CHANGE IS NEEDED

Method of Assessment Requires Amending.

VIEWS OF MULTNOMAH OFFICIALS

Advisability of State Board of Equalization Is Questioned-All Favor a Change.

There is considerable agreation inrough out the state for an amendment of the laws pertaining to assessment and taxa-tion, and a State Board of Equalization, which was abolished two years ago, is also recommended. It is stated that other rs, following the example of Assessor Greenlant, have reduced the valuation of property, and that the state of-ficers will have to make a high levy in order to raise money enough to run the state government next year. A high levy is argued, creates a bad impression broad, injures the sale of property and

should be discouraged.

City and County officials in Portland interviewed relative to the matter expressed various opinions, but the majority of them think a change of some kind

City Attorney's Opinion.

City Attorney Long has given the subject much attention in the past, and suggests numerous amendments to the exist-ing laws, which, he asserts, will result large saving to the taxpayers, as well as remove existing difficulties. Mr.

"I am sorry I have not a copy of the bill I prepared when I was a member of the Legislature, and which passed the House with only one dissenting vote, and that was a Populist, who voted against everything. It was examined by Governor Lord and approved by ntm as fully covering the proposition. There are two ways meeting this question, one would be a State Board of Equalization, and the other, in my opinion, the better way, would be to authorize the state officers to act as a Board of Equalization, and equalize on the percentage basis for state taxes alone. In some states the constitution prohibits the levy for state pur-There there is such a constitutional provision it is necessary to have a State Board of Equalization, with power to raise or lower valuations in countles. But, in the absence of such constitutional re-striction, there should not be any dis-turbance of the assessment as returned by the county. So far as the state tax concerned, if the state officers find at any county has returned its property at a too low valuation, it can equaline by increasing the rate of assessment. In other words, I would have the State Board of Equalization equalize by varying the rate of assessment in different coun-ties in case the state board is satisfied that the scale of valuation as returned by the different County Assessors has not been adjusted with reasonable uniformity.
"As the old law stood the state board

would change the valuation of property in a county, thereby distributing the ualized value as between different property-owners who had examined the assessment roll, and were satisfied with the assessment, and by changing the levy they would not disturb a county assess-ment. Real property ought to be assessed by description, instead of in the name of the owner, as when a correct description is obtained, as a rule, it will not have to changed for 20 years, and is only anged where it is a subdivision of the operty. The original roll on which the mor returns his assessment should be certified to by the County Board, and when the county board equalizes it should have placed in a column the equalized When the state board has certified to the County Clerk the rate of the state levy, it should be pinced in a col-umn, and this record, when returned by sessor, should be certified by the board to the Sheriff, and on this record the Sheriff should make his collec-This would save thousands of dol-the collection of taxes. In other words, the book, when completed, should have columns for every matter required by law, so that the one record could be tinuous. This would avoid the ment roll as is now done. The expense of making an assessment in Multnomah County, and especially in the preparation of the rolls, is as great as it ought to be for the whole State of Oregon."

Judge Cake's View.

Judge Cake said: "They are all after Multnomah County, that is what it means. If we have a State Board of Equalization, as suggested my the convention of County Judges and Assessors, it will be as it was before. Assessors, it will be as it was before. The majority of the board will be from outside counties, and they will do just as they please, and run it to suit them-selves—that is to say, they will make the valuation for Mulinomah County, although they don't live here or know any-Judge Cake was asked if he favored a

change in the law so that means might be taken to compel the Assessor to make s fair valuation of property in case he does not do so, and he answered: "The principal thing is you have got to have some one who is responsible. Sup-

pose, for instance, you put it in the hands of the County Commissioners, what dif-ference would it make? Some one has to use discretion. If the Assessor don't do right, you don't have to re-elect him The Assessor has got to value property It makes too much officialism, in my opin ion, to have too many people haggling away at the same proposition. The Cou ty Commissioners have county business to astend to. The valuation of property is something of a judicial nature, a discretionary act performed by the Asses

Assessor's Opinion.

Assessor Greenlenf thinks the state tax uld be levied per capita, and that the the Board of Equalization. Referring to the work of the former State Board of Equalization, Mr. Greenleaf said that in-stead of equalization between the various countles of the state, the board always

managed to unequalize. He said:
"The medding of the board with the assessment invariably has a tendency to increase the inequality rather than to adst it. My experience in the past six ears has been that if Assessors were let one they would arrive at more even assessments throughout the state than will be obtained by a State Board of Equalization. An Assessor, to do his work effectively and well, should consult with the Assessors of the other counties in regard to the valuations to be placed upon different classes of property. For example, in the assessment of bank stock, the method pursued by the Assessor of Multnomah County in arriving at the val-uation of a share of bank stock, coula be used by every Assessor in the state, and also in the assessment of livestock and other kinds of property. Take rail-roads, rights of way and rolling stock, there is no reason in the world why the assessment of railroads throughout the

"The State of Oregon requires a certain amount of money to carry on the state government. There is a state school tax tevy of 5 mills fixed by law. This could be delegated to the different counties to take care of and then the only levy for state purposes would be for salaries of officers, the processors are more of the officers, the necessary expenses of the state institutions, the biennial expenses of the Legislature, and the maintenance of the National Guard. There are two propositions that I favor. One is a tax based on the population—a per capita tax

It is the most equitable plan that can be devised. The plan is this: You take Multnemah County's population of 190,000. Multinomah County's population of 100,000, and the county's proportion of the state tax would be the relation that number bears to the whole population of the state. The other scheme is that the Assessors of the state constitute the State Board of Equalization, and the state be divided into districts with from three to five Assessors in a district, to supervise, inspect and investigate the assessment of each county in their district, and no Assessor be appointed as inspector in a of each county in their district, and no Assessor be appointed as inspector in a district in which his own county is situated. They would afterwards meet in joint convention at Salem at such time in the Fall or Winter as was deemed advisable, and examine the rolls of the various countles and hear reports of disparities or inequalities discovered, and adjust the same. This would not every Assessor on

arms. This would put every Assessor on trial by the balance of the board."

Asked what he thought of the fixing of valuations being a matter entirely for the discretion and judgment of the Assessor. Mr. Greenleaf replied: "If you take away any power the Assessor has now, he becomes a figure-head. It must be that when he goes out into the community the office will be recognized as one of importance and dignity. I don't think the Assessor should be shorn of any of his power, any more than you would take away the discretion and judgment of one of our Circuit Judges.
"The State Board of Equalization was

son I have stated, that it did not equal-

Ize, but unequalized values."
The Assessor referred to his assessment of 1898, which was before he made his big reduction in the total valuation of City of Portland real estate, and said the Board of Equalization was then still in existence, and the assessment was made with that knowledge in view. He knew the assessment was too high, but did not dare lower it, knowing the state board would raise it if he did, it was made to pass muster before that body. The As-sessor size told how in other counties Asessors had left considerable property off the assessment roll until after the state tax levy and equalization was all over with, and afterwards caused the over with, and afterwards caused the Sheriff to make a Sheriff's assessment of the same. This, he said, the other county officials winked at. By this arrangement the state was defrauded, but the county got its full share of taxes.

County Commissioners Talk. County Commissioner Showers also believes the per capita tax system is the proper one for raising state revenue. He says the assessed valuation of property for local assessments ought to be a fair one, and said, referring to the present

180,000,000 valuation, As I understood it at that time, that was supposed to be as low as property would ever get here. With a low valuation you have to run the levy up for county purposes, and it hurts our real estate. A high levy creates a bad impression-elsewhere. There is about so much work to be done in the government of the city and county, and if we don't pay it this year, we will have to may it next?"

Inspired testimony; that history and the messages of the future, fulfilling, amending, connecting, all constants and inspired testimony; the history and the messages of the past history and the messages of the past history and the messages of the future, fulfilling, amending, connecting, all constants and the messages of the future, fulfilling, amending, connecting, all constants and the messages of the futu

one pay it this year, we will have to pay it next."

"The last State Board of Equalization was an unpopular thing with the business men and others," was the opening sen-tence of County Commissioner Mack, when asked for his views. Mr. Mack further said: "I am not in favor of a low valuation because it must necessarily in. valuation because it must necessarily increase the tax levy, and in the case of an Eastern investor he does not stop to ask about the ratio of valuation, but looks at the size of the levy. If the valuations are within reason, the county tax levy would be moderate. That is what we want. Whether a State Board of Equali-zation would produce the desired effect I don't know. I know it was very unpopular before, which may have been on account of the way it conducted itself. At one time it raised the valuation of merchandise in Multnomah County 25 per cent, and if I remember rightly did not raise it in any other county. It was resisted in the courts. There ought to be some way to equalize values through-out the state, but just how to get at it am not prepared to say. The wise legslators will probably be able to figure it out. If we could get more power into the County Board of Equalization it would straighten things out so far as the coun ty is concerned. There ought to be power invested somewhere to avert any future predicament such as we are in now."

GOOD WORK COMMENDED.

Manitoban's Timely Remarks on Diversified Farming.

John W. Martin, who for many years war prominently identified with the Gov-ernment of Manitoba, one of the Northwest provinces of Canada, is a visitor to Portland. To an Oregonian re-tive, Mr. Martin said yesterday:

"I was surprised to find, on reading your paper this morning, that only re-cently has the effort been made to estab-llish farmers' institutes in Ovegon. I should have supposed that your state government would have taken the initiae, in a matter of so much importance the farming community, years ago. However, to employ a trite expression Better late than never,' and the O. R. & N. Co., which would appear to be a pow-erful factor in your development, is to be commended for the progressive and patriotic spirit it is manifesting in the present movement. The benefits that will certainly follow the establishment of these institutes cannot be overestimated,

and one of the most important results should be the interesting of your farmers in diversified or mixed farming.

"In Manitoba, our climatic advantages are scarcely what yours seem to be, for when I left there a fortnight or so ago, the thermometer marked 40 below zero, but the agricultural conditions so far as but the agricultural conditions, so far as I can gather, are very similar. A few years ago our farmers devoted them-selves almost exclusively to the raising of grain crops, with the result that in the event of a crop failure there was a

oar of 'hard times.'
"Our provincial government began systematically to organize farmers' institutes and to impress on the agriculturista the benefits to be reaped from mixed farming. The results have been beneficial beyond all anticipations, and will be so in Oregon. Then our province was merely a profitable market for Eastern packers and producers, just as I find Oregon is today. Now we supply our own mar-ket, reap the profits ourselves, and our farmers are no longer in mortal terror or the effect of unexpected climatic changes

on their grain crops.

"This season, for instance, our grain crop was practically a failure, just as were the grain crops of the Dakotas and Minnesota. It would be idle to say our farmers did not feel the effects of this failure at all, but having generally adopt-ed the sensible policy of diversified farming, they had other sources of revenue and will pull through the year in good

cause to congratulate itself on the mis-sionary work accomplished through the medium of farmers' institutes, and Oregot will some day have cause to be thankful to the O. R. & N. Co. for the

THE SERVICE

good work it is now engaged in.

On the O. R. & N. consists of three daily On the C. R. & N. consists of three daily trains in each direction, carrying through cars between Fortland and Chicago. Omaha and Kansas City. All equipment is new, wide vestibuled, gas lighted and supplied with all modern conveniences. Engines equipped with electric headlights, and all modern improvements for the comfort and safety of passengers. Ticket office, 30 Third street, corner Oak.

INSPIRATION:

DR. T. L. ELIOT ADDRESSES LOCAL METHODIST MINISTERS.

How Divine Energy Works in Nature-Comment by Orthodox Clergymen on Bible Inspiration.

The local Methodist Episcopal Ministe rial Association invited Dr. T. L. Eliot pastor emeritus of the First Unitarian Church, to give an address before the Monday morning meeting of that body at the Y. M. C. A. rooms. There was noth-ing unusual in this invitation, only the fact that a church with a fixed creed is getting away from old traditions, follow-ing the wake of a higher religion on an advanced plane and keeping in touch with the progress of the 19th century, by in-viting scientific discussion of theological points on a liberal plan. Dr. Ellot's topic was: "What is Inspiration?" It is given n part as follows:

'In the opening chapter of his 'Imitation of Christ, Thomas a' Kempis puts these sentences: 'It is not profound spec-ulation, but a holy life, that proves a man righteous and good. I had rather reel computation than be able to give the most accurate definition of it. Into the spirit of this Christ-like utterance I am sure you will enter with me, as we ask: 'What is inspiration?' Shall we say: 'It is not the history or the theory of inspira-tion, but inspired lives, which prove that there is such a power in the operation of his grace on the reason and conscience

of every age and every man."
"In putting the inspiration of the writers of the Bible upon such a broad base, do we lower them, do we take away their authority, do we make the Bible less as a divinely appointed guide? If at first it might seem so, it will not be so to sober reflection. The Bible has nothing to fear from the light of history, science and critical analysis. It is only false theories and extravagant claims which must give way. The Bible, comprehen-sively defined, judged as literature, its human accidents sifted from its divine substance, towers above all other records and is yet brought into accord with all God's other methods, in the education of the race. There is no logical alternative for the present age between going for-ward into all the light, or retreating far back to the bosom of authority in a vested priesthood and infallible interpretation. And 'all the light' means that one, and said, referring to the present tation. And all the light means that condition of affaire:

"Our city charter was framed on a \$40,000,000 basis as the valuation of Portiliand property, and we can't run on a giving the world faithful witnesses and \$10,000,000 valuation. As I understood it at inspired testimony; that history and inspired testimony; that history science are part of God's continuing tation, and the messages of the

concerning the nature and progressive character and universality of inspiration, I am aware of how much is left unsaid, and how easily I may be misunderstood by any one who is not familiar with the work of the higher criticism, so-called and the writers of the new theology in every branch of the Christian church. Such a definition of inspiration and such an assignment of the scriptures to a place in the universal series of divine gifts, rather than in an exclusive order of reve-lation, is being adopted by every careful thinker and every prophetic mind in the church of Christ.

After a thoughtful allusion to the many orms of statement through which the hurch fathers today are striving for a reer presentation of the gospel's living truths, and an elaborate scientific show ng of how divine energy works in nature.

the speaker continued:
"The Holy Spirit is still moving, and all our faculties of reason, conscience and spiritual apprehension are God's gift and the channel of his continuing life in and with our own selves as co-operating wills If we look about us we shall find men and women who have so taxen God to heart that His Spirit has glowed within them to a pure flame, and though, like Moses wist not that their faces shone, are inspirers of their fellowmen Such a life as Frances Willard's is evidence of inspiration, and its method. Such a life as Booker Washington, leader of the free Americans once slaves, their "My sense of what inspiration means is partly summed up to the words of Emerson's 'Problem," said the eloquent speaker, and this immortal poem he read. "I had rather," continued the orator, "be inspired and share the gift of inspiration than a this continued to the orator. than be able to give the most accurate definition of it. If the author of the fourth gospel speaks truly, when he de clares, concerning the Eternal Word, that he is the life and the life is the light of men,' and 'lighteth every man that cometh into the world': If the apostle is Every good gift and every perfect gift cometh down from the Father of Lights. with whom is no variableness, neither shadow upturning, then we can deal with our theme in the field of experimental religion, and may base our thinking about inspiration upon the testimony of men and women who are showing forth the reality of inspiration—the life of God in the sou of man'-by a godly walk and conversa tion, by a Christilke self-giving for the life of the world; who are living evidences of inspiration, since 'God shows in their hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ; since we are hers of God, and joint heirs with Christ, if so be we suffer with him. To this extent that such words are realities of a felt experience, do with him." they not tell us worlds more about inspiration than long-drawn-out specula ons and subtle disquisitions?
"So far as your essayist ventures to

discuss theory or attempt definition in this brief half-hour, he wishes to speak of nspiration as a term by which must be measured a universal gift, and a verifiable experience in the very soul of man. Like other words of the vocabulary of theology, such as revelation, incarnation, atom ment, supernatural, grace, salvation, all of which can only truly be understood when the unit of measure is average hu man nature, and the universal capacities of human nature, so of inspiration, the reality must be here and now, as well as beside the burning bush of Moses; in me and you, however humbly, yet as surely as in Isaiah and Paul; in Socrates and Sokyamuni, by the same method, and blessed brooding of the Spirit, though in a far more impressive manner, as in God's well-beloved Son. As light comprehends aun, and candle and glow-worm in one predicate, may we not comprehend un-der the word 'inspiration' the whole method of God's converse with man and explain that converse in the highest term of the series by the likeness of it in the lowest term? And it was the exigencles of polemics, not the Bible's own testi-mony, nor the clear light of Illuminated reason, which in Luther's day gave the world theories of plenary and verbal in-spiration,, and defined the Word of God as bound up, conclusively and exclusively, in our Scriptures of 66 books. I need not remind you that no such extreme views had been taken prior to the refor-mation. Whatever such dogmas may have done, provisionally, to fortify the believers of the 16th century from the as saults of his Roman Catholic brother, off-setting as they did an infallible church with an infallible book, they planted a seed of infdelity. They virtually asserted an inspiration only in the past, a supernaturalism only of the past, a revelation given and closed, an absentee God and a mediative rather than an experienced salvation.

Concluding, the speaker said: "The doctribe of inspiration

monly upheld, has become such a provin-cialism and worn-out skin, it is no longer competent to the Christian conscious-ness, and is not in pace with the mov-ing of the Divine Spirit in the reason and conscience of humanity. According to that doctrine, some super-exceptional quality of inspiration, not in degree only, but in very kind, attaches to the sacred books of the Jewish and the early Chris-tian church. Their writers and writings are lifted by a 'tour de force,' an arbi-trary convention, out of the category of human fallibility. That doctrine has human fallibility. That doctrine has many forms and modifications, from the claim of absolute inaccuracy and verbal inspiration, or of an inner occult corre-spondence, like Swedenborg's, through such statements as 'the Bible is not a revelation, but the record of a revela-

'the thoughts were suggested

but not the words, or an inspiration of superintendence, or parts are inspired and others are less so."
"But simost every argument for this kind of inerrant inspiration is guilty of kind of inerrant inspiration is guilty of the fallacy of 'petitio principi,' or 'beg-ging the question.' It is reasoning in a circle to assume what God must needs do when he revents himself by prophet or evangelist; or to make as a basis of an argument a statement taken from one of the books in question, instead of patiently dividing the word of truth. We prove too much when we try to reason from what it seems to us God must needs do. The humbler way is to inquire 'What has he done?' And that question opens every book and page of the Bible to the light of comparison to the measure of Chris-tian consciousness, to the standing of lit-erary criticism as to author, and integcontents, date and capacity spiritual apprehension. It leads us to de-fine the inspiration of the Scriptures, first, into all the varying values of a progressive apprehension of truth and righteousness, from the era of Amos and Egra to that of Mark and Paul the Apos-tie, and then to class the whole % books as literature; on their face the greatest literature the world has known, o ing spiritual and moral truths of high-est value and potential life, or recording the brief story of the divinest life ever lived—a priceless series, wonderful, sa-cred, worthy to be collectively named The Book.' but still human literature, the test of whose inspiration and the lives

The lecture was received by the mem bers of the ministerial body in a most liberal spirit, and was followed with

it inspires is the inspiring conception of

God's nature and of man's duty and des

ree-minute responses. Rev. E. H. Tharp, of Vancouver, called the lecture, not inspiring, but stimulating, The question of inspiration hangs on the fact as to which comes first, revelation or inspiration. Would we call the inspiration that comes from man the same that comes from God? He had thought there were different qualities of inspiration.

Rev. S. E. Meminger thought that God

in divers manners had revealed himself different ways. Some things in the

in different ways. Some things in the Bible are not inspired.

Rev. C. E. Cline sold that we should not be limited to prophets and Scripture times for all our inspiration. Much of the biblical inspiration comes from people who were nomadic and half-civilized, made casually and superficially, and we are compalled to take many of the track.

made casualty and supernicially, and we are compelled to take many of the teachings second-hand. He believed that God had inspired everybody.

Rev. G. W. Gue said that he was surprised at the indomement made by Mr. Cline. Where is there anything like the Bible, or ever will be? What new revelation has been received since Bible times? tion has been received since Bible times' He denied the assertion that modern per sons were inspired in the same mannin Scripture times. He believed Moses wrote the Pentateuch.

Rev. A. L. Hawley had more confidence in the men now living than in those that lived 100 or 200 years ago. He couldn't see why God inspired a few men and quit the tob.

Rev. B J. Hoadley said that he drew more stimulus from certain books than the Bible, but that the mind had been inspired to believe the Bible. He thought that God thought as much of Rev. A. L. Hawley as of Amos, but did not know what the Lord would think of a Bible that the former would write. We were inspired to read the Bible.

nspired to read the Bible.

Rev. H. W. Kellogg commended the essay, and had wished that Dr. Ellot had said something that differed from his views. The thinking of this age is something remarkable, and that we would learn a great deal more if it were not for

Prejudice.
Rev. C. A. Lewis said that we were now in a transitional period; many things that we once held fast to we have now discarded. We are now undergoing a rev-olution in our theology. There were cerolution in our theology. There were cer-tain portions of the Bible that he did not read when he wanted to be devotional

THIRTEEN INITIATIONS.

With Banquet and Reception by Na-

tive Sons of Oregon City. McLoughlin's Cabin, No. 4, Native Sons of Oregon, of Oregon City, held an enthu-siastic meeting last evening, the occasion being an official visit of the grand prest dent, Sol Blumauer, accompanied by Sam L. Beary, Dr. J. Cline, E. J. Hufford, H. E. Myers, S. H. Brainard and L. R.Miller, mbers of Abernethy's Cabin, of this city, who assisted in the initiation work ann also the amplified form. The 12 can-didates initiated were: H. E. Stevens, C. G. Church, Webb Burns, Tom Trembath, Nelson Needham, E. L. McFarland, El-mer McArthur, Isaac Pursifull, G. Lee Harding, Julius Myers, C. P. Caufield, R. L. Holman, George W. Waldron.

After the meeting adjourned a banquet was served. Addresses were made by the grand president, Colonel Robert A. Miller, Judge Hayes and others. This cabin will give a grand ball on Christmas even-ing It promises to become one of the banner cabins of the state.

DAILY CITY STATISTICS.

Real Estate Transfers James Quinian to A. M. Clayton, lot 1, block 1. Elizabeth Irving's Addition No. 2. November 23. John Granvid to Millie C. Forsyth, lots 23 and 39, block 56, Peninsular Addition No. 4, October 29. John e and wife to Adda S. Dale, lots 4 and 5, block 2, Fremont Place, November 22 lots 4 and 5, block 3, Fremont Place,
November 22

The Northern Countles Investment
Trust, Limited, to Ida G. Keliy, lot
1, block 9, Cole's Addition, November 24

Allinsworth National Bank to J. H.
Palmer, lot 13 block 9, Lincoin Park,
November 25

Jeorge A. Shirley to James Forbes,
lot 9, block 12, Center Addition,
November 25

Births. November 13, girl, to wife of Heinrich Garlach, 765 Third street. November 13, boy, to wife of Albert Kreig, 826 Second street. November 15, girl, to wife of John Alexander, 1972 Third street. November 6, boy, to wife of W. Y. Hardy, 855 Taggart street.

Deaths. November 23, Esma Brazele, 414 East Pine street, 8 years; diphtheria. November 2, Alexander Gravell, 449 Thurman street, 26 years; general periton-

November 25, Nelson Tearson, 428 East Oak street, 36 years; pulmonalis, November 25, Videt Neuman, Tillamook, Or., 6 months; majuntitian, November 27, Pauline Thiebau, 584 Third

HEROISM AND MYSTERY

TWO NEW PEATURES OF AN HABLY MORNING BLAZE.

How Two Firemen by Prompt and Brave Action Rescued a Woman-An Alleged Bobbery.

The heroism of two firemen and the mystery surrounding an alleged robbery thereat are two interesting details not mentioned in the necessarily hrief account. The Oregonian gave of yesterday's early morning fire at Dorman's grocery, Front and Gibbs street.

The prompt and heroic action of Extramen Hobkirk and Ryan is entitled to more than passing mention. The staffway had been burned away and when Mrs. Dorman was awakened, half stifled with smoke, she found all meanis of exit.

with smoke, she found all means of exit cut off. Rushing to one of the front windows, she shricked for help, and then in a hysterical state drew back and rushed servaming through the smoke-filled rooms of the upper story. Hobkirk and Ryan threw up a ladder from the hosecart and without a moment's hest-tation clambered through the window. Into the stifling smoke they plunged, and guided by the screams of the woman, they groped their way to where she was. In her hysterical condition she struggled against the firemen's efforts to rescue her, but at last, half suffocated and searly blinded, they dragged her to the open window. Then, taking her in their arms, they descended the indice and brought her uninjured to the side-

The mystery feature of the blaze sur-rounds the statement of Dorman that during the progress of the fire 1000 was stolen from its hiding place, which he says was a coffee mill standing on a back counter. Detectives Kerrigan and Snow are endeavoring to penetrate this mystery, and as the only persons who entered the place were the firemen, naturally the Chief of the brigade is doing what he can to assist them. Chief Campbell, also Chief of Police McLaughian, visited Dorman vesterday afternoon his incoherency and apparent uncertainty, due, most likely to excitement, only re-sulted in a statement increasing the mys-tifying and peculiar circumstances. Mr. Dorman, it seems, came here from Pueblo, Colo., about six months ago, and appears to have been unusually unfortu-nate in the matter of fires. Twice he told the officers he had been burned there, the present making his third fire minfortune. He was insured for \$1300, so that happily his losses are fully covered. He was also insured in the fires at Pueblo, but points out that in each instance he has suffered by the loss of his business for considerable periods.

The only theory now advanced as to the cause of last night's fire is spontaneous combustion, though Mr. Dorman is not convinced that it was not the work of enemies he seems to think he has made among rivals in the grocery trade,

EAST SIDE AFFAIRS.

Carpenter Gets a Serious Fall-Other Matters.

William Freeman, a carpenter, while at work on the Holmes buildings on the corner of Union avenue and East Ankeny streets, fell from a scaffold yesterday afternoon and broke his left thigh close to the hip. The scaffold was on the east end of the building, and not very high up, but he fell in such a way that his whole weight came on the left leg. He was carried by the others working with him to his room in the Riverside Hotel, on East Oak, between East Second and East Third streets, and Dr. Chambers was called. It was found that the frac-ture is a very serious one. The fracture was reduced and Freeman was made as comfortable as possible. Owing to the nature of the fracture he will have a long slege, and will be compelled to He on his back for several months.

Preeman is a young man, married, but without children. He has been in the city about three months. A brother is said to be an engineer on the O. R. & said to be an engineer on the U. S. N. Railway. His parents live at Scio.

Permanent Sidewalks. Here and there in different places on the East Side, where new houses have been built, may be found permanent sidewalks of concrete, all the rest being plank. Dr. McLean, who has had completed a neat and attractive cottage on the corner of East Everett and Grand avenue, has added very greatly to the appearance of the property by an admirable concrete sidewalk on the two sides of the ground, in all about 150 feet. This short stretch of sidewalk is in marked contrast with the dilapidated wooden walks joining at the ends of the concrete. The cost of this permanent walk is said to be little more than the comis said to be little more than the com-mon plank walk, besides it is infinitely better in every respect, and will outlast the wooden at least four times. On the whole the expense is much less, when its enduring qualities are taken into con-sideration. There is already much of this kind of sidewalk, and property-owners are beginning to realize how much better it is than plank, which gives out every few years, and has to be patched up.

Searching for Riches. Several men searching in the dump at the foot of Montgomery Slough yesterday forenoon attracted considerable at-tention. The dump is composed of bal-last from ships and comes from all por-tions of the world. It contains many curtosities in the way of peculiar shells currosities in the way of peculiar shells and stones, and some very valuable cabi-nets have been gathered from it. These men who were prospecting in the dump yesterday had a screen, which was held between two while a third shoveled the sand and shells into it. The screen was then shaken until all the fine stuff had disappeared, leaving only the coarse peb-bles and shells. The ballast is permeated with small shells, and when sitted these with small shells, and when sifted thes were left in the screen. The rare shells were carefully picked out and saved. Fully two acres of ballast have been dumped into the mouth of Montgomery Slough and it will soon be filled up to the railroad embankment.

It will greatly beautify the residence por-

wooden sidewalks have been replaced

tion of the Bast Side when all the rotten

Open Meeting. An open meeting of Alpha Archaeology Society, of Fairview, was held last night in the quarters of the society and the public had been generally invited. The society desired to raise some money with which to improve the apartments for the better keeping of the cabinet speciments. mens. A small admission was charged, and a large audience was present. A pleasing programme was given opening with an instrumental solo by Miss L. T. Higgins followed by an admirable recita-tion by Margaret Tegert. Mr. Johns gave a short talk in Chinook. Then came a duet by Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Stone; read-ing, Professor Rounds; duet, Miss T. L. Higgins and Mrs. A. L. Stone; recitation, bert Hunter; male quartet, W. M. unds, A. L. Stone, D. Shepard and D. Dunbar. The exercises closed by the au-dience singing "America," with much spirit. The collection is constantly in-

November E, Pauline Thiebau, 584 Third street, 57 years; pneumonia.

Marriage Licenses.

Ethel Stearns, E, and N. E. Spaulding, of Pierce County, Wash., E; Luiu M. Elber, 28, and A. Williamson, 28; Katherine Jackson, 41, and William Bennett, of Clark County, Wash., 65; J. Batman, 43, and W. Batman, 50; Lillie Craig, 29, and C. O. Jones, 24.

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being finished and a gione wall is being in front and on the side next the prises four dwellings, and the total cost is above \$6000. Mr. Bates' tenants will have one advantage. They will be so close to the church that they can hear the sermons from their back doors.

Florence Crittenton Home Among the objects of charity men-tioned as worthy of being remembered this Thanksgiving is the Florence Crittenton Home, near the East Ankeney Rallway, which is worthy and needs all the help it can get. This institution is doing a good work. Its friends hope it will receive a good donation out of the bounty of the good people of Portland, so that its inmates may also enjoy Thanksgiving.

Enst Side Notes.

The funeral of Fred Egger, who died November 23, took place yesterday after-noon from the German Methodist Church, Rodney avenue and Stoddard streets. The boy was 14 years old.

Rev. J. T. R. Lathrop, of Grace-Stree Church, delivered a lecture at the Sell-wood Methodist Church, Friday night, on "Revolutionizing Agencies at Th Times." Other lectures will be given distinguished speakers in this church, of which will be under the auspices of the Ladies' Social Union.

Dr. Wise, room 614, The Dekum.



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