

ENGINEER SCHUYLER

A LETTER FROM HIM ABOUT THE RESERVOIRS.

His Reply to Strictures on His Work Delivered Through the Committee of One Hundred.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Jan. 2.—(To the Editor.)—I am in receipt of The Oregonian of December 31, containing a report of a meeting of the "Committee of One Hundred," at which the condition of reservoir No. 2 was the subject of discussion, and I take grateful notice of the kindness and delicacy with which that august body of self-constituted judges roasts and carves and serves me up for breakfast.

There must always be a scape-goat for every public disaster, and as the French say "the absent are always wrong," therefore, as I am away and my shoulders are broad the Committee of One Hundred takes occasion to pile upon me pell-mell. That is all right, and if there are any others outside of that committee who have any responsibility which they would saddle on any one else, I would suggest that the reservoir is an excellent occasion to unload upon the absent one.

The report of Mr. Teal, chairman of the committee on commissions, is a fair one, and is evidently intended to do no injustice to any one. It gives a very accurate account of the conditions surrounding the construction of the work, and on the candid statement of facts therein presented I am willing to be judged, as the facts exonerate me from all blame in the case. It would be about as reasonable to hold me responsible for the great flood as to blame me for the appearance of a slide after the work was done and the reservoir finished, for, as the committee reports, "the slopes on either side remained unpropped during all of last winter, and showed no signs of either movement or sliding." The report is a fair one, but the discussion of it was full of untrue and unkind assertions, that cannot be substantiated, and I wish to enter a most vigorous protest against any such treatment.

The location of reservoirs 3 and 4 was made long before I came to Portland to take charge of the work, and, therefore, I had nothing to do with their choosing, and had only to make the best of what was furnished me. I at once recognized the difficulties of the situation, but as it was evident that there were no other sites available in the city at the proper elevation, I accepted the conditions as I found them, and planned the work to meet every contingency as it appeared. I have never had any doubt about being able to make reservoirs in that such that would be safe, stable and entirely successful, and have always said it was only a question of expense, but, as the cost was already in excess of the estimates at the time the first crack appeared (due to retaining walls and increased length of dam, not originally contemplated), I limited the buttress, which I erected to counteract the movement, to the points where the movement manifested itself. Had I continued this buttress along the whole length of the west side of the reservoir, it would, in all probability, have prevented the cracks which subsequently appeared, but it would have cost \$15,000 or \$20,000 to do it, and as there was no apparent necessity for it, I was not justified in doing this extra work. I did not want to throw away any money that could possibly be saved, and considered that it would be prudent to await the effect of the buttress already put in before spending any more money. I rather think I deserve commendation for this conservative action, instead of blame for not having spent more money on what might have been unnecessary.

TO EXAMINE PLUMBERS.

Seven Applicants Appear and Answer Questions.

The board of examiners appointed by ordinance to pass upon the qualifications of plumbers, and to grant certificates to those properly qualified, held a meeting for the examination of applicants yesterday, at the office of the chief inspector. The board consists of Inspector of Plumbing and Drainage E. J. Floyd; August Donnerberg, master plumber; William Pullman, journeyman plumber, and the committee on health and police, Messrs. Burnside, Monks and Jones. The ordinance provides that they shall examine all applicants to ascertain their qualifications, theoretical and practical, to construct and supervise plumbing work, and shall issue a certificate to each applicant passing a satisfactory examination. The certificate granted shows that the owner has passed a satisfactory examination before the board and has duly registered, and is thereby entitled to do plumbing within the city of Portland, upon presenting the required license. There are about 40 persons engaged in plumbing in the city. Seven of these were examined by the board yesterday. A chart having drawings of all kinds of defective plumbing was displayed to the applicants, and they were required to point out what was wrong in each case and tell how it should be remedied. The seven who were examined passed the ordeal creditably, and were granted certificates. Whether all the others will do so remains to be seen, and the board is anxious for them to come to the front at the office of the chief inspector for examination as soon as possible. It is well for plumbers to remember this: No examination, no certificate, and that is the end of it.

President Cleveland and Secretary Tamm are both fond of doughnuts. They like them best when cooked with Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder.

PERSONAL MENTION.

Mr. James Quinn, a pioneer and wealthy rancher of Quinn's, is in the city, accompanied by his wife.

Mr. E. R. Dufur, a prominent attorney of The Dalles, is in the city, on his way to Salem to attend the supreme court.

Judge D. J. Switzer and Mr. W. B. Eldred, attorneys of St. Helena's, and prominent citizens of Columbia county, are at the St. Charles.

Mr. William Winters, a cloak manufacturer of New York, who has been in this city for several weeks, left for home last night. It is his intention to dispose of his business interests in the East, and return here to reside permanently.

Mr. A. P. Patterson, a wealthy stockman of Ogden, Utah, who is interested in the Astoria railroad project, is at the Esmond. He will leave for Astoria this morning, accompanied by Mr. W. H. Wadsworth, of that city, to be gone several days.

Mr. F. H. Lamb, assistant superintendent of the Western Union Telegraph Company for the Pacific coast, arrived yesterday from San Francisco. He will have tonight for Puget sound. Mr. Lamb was for many years a resident of Portland.

Messrs. M. H. Flint and H. Lewis, post-office inspectors, who have been making an inspection of the offices in the North-west, were in the city yesterday, and left for Astoria last night. They have about completed their tour and will return to San Francisco soon.

Mr. J. G. Day, the contractor for the completion of the Cascade locks, is in the city. He says there are between three and four feet of snow at the locks, and all operations are suspended for the present; the water is going off, and he hopes to be able to resume work in a short time.

BANKER IS PENITENT

INSURANCE SWINDLER BROUGHT BACK FROM IOWA.

He Tells a Circumstantial Story of His Wanderings, but Will Not Talk of His Crime.

A sadly penitent man is Richard R. Banker, the carpet-cleaner, who, with the assistance of his wife, Lydia Banker, defrauded the A. O. U. W. out of \$200, then fled the country, only to be apprehended and brought to Astoria yesterday. Banker returned to Portland from Sioux City, Ia., in custody of Detective Joe Day, on the delayed O. R. & N. train, which arrived at 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon, and is now confined at the central police station. The crime for which Banker has been arrested, briefly stated, is as follows: In the early part of July, 1892, he, in company with A. L. and Harry Hunter, was on a raft near Pennoyer's mill, engaged in fishing, when he fell into the water and was presumably drowned. He was a member of Hope Lodge No. 1, A. O. U. W., having joined the order a few months previous, and, after his supposed drowning, the Hunters furnished the required proof of death. Mrs. Banker made a demand for the \$200 insurance money due her as the widow of Banker, and, after a time, this amount was paid her, although with considerable misgiving concerning the actual death of Banker. The grand officers of the order laid the matter before Chief of Police Minto, who immediately set to work on the case, which resulted in the discovery that Banker was alive and his capture at Sioux City.

PHYSICIANS MUST ANSWER

The Law Requiring Births, Deaths and Burials to Be Reported.

Chief of Police Minto is earnestly at work enforcing the city ordinance requiring the reports of all deaths, burials and births to be made to him. Numerous arrests of physicians, midwives and undertakers have been made, and every violation of the law will now be prosecuted, and the offenders punished. All the physicians and undertakers have been duly notified of the ordinance, and its strict observance is now expected. Dr. A. C. Smith was yesterday, Mrs. M. Prasil, a French midwife, living on Madison street, was defendant. She failed to report the birth of a child. The woman gave an excuse that she had filled out the required blank demanded by law, but on account of the bad weather, could not go to the station and file it. She was discharged, with a warning against further violation of the ordinance. Dr. A. C. Smith was also in court to explain why he had failed to report the death of Frank Venni, a patient at St. Vincent's hospital, who died December 1. He stated that he had signed a report at the hospital, and supposed that Superintendent McBride, of the poor farm, who buried the body, would file the certificate as required. While admitting he was legally guilty, Dr. Smith thought that he was morally innocent, but the court had nothing left to do but impose the lowest fine, \$10, which was paid.

Health Officer Goodman, yesterday, also arrested Dr. W. E. Maxwell and Dr. Holt Wilson, for failing to report cases of birth, and today they will have their day in court. Other physicians are said to be also delinquent in the observance of the ordinance, and, as rapidly as cases are reported against them, they will be arrested.

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ARION HALL, WED., JAN. 9TH

Benefit of St. Patrick's Church. Overture—"The Wives"—Orchestra "My Uncle's Will"—A comedietta in one act—Florence Margold—Miss Charlotte Tittell—Charles Cashmore—Mr. Wallace Munroe—Mr. Barker—Mr. Harry Brown—Vocal selection—Miss Laura Stanton—Baritone solo—Mr. J. Adrian Epping—Miss Minnie Tittell—Vocal solo—Mrs. A. Kelly—Webber Mandolin Club—Professor Webber, leader—"Ruth's Romance"—A summer evening's sketch—Ruth Carey—Miss Essie Tittell—Jack Dudley—Mr. Dewitt Clinton—Captain Wilton—Mr. Harry Brown—Admission, 50 cents; 2:15 sharp.

WE LEAD THE FOLLOWERS

This is the 18th year that our Annual Clearance Sale has set the standard of merchandising in this community.

The corset field is full today—overcrowded in fact—except in one room—that is the room for improvement.

ROYAL WORCESTER CORSETS are the only tenants that room has had this ten years.

The "old-timers" are just where they were in 1885—they take the waist measure and give the same style corset to plump and slender, tall and short women.

ROYAL WORCESTERS offer some sixty styles. We fit them.

Every woman sees the advantages. We are sole agents—and are now doing the biggest daily corset business we ever did. Clearance reductions now on every Corset.

KID GLOVES—Alexander make, clearance special at 85c a pair.

OLDS & KING

DAIRY-MADE SOAP—A High-Class Toilet Soap, and Clearance Special at 20c a Box

17th ANNUAL CLEARANCE SALE

- 100-Piece Decorated Dinner Set.....\$3.00
117-Piece White Combination Dinner Set.....7.50
40-Piece Decorated Tea Set.....2.40
35-Piece Decorated Chamber Set, assorted colors.....4.50
12-Piece Decorated Chamber Sets, assorted colors.....4.50
ROGER BROS. 187 PLATED WARE—
Tea Spoons, assorted patterns.....\$2.25 doz.
Table spoons, assorted patterns.....4.50 doz.
Tapered Forks, assorted patterns.....4.50 doz.
12 Plated Knives.....3.25
Rich Cut Glass and Brice-Brac Ware. Household novelties of later designs and all useful. Granite ironware, tinware, woodware. Lamps of all kinds and patterns.

All Our Goods Will Be Sold at Clearance Sale Prices During the 30 Days' Sale.

OLDS & SUMMERS, 189 AND 191 FIRST STREET

town and gave the alarm. I believed he had been drowned and so stated when I testified to his death." Hunter was in the municipal court yesterday afternoon to answer to a charge of obtaining money under false pretense, but waived examination. He furnished a \$300 bond, with Ham Ellison, Benjamin Patton and his brother, Richard Hunter, as sureties. His son Harry is out on \$200 bail on a charge of perjury, and the elder Hunter, charged with the same crime, also furnished a similar bond.

EAST SIDE AFFAIRS.

Working for Street Extensions—Preparing for a Fruit Exhibit.

Councilman Menefee, of the 10th ward, who has been working on the extension of Williams avenue to East First, and East First street to the Burnside bridge, stated yesterday that the extensions will probably not succeed, as far as East First street is concerned. It was contemplated to erect an elevated roadway over the switching grounds of the Southern Pacific, on East First street, from the high bank near the lower depot to the Burnside bridge. The Southern Pacific objects to this, and would use means to defeat the extension on East First street, as it would require the erection of an iron elevated roadway to the Burnside bridge. A wooden structure would be in constant danger from fire from constantly passing locomotives. Besides, the cost of an iron roadway, being about \$50,000, precludes its erection. Mr. Menefee will continue his efforts to get Williams avenue extended, and will substitute East Second for East First street.

Meets With Opposition.

The extension and opening of Union avenue from Highland to the northern boundary lines of the city is not going through without a considerable opposition. At the extreme north end of Union avenue the highway passes through the grounds of William Love for a distance of about half a mile, and the ground to be appropriated for the street is wooded and pasture. Mr. Love objects to the street being extended through his ground, and has already filed his protest against the extension. He is joined in his opposition by several others. Whether the opposition is strong enough to defeat the measure is not known, but a determined effort will be made to get it through this time.

Investiture of Chiefs.

The chiefs of Winona tribe, No. 12, Improved Order of Red Men, were invested with their respective offices last night at Red Men's hall, on Grand avenue and East Pine streets, Fred Kennedy being installing officer. The following officers were installed: Joseph Jones, sachem; J. A. Penny, senior sagamore; L. H. Wells, junior sagamore; D. C. Southworth, prophet; H. H. Newhall, keeper of records; E. J. Lamphire, keeper of wampum. The interesting ceremonies of investiture were witnessed by quite a number of invited guests. The close of the hall was cleared, and the remainder of the evening was pleasantly spent in a social dance.

What wedding breakfast is complete without dainties into which Dr. Price's Baking Powder enters?

Multnomah Fruitgrowers.

The Multnomah fruitgrowers will hold a mass meeting Saturday afternoon, in the Ross hall, for the purpose of discussing means and measures for getting together a fruit exhibit before the American Pomological Society, in Portland. Chauncey Ball, a prominent fruitgrower of Mount Tabor, is energetically working up an interest in this direction, and hopes there will be a creditable exhibit from Mount Tabor. The meeting will be open to all fruitgrowers in the county, and all are requested to be prepared to make a suggestion for the exhibit which it is proposed to get together.

Water Costs Money.

The East Side city water works is using considerable water from the Albina water works, in order to keep up the pressure so that all the consumers may be supplied. The pressure at Sunnyside has been quite high. This is especially so during the city between \$200 and \$250 per month. Overplus from the Bull Run supply would more than supply the entire East Side.

Fined at Last.

A warrant was sworn out against Fred Hinckle in Justice Bullock's court several months ago, for causing a disturbance in the Salvation Army barracks, but it was not served until recently, for the reason Hinckle kept well under cover. Saturday night he was found and placed

ALL-ROUND REDUCTIONS OF PRICES IN EVERY DEPARTMENT

Annual Clearance Sale

RUBBERS—All styles Shoes or Boots. Our clearance reductions make them all cheap.

LADIES' WATERPROOF SHOES—Clearance brings our Calf down to \$2.10. Clearance brings our kangaroo down to \$2.50. Very stylish and English and sensible for wear this weather. Take a "shine" like a man's.

MORE SLIPPERS on the 95c table. The counter displays of DRESS GOODS at 60c, 95c and \$1.23 a yard center every bargain-seeker's interest.

An exceedingly handsome department trim exhibits a line of FANCY SILKS that clearance brings down to \$1.05 a yard—the best we ever knew for the price.

Our LADIES' UNION SUITS—a clearance special at \$1.15 a suit. Reduced from \$2.90.

SPECIAL SALE

\$47,500 WORTH OF MEN'S SUITS AND TROUSERS AT COST OF MATERIALS

Men's Clothing

These are neither shoddy goods nor antiquated styles, but are fashionable cloths and cuts, thoroughly well made—up to date in every respect

MEIER & FRANK CO

A HAPPY STATE OF AFFAIRS

Just as Happy for Our Patrons as It Was For France and the French....

WHEN NAPOLEON CROSSED THE ALPS.

You Want Something And We Have It...

You Want Numbers of the HANDSOME NAPOLEONIC ALBUM

Napoleon... From Corsica To St. Helena

There are only a few of them left, and they are going fast. Are you short any of the parts? Come and get them before it is too late. Bring or send one first-page heading clipped from The Oregonian, and 10 cents, and we can get supply you with any missing number.

Do you want complete sets? If so, bring or send one first-page heading clipped from The Oregonian, and \$1.60, and you can get the entire series—one to sixteen.

Please Remember These parts and sets are rapidly going, and if you want them come now to The Oregonian coupon department. Single numbers—One heading and 10 cents. Complete sets—One heading and \$1.60.

Foolish Woman!

You can't spare the time to measure your Pearline? Well, that helps us, but it's lucky for you that an overdose of Pearline does no harm. It's only extravagance. Beware of a dose of the imitations. You can get just as good work with enough Pearline as with too much. Use it as it ought to be used, and don't waste it, and you can't think that it's expensive. To get the best results from Pearline, use it just as directed. You'll save more of everything than with anything else. If your grocer sends you an imitation, return it, please.

The Multi-Hume Election Contest.

In the election contest case of W. T. Muir vs. W. T. Hume, for the office of district attorney, a motion in the interest of Hume that Muir make his complaint more definite and certain was yesterday submitted to Judge Hurd, without argument. Muir, by this motion, is asked to give the names, residences and occupations of all persons who he claims to be the number of nearly 1000 voted illegally at the June election. Muir maintains that, as sufficient grounds to prosecute his action, a bill of particulars setting forth items and people in a general way is all that should be required of him. Judge Hurd has the matter under advisement.

Keen Sam Did Not Steal the Dog.

A case against Keen Sam, a Chinese convicted in a justice's court of stealing a dog, was dismissed by Judge Stephens yesterday, and bail money of \$25 ordered returned. Keen Sam was not satisfied with his conviction by the justice and appealed the case to Judge Hurd. The appeal was on motion of the district attorney, who doubtless considered the matter had gone far enough.

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