

Portland New Age

A. D. GRIPPIN, Manager

Office, Room 317, Commonwealth Building

Entered at the postoffice at Portland, Oregon, as second-class matter.

Subscription: One Year, payable in advance, \$2.00



Our Candidate for President
JOSEPH BENSON FORAKER
Of Ohio

EDITORIAL

WATER AND LIGHT.

Notwithstanding the complaints about the water system, and the demands for its reorganization, and for better service and cheaper water, nobody proposes to turn the water system over to a private corporation, and place the city at its mercy. Such a proposition would be voted down almost unanimously. Then why do the people continue to allow a private corporation to own and operate the electric light system, giving the people an abominable service at exorbitant rates? There is just as much reason for the city owning its light system as its water system. Both elements are natural products, or at least electricity is a natural force and so is the water power, and the conversion of the electric force into light is a very simple process. The light is carried from the source of power by wire conduits; the water is carried by pipe conduits; the city should own or control the source of one as much as the other. Both light and water are of universal use; everybody must have them, and it is one of the very first duties of government to supply the people with such universal necessities, their sources or materials being furnished freely by nature, as cheaply as possible. That a great city like Portland would own and operate its own waterworks, as a matter of course, and yet make no move to also own and operate its light plant, is curious. If public ownership is a good thing in the one case, it is in the other.

That the city is grossly overcharged for the lights it uses, and that the people are overcharged also as individual consumers, could be easily shown. When one thinks that the source of power is practically free, and that transmission, once the wires are up, is almost free also, and that the expense of maintenance and operation is comparatively small, and then considers what an enormous number of customers the company has, everybody paying for its light, it can be readily perceived that the profits must be very great. And these profits ought to go back or rather be kept in the first place in the people's pockets.

It would seem that if the city gives this light and power octopus the privilege of using the streets, without which it could do no business whatever, it ought to furnish the city free lights, or at least lights at about cost. In recompense for such a vastly valuable privilege. But the city not only has to pay for its lights after having given this monopoly the use of its streets, but must pay an exorbitant price, probably 100 per cent more than could be figured as the cost and a fair profit. Not only so, but the city pays a very large sum annually for lights that it does not get at all. Sometimes a lot of them are out for a few minutes only, sometimes for hours, and this may happen during dark evenings so that people have to grope their way home as best they can—but the bill is just the same. The company doesn't know its lights are out, or doesn't care, when it makes out its bill.

The people are taxed entirely too much for light in their houses and business places, too. As we have indicated, light in a city as large as Portland ought to be very cheap. With the hundreds of thousands of lights, costing but little more than a very few, the cost per light, or per house, ought to diminish as the city grows, but as this octopus has a monopoly of course it will not reduce the price until it has to.

Under such circumstances the city ought to make a move for public own-

ership of the electric light system. Condemn the whole plant, have a court and jury determine its value, issue bonds payable in 50 years at a low rate of interest, appoint a light commission composed of citizens of high character, and so cut off one claw of this intolerable octopus that has Portland so completely in its grasp.

MORE TROUBLE BREWING.

A press dispatch this week from El Paso, Texas, says: "Negro soldiers of the Twenty-fifth Infantry stationed at Fort Bliss have threatened to raid this city and citizens are arming themselves and are ready for an outbreak. Between the Negro troops and whites saloon fights have been numerous. Four of the soldiers assaulted a white man, but were overpowered and driven back to the barracks. A notice was sent to the officers of the fort that the soldiers must be kept at the barracks if they wanted to avoid a clash. The citizens also warned the soldiers that they would find the white men of El Paso prepared to meet them any time. The guardhouse at Fort Bliss is said to be filled with fractious Negro soldiers who have had trouble with the citizens in the city, and these are threatening to revenge the alleged insults to the soldiers. Several soldiers have been beaten in saloon brawls and the officers at the fort have cut off permits for more than four Negro soldiers to be absent from the post at the same time. All must be in quarters at 7 p. m."

It is at least quite probable that behind the account is a studied and systematized plot to get the colored soldiers at El Paso into trouble, and provoke them if possible into doing something like what it was alleged some colored soldiers at Brownsville, in the same State, did, and for which they were discharged "without honor" and without a trial. It is well known that there is a rabid antipathy to the presence of colored soldiers in Texas, however well they behave, and the slightest misconduct on their part would subject them to all sorts of exaggerated and invented accusations on the part of a portion of the people of the town where they are quartered. The above story has the earmarks of a fake and a canard on its face. It is not at all probable that the soldiers have "threatened to raid the town," and the statement that one white man was assaulted by four soldiers, but were driven back, is at least unlikely. The dispatch reads all the way through as if it had been concocted not only to slander the soldiers and prejudice the public against them, but to lay a foundation for future accusations of a more serious nature. After two or three such reports have been sent out by the Negro-haters, we may expect to hear that the soldiers have "shot up" the town, and if anybody should get killed in a row down there, which happens not very infrequently, doubtless the Negro soldiers will be charged with the murder, and there will be plenty of witnesses to swear to it; and then perhaps these troops will also be incontinently discharged "without honor."

We presume these colored troops are not perfect, and that they do not always behave like a Sunday School teacher in a church, but probably they are no worse behaved, and likely much better, than many white soldiers similarly situated. Some of the latter drink more than is good for them, and get into brawls, and no long dispatches are sent out over the country about it. We don't believe these colored troops have made any such threats as are alleged, and if any of them did, that it was because of indignities inflicted upon them by people who are determined to make trouble for them and get rid of them.

PERPETUAL FRANCHISES.

Though pledged to do so, at least so far as Multnomah county members are concerned, the legislature repealed no perpetual franchises, not even the gas franchise, which it was particularly its duty to the people of Portland to do. What an absurd, unreasonable thing it is that this 50-year-old franchise, granted when Portland was a little town of 6,000 or 7,000 people, should be held sacred and binding upon the city, now and for all future time, so that a few men can make

themselves millionaires every few years at the expense of the people. Isn't it curious, wonderful, astonishing, that 175,000 people will allow themselves thus to be imposed upon, swindled, robbed, and forced to pay an exorbitant price for inferior gas year after year and decade after decade, and cannot elect anybody either to the legislature or the city council that will do anything to relieve them; but on the contrary elect men who will go back on their word and sell out to the gas company and the rest of the monopolistic corporations every time? The gas company now has a lease of its monopolistic life for two years more, at least, and even then it will have a few faithful servants among the hold-over Senators, but it would seem impossible that it can prevent the revocation of those old franchises, and that without any compensation, again. To pay them for giving up the franchise after having made millions out of it, is about as cheeky a proposition as ever was made. It is as if some one had agreed to allow another to steal from him, and this had been going on for many years, and when the victim called the bargain off he should be told that he must pay the licensed thief a large sum in recompense for giving up his privilege, and this after he had become a multi-millionaire.

Mr. H. D. Green, who died some years ago, made a large fortune, even when the town was comparatively small, out of the gas business, and we believe nobody ever heard of his doing anything for the benefit of the town; and since then other men have been getting very rich, by charging the people an extortionate price for poor gas—and the people can do nothing about it. They thought they could, and expected this legislature would repeal those old franchises, so that the city could assume some control over this monopoly, but they were mistaken in the men they sent up to Salem. It appears that it was the gas company that they were intent on serving instead of the people. And it seems to be the same with a majority of the council.

So it may be hereafter, and perpetually, perhaps, but we think the people will begin to wake up soon to the importance and necessity of being more careful about the men they elect to these positions.

MORE VICTIMS.

The street car octopus has two other victims this week, one man killed outright and a boy nearly killed. The cars had fenders, but of course they were of no use to protect these victims. They never have been of any use, and there is apparently no intention of ever making them so. What does the company care about a person run over and killed occasionally? It does care, of course, if damages can be recovered by the family or heirs, to that extent; but it takes the chances on convincing a jury, or at least one jurymen, that there was "contributory negligence," and so continues to use the worse than worthless fenders.

It is true that a person on getting off a car should not go over across the other track without looking out for an approaching car, but on the other hand a motorman on passing a car that has just stopped to let off a passenger ought to slow down and be on the lookout for just such an occurrence, for a great many people do not stop to think about the other track, and this fact ought to be taken into consideration.

In the case of the little boy the motorman may not have been to blame, but the public cannot expect that first-class or competent motormen will be employed, for it is not reasonable to suppose that many such men would work long for the starvation wages paid them. There is scarcely any occupation, not involving much responsibility and intelligence, in which a man cannot earn larger wages and be far more independent, so it would be unreasonable to expect several hundred good men to perform these exacting services and submit to humiliation and a sort of serfdom for scarcely enough to procure only the barest necessities of life.

So the company would prefer to kill and maim persons occasionally, and

incur the ill-will of the public generally, taking chances on a damage suit once in a while, rather than go to the expense of paying its men decent wages, which would amount to an increase of \$300 or so a day, and providing their cars with up-to-date and best approved fenders and other equipment. Its motto is, "The public be damned," and the public seems to agree that it deserves to be.

MR. LOSS' HARD FIGHT.

The troubles of Mr. Loss in carrying out his contract on the Drain-Cooos Bay railroad, were due in part to the fact that he was so busy with the affairs of the United Railways, and this project, of immense value to Portland and the Willamette Valley, has been harrassed and blocked or checked and injured in every possible way by the octopus that has Portland and a lot of other towns of this region in its clutches, and wants to have no rivals or opponents. It aims to control all the water power of Western Oregon, furnish all the lights, operate all the city, suburban and inter-urban railroads, and hold as great and absolute a monopoly as possible in this city and throughout the Willamette Valley. Therefore no sooner did Mr. Loss get capitalists interested in the United Railways project than this monopoly octopus "queered" the project with them, and he had to hunt up new men. It is stated now that the enterprise is fairly on its feet at last and will go ahead, in spite of everything that the octopus could do to defeat it, but even now it is not safe to let it be known just who are its backers or what their program is, lest the malign influence of the tentacled monopoly should yet be able to defeat or further delay it.

It is quite probable that when the business at Drain is all sifted out it will be found that Mr. Loss' troubles there, costing him \$60,000 of his own money, are partly traceable to this same source. This greedy and remorseless devil fish will not allow any competing enterprise to exist in this region, if it can help it, and it will crush anybody if it has the power who seeks to help develop the country and benefit its people, if thereby he interferes in the least degree with its operations and designs. The sooner Portland clips some of the claws of this omnivorous creature the easier it will be done, and if it is not done the concern will practically own or at least be in dictatorial control of the town before many years. It will elect councilmen, mayor, members of the legislature, even judges, and the people will be powerless in its greedy and blood-sucking grasp.

The Government doesn't seem to be proving much against Binger Hermann, but if it gets a fair excuse the jury may convict him on his reputation and on general principles.

State Printer Duniway put in an expensive new plant, and so it would not have been fair to put him on a flat salary at first, as the Governor well knows.

Getting a nomination is an expensive and difficult job; a poor man has to keep out of politics under this wonderful reform law of Mr. U'Ren's.

Ex-Senator Gearin has had enough of running for office against a big republican majority. But he doesn't want to be Mayor, anyway.

The Governor has been having some fun with the defunct legislature this week, and it certainly gave him plenty of opportunity.

Voters of the Fourth ward will doubtless all get a lot of free tickets to Baker's Theater this Spring.

But won't there be a scramble for Chief of Police when Chief Grizmacher quits next Summer?

Because he had to veto or approve one or two Normal school bills, the Governor was pretty mad.

Apparently Treasurer Werlein can stay there as long as he lives if he wants to.

Next Monday is the last day of this Congress—and of Senator Mulkey.

The county officers are happy; they didn't have to run this year.

And still the Mayor quotes Scripture, and thinks, d— it.

It is not likely that Mr. Devlin will have a walkover.

Universal Supply House
Delicatessen and Groceries
Home Cooking a Specialty. Try Our Home Made Pies
Phone East 5921 369 E. Burnside St., Near Union Ave.

Williams & Swank
STAPLE & FANCY GROCERIES
Fresh Fruit and Vegetables, Teas and Coffees
Telephone East 1692
232 Larabee Street PORTLAND, OREGON

EUREKA MARKET
HENRY FASHBENDER, Prop.
Choice Fresh and Cured Meats, Fish and Poultry
Phone Main 2624
Co. 14th and Glisan, Portland, Or

J. B. SIMMONS
Choice Staple and Fancy Groceries
CIGARS, TOBACCO AND CONFECTIONERY
Delivered to All Parts of the City.
463 Glisan St. Tel. Pacific 199

McGUIRE & TAYLOR
Staple and Fancy Groceries
35 Grand Avenue
Phone East 2629 PORTLAND, OR.

A. H. Willett & Co.
Wholesale and Retail

GROCERS
Special Prices to Restaurants
Prompt Delivery
Phone East 283 128 Grand Avenue
Phone Pacific 961 407 Sterns Building

HOLBROOK & LEVEEN
Tailors for Men
150 Sixth St., cor Morrison
PORTLAND OREGON

Finest Made
Adams Fire Proof Stove
Blacking. No odor.
More durable. Only
blacking made that will
remain on Air Tight
heaters.

FOR SALE BY ALL DEALERS

A THOUGHT
That the season suggests is a new Spring
8111
Is a Good Thing
to keep in mind that it pays to dress well
FOR ANY MAN
Who wants success and get value for his money will go to the CHICAGO CLOTHING COMPANY, 69-71 Third Street

Frederick A. Kribs Dealer in Washington, Idaho & Oregon
TIMBER & MINERAL LANDS
Portland, Oregon
Correspondence Solicited
328-330 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

PORTLAND FUEL COMPANY
Successors to PIONEER, C. R. DAVIS and PHOENIX FUEL CO.
PHONE EAST 26 287 E. MORRISON ST.
COAL—Rock Springs, Diamond, Richmond, Roslyn, New Castle, New Castle Nut, Franklin, Carbon Hill, Coke.
WOOD—4-Foot Fir, 4-Foot Oak, 4-Foot Ash, Sawed Oak, Sawed Fir, Sawed Ask, Sawed Knots.



O. PICK TRANSFER & STORAGE COMPANY.
Safes, Planes, Furniture moved, stored or packed for shipping. Commodious brick warehouse, with separate iron rooms, Front and Clay. Express and Baggage hauled.
Office Phone, 596; Stable, Black 1972

PASTEURIZED DAIRY COMPANY, Inc.
Pasteurized Milk, Cream, Butter, Eggs, Cottage Cheese, Cheese, Butter Milk, QUALITY ICE CREAM
Milk 4 per cent guaranteed
Phone East 5362
300 Russell Street PORTLAND, OREGON

Michigan T Company
H. CRAW, Proprietor
Phone East 2806 154 Grand Avenue

NOB HILL MARKET
A. SCHOLZ, Proprietor.
Fresh, Cured and Smoked Meats
Sausage and Poultry
Tel. Main 818 Cor. 21st and Irving Streets.

D. BREEDLOVE & SON.
GROCERS
361 East Seventh St., cor. Stephens
Phone East 768 PORTLAND, OR.

M. E. PUGH
Fancy & Staple Groceries
Phone East 440
447 Union Avenue, North
PORTLAND OREGON

WE ROAST OUR OWN COFFEE
SULLIVAN & KRUEGER
Phone Main 1898
Dealers in Staple and Fancy GROCERIES
Teas, Coffees and Spices
Sixteenth and Glisan Sts.
Free Delivery PORTLAND, ORE.

Centennial Market & Grocery
J. J. BLUM
Headquarters for
"GOOD THINGS TO EAT"
Groceries, Meats, Fish, Poultry
ALWAYS THE BEST
School Supplies, Shoes, Gloves, Notions
Phone Main 2794
522-524 N. Twenty-Fourth Street

Martin-Marks Coffee Co.
HIGH GRADE COFFEES
TEAS, ETC.
The excellence of Monte Cristo Java and Mocha Coffee stands in high favor.
252 Third Street
PORTLAND, OREGON

J. A. EASTES
Staple & Fancy Groceries
Choice Teas, Coffees & Spices
Dry Goods and Notions
ALL THE LEADING BRANDS OF FLOUR
GOODS DELIVERED PROMPTLY
432, 434, 436, Union Avenue North
Corner of Tillamook St. Phone East 660

Frederick A. Kribs Dealer in Washington, Idaho & Oregon
TIMBER & MINERAL LANDS
Portland, Oregon
Correspondence Solicited
328-330 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

PORTLAND FUEL COMPANY
Successors to PIONEER, C. R. DAVIS and PHOENIX FUEL CO.
PHONE EAST 26 287 E. MORRISON ST.
COAL—Rock Springs, Diamond, Richmond, Roslyn, New Castle, New Castle Nut, Franklin, Carbon Hill, Coke.
WOOD—4-Foot Fir, 4-Foot Oak, 4-Foot Ash, Sawed Oak, Sawed Fir, Sawed Ask, Sawed Knots.



O. PICK TRANSFER & STORAGE COMPANY.
Safes, Planes, Furniture moved, stored or packed for shipping. Commodious brick warehouse, with separate iron rooms, Front and Clay. Express and Baggage hauled.
Office Phone, 596; Stable, Black 1972