# THE PORTLAND BANKS

## Their Great Reserves—Large and Increasing Deposits.

## PORTLAND AS A PROMINENT BANKING CENTER

**The Local Clearances in October Last Were Over $4,000,000 Ahead of the Showing for August, 1893—Conservative Methods of Management.**

PORTLAND, as the commercial metropolis of the vast territory included within the states of Oregon, Washington and Idaho, has been a strong financial center since the trade from this large tributary district assumed such proportions that it would support a city of any considerable importance. Since 1880, Portland has been the clearing-house for the principal part of the Pacific Northwest, and the strong financial condition of this city has been the mainstay of the credit of this entire tributary district on many occasions of critical financial crises.

It is worthy of note that before the great panic of 1893 no thought of the financial weakness of any of the numerous Portland banks ever entered the minds of the thousands of people who for years had transacted business over the counters of these fiduciary institutions. So entire was this confidence in the stability of the local banks here that financial institutions of the city prospered and paid large regular dividends to their stockholders that were unworthy of support, and, although the number of these banks thus recklessly managed was exceedingly small, yet their failure during the height of the panic raised for the first time the question of the solidity of the other banks of the city that had always been conducted on strict business principles. This involved a few banks in the financial maelstrom of July and August, 1893, that had long enjoyed the confidence of the people. Three of the strongest of these banks that temporarily suspended soon resumed business, and they are today on a stronger footing than they were before the panic.

Of the suspended banks of the city, now in the hands of receivers, but two were financial institutions of any standing. These were the Oregon National and the Portland Savings banks. For a number of years preceding the panic of 1893, the Oregon National had been conducted by George B. Markle and a few associates. Markle was a man of great reputed wealth, who came to Portland to better his fortunes. He was a progressive man, and, like many other progressive men of enthusiastic temperaments, his sagacious business investments which at first turned out remarkably well soon merged into speculative ventures. In the stringent condition of the money market during the early part of 1893, he found himself heavily involved, and to save his credit he was compelled to draw heavily on the resources of the Oregon National bank, of which he was president. This heavy withdrawal of funds by Markle left the bank in no condition to meet the demands of its depositors during the panic which followed, and as a result this was one of the first of the Portland banks to close its doors.

The Portland Savings bank was an institution conducted on different lines from what the Oregon National had been. It was a bank of deposit for the savings of people of small means, but in addition it did a considerable commercial business and handled some very heavy deposits. Its officers were conservative business men of Portland. Conclusive evidence that its affairs were never recklessly managed is shown in the fact that its directors and officers were men who had succeeded in legitimate lines of business by the conservative methods pursued by all men who get rich slowly. Yet despite the great prestige enjoyed by this bank, it was forced into liquidation, and, although it was subsequently reopened, it again closed its doors to business on November 20 last, and its affairs are now being settled by a receiver. The one disturbing factor in the success of the Portland Savings bank was the attempt made by its management to do a commercial business with savings deposits. It is the opinion of financiers that a savings bank cannot successfully be conducted in other lines than as a trust company. A successful savings bank cannot afford to pay to depositors as high a rate of interest as it can hope to get on long-time loans on gilt-edged securities. The Portland Savings bank possibly paid too high a rate of interest on deposits, and it also incurred a risk in the large commercial loans it made which it might have avoided in loaning its money on more stable securities, and it was this mistake of its management which doubtless contributed the most to its failure.

No banks of the West were subjected to a greater drain on their resources during the panic of 1893 than those of Portland. The first heavy shrinkage in the deposits of the local banks was due to the decrease of the volume of business which the local houses had long handled. Immediately following this came the feeling of insecurity which pervaded all financial centers. It was not only the demands of the Portland depositors the banks here were compelled to meet, but they also felt compelled to respond to the calls of the vast number of interior banks for money to carry them through the panic. The credit of Portland's tributary country was the credit of the city itself, and, realizing as they did the necessity of keeping up the interior banks, many of Portland's leading financiers drew heavily from their personal resources in their efforts to lend assistance to their interior correspondents. An evidence of the support rendered the interior banks by Portland during the panic is shown in the statement that during the greatest stringency in the money markets in 1893 a single Portland bank distributed $2,000,000 to its interior correspondents, and this, too, at considerable expense to itself. That the majority of the Portland banks weathered the storm is evidence of the financial stability of the city's finances, and the following statements of the conditions of the local banks today will convince the world that the city has entirely recovered from the disastrous effects of the panic of a little more than one year ago.

### THE FIRST BANK.

**Established in Portland in 1859—Strength of the Old Institution.**

THE history of banking in Portland is the history of its commercial prominence as the leading city of the Northwest. Prior to 1859, Portland had but little need of a bank, and leather purses, old stockings, and concealed places of deposit received the surplus earnings of a people who bartered and traded on the site where the pretentious city now stands. All bills were paid in either gold dust or coin, and every man was his self-constituted banker. Every stage from the interior had its treasury box for coin and bullion, and the shipments of gold to San Francisco were regularly made by every steamer that left this point.

In 1852 Messrs. William S. Ladd and C. E. Tilton started a business at Portland under the firm name of Ladd & Tilton. This partnership was dissolved in 1855 when the junior member of the firm, Mr. Tilton, returned to his home in the East. Three years later, however, Mr. Tilton again came to Portland, and the old partnership of Ladd & Tilton was renewed for the purpose of establishing a banking-house at this point. The bank of Ladd & Tilton was opened in June, 1859, with a capital of $50,000. The location of the first bank headquarters was at 73 Front, where it remained for a period of 10 years. In 1869 it was removed to its present location, corner First and Stark streets. The original capital of the bank was doubled in 1861, and a few years later it was still further increased by the strengthening of its resources through the addition of its unpaid dividends. The bank today has a capital of $250,000, and a surplus of $1,000,000, and it is one of the strongest financial institutions of the West.

In 1880 Mr. Tilton retired from the firm, and his place was filled by William M. Ladd, eldest son of the senior member. The old firm name was still retained, however. Mr. W. S. Ladd died two years ago, and since his death the active manager of the bank has been his son, W. M. Ladd. Associated with this gentleman in the management of the bank however are his two brothers, C. E. and J. W. Ladd.

The second bank in Portland was the First National, which today enjoys a standing second to no bank of the coast. The First National was organized in May, 1866. Its first quarters were in the old rooms over Ladd & Tilton's first location, at 73 Front street. It was organized with a capital of $100,000. Its first officers were L. M. Starr president, and James Steel cashier. In August, 1869, Henry Failing and Henry W. Corbett were elected to the respective officers of president and vice-president. These two able financiers are still at the head of this strong institution. In 1882 the bank removed to the rooms now occupied by the Merchants National bank, but in 1883 it removed to its present commodious building, on the corner of First and Washington streets, where it has since transacted its business. The First National bank building is a handsome three-story stone structure, and it cost originally $80,000. This bank today has a paid-up capital of $500,000, and a surplus and undivided profits of over $600,000.

The next bank started in Portland was the Bank of British Columbia, which was first established here in 1866, the same year that the First National was opened. This is a London corporation, formed in 1862. It now has branches at San Francisco, Portland, Tacoma and Seattle in the United States, and at Victoria, Vancouver, New Westminster, Nanaimo, Kamloops and Nelson in British Columbia. Its capital is $3,000,000, and its reserve fund and undivided profits amount to $1,500,000 more. In 1882 this bank erected its present building at the intersection of Front and Ankeny streets, at a cost of $85,000. The present local manager of the Bank of British Columbia is J. W. Curtis.

It is significant that the first three banks established in Portland have always enjoyed a standing that has never allowed the public to question their solidity. During the panic of 1893 the banks of Ladd & Tilton, the Bank of British Columbia and the First National bank not only carried their own customers, but they rendered valuable aid to other local banks and to the banks of the interior, and with their strong local connections it would have been possible at any time for these institutions to have paid out every dollar of deposits due their depositors without suffering the least depreciation of their resources.

*BANK, LADD & TILTON, PORTLAND.*

### FIRST FOREIGN CAPITAL.

**The Large Amounts of Money Loaned on Oregon Properties.**

IN 1873 the influx of foreign capital marked a new era in Portland banking. In that year the Oregon & Washington Trust Company was formed in Scotland with a capital of $250,000. This company immediately began business in Portland, and during the following few years it made loans aggregating thousands of dollars on farm properties principally in the Willamette valley. In 1875 the capital of the company was increased to $500,000, and in 1878 it was further increased to $1,000,000. By the introduction of this outside capital Portland's prestige as a moneyed center was greatly increased. While this company afterward retired from business here, this was the beginning of a movement of large amounts of outside capital to Portland, which now finds profitable investment here and throughout the state, and it also led to the establishment of a number of banks which have since grown to be strong financial institutions.

The next banks to open their doors for business in Portland were the Oregon & Washington Savings, organized in 1878; the Portland Savings, first started in 1880; and the Metropolitan Savings and the Willamette Savings, the two latter of which were organized in 1882 and 1883 respectively. The Bank of British North America had established a branch in Portland in 1878, but soon after that time the local branch was discontinued. In 1882 the London & San Francisco bank, limited, established a branch at Portland. This bank is today under the management of Mr. W. Mackintosh, and it is one of the strong banks of the city. In 1886 the Merchants National bank succeeded to the business of the Willamette Savings bank. The officers of the Merchants National when it first commenced business were James Steel president, and I. A. Macrum cashier. The present officers of the bank are J. Loewenberg president, and H. F. McElroy cashier. In 1887 the Metropolitan Savings bank was merged into the Oregon National bank, with Van B. DeLashmutt as president, and D. F. Sherman cashier. The capital stock of the bank at the time of its organization was $200,000. Mr. DeLashmutt was succeeded as president a number of years ago by George B. Markle, and it was under the management of the latter gentleman that the bank was forced to suspend in 1893. It was subsequently reopened for a short time, but again it was unable to meet the demands of depositors and it finally retired from business for good. Its affairs are now in charge of Receiver W. W. Catlin. In 1884 the Portland National bank was organized with a capital of $100,000. The first president of the bank was William Reid, and the first cashier was William Lowe. These officers were afterward succeeded by Hon. W. S. Mason as president, and J. O. Bingham cashier. Although the affairs of this bank have always been in a good condition, its solvency never having been questioned, it recently wound up its business and has now retired from the Portland field.

The Ainsworth National was organized in 1885 with a capital of $100,000. It has been under the management of L. L. Hawkins as president, and J. P. Marshall as cashier, from the time it first opened its doors to do business here.

One of the great banks of the city is the Commercial National. This bank was organized in 1886. Its first president was D. P. Thompson, who also acted as manager, and its first cashier was R. L. Durham. At the time of its organization the capital stock of the bank was $100,000, but this was afterward increased to $250,000. In 1892 Mr. Thompson resigned from the management of the bank, and Mr. Durham was made vice-president and manager, and Edward Cookingham cashier. This bank temporarily closed its doors to business in 1892. Realizing the excellent condition of the bank's affairs, however, on February last Wells, Fargo & Co. secured the controlling interest and reopened the bank with the capital stock increased to $500,000. The present officers are John J. Valentine president, R. L. Durham vice-president and manager, Edward Cookingham cashier, and R. M. Dooly assistant cashier.

A strong Portland bank today is the United States National, organized in 1890 with a capital of $250,000. The officers of this bank are Donald Macleay president, Tyler Woodward vice-president, and Frank C. Miller cashier.

Among the strong banking-houses added to Portland during the past few years no one occupies a more prominent position than the Security Savings & Trust Company. This bank was organized February 21, 1890, with a capital stock of $250,000. Its officers are H. W. Corbett president, C. H. Lewis vice-president, C. F. Adams secretary, and A. L. Mills treasurer. It has always been conservatively managed, and, with the great wealth of its leading stockholders and principal officers, it enjoys the entire confidence of the Portland people.

Among the other financial institutions of the city is the Portland Trust Company, which was incorporated in 1887. The present capital stock is $336,700. The first officers of the company were Captain Noyes president, and Benj. I. Cohen secretary. Mr. Cohen afterward succeeded to the presidency, and E. J. Altstock was made secretary. This company does a general banking business, paying special attention to its savings deposits. In addition to general banking, the company acts as general financial agent, and it has built up a large business in this line.

The Northwest Loan & Trust Company was organized in Portland in 1887 with a capital of $150,000. This was afterward increased to $250,000. The officers of this institution were George B. Markle, president; J. L. Hartman, treasurer; and W. G. Dillingham, secretary. This institution suspended during the panic, and its affairs are now rapidly being wound up. In 1892 the Hibernia Savings bank was organized. The officers of the bank are Andrew C. Smith, president; and J. T. Barron, secretary and cashier. It has a capital of $50,000. In 1893 the Building & Loan Savings bank was organized with a capital of $50,000. O. W. Miller is president of this institution, and L. D. McArdle cashier. A small bank that did business for a time in Portland was the Union Banking Company, organized in 1892 with a capital of $100,000. Its officers were H. A. Hogue, president; and W. V. Spencer, cashier. This bank suspended during the panic, and it is now in the hands of a receiver.

There are four banks located on the east side of the river. These banks are not members of the Portland clearing-house. They are conservatively managed, and their affairs are in excellent condition. The Citizens' bank on the East Side has a capital of $100,000. Its officers are J. H. Lambert, president; and A. W. Lambert, cashier. The other East Side banks are the First National of East Portland, with a capital of $100,000, and a surplus and undivided profits of $50,000. Its officers are Richard Williams, president; and B. H. Bowman, cashier. The Commercial and Savings bank has a capital of $50,000, and its officers are John Myers, president; and F. C. Austin, cashier. The Bank of Albina has a capital of $50,000, and its officers are Van B. DeLashmutt, president; and J. M. Pittenger, cashier.

The banks of Portland doing business on July 1 last made the following statement of their condition during that month to the Pacific Banker and Investor, from whose July number this tabulated statement is taken.

| | Capital. | Surplus and Undivided Profits. |
|---|---|---|
| Ainsworth National | $ 100,000 | $ 110,810 |
| Bank of Albina | 50,000 | ..... |
| Bank of British Columbia | 3,000,000 | 1,400,000 |
| Building and Loan Savings | 50,000 | ..... |
| Citizens' Bank | 100,000 | ..... |
| Commercial National | 250,000 | 90,675 |
| Commercial and Savings | 50,000 | ..... |
| First National | 500,000 | 613,525 |
| First National of East Portland | 100,000 | 23,166 |
| Hibernia Savings | 50,000 | ..... |
| Ladd & Tilton | 250,000 | ..... |
| London & San Francisco | 1,000,000 | ..... |
| Merchants National | 500,000 | ..... |
| Portland Savings | 200,000 | ..... |
| Portland Trust Company | 336,700 | ..... |
| Security Savings & Trust Company | 250,000 | ..... |
| United States National | 250,000 | ..... |
| Total | $8,706,000 | $4,071,980 |

### THE PORTLAND CLEARING-HOUSE.

**An Organization of Great Value to Business Interests.**

In 1889 the local bankers formed the Portland clearing-house with the special view of facilitating the successful handling of balances and transfers between the different local banks. The original banks represented in the clearing-house were the Ainsworth National, Bank of British Columbia, Commercial National, First National, Ladd & Tilton, London & San Francisco, Merchants National, Northwest Loan & Trust Company, Oregon National and Portland Savings. Since that time the clearing-house has been increased by the addition of the United States National and the Security Savings & Trust Company. Mr. J. L. Hartman has been the manager of the Portland clearing-house since its first organization. Its successive presidents have been W. Mackintosh, G. E. Withington, R. L. Durham, W. M. Ladd, George Good and Charles E. Ladd, while its vice-presidents in the order given have been G. E. Withington, R. L. Durham, W. M. Ladd, George Good and D. F. Sherman. The office of secretary has been successively filled by D. E. Sherman, H. C. Stratton, G. W. Hazen and E. Cookingham.

The Portland clearing-house furnishes an accurate index of the business of Portland from the time it was first organized up to the close of 1894. The low ebb in Portland's banking was reached in August, 1893, during which month the clearances amounted to $2,730,459 29, and the balances to $652,529 17. The rapidity with which a normal condition in the financial affairs of the city was again reached may be appreciated from the statement that in October of that year the clearances at the local clearing-house amounted to $5,678,514 85, and the balances to $1,236,120 54. In the early part of the present year the clearances and the balances again dropped off a little, but the general improvement of business during 1894 may be noted by a study of the report of the clearing-house published below. It will be noticed that the clearances in October last amounted to nearly $7,000,000, more than $1,250,000 in excess of what they were in the corresponding month of 1893.

*FIRST NATIONAL BANK, PORTLAND.*

| | Clearances. | Balances. |
|---|---|---|
| January, 1894 | $2,941,500 45 | $ 737,701 98 |
| February, 1894 | 3,418,912 29 | 764,989 36 |
| March, 1894 | 3,926,611 55 | 989,692 05 |
| April, 1894 | 4,838,091 03 | 1,192,897 97 |
| May, 1894 | 5,680,815 56 | 652,599 39 |
| June, 1894 | 3,398,984 15 | 760,560 33 |
| July, 1894 | 3,921,542 50 | 886,750 80 |
| August, 1894 | 4,369,295 10 | 1,121,758 82 |
| September, 1894 | 4,642,679 87 | 1,157,880 91 |
| October, 1894 | 6,961,987 53 | 1,211,716 30 |
| November, 1894 | 5,970,633 50 | 1,109,903 93 |
| December, (est'd.) | 5,600,000 00 | 1,000,000 00 |

The volume of business handled by the national banks of Portland and the solidity of these banks are shown by their condition as published in the table on this page. In addition to the national banks of Portland, the following private banking institutions make the following respective showings of their deposits. It may be explained in this connection that the affairs of the private banks are not open to inspection, and the estimates of their deposits are made in round numbers. These estimates, however, have been verified from sources that are known to be reliable, and the public can depend on the general accuracy of the amounts of money on deposit accredited to each of the following named local banks:

| | |
|---|---|
| Ladd & Tilton | $1,500,000 |
| Bank of British Columbia | 800,000 |
| Bank of Albina | 60,000 |
| Citizens' Bank | 75,000 |
| Commercial and Savings | 75,000 |
| Hibernia Savings | 60,000 |
| London & San Francisco | 600,000 |
| Portland Savings | 1,000,000 |
| Portland Trust Company | 50,000 |
| Security Savings & Trust Co. | 1,000,000 |

In the present article there has been no attempt to disguise in any way the true conditions which existed here during the height of the panic of 1893. In the trouble of that year, however, it must be remembered that whatever trouble was felt in banking circles was precipitated largely by the insolvency of a number of banks that have not since resumed business, banks that were comparatively new in this field, and that had not been conducted in the same conservative lines in which the more solid banks had long been run. All the solid banks of the city weathered the storm safely, and evidence of Portland's stability is shown by the fact that, although Portland from the position of this city as the leading financial center was subjected to greater drains from the interior bankers during the panic than any place in the Northwest, yet the large banks here successfully met the calls of these outside correspondents in addition to paying every dollar demanded by frantic depositors. Portland at the time of the panic was the only city in the Northwest which did a considerable clearing-house business for the interior banks, and, while the business of these interior banks during periods of normal business conditions is a profitable one, yet in times of great stringency in the money market, like the panic of 1893, the magnitude this business has attained forms a danger which no banks but those of the great resources of Portland's leading financial institutions could have hoped to meet successfully. It is probable that the period of liquidation is happily at an end in Portland, as it is in the other solid communities of the United States, and there is no more ground for apprehension of the safety of her banks in the future than existed during any time in that long period when Portland's trade was being rapidly extended in all directions, a growth that finally resulted in earning for this city the distinction of being the commercial metropolis of the Pacific Northwest, and one of the greatest business and financial centers of the West.

CONDITION OF THE NATIONAL BANKS OF PORTLAND, OREGON, AT CLOSE OF BUSINESS, OCTOBER 2, 1894.

| RESOURCES. | First National. | Commercial National. | Merchants National. | United States National. | Ainsworth National. | First Nat'l E. Portland | Totals. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Loans and discounts | $1,811,268 27 | $1,337,110 96 | $738,533 65 | $437,246 71 | $339,686 64 | $155,789 17 | $4,819,635 |
| United States bonds | 960,000 00 | 20,000 00 | 50,000 00 | 50,000 00 | 25,000 00 | 25,000 00 | 1,130,000 |
| Other stocks and bonds | 351,248 80 | 45,833 33 | 95,445 24 | 700 00 | ..... | ..... | 493,227 |
| Premium on bonds | 75,000 00 | 34,979 86 | 32,615 79 | ..... | 6,673 35 | 17,157 50 | 167,426 |
| Real estate, furniture and fixtures | 20,000 00 | 2,250 00 | 2,250 00 | 4,000 00 | 1,125 00 | 1,125 00 | 30,750 |
| Redemption fund, United States treasurer | 37,500 00 | 2,529 22 | 762 50 | 2,250 00 | 416 42 | 416 42 | 44,874 |
| Due from other reserve agents | 272,709 38 | 48,408 02 | 95,542 33 | 112,778 36 | 24,541 86 | 8,184 42 | 562,164 |
| Cash on hand | 712,304 06 | 392,516 46 | 68,648 00 | 165,148 55 | 71,880 26 | 11,654 70 | 1,422,152 |
| Total | $4,874,202 54 | $3,701,578 04 | $1,017,217 81 | $781,027 03 | $490,613 10 | $222,185 20 | $9,127,228 |
| LIABILITIES. | | | | | | | |
| Capital stock paid in | $500,000 00 | $500,000 00 | $500,000 00 | $250,000 00 | $100,000 00 | $100,000 00 | $1,950,000 |
| Surplus and profits, less expenses and taxes paid | 610,377 59 | 160,130 13 | 69,372 30 | 26,521 17 | 107,138 91 | 24,536 25 | 998,076 |
| Dividends unpaid | ..... | 45,000 00 | ..... | ..... | 2,500 00 | ..... | 47,500 |
| Circulation | 31,470 00 | ..... | 45,000 00 | 45,000 00 | 25,000 00 | 19,470 00 | 165,940 |
| Deposits and bank balances | 3,732,544 95 | 3,106,447 91 | 422,845 51 | 460,505 86 | 248,459 19 | 78,188 95 | 8,049,392 |
| Total | $4,874,202 54 | $3,701,578 04 | $1,017,217 81 | $781,027 03 | $490,613 10 | $222,185 20 | $9,127,228 |

### THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL.

**One of the Foremost Banking Institutions of the Northwest.**

The United States National bank opened for business in 1891, and from the time of its organization it has enjoyed generous public recognition and substantial growth.

The capital stock of this bank is $250,000, and is held principally by Portland people. Thoroughly good connections have been established by the management of this bank throughout the Northwest, and its out-of-town business is handled with expedition and economy. The total resources of the United States National bank are now in excess of $750,000, and, for the short period of its existence, this bank affords an interesting example of the possibilities of well-managed institutions.

The board of directors of this bank is composed of well-known men of sterling integrity, business experience and sound judgment. These qualities, combined with their large wealth, have placed this bank in the front ranks in financial circles. The character and safety of the immediate management of the bank is best stated in giving the names of its officers, namely, Donald Macleay, president; Tyler Woodward, first vice-president; Jacob Kamm, second vice-president; and F. C. Miller, cashier.

In the first half of 1893 the management of this institution, thinking there might be a serious financial disturbance in the course of the year, made preparations to meet the possible emergency, and when the crisis came the United States National bank was ready to pay every obligation in gold coin.

Strict justice and a rigid performance of contracts are the foundation stones upon which the bank is founded and will build. It is a strong bank in the hands of strong men, and will be a part of the future growth and strength of Portland.

### THE MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK.

**One of the Strong and Well Managed Institutions of the City.**

The Merchants National bank came into existence in 1886, it being an outgrowth of the Willamette Savings bank. Its first president was James Steel, and its cashier at that time was I. A. Macrum.

These gentlemen have since retired, and the affairs of the bank are now under the able management of J. Loewenberg, president, and H. F. McElroy, cashier.

The capital stock of this institution is $500,000, and its finances are in a confidently healthy condition, enabling its promoters to transact a volume of business second to no other bank of its capital on the coast.

The officers of the Merchants National bank are men of true worth, of strong executive ability and unquestionable integrity, and by their influence they have succeeded in gaining throughout the adjoining states a staff of correspondents exceptionally valuable to them, and which also add much to the importance of Portland as a financial center.

The Merchants National bank transacts a general banking business, issues foreign and domestic exchange and telegraphic transfers on all the principal cities of the world. It holds among its depositors some of the leading mercantile houses of the city.

### ITS CAPITAL AND SURPLUS.

**The Portland Trust Company of Oregon.**

This well-known corporation has a capital and surplus of upward of $350,000.

It receives savings deposits and issues interest-bearing certificates. It conducts a general trust and agency business, acts as trustee in bond and mortgage transactions, and cares for the estates of decedents, minors and nonresidents.

It also has a large renting business, paying taxes and attending to repairs at rates whose moderation is attractive to property-owners.

It is loan agent for a number of strong insurance companies, savings banks, and for numerous private capitalists throughout the country, its mortgages being regarded as most attractive investments.

### THE AINSWORTH NATIONAL BANK.

**One of the Old Established Portland Banks.**

The Ainsworth National is one of the oldest banks in the city, and it enjoys a large clientele of the best banking business of the Northwest. It has a capital stock of $100,000, and a surplus of $100,000. Its officers are gentlemen of established reputation, and they are well known to the people of this and adjoining states.

The officers are as follows: L. L. Hawkins, president; J. P. Marshall, cashier. Connected with this bank is the oldest safe deposit department in the city, and among its patrons are the leading citizens of Portland.

### BANK OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

By reason of its prosperous branches in the many states of the Pacific slope, the Bank of British Columbia stands today pre-eminently one of the strong banking institutions of Portland.

It occupies magnificent quarters in the very heart of the city's influential and jobbing districts.

The capital stock of this bank is $3,000,000, and it has a reserve fund of $1,375,000, a fund that is steadily on the increase.

The branch houses are located in San Francisco, Tacoma and Seattle in the United States, and Victoria, Vancouver, New Westminster, Nanaimo, Kamloops and Nelson in British Columbia, and it has correspondents in all the leading commercial centers.

The manager of the Portland institution is J. W. Curtis.

## HISTORIC ORO FINO.

**Once Abandoned to the Chinese, Now Reclaimed by the Whites.**

Since the discovery of gold in old Oro Fino in the early 60's, placer mining has been carried on in a crude way up to the present time, says the Pierce City correspondent of the Lewiston Tribune. First by white men with the pick and shovel, sluice box and rocker they worked Oro Fino, Cannal and Rhodes creeks a few years, they thinking these streams were the extent of the diggings. After the discovery of gold in Florence and Boise Basin a large proportion of the old miners sold their claims to Chinamen and struck out for the new camp.

Chinamen have had possession of this camp for 25 years, and at one time there was estimated to be over 1000 of them at work. They discovered new pay gravel around the old diggings, also rich gulches 20 miles distant in different directions from Oro Fino creek, besides working off from the hillsides thousands of acres of placer ground.

The town of Pierce had five China stores, butcher shops, gambling-houses, opium joints, joss-house and everything for the make-up of a Chinese empire. There are now in camp about 100 Chinese.

Within the last three years white men again entered the old camp and the past season has shown considerable activity. New discoveries have been made and new enterprises in the way of bedrock flumes have been put in. Six of these have been completed this season.

There is no doubt but that the quartz mines of this camp will produce as much if not more gold than the placers have, which has been millions.

We have an abundance of timber and water, and a good wagon road to the mines. Three sawmills were brought into camp last season.

The altitude of the district is from 2500 to 4000 feet, and the climate is favorable for work the year round.

There are now in the old town of Pierce stores, hotels, etc., owned and run by white men, and next year this country promises to develop into a very busy and prosperous camp.

With the completion of the Palouse branch of the Northern Pacific railway to Lewiston, Pierce City mining district will be greatly benefited in the way of freighting, as a large quantity of machinery and supplies is needed in the development of the mines. The most practicable and desirable route for freighters is the old Pierce City road, from Lewiston, it being comparatively a natural roadway, and the freight rates are cheaper by this route than any other.

*AINSWORTH NATIONAL BANK, PORTLAND.*

### Whalebone-Cutting.

California is soon to try an industry that has hitherto been confined in this country to New York city—that of whalebone-cutting. While much of the world's supply of whalebone is landed in San Francisco from the whaling ships, it has hitherto all been sent to New York and London to be cut for use.

# FUNDS OF THE CITY

**HOW THE MONEY FOR RUNNING THE CITY GOVERNMENT IS HANDLED.**

**An Article That Is of Interest to All Taxpayers of Portland—Economy Practiced.**

THE taxpayer, however small his assessment, has the right to ask at any time just how the money regularly collected in taxes for the support of the city government is spent. It is the apathy of the people who pay the taxes regarding the manner in which public officials are allowed to handle public funds that is often responsible for the outgrowth of grave abuses in the management of municipal affairs, and the city is always the best governed where the citizens interest themselves directly in the direction and control of municipal affairs.

The responsibility for caring for the city's funds properly rests with the city treasurer. All moneys collected on assessments, licenses, etc., are turned over to the city treasurer, who disburses these funds only on warrants drawn by the proper official, as provided for in the charter of the city. All the moneys in the custody of the city treasurer are apportioned among certain funds, each of which is provided for a specific purpose.

GENERAL FUND.

The most important of the city funds is the general fund, which is kept up principally from moneys derived from the regular annual tax levy on taxable property within the control of the municipal government. This levy in 1894 amounted to 1 and 9-10 mills. From this fund the salaries of the mayor, councilmen and other city officials are paid. The streetcleaning, sprinkling and lamp funds are kept up by drawing on the general fund from time to time, and all emergency claims, including repairs to bridges, sewers, etc., are paid out of this fund.

POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The police and fire department funds are kept up by special tax levies. The levy for the maintenance of the fire department during 1894 was 2 and 5-10 mills, and that for the police department was 1 and 6-10 mills. The fire and police commissions have charge of the funds for running their respective departments. These commissions approve all claims presented on account of their respective departments. These claims, bearing the indorsements of the commissions, are then presented to the city council and warrants for their payment are drawn in the same manner as warrants are drawn on the other funds of the city.

STREET IMPROVEMENT FUND.

When a petition to improve any street in the city is signed by the required number of taxpayers and presented to the city council, an ordinance is passed by that body which authorizes the contemplated improvement to be made. The city surveyor is then directed to make an estimate of the proposed work and to specify all details connected with its prosecution. On these estimates bids are called for by the street commission, and the contract is awarded to the lowest responsible bidder. From the estimate made by the surveyor, or from the bid of the contractor the auditor declares an assessment upon the property benefited by the improvement. This assessment is advertised in the official paper of the city, and the treasurer is directed to collect the money called for by the assessment. This assessment serves as a lien on the property it is made against until it is paid.

The street extension and the sewer fund are each raised in the same manner as the street-improvement fund. In the case of the street-extension fund, however, warrants for the expenditure are not drawn until the entire assessment has been paid. The sealing, weights and measures fund was created by an ordinance of the city council. It derives its only revenue from fees collected by the sealer of weights and measures. This officer receives his salary by warrant drawn upon this fund.

EAST SIDE WATER EXPENSE FUND.

Into the East Side water expense fund are paid all the receipts from water rent collected from patrons of the East Side water plant. Warrants for the entire expense of operating this plant are paid by the city treasurer from this fund. The East Portland water fund was created by the old East Portland city council previous to consolidation. This fund was started from the proceeds of the sale of the East Portland water bonds. All the expenses of construction connected with the East Portland water plant were paid out of this fund.

The expense of constructing the boulevards on the Albina peninsula was paid out of the Albina boulevard fund, which was created from the proceeds of the bonds sold by the common council of Albina.

OTHER FUNDS.

The water-bond interest fund is kept up by the city water committee, which makes semi-annual payments to meet the interest on the water bonds as this interest falls due.

The bonded-indebtedness interest fund derives its revenue from a levy on all the taxable property of the city. The levy for 1894 was 1 and 5-10 mills. The interest on the entire indebtedness of Portland, except the water bonds, is paid out of this fund. A large number of interest coupons are payable in the East, and money for this purpose has to be forwarded by the city treasurer in ample time to insure its reaching the place of designated payment before the day that the interest falls due.

In addition to the foregoing funds, the city treasurer is also the custodian of the money belonging to the new city hall commission, and he is required to keep a separate set of books for this fund. The claims against this fund are not referred to the council, but to the city hall commission, who order warrants drawn. These warrants are signed by the chairman, and are attested by its clerk. This fund was created from the proceeds of the sale of the city hall bonds. With the exception of the city hall fund, all claims against the funds of the city are presented to the council, which refers them to the proper committee. After being passed on by the committee they are again brought to the attention of the council for final action. When action of the council is favorable a warrant is drawn in favor of the party presenting the claim. This warrant is first signed by the mayor, and afterward attested by the auditor before it is ready for payment.

The books of the treasurer's office are always open to public inspection. Mr. Frank Hacheney is the present efficient incumbent of this office, and his deputy is Mr. Edward Werlein. The funds of the city under the control of Mr. Hacheney and his assistant have been handled at all times to the best possible advantage, and it was through the personal efforts of Mr. Hacheney that the city was saved considerable annoyance during 1893.

### Temper of Knives.

Pocket-knife blades are very unevenly tempered. Even in so-called standard cutlery, some blades are hard and some are soft. For the latter there is no remedy, but the temper of hard ones can easily be drawn slightly. Take a kitchen poker and heat it red-hot. Have the blade that is to be drawn bright, and hold it on the poker for a moment. When the color runs down to violet blue, stick the blade in a piece of tallow or beef suet until cold.