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## OLDS & KING

### LARGER POSTOFFICE

Chamber of Commerce Says It Is Greatly Needed.

### CUSTOM-HOUSE FIGHT ABANDONED

Too Late to Select a New Site, Though the Present One Is Open to Serious Objection.

The Chamber of Commerce has abandoned its effort to have the new custom-house enlarged, and is now directing its energies to bring about enlargement of the postoffice. If this plan succeeds, the United States courts and their officers will stay where they are, and there will be plenty of room in the new building for the officers who otherwise would be crowded out. Sol Hirsch, J. Thorburn Ross and M. Zan, composing the committee to which the custom-house subject was referred last fall, made their final report to the trustees of the Chamber of Commerce yesterday morning. The report follows:

The site selected by the government for this building is an undesirable one. It is remote from the business center of the city, and at a considerable distance from any business. It is in a low-lying district, subject to overflow by backwater from the Columbia in June freshets, and in the judgment of your committee should never have been chosen for so important a structure.

But the work of construction is now well advanced; the walls are up; the structure is ready for the roof, and it is conceded that it is too late now to abandon this site and select another. There has been criticism also of the plan of the building, on the ground that it would not afford accommodation for all the departments of the service assigned to it. Many of the rooms will be small and the rooms will be too few.

To remedy these deficiencies, it has been proposed to change the plan of the building. Enlargement of the ground plan was at first proposed, but the work of construction has gone so far that this had to be abandoned some time since as inadvisable. The latest suggestion is that another story be added to it.

As an alternative, which seems to us every way preferable, we suggest that the present postoffice building on Morrison street, between Fifth and Sixth streets, be enlarged, and that the new building, now ready for the roof, be completed according to the original plans. Enlargement of the postoffice building is certainly practicable. There is ample space on the ground, and the postal service is greatly in need of the additional room. The United States courts, with clerks, marshals and attorneys of office, now in the building, may then remain, and in the new building, where the room will be sufficient for the accommodation of these officials, together with those of the other numerous branches of the service, buildings of the inside plans, which will cost little or nothing additional, will give excellent results.

If this course be adopted, the United States courts and their military and naval departments, where they are, and the postoffice will be provided with the additional room that is becoming indispensable to its work, while accommodation will be had in the new postoffice building of the customs and internal revenue, for the engineer corps and the various military offices, for the engineers of steam inspection, for the surveyors-general and for the master service as the United States may require.

Instead of another story for the new building, we therefore earnestly recommend extension or enlargement of the postoffice building, the site of which is the very best in the city. We think the United States courts should remain where they are, since their removal to the new building would be a great inconvenience to them, to the public and to the bar, as set forth in the resolutions passed by the State Bar Association, herewith enclosed.

Finally, we desire to repeat our statement that enlargement of the postoffice building seems to us an indispensable need.

The committee made as part of its report the resolutions protesting against the removal of the United States courts, recently adopted by the State Bar Association. They follow:

Whereas, It is generally understood that upon the completion of the new custom-house now being erected in the northern part of this city it is designed to remove to that building the United States courts, now located in the postoffice building; therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the unanimous desire of this association that the United States courts be retained in the building where they are now located. That the present location is convenient and easily accessible for attorneys and all those having business thereat. That they are now located in the business center of the city, and are in close proximity with and convenient to the state and other courts of this city, and their removal to the locality contemplated would occasion delay, annoyance and confusion to those presiding before them. That their removal to the new building would place them at the extreme end of the city from all other courts, in an inconvenient and inaccessible section, of the usual line of transit, and distant from the offices and resorts of attorneys. That their relocation in the present building will give needed room for other federal offices in the new construction. And it is further resolved, That our senators and representatives in congress be requested to see that no action be taken by congress to remove the federal courts from their present location.

The trustees adopted the report of the Hirsch committee and ordered that copies of it and the resolution of the bar association be mailed to the Oregon delegation in congress, with the request that they give the matter their best attention.

### CELEBRATED THEIR NEW YEAR

All Chinatown Was Given Over to Festivities.

All the Chinese residents of Portland took a day off yesterday and celebrated the beginning of their new year. Chinese stores and laundries were closed, and most of the Chinese restaurants and "hop dens" were open only to Celestial custom. Fireworks figured in most of the festivities, and a continual popping and cracking of

squibs and bombs has been going on ever since Monday evening. The celebration will continue for several days. Fruit vendors did a thriving business in Chinatown last evening. Wagons were lined up along the curbing on Second street, and large quantities of sour oranges and overripe bananas found their way into Chinese hands.

"When are you going to burn the devil," was asked a laundryman last night. "No burn devil, ain't no devil," came the reply. "Likes white man, nallee hoise shoe over door."

### HELD UP A TICKET AGENT.

Jefferson-Street Station Relieved of a Small Sum.

George H. Pettenger, night ticket agent and janitor for the Southern Pacific Company, was held up last night at the station, foot of Jefferson street. The highwaymen involved were the usual long and short men. They wore black masks, slouch hats and dark clothes. The amount of the plunder is between \$5 and \$10. The affair happened about 9:40, when Pettenger was making his customary rounds of the depot with the night lantern. As he was quietly walking along he was suddenly confronted by two masked men, each of whom had a pistol leveled at him. One of the men ordered him to hold up his hands. Thinking it might be a joke, he refused to do so. The robbers then used such persuasive language that there was no doubt as to their intentions, and Pettenger's hands pointed heavenward like two church spires.

After making a hasty search of their man, the highwaymen took him into the ticket office and ordered him to open the cash drawer. At this he began to remonstrate, but the long and short men informed him that they would send him to a place where it was much warmer, unless he complied with their demands. The custom of the office is to carry over night just about enough money for change, and the amount in the drawer at the time of the robbery was under \$10. The robbers put in a sack, and, telling Pettenger they expected him to remain in the office for five minutes, departed.

Mr. Pettenger is an elderly man, and as he was probably much frightened at the time, cannot give a very good description of the men. He says they are both remarkably slender people, and the taller of the two is not more than average height, while the smaller is nearly a half-head shorter. The place of the robbery is a very isolated one, while it is also exceedingly dark, and no amount of yelling could be expected to bring aid.

### OIL STORAGE ORDINANCES.

Council Committees Will Meet to Consider Them.

At the last meeting of the common council two ordinances were introduced having in view the object of regulating the storage of coal oil and other inflammable oils in this city, the cause of this being the fire at the Standard Oil Company's establishment on the East Side, which was burning at the time. One ordinance, introduced by Hanson, provides for a graduated scale of licenses, increasing with the amount of such oils stored, and being so large for large amounts as to be practically prohibitive against the storing of any great quantity of oil in the city. The other, introduced by Harris, proposes to provide against danger from large quantities of oil by requiring strong walls to be built around the tanks and warehouses where the oils are stored.

In some way one of these ordinances was referred to the committee on health and police and the other to the license committee.

It has been arranged for these committees to meet together to consider the ordinances, and this conference will be held today, and it is expected that the Standard Oil Company will be represented at the meeting. No one has any idea which, if either, of the ordinances will be recommended for passage.

A permit for making repairs was taken out by the Standard Oil Company yesterday, from which it would appear that they have decided to rebuild their warehouse in any event. The question is a grave matter, which the committee and council will probably consider and act upon without fear or favor.

### OBSTRUCTIONS TO TRAVEL.

Probable Improvement of Russell and Vaughn Streets.

A great part of Russell street has been improved by widening, but there is a break of one block in this improvement, which spoils the street. There is a demand for the improvement of this block, and a brickmaker in that vicinity has offered to give \$100 toward the cost of it, by the improvement. Other property-owners on the block are not so desirous of the improvement, but will probably consent to it. The matter was discussed by a number of councilmen yesterday, and it was intimated that Jameson had here was an opportunity for him to benefit his constituents. He was told that it is not a good thing to be the cause of an improved street to be broken by leaving one block unimproved.

Vaughn street has long been opened for its entire length, with the exception of two blocks, and the greater part of it improved, but it has not become a traveled thoroughfare on account of the obstruction of the two blocks unopened. Mayor Storey has been looking into the matter, and has ascertained that the property-owners of these two blocks are willing that they shall be opened and improved with macadam, and he has requested Councilman Harris to have a petition for this improvement circulated. The council will have the improvement made as soon as possible, and when it is completed Vaughn street will be an improved street from Nineteenth to Twenty-second, a distance of about 15 ordinary blocks, and will then become a well-traveled thoroughfare.

## Lipman, Volter & Co.

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## OUR GREAT SALE

TODAY IS A GOOD DAY

TO MAKE YOUR PURCHASES AND AVOID THE FINAL RUSH

### SOLDIER DEAD RETURNED

BODIES OF FIFTEEN OREGON BOYS IN SAN FRANCISCO.

They Came Over on the City of Peking—Arrangements for Bringing Them to Portland.

Authentic information reached Portland yesterday that 15 of the soldier dead brought to San Francisco recently from the Philippines on the City of Peking, were the bodies of Oregon boys. This is the first official report of this fact, although the transport reached San Francisco January 25. The government officials are said to hold the remains subject to the order of parents or friends, but neither would ever be able to know their dead arrived, without standing constantly at the dock in San Francisco. There has never been any information given out as to how parents should get to secure possession of their sons, and hence in a few instances have applications been made at the quartermaster department of the Presidio. Governor Geer, General Sumner and other officials of the state or regiment have not been furnished any thing definite as to time of arrival or manner in which Oregon parents should proceed.

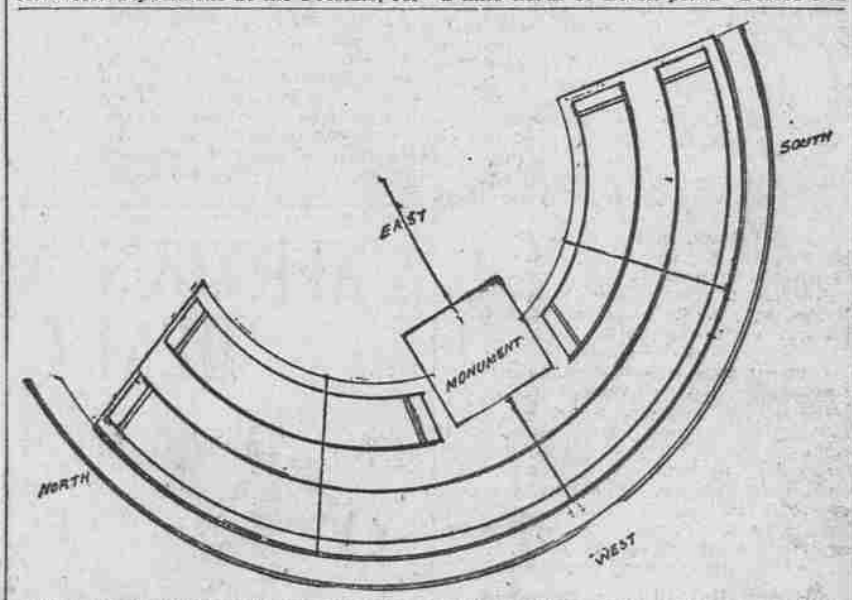
A copy of a San Francisco paper, dated January 28, arrived in Portland, and from it it was seen that a part of the dead brought over by the Peking were Oregon men. General Sumner, at once telegraphed to the quartermaster department at the Presidio, for

partments. Corresponding with parents would require two or three weeks, at the outside.

When the fact became known yesterday of the arrival in San Francisco, General Sumner, who commands the state organization of veterans, began laboring to ascertain what could be done. Realizing that it was hopeless to communicate with all the parents before the remains would be shipped to the state or interred at the Presidio, he asks, through The Oregonian, for each family of the 15 dead now in San Francisco to notify him immediately, by postal card or otherwise, if they are willing to have the remains of their soldier dead buried in the common cemetery for volunteers. In the meantime the date when the government intends to ship the remains from San Francisco will be learned, and plans for the reception and final services may be perfected. The plot in Riverview which the volunteers wanted is on the highest part of the inclosure, next to the western line, and commands the entire cemetery. If it is secured and parents consent to the remains of their sons being buried there, a small monument is to be erected in the center of the semicircle, the design being a life-size statue of a volunteer in field uniform. Immediately back of the statue is to be a large dais, for the display of the national colors on patriotic occasions.

The account of the landing of the remains in San Francisco indicates that there is a lack of system and method in the work of returning remains to this country. The following appears in the Chronicle, January 28:

"For six hours yesterday steam hoists and two squads of stevedores were busy transferring the remains of dead soldiers from the lower holds of the big transport, City of Peking, to the docks of the steamers. The remains were piled up in a mile north of Black point. Before 5



PLOT IN RIVERVIEW CEMETERY RECOMMENDED FOR BURIAL PLACE OF SECOND OREGON DEAD.

particulars, and the following reply was received:

"Referring to your telegram of today, remains of soldiers belonging to Second Oregon volunteers arrived on the Peking, and instructions for disposition of them have been received as follows: John Spierling, private company H, to be sent to John Spierling, Greenville, Washington county, Or.; Lewis E. Miller, private company A, to John Miller, McMinnville, Yamhill county, Or.; Edward W. Hampton, private company H, to John Hampton, 381 S. Rafael street, Portland, Harvry G. Hibbard, corporal company K, to K. L. Hibbard, Salem, Or.; Charles E. Miner, private company M, to W. G. Miner, Woodburn, Or.; Wistar Hawthorne, private company C, to B. J. Hawthorne, Eugene, Or.; Charles H. Ruhl, private company H, to C. S. Ruhl, Portland, Or. Remains of the following soldiers were also received, and are unclaimed: Michael P. Crowley, private company D, Frank E. Refeno, private company B; John H. Fenton, private company B; Percy C. Oliver, private company C; Fred J. Norton, private company C; B. J. Hibbard, private company A, and Richard E. Perry, private company A."

As soon as this dispatch was received, General Sumner telegraphed the secretary of war as follows:

"Have any of Second Oregon remains been shipped, or are you waiting instructions?"

Up to a late hour no answer had been received to this dispatch. When it does come the date for the remains to start from San Francisco will probably be known. Until then preparation to receive them, and other arrangements, cannot progress with any degree of certainty. The sudden arrival of some of Oregon's soldier dead has rather frustrated plans that were being evolved by the volunteers. At the recent convention held it was determined to secure a plot of ground to be used for interring the regiment's dead in the islands. This, of course, would have the assent of parents. The volunteers had selected a spot in Riverview cemetery adopted to their plans, which they were negotiating to obtain, with fair prospects of success. Work was not being hurried, as no one thought the remains would begin to arrive before March, according to the assurance of the war de-

partment. Corresponding with parents would require two or three weeks, at the outside.

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- 33 Cents  
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### ON A MOUNTAIN MARCH.

Captain O'Neill's Colored Soldiers Took Two Towns.

Captain J. P. O'Neill, whose home is in Portland, and who was on recruiting duty here after his return from the Cuban campaign, recently made a memorable march in the Philippines.

The Manila American, of December 17, gives a three-column account of the expedition, written by its staff correspondent, who took several days for each cargo to be properly listed at this end, and the names to be arranged in form for ready reference.

"A day yesterday the harbor military flags floated at halfmast out of respect for the soldier dead that were being returned to their native land."

It was impossible to take along carts, so the ammunition was carried on 20 pack ponies, in charge of Fred Schelling. Ten days' rations of hardtack and bacon were carried on the heads, backs and shoulders of 150 Filipinos, hired for the trip at the rate of \$5 per month.

The command had to march through out in Indian file, Lieutenant Lyon, with the scouts, heading the column and placing places that looked favorable for ambushes, which caused an endless amount of rough climbing and scrambling. At intervals the trail led into forests which are still as a grave, and dark almost to moonlight, and then emerged once more into the fierce Philippine sun, but ever went up and up to the summit of the Zambales mountains.

After crossing the summit the command captured the village of San Fernando, and just beyond there the trail widened into a road, making marching to the coast much easier.

No Negritos were seen on the trip, although the column passed directly through their mountain preserves. Their habitations consisted of dilapidated little grass huts, here and there in the mountains, on which were a few lowly hovels.

The insurgent garrison at Balaian offered battle, but could not stand the charge of the American soldiers, and Captain O'Neill's command drove them out of town in very short order. A dozen insurgents were killed and an old Spanish cannon was captured.

Next morning the column marched five

### BLIND BEGGAR RINED.

Jury Trial Resulted in a Swift Conviction.

A jury trial in the municipal court yesterday resulted in the conviction of the blind beggar, J. H. Fifer, who has been defying the police for several days. Fifer has been wearing a placard stating that his blindness is due to sickness, and holds out a little tin cup for charity from passers-by. At the time of his previous arrest in custody did not produce in court the placard and cup, nor had he seen him soliciting aid. Fifer was described as immediately commenced taking his station daily on the most popular street corners, as before. Being spoken to repeatedly by the police, he became defiant, asserting that they had no right to make him quit his vocation. He was then taken into custody for obstructing the streets, but after his arrest the charge was again made begging.

Fifer demanded a jury when he was arraigned the last time, employed an attorney in his defense, put up cash bail as usual, and prepared to fight for the privilege of begging on the streets of Portland. Considerable interest had been aroused among the charity officials over his first acquittal, and a good attendance was present at his trial yesterday. No defense of any importance was made. The arresting officer produced the placard and cup, and stated that he had seen persons deposit money in the cup for the blind beggar. Fifer's attorney raised the technical objection that his client had not been begging, as he had not solicited aid by word of mouth. A moving plea was made for the blind man. Judge Hennessy construed the ordinance prohibiting begging to cover even the case of a dumb man, and Fifer's case went to the jury. No possible verdict but guilty could be returned. In a few moments the six jurors came in with the announcement that the prisoner was guilty as charged. With the verdict was a recommendation for the mercy of the court, which his honor said he would fully heed by inflicting the lowest possible fine, \$10.

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