provided. The idea is a splendid one, as it affords an opportunity for the business men and their friends to mingle together and converse upon different topics, and a feeling of better fellowship will be engendered one toward another. It is hoped next year more business men will join the movement. Following are the business concerns that will have the latch string out and who extend a hearty invitation to one and all to pay them a social visit between the hours mentioned: Calé Bros. John Nee, St. Johns Pharmacy, Johnstone's Toggery, Muck & Co., Curran Says So, St. Johns Furniture Co., 5-10-15 Store, Bonham & Currier. For Insurance see F. W. Valentine

Scout's Reception

The Boy Scouts held an informal reception at their barracks in the McChesney building Tuesday evening, under the guidance of Scoutmaster Beyerlee. Invitations were extended to those good friends of the boys had who materially assisted them in establishing their quarters. Responding to an invitation the city council and representatives of the press attended in a body, and spent a pleasant hour in watching the maneuvers and evolutions of the Scouts. That the lads have learned many things that will be useful in after life was fully demonstrated. They told how to take care of injured persons—broken limbs, severed arteries and veins and many other kinds of injuries were covered—taken at random from a long list the boys are required to thoroughly learn. They also told what was required of them as scouts of the different degrees, and gave their drill and their method of constructing quickly an improvised stretcher. An elegant lunch was served by the boys in regular camp style that was heartily enjoyed. The city dads secured plenty of evidence that the Boy Scouts is a useful and helpful organization, and that if they follow the precepts of their order as laid down for them by the Scoutmaster, their after lives will be much the better for it. The boys wish us to express their gratitude and obligations to Calé Bros. and Bonham & Currier for favors shown on this occasion, and especially to the good mothers (the boys' best friends on earth) for the delicious, juicy pies and the cakes that just melted in their mouths. And last, but not least, to Miss Alda Overstreet is due the thanks of every one present for the most fire punch. It was the best ever, was the verdict of all. The report of the fire at the residence of David Davis on Buchanan street last week was incorrect. It did not start from a defective flue, and outside of some bedding and clothing damaged by water the furniture was all saved. The damage to the building and all will not exceed \$400. The proximity to the fire station near the Catholic church, and the fact that a number of citizens were working near at hand who made quick time in getting the hose in position was responsible for the small amount of damage. How the fire started is still a mystery. Meet your friends and have a good time New Year's at Calé Bros. Perrine's Orchestra and Willamette Four.