

LOWER WATER RATE
Saving of \$3 a Year for Each Family.

REDUCTION FOR 1901 ANNOUNCED

Ordinary Households Will Pay \$1.50 a Month, Instead of \$1.75—Income of the Water Committee Steadily Increasing.

The Water Committee, at their meeting yesterday, reduced the rate on one water-closet in each dwelling or place in the city, except dwellings occupied by more than one family, and in churches, \$5 cents per month, which will amount to about \$25,000 during the year 1901.

On motion the report was received and ordered filed. Water Rates for 1901 Fixed. On motion the matter of fixing rates for the ensuing year was taken up. It was explained that the reason for omitting the water-closet from the rate schedule on closets was that such houses and churches were given the benefit of a reduction at the time the present rates were fixed.

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duced 5 cents per month, the reduction will amount to about \$25,000 during the year, and then the estimate for the year just past follows:
Cash for water sold, etc. \$32,000.00
Operating expenses and repairs, including \$500 for additional meters, 4,000.00
Interest on bonds, 120,000.00
Total \$156,000.00

Funds available for general construction purposes, 1901, \$12,000.00. This is herewith submitted to the engineer's approximate estimate of the expense account for drainage tunnels and reservoir during the year 1901, amounting to \$12,000. These figures are approximate only, as it is impossible to make an exact estimate at the present time.

I recommend that the proposed reduction in the water rates be made, and that the amended rate schedule be adopted. I also recommend that the existing water rates be amended by making the reductions above stated, and that, when so amended, such rates shall be established as the water rates for the year 1901.

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COUNTY BONDS OPPOSED

MERCHANTS GENERALLY DO NOT FAVOR THEM.

Opinion Prevails that Multnomah County's Indebtedness Should Be Gradually Wiped Out.

Numerous business men interviewed by a reporter of The Oregonian on the question of bonding the county indebtedness expressed different opinions on the subject, although the majority of them opposed any such plan. Not a few merchants were found who confessed that they had given the matter but little attention that they did not feel willing to make any statement, and asked to be excused. Informally, they generally expressed an opposition to the plan.

Quite a number said the county officials should try and pay up as fast as they can. A. B. Steinbach opposed bonding the county. He said, "I am not in favor of it."

Donald Mackay—My opinion is it would be bad business to bond the indebtedness. I think, with the delinquent taxes we are getting in, we can pay up. My county is gaining all the time; whereas, if you bond it, it will stay that way for years. Schemes to bond the indebtedness of the county are the last resort of the Legislature. They were not promoted by parties living in those places, but by outsiders interested in the bond business. It kept one man busy watching them.

Ben Selling—I am very much opposed to it. I believe that if the county officials will use the same economy in the conduct of the county's business as they do in their own affairs, Multnomah County will be practically out of debt in five years, thereby saving the taxpayers this interest burden.

Walter F. Burrell—From my limited knowledge, I believe that I am not in favor of issuing any long-time bonds, but if call bonds bearing 5 per cent interest could be sold, I think it would be advisable to place \$250,000 of such bonds on the market.

Senator Joseph Simon—My impression is the best way to do is to pay off the indebtedness as fast as can be done. Bonds imply that the county is going to run for a period of years, and this means a large interest account. Altogether, I don't know that I favor bonds.

Philo C. Holbrook—I am not in favor of it. I think with good government and economy the county can gradually work out of debt. It is not necessary to make and applied on the indebtedness. It would be a very easy matter to reduce the county indebtedness from year to year, and nobody would notice it.

C. H. Weissdorfer—I am in favor of it. Let the next generation pay some of these things. I certainly believe it is all nonsense to state it off and pay 6 per cent interest. The county can sell bonds for 3 or 4 per cent.

FOOTPADS WERE POLITE

MASKED HIGHWAYMEN DECLINE TO ROB TWO WOMEN.

Evidently They Were Looking for Bigger Game—Rate Householder Takes a Shot at Hoodlums.

Miss Merrill, a teacher in the Powell's Valley School, on the Powell's Valley road, southeast of Gresham, was returning home in a buggy with a friend Saturday evening, when they were stopped by two masked men at the Hawkins Hill. They were delayed in leaving Portland, where they had been making Christmas purchases, and when they reached this place it was dark. Two men with their faces masked stepped from the side of the road in front of the horse. One seized the bride and the other went to the buggy. The latter improvement work by people who expected some one else to come along at that time, and when they discovered that they had stopped two women, they desisted at once, and the occupants drove on. No other was molested, but the incident has caused much excitement in the neighborhood.

J. F. McCartney, who lives at 81 East Seventh street, was shot Saturday night at three boys, who had thrown a stone against the front of his house with the evident intention of breaking another window. The dim light no doubt prevented the boys from seeing McCartney. It was only about 7:30 o'clock, and Mr. McCartney was sitting in his front room reading, when suddenly he heard a stone strike the front of the house within a few inches of the window. He was prepared for such cases, and, seizing his pistol, ran outside. He saw three boys racing down the street bent over. He immediately fired at them, but missed. A stone used was wrapped up in a cloth. It had been thrown with a great force, and made a deep dent in the woodwork, and then dropped down. Mr. McCartney thinks it must have been thrown from a sling to have come with such force. Last week a large stone was thrown through the front window. What object there is in attacking Mr. McCartney's house is impossible to understand. He lives quietly and never has antagonized any of the boys of the neighborhood. He used a pistol that night, but yesterday secured a shotgun, and hopes to do better next time. Mr. McCartney says this seems to be the only way to protect himself in the neighborhood.

A petition for letters of administration in the estate of James Forrestal has been filed in the Probate Court by Joseph E. Forrestal, a son. The estate is valued at \$15,000.

A decree of judgment by default was ordered by Judge Cleland yesterday in the case of W. J. Devereux vs. the Oregon Loan Society vs. L. L. Riley et al., which was brought for the recovery of \$600, with interest.

Charles W. Smith, son of Thomas C. Smith, chief engineer of the Albina Ferry, living at 359 East Gilliam street, died yesterday morning at St. Vincent's Hospital. He had been employed in the foundry of the O. R. & N. Co., at Albina, Saturday morning he went to work as usual, and worked through the day till evening, when he started for his boarding place in Lower Albina. He had gone on several blocks, and almost reached his home, when he was taken with faintness, and, to save himself from falling, tried to get hold of the fence, but failed and went down. He was found lying on the sidewalk, and taken to the hospital where he remained unresponsive till death. He was a very strong, robust young man, but was always very fat. For the past 10 years he had been employed in the foundry of the O. R. & N. Co., where he was 25 years old, and was born and brought up on the East side. He was commander of Albina Team No. 7, of the city, and the funeral will take place tomorrow afternoon from Dunning's undertaking parlors, East Sixth and East Alder streets. Lone Fir cemetery will be the place of interment.

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IN THE SEVERAL COURTS.

Purchaser of the Marquam Block Makes an Affidavit.

J. Thorburn Ross filed an affidavit in the Circuit Court yesterday, in answer to the motion against the confirmation of the Sheriff's sale of the Marquam block.

Mr. Ross stated that he was the purchaser of the property at the sale, and that he was present at the Courtroom December 8, at 10 A. M., when the sale was made. Among those who were present were P. A. Marquam and U. S. G. Marquam, the former's attorney. Mr. Ross affirms that neither objected to the sale of the property at the time it was made. When the Sheriff's sale was set, Mr. Ross states that he urged the Sheriff to delay the sale one week for the benefit of Mr. Marquam, who had made that request, on the ground that he would then be able to pay the amount of the entire judgment. When the Sheriff asked for a cash guarantee as an evidence of his intention, Mr. Marquam refused to do so, and the sale went on. As to the allegation that the notice of the sale was given in an illegal manner, through publication in a Sunday newspaper, Mr. Ross asserts that the paper, while carrying the word "Sunday" in its title, is printed and generally circulated on Saturday.

Could Not Agree. Counsel in the case of the United States vs. Riddle, having finished their arguments Monday evening, Judge Gilbert delivered his charge to the jury in the case yesterday afternoon, and they retired to deliberate upon their verdict. They remained out till 5 P. M., when they came into court and stated that they could not agree, and were discharged.

Hannah Mason, administratrix of the estate of W. S. Mason, has filed her final accountings with a petition for her discharge in the Circuit Court.

The divorce case of Minnie Wells vs. James Wells was dismissed yesterday by Judge Cleland on motion of the plaintiff's attorneys.

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About Diamonds. Our stock is most complete, all sizes, and selection of cuts. We use in selecting them. Our cutters tell us we are among the most critical and particular firms in the United States. They are right. Our customers shall have only the very choice gems. We know what people want. We cut and set them in the most artistic manner, and we will sell you a diamond at just what they are worth. No fancy prices. We will raise the price to make our own settings, so can give you what you want.

Jewelers and Silversmiths THE G. HETKEMPER CO. 286 MORRISON ST.

ADDS TO THE TAX BURDEN

Fulton returned yesterday from a visit of two weeks in California. Mayor Row was not at his home yesterday, and was confined to his office by a severe cold.

Councilman R. L. Gilsen, who has been on a month's visit to California, arrived home yesterday morning. He was in Los Angeles at the time of the great rain-storm there. He says he has seen it rain in Oregon, but never anything like that. The water flooded the streets and covered the sidewalks, and the citizens paddled around smiling and happy. They should come to Oregon, where they might be made happy more than once in four or five years.

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—Northwestern people registered at New York hotels today as follows: From Portland—F. M. Warren, at the Manhattan. From Seattle—C. H. Watson and wife, at the Imperial. From Tacoma—T. W. Taylor, at the Albert. From Homestead—F. E. Pearce, at the Victoria.

DAILY CITY STATISTICS

Real Estate Transfers. George C. Sears, Sheriff, to J. K. Mink, 1/2 of NE 1/4, section 31, T. 2 N., E. 1 W., January 2, 1901. \$1611. Chief of Police to P. H. Marry, lot 12, block 1, block 13, Highland, January 19, 1901. \$435. Sheriff Multnomah County to P. H. Marry, lot 12, block 4, Market, December 19, 1900. \$1711. Chief of Police to P. H. Marry, lot 10, block 13, Highland, January 19, 1901. \$975. Chief of Police to P. H. Marry, lot 10, block 13, Highland, January 19, 1901. \$975. National Bank of Portland, lot 2, block 7, Alameda, fractional blocks, sections 11 and 14, T. 1 B., R. 2 E., November 19, 1900. \$700. National Bank of Portland, lot 2, block 7, Alameda, fractional blocks, sections 11 and 14, T. 1 B., R. 2 E., November 19, 1900. \$700.

Marriage Licenses. C. J. Ensbarger, Jr., and Mattia Shubert, 21, Dick Vandert, 25, and Lottie M. Hobbs, 25.

Death Returns. William J. Ogg, December 16, 27 North Third street, age 4 years, malignant diphtheria. Elizabeth J. Flora, December 16, 470 East Burnside street, 23 years, apoplexy. Mary J. Walling, December 15, 361 Front street, 68 years, valvular disease of heart. Arne Hermanson, December 15, Washington Hotel, 28 years, phthisis pulmonalis. John L. Hayesh, December 15, 63 North Ninth street, 54 years, enlargement of liver.

Contagious Diseases. Amelia Thompson, 204 Morrison, measles. Minella Cornele, 822 East Yamhill, diphtheria. Cora Jones, Sixteenth and Mill, diphtheria. Frederick Burgenheimer, 470 Goldsmith street, measles.

Business Items. If Baby Is Cutting Teeth. Dr. Sanden's Electric Belt.

DR. SANDEN'S ELECTRIC BELT. Has no equal for the cure of Nervous and Physical Debility, Exhausted Vitality, Varicose, Premature Decline, Loss of Memory, Wasting, etc., which has been brought about by early indiscretions or later excesses. Thousands give willing testimony. Established thirty years. Call or write for "Three Classes of Men."

PERSONAL MENTION. Dr. A. H. Jessup, of Salem, is at the Perkins. Dr. C. W. Barr, of Astoria, is registered at the Perkins. Robert C. Smith, of Skagway, is registered at the Imperial. George H. Bingham, an attorney of Salem, is at the Imperial. Judge J. H. D. Gray, of Astoria, is registered at the Imperial. A. H. Huntington, Sheriff of Baker County, is at the Imperial. Lee London, an insurance agent of Roseburg, is at the Perkins. George W. Gray, a merchant of Albany, is registered at the Perkins. Robert Burns, a railroad man from Walla Walla, is registered at the Imperial. Judge J. C. Moreland left for San Francisco last night, to be back Monday. Counselman W. T. Branch has returned from an eight days business trip to Eastern Oregon. S. G. Fulton, assistant general freight agent of the Northern Pacific, and Mrs.

REDUCTION IN RATES RECOMMENDED.

The operating committee presented the following communication: "The cash receipts for the year 1900, actual for 11 months and estimated for the month of December, will amount to about \$250,000, or \$21,421.90 more than for the year 1899."

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DISBURSEMENTS DURING 1900.

Distribution system, extending water main, 4,800.00. Rights of way, 1,800.00. Bridges, settlement of Bullen's claim for \$600, 2,500.00. Electric lights, 6,375.41. General expense, salary of engineer, surveyors, etc., 1,174.41.

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FOREST GROVE DENTAL COLLEGE.

The North Pacific Dental College, not being a defunct institution, was yesterday by the Pacific University eleven, by a score of 6-0. The game was played on the Multnomah field, and was witnessed by a small crowd of spectators.

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WOMAN WHO WROTE FOR HELP.

Came a Few Hours Too Late. Waiting for a letter from home, in the sudden death of Mrs. Ida Mason, of Murphy, was a young girl, who yesterday by the Coroner's jury. The dead woman lived at 35 North Fourth street, and the evidence of Leopold Block was that Mrs. Murphy had dozed off to sleep in her bed.

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