CITY NEWS IN BRIEF

Amusements Tonight.

CORDRAY'S THEATER—"Too Much Johnson."
METROPOLITAN THEATER—"O'Brien, the Contractor."

LAST DAY OF GRACE.—This is the last day of grace allowed to non-resident pupils of the public schools in which to pay up, unless they file application with the school board for free tuition. They are then allowed to attend school until the board acts on their applications, which, in the present case, will not be until a week from next Monday evening. There are already over a score of applications in Clerk Allen's possession and more are coming in every day. A while back, Director Warren procured some interesting figures as to the amount of free tuition being granted. He found there are 124 pupils who should be paid for but who are not, and which would aggregate a total of over $4200 a year to the district. Thirty-two of these pupils are at the high school, making the amount due from that school alone $1280 a year. Mr. Warren does not expect all these scholars to continue with their studies under the new rule, but he thinks that between $1500 and $2000 will be collected, and that the crowded condition of some of the schools will be partly relieved, which is what the board most desires.

WILL REFUND DOUBLE LICENSE.—At a meeting of the liquor license and general license committees yesterday the petitions of seven liquor dealers for the return of wholesale liquor licenses paid by them were considered, and it was recommended that the money be returned. It will be remembered that heretofore retail liquor dealers paid $400 per annum license and wholesale liquor dealers paid $200 per annum license. A retailer who sold liquor in quantities of over a gallon was required to pay the wholesale license as well as the retail, and a wholesale dealer who sold liquor in quantities less than a gallon was required to pay the retail license as well as the wholesale. This caused general dissatisfaction, but seven dealers paid both licenses. Then the council passed an ordinance requiring all dealers in liquors to pay a flat license of $400 per annum. Those who had paid the two licenses then petitioned to have the wholesale license returned, and the repayment of the license has been recommended.

WILL MEET TODAY.—There being no quorum present at the meeting of the water committee, J. C. Carson was elected temporary chairman, and on motion of Mr. Teal the meeting adjourned till 3 o'clock this afternoon. An ordinance regulating the use of electricity in the city of Portland and to protect water and gas pipes and other structures in the city from the effects thereof was ready to be laid before the committee had there been a quorum. It was informally examined and discussed at some length by those present. Such ordinances are in effect in many cities, and in some it is usual, when a franchise for an electric railway is applied for, to embody in the franchise ordinance a provision that the company will adopt such means and appliances as will prevent injury to pipes, etc.

UNITARIAN SOCIAL UNION.—The Unitarian church has organized a "social union," which is to meet on the third Wednesday evening of February, March, April and May. The first meeting will be held this evening in the chapel of the church. During the first hour, from 8 to 9 o'clock, a programme of music will be given by some of the best artists in the city. The music will begin promptly at 8 o'clock. Following the programme, refreshments will be served, and a social hour will be passed. All persons directly or indirectly connected with the church are entitled to membership in the organization upon the payment of 50 cents for a season ticket.

SCHOOL BUILDING ACCEPTED.—The South Portland school building was formally accepted yesterday, and the school will be opened today. Principal W. C. Alderson and Assistant Teachers Mrs. J. M. Potter and Lillian Fay will be in charge, and between 100 and 120 pupils will be present. The opening of the school has been delayed two days by some scruples of the board's architect about accepting the building on account of cracks in the floors. These scruples have been disposed of in some way, as it appears that there is no danger of the pupils falling through the cracks in the floors.

VALLEY BURGLAR ARRESTED.—Sheriff W. W. Withers, of Lane county, reached Portland last evening in charge of Peter McDonald, whom he brought from Tacoma. McDonald is charged with robbing a jewelry store at Junction City January 27. He had disposed of some of the stolen articles at Tacoma when arrested by the officers there, and the evidence is considered strong against him. He is an ex-convict, having served five years at Walla Walla for burglary committed in the state of Washington. Sheriff Withers will leave for Eugene with his prisoner this morning.

A CORRECTION.—A typographical error in a piano advertisement of the Wiley B. Allen Company, published in The Oregonian, made one line read "Kimball, new, $25.00." It should have read "Kimball, nearly new, $225." The mistake brought a number of people to Mr. Allen's store anxious to purchase a new piano at such a ridiculously low price, and it required all of Mr. Allen's well-known tact to convince the intending purchasers that the error was due to a defective piece of type, the figure "2" not being touched by the ink roller.

MASSIVE NEW ENGINE.—The City & Suburban Railway Company received yesterday from Cincinnati a 450-horsepower Corliss engine, which will be installed at once at Inman, Poulsen & Co.'s mill. The massive machinery arrived set up, and will be in position and in operation within two weeks, perhaps sooner. The addition of this engine will increase the power of the company about one-third and will serve to keep up the service on the city and the several suburban lines to the very highest state of efficiency.

LECTURE ON ANCIENT EGYPT.—Through the efforts of a friend of St. Helen's hall, a lecture on "Ancient Egypt," with illustrations by means of stereopticon views, will be given in the large study hall of that institution Friday evening, February 23, at 8. The lecturer, Rev. G. MacLean, formerly on the faculty of the university of Toronto, is thoroughly conversant with his theme, and is concise and scholarly in style. This lecture is open to the friends and patrons of the school.

HOMES FOR CHILDREN.—The Oregon Children's Home Society desires to secure homes for the following children: Five babes, from 2 months to 2 years; one boy 3 years; one boy 5 years; two boys 9 years; one girl 3 years; one girl 7 years and one 15 years. Letters of inquiry concerning these children sent to I. F. Tobey, Marquam building, will receive prompt attention.

GOLF COMPETITION.—Tomorrow, Washington's birthday, several events will come off at the Waverly Club's links. In the morning there will be single handicap competition and in the afternoon foursome, both for men and mixed couples. A team is to be present from Tacoma, consisting of Messrs. Eberley, Griggs and Baker, which will add very much to the interest.

BIBLE LESSONS.—Captain James Elliott, commanding the Volunteers of America, is giving a series of Bible lessons every evening this week at 8 o'clock in the Armory, 24 and 26 North Second street. Subject, "Second Coming of Christ." All are welcome.

THE finest and most gorgeous Fraser river and Northern baskets ever brought to Portland on exhibition at Mrs. Frohman's basket-rooms. Connoisseurs and fanciers of fine art invited to call. 123 Thirteenth, corner Washington. *

DON'T forget the Etntrecht masquerade at Turn Halle February 22, 8 P. M. *

"WEE BACH" seats on sale at the Marquam box office today. *

GREAT SPRING DEMAND FOR LABOR.—As spring approaches the demand for laboring men increases in Portland, and employment agencies are kept busy sending help to various enterprises in the interior. Logging camps are opening up, farmers are getting at their spring work, and railroad building needs hundreds of hands. Men are being sent at present to Sherman county to work on the Columbia Southern; to Springfield to assist in the construction of the Mohawk-river branch and to Hood River, where the O. R. & N. Co. has still lots of work to do straightening curves and improving its roadbed. More hands will, it is thought, be needed this summer, as the road from Hilgard to Granite, in Eastern Oregon, will be put through and also the road from Klamathon, Cal., to Klamath Falls, Or. The demand for workingmen, which has been good in the Northwest for the past two years, will not cease in the year 1900. On the contrary, all signs point to an increase.

OIL DEALERS WILL BE LICENSED.—License Officer Beach states that there is as yet no new law in regard to dealers in coal oil paying license. Those who complain that they have never paid such license and do not see why they should do so now are informed that they should have been paying license every quarter for years if they have kept 100 gallons or over in store. It is found on examination that many more grocers and others have been carrying 200 or more gallons of oil in store, and now that they find the license law is to be enforced they are taking in 95 gallons of oil at a time. It is proposed to place a small license on all dealers in coal oil and increase it according to the amount kept on hand.

FIVE ALCOHOL FIENDS.—Five hobos, whom the police consider alcohol fiends, have been added to the list of guests at the county jail, where they were sent for 50 days each by Judge Hennesey yesterday for trespass. They had taken possession of the Scandia house, and the proprietor found it necessary to call the police in to expel them. They all pleaded guilty, evidently in the hope of obtaining food and shelter for a long time.

SEVENTH-WARD REPUBLICANS.—The newly organized republican club of the seventh ward will hold a meeting at Hobkirk's hall this evening to elect officers. Everybody is invited to be present and to join the club.

COMING ATTRACTIONS.

Engagement of the Frawleys.

The sale of seats for the Frawley engagement opened at Cordray's theater yesterday morning with a rush. There was a line at the box office nearly all day, and the indications are the engagement of this favorite organization will be the banner one of the season. The arrangement of prices appeared to suit all classes, ranging as it does from 25 cents upstairs, to 75 cents in the orchestra. As already announced, the opening play will be the famous English and New York success, "The Sporting Duchess." It is a racing drama in 13 scenes, all of which are carried by the company. "The Sporting Duchess" will run until Thursday night, when the Augustin Daly comedy, "The Countess Gucki," will be presented for the remainder of the week. This is one of the most popular and charming plays ever presented at Daly's theater. It was written by Franz von Schouthan, the distinguished German dramatist, and was dedicated to Miss Ada Rehan. It was adapted for the American public by the late Augustin Daly, and the Pacific coast rights to it were purchased one year ago by T. Daniel Frawley.

"The Sporting Duchess," more than any other play in the Frawley repertoire, brings out the full strength of the company. Miss Keith Wakeman, the new leading lady, whom Mr. Frawley brought from London, will be seen as the Duchess of Wilford, the "sporting duchess." Miss Mary van Buren, whom the San Francisco theater-goers made such a fuss over, will play the villainess, Vivian Darceville; Miss Marion Barney will play the Countess Desborough; Harrington Reynolds will play Major Mostyn; Francis Byrne, the Earl of Desborough, and Mr. Frawley will be seen in the small role of the old trainer, Joe Aylmer. There will be a representation of the Derby race, with genuine thoroughbreds, jockeys, etc.

"Cleopatra" and "La Tosca."

During their engagement at the Marquam for three nights and Wednesday matinee, beginning next Monday evening, Blanche Walsh and Melbourne MacDowell will present Sardou's great plays, "Cleopatra" and "La Tosca." The company will be a strong one, having been carefully selected for the roles in which they are to appear, and the productions will be on a scale of magnificence. The costuming of each play has been carefully renewed. The advance sale of seats and boxes begins Friday morning. Owing to the extreme length and stupendous production of "Cleopatra," curtain will rise at 8 and 2 P. M. sharp.

Colored Carnival.

Another lively feature added to the attractions of the black carnival at the Exposition Saturday night will be a Chinese combat between Lew Bing and Ling Lao. These two Celestials were engaged yesterday by Manager Sullivan to appear the night of the carnival, and will undoubtedly be an entertaining feature of the programme. Johnson Carter and lady partner, from Seattle, are giving local artists in the cakewalk much concern. They are the only entries from the outside that Portland cakewalkers regard with any degree of apprehension.

Said Shortly and Quietly.

PORTLAND, Feb. 20.—(To the Editor.)—Some days since a letter appeared in the columns of your paper, anent the Boer question in South Africa, and which letter reflected, or appeared to reflect, in a measure on Americans of German and Irish birth. At the time of its issue I happened to be absent from the city, but as it has been generally circulated around town that I am the author of the letter above referred to, which was signed "Common Sense," I take this opportunity to state that the afore-mentioned letter was not written by me—nor had I anything to do with it whatever. I have always held it to be a sound maxim that "people who live in glass houses have no right to throw stones." I also know that it is a useless piece of business to take up valuable newspaper space to thresh out a controversy relating to national differences of people who do not belong to the same race; hence I take it as an insult to common sense to even enter into a paper war of this nature. The merits of the war now raging in South Africa cannot be judged of in the present day. History, in due course, will settle this point, and as no authentic history will be forthcoming until all the actors of the present day are far beyond the reach of criticism, it must necessarily follow that it is useless for us to involve ourselves in brawls that do not concern us. Personally, I will state, and I state it without fear or favor, that Britain will not do anything in this war that will reflect against her. A country that has set the example of civil and religious liberty to the whole world can hardly afford to play the petty tyrant with the South African republics at this day.

GEORGE POPE.

Grand-Avenue Bridge.

Grand-avenue bridge across Sullivan's gulch, which has been closed since the railway accident, will be opened to the public today. The repairs to the structure were practically completed last evening. Some boards on the side railings are needed, and the repairs will be finished. The bridge is in better condition than before the accident. The demolished timbers have been replaced with new ones and the surface has been leveled up.

If you have never used Carter's Little Liver Pills, go at once to the nearest drug store and get a vial. They will surely please you. Don't forget this.

IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY WILL BE CELEBRATED TODAY.

Formal Exercises of Varied Character in the Buildings Provided With Assembly-Halls.

Washington's birthday will be commemorated today in nearly all the public schools by exercises extolling the father of our country in verse and song. Several of the schools have arranged elaborate programmes, on which much time has been spent at rehearsals, and which promise to surpass all previous efforts. The Couch school has chosen this occasion formally to open its handsome library, donated by the daughters of the late Captain Couch, while the Brooklyn school will give an entertainment this evening for the benefit of their library, at which quite a varied programme is promised.

At Harrison-Street School.

At the Harrison-street school, two distinct programmes will be rendered—one by the primary grades and one by the grammar grades. The flag drills promise to be the prettiest thing ever seen in the school. The entertainment will begin promptly at 1:15, and the following programme will be rendered:

I. PRIMARY GRADES.

Salute the flag.
Song—"Columbus," assembly.
Recitation — "Washington," Freddie Weitzen.
Flag song—Henry Rummelin, Ray Kellogg, Harry Nudelman, Jay McCloud, Charles Newcastle, Edwin Harrie, Forrest Sauvain, Lloyd Johnson, Louis Gentner, Albert Levy, Severn Gray, Allen Sharon, Harold Osman, Walter Krupke.
Ribbon drill—Clara Fleishman, Nora Killfeather, Fanny Robinson, Ray Sweet, Freda Bolhi, Gene Spencer, Hazel Russell, Louise Osman, Margaret Harcus, Zura Woodard, Flora Walch, Florian Linklater, Frida Rohkan, Mildred Walsh, Edna Thompson, Esther Soveransky, Jessie Wynn, Annie Nemerovsky, Sadie Cartman, Elsa Goldsmith.
Recitation—"Our Flag," Russell Handley.
George Washington song—Paul Kellogg, Rhinehart Braak, Walter Long, Freddie Weitzen, Tommy Long, Jack Horn, Harry Shank.
Motion song—Assembly.

II. GRAMMAR GRADES.

Salute the flag.
Song—"Flag of the Free," assembly.
Recitation — "Washington's Birthday," David Robinson.
Pole drill — Alouise Bradley, Esther Smailes, Grace Rankin, Erma Maegly, Bertha Mastere, Grace Collier, Hazel Ordermann, Elsa Wentzingerode, Bernice Stimson, Clara Howell, Alice Rosenthal, Beulah Morrin, Eveline Ijams, Lena Zagoren, Lila Church, Mary Catlin.
Recitation—"Washington," Blanche Delury.
Flag drill—Annie Burrell, Bess Sharon, Grace Bartlett, Ethel Stemmer, Alma Shemansky, Lorena Strauhal, Norma Hummell, Elsie Garrett, Ethel Durham, Vernie Kertchen, Jessie Thompson, Leoda Grebe, Lilith Blake, Mollie Robinson, Alice Bayer, Monta Maegly.
Recitation—"The National Flag," Sam Rosenthal.
Song—"Morning Invitation," assembly.

Couch School.

At the Couch school, a good programme has been arranged for exercises, in connection with the opening of the school library, commencing at 2:30. The library was presented by Mrs. C. H. Lewis, Mrs. R. B. Wilson and Miss Mary H. Couch, daughters of the late Captain Couch, after whom the school was named. This fine collection, together with the books the school has accumulated during the last few years, makes a total of 400 volumes, which Professor Burnham, the principal, declares to be the best public school library in the state.

The exercises for this afternoon are as follows:

Short selections on the value of books, by pupils of the school.
A brief sketch of Captain Couch, by Irene Higgins.
Song—Duet, by two primary pupils.
Short historical stories, by pupils of the ninth grade.
Song—"America," by the school.

Brooklyn School.

Brooklyn school will give an entertainment this evening at Foss hall, corner of Grand and Hawthorne avenues, commencing at 8 o'clock. Following is the programme:

Piano duet—"Medley of National Airs."
Song—"Pompey," first grade.
Cakewalk, second grade.
Calisthenic drill, third grade.
"Lullabye," fourth grade.
"Hatchet drill," fifth grade.
"A Chain of Dates," sixth grade.
Chorus, "Barbara Frietchie."
Concert recitation—"Sheridan's Ride," ninth grade.
Intermission.
Humorous recitation, Miss Agnes Kelly.
Tin whistle duet, Messrs. W. H. Souls and Carl Kelty; accompanist, Miss Ada Souls.
Recitation—"The Dying Soldier," Phoebe Brown.
Humorous recitation, Mr. Frank Tillman.
Club-swinging, Mr. David Campbell.
Tenor solo—"If I Were a Rose," Mr. N. H. Alexander.
Graphophone, Mr. Floyd Blanck.

Failing School.

The Failing school has not arranged much of a programme, owing to the crowded condition and the many transfers of pupils being made among the South Portland schools. They will have a general assembly, however, at which will be sung patriotic songs, recitations delivered, and there will be a talk on Washington by Principal I. W. Pratt. After this, the little ones will be dismissed, and the older pupils will go to their respective rooms and continue the exercises, with quotations from Washington and other things appropriate to the occasion.

High School.

At the high school, Judge Alfred Sears will deliver an address on Washington at 10 o'clock, in the assembly-hall.

Park School.

The Park school has arranged an interesting entertainment for the celebration of Washington's birthday, in the way of a literary and musical programme, for this afternoon. The feature of the exercises will be a George Washington dialogue, in which the children will be dressed in the handsome silk and satin costumes worn at that time. The performance will begin at 1 o'clock.

Where No Assembly-Halls Are.

Delightful little entertainments are also to be given this afternoon at the Ainsworth, Chapman, Highland and Thompson schools and also one at Peninsular school this evening. The reason for no exercises being held in the other schools is that they have no assembly-halls, and it is impossible to prepare separate programmes for each room at so short a time after the beginning of a new term.

PRETTY GEORGIE COOPER.

Bright Soubrette Wins Much Applause at Metropolitan Theater.

Pretty Georgie Cooper is wining fresh laurels every evening at the Metropolitan theater by her clever specialties in "O'Brien, the Contractor." In addition to her performance of the role of Cicely Fleece, she sings in a very charming way, "The Carolina Twins," a song written by Lee Johnson, one of the greatest ragtime song-writers of the period. Miss Cooper has with her two very clever pickaninnies, who, with their black faces, lend additional life to the rendition of this popular author's songs. Each of Miss Cooper's songs is enthusiastically encored, and the statement is pleasant news, that her successes of this week and another popular song, "You Told Me You Had Money in the Bank," will be repeated next week in "Red, White and Blue," that will open Sunday evening.

The popular melodies that are sung each evening by Miss Adams have a strong hold on the audiences at the Metropolitan, who are nearly as enthusiastic over her sweet singing as about her good acting, both of which have much merit. As on the previous nights, Mr. King, in the title role, left little to be desired. Each performance of "O'Brien, the Contractor," strengthens the conviction that the Metropolitan stock company is one of unusual merit.

WHERE TO DINE.

By all means go to the Portland restaurant, 305 Washington, near Fifth. Coffee, meats, dairy products, etc., are the best.

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The Kind You Have Always Bought
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Mon. and Tues. nights and Wed. Matinee, "CLEOPATRA"; Wed. night, "LA TOSCA."
PRICES:
Entire lower floor $1.50
Balcony, first 3 rows 1.00
Balcony, second three rows 75
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Boxes and logo seats 2.00
Gallery 25
MATINEE:
Same as evening. Children under 12 years, 50c to any part of house.

FELLOWS
309 Washington St.
25 Pounds
Good, clean Rice for $1.00.
10 Cents
Pound soft-shell English Walnuts.
40 Cents
Gallon fancy Table Syrup.
33 Cents
10-pound sack pure Buckwheat Flour.
15 Cents
10-pound sack Graham Flour.
19 Cents
10-pound sack Farina.
15 Cents
Pound fresh roast Costa Rica Coffee.
30 Cents
Pound Hoffman House Java and Mocha Coffee.
20 Cents
Pound Japan Tea Dust.
Branch store at Oregon City.
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Silk-Faced Vicunas
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THEY ARE FAMOUS
For Quality
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Easy to Secure the Best—No Excuse for Being Satisfied With Anything Less.
The most reliable and the most prominent American piano manufacturers are represented here by Ellers Piano House, 107 First street. Here is the unrivaled Chickering, "oldest in America, best in the world," and the wonderful Weber, the most artistic and very finest of all fine pianos made in New York; and also the now famous Kimball, the most progressive and up-to-date piano of all.
Concerning prices, we have just one word to say. It is this: Assertions and claims look altogether different when stood up in a row with realized facts to measure by. There isn't a store in town, from the largest down to the smallest branch fake and pawn-shop affair, that will not, and perhaps in good faith, claim to sell you cheaper than any one else can possibly hope to do.
As to this, we'll say nothing further, except to point to our big last year's record of piano-selling—a record that could never have been established if our instruments, our prices, and our methods had not outstripped all competition. And the list of sales thus far this year is nearly 50 per cent ahead of last year.
In addition to the first-named standard makes, we sell also a large variety of strictly serviceable medium-grade instruments, $200 buys a good one, and there are quite a number of instruments for even less money.
In organs, we now have a full assortment of Kimball, Crown, Needham and others, at prices ranging from $50 upward, and on terms of payment little more than rent. We're a little out of the beaten paths of retail trade down here at 107 First street, but the additional nickel you spend in carfare to see us will secure for you the very best instrument at the lowest price. Ellers Piano House, between Washington and Stark streets.

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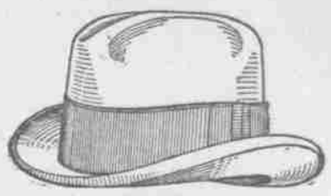
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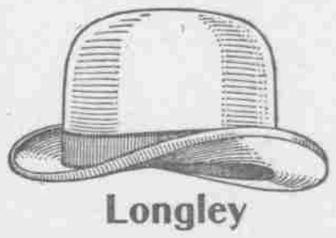
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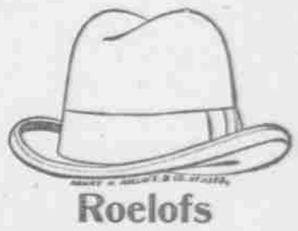
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