CITY NEWS IN BRIEF

Amusements Today.

CORDRAY'S — "A Stranger in a Strange Land."

METROPOLITAN — "A Rag-Time Carnival."

HARD ON WHEELMEN.—Bicycle riding was not a success on Portland streets or sidewalks yesterday, and those who tried it were obliged to lead their wheels through the wet snow most of the time. Even messenger boys were at their wits' end in trying to keep awheel when they reached a little distance away from the business center. The sidewalks had not been cleared of snow to any extent, and only that portion of the street between street-car tracks had been attended to. Wheelmen who tried to bowl along the cleared section found that teamsters preferred that place, too, and as a wagon does not have to give the wheelman the right of way unless the driver is so inclined, the bicyclist had to give up the wheeling altogether. Towards night the snow had settled down to a little streak along the edge of the sidewalks, much to the satisfaction, also, of those who don't ride wheels.

NOT PROFITABLE FOR WOODDEALERS.—Wooddealers in the city do not think there will be any advance in the price of fir this season, as there is considerable corded up at available points on the river banks, and along railroad tracks. The Winter has thus far not met the approval of the fuel dealers, as the cold periods have been very brief, and the chances are against there being any more. "People don't buy much wood in damp weather," a dealer complained yesterday, "as the rains are never cold, and so very little wood is needed in the heating stoves. The usual cooking-stove consumption exceeds very little that of the Summer demands, unless a cold snap intervenes. Wooddealers will not get rich this Winter in Portland."

A WONDERFUL SHOWING.—A telegram received from the home office by Manager Samuel, of the Equitable Life, conveys the information that the December business of his company was over forty-six millions. This is phenomenal, considering that there are very few life insurance companies that produce forty-six million business in an entire year. The business of the Equitable Life for the year 1900 was over two hundred and five millions; this is a greater amount than most companies have been able to accumulate during their entire existence, and some of them are from 40 to 50 years old. The Equitable Life is certainly a great and progressive life insurance company.

CHINESE MISSION ENTERTAINMENT.—Holiday exercises were held by the members of the Presbyterian Chinese Mission in the lecture-room of the First Presbyterian Church last evening. The programme of 38 numbers was appreciated by a large audience. It comprised recitations, dialogues, choruses and quartet singing, in which men, women, boys and girls took part. The recitations were well delivered, especially those by two little girls. Lou Mui sang "Asleep on the Deep," and Lee Wa recited part of the Declaration of Independence. Some of the pieces were in a humorous vein, and the musical numbers were well chosen.

MISSIONARY SOCIAL UNION.—There will be a meeting of the Missionary Social Union tomorrow in the First Congregational Church. The afternoon session will open at 2 o'clock. Representative women of the different denominations will present topics of general missionary interest, and Miss Julia Hatch, a returned missionary from Laos, will speak in the afternoon. At the evening session, Bishop Earl Cranston will give an address on "Missions in the Orient," and Dr. Alexander Blackburn on "The Spanish-Speaking People Near Our Own Borders." Lunch will be served between the sessions.

GAMBLING CASE CONTINUED.—The cases against Frank Hellen and William Ayres, of the Portland Club, on a charge of running a faro game, were called in the Municipal Police Court yesterday. The warrant was issued on the oath of Charles Harbough, who says that "the defendants deal, play and carry on as proprietors thereof, a game of faro, a banking game, with cards, for money, and because of representations of money, good value." No evidence was given, and on the motion of the defendants' attorney the case was continued until Saturday.

WOODCHOPPERS TAKE A VACATION.—The snowy time in the forests along the Lower Columbia was not relished by woodchoppers and quite a number of these are now taking a little rest in Portland. About eight inches of snow was resting placidly among the trees near Mayger yesterday, where some 30 choppers are employed, and the soft, sloppy stuff made it very uncomfortable for the wielders of the ax. Choppers are paid more per cord than they were a few years ago, however, and so can better afford to take a rest.

INCORPORATIONS.—Articles of incorporation of the Pacific Commercial Company were filed in the County Clerk's office yesterday. The incorporators are John J. Gorman, R. W. Thompson and Henry Hewitt; capital stock, $8000. The objects are to conduct a general commission and brokerage business. Articles were filed of the Portland Oil Company by L. M. Davis, J. H. Davis and R. N. Baker; capital stock, $1,000,000. The objects announced are to locate and operate oil wells, etc., in California.

FOR OBSTRUCTING NAVIGATION.—William Tallant, of Astoria, was brought to Portland yesterday by Deputy United States Marshal Morse, having been arrested for obstructing the navigation of the Columbia. By order of Judge Bellinger he was allowed to go at large on his own recognizance. Mr. Tallant has a seining ground above Astoria, and was dumping a lot of gravel or something of the sort into the river there to improve it in some way, which is in violation of the law.

UNITARIAN WOMEN'S AUXILIARY.—The Women's Auxiliary of the Unitarian Church at the annual meeting last night elected officers for the ensuing year as follows: President, Mrs. W. W. Johnson; vice-president, Mrs. G. H. Strout; secretary, Mrs. John Brooke, and treasurer, Mrs. Ryan S. McLeran. Mrs. H. L. Pittock, the retiring president, was awarded a hearty vote of thanks for her services.

FIFTH-STREET EXTENSION.—The Portland Railway Company expects to begin running cars on its Fifth-street extension within a few days, the time depending somewhat on the weather. If the weather continues bad, the work, which is now almost completed, will be delayed. The tracks are laid, the wires are up, and little remains to be done.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR PHOTOGRAPHED.—Oregon Commandery, Knights Templar, has had a number of group photographs taken for reproduction in a Masonic history that is in course of preparation. All appear with the insignia of the order. Portraits of officials wearing new robes that cost $100 occupy one of the large plates.

MR. WILLIAM MACKIE, representing Arnold, Constable & Co., of New York City, will be at the Meier & Frank store today and tomorrow, with samples of an exceptionally handsome line of carpets. Mr. Mackie will be pleased to show his line to those interested; also to take special orders.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.—The Chamber of Commerce will hold a special meeting at 3:30 this afternoon in lieu of the regular meeting, which was postponed from Tuesday. The annual meeting of the Chamber will be held next Wednesday.

INDOOR BASEBALL LEAGUE.—The first indoor baseball game of the season in the series of the Indoor League will be played at Y. M. C. A. gymnasium tonight. Y. M. C. A. and M. A. A. C. teams will be the contestants.

THE "Portland Kennel Club" will hold its annual meeting in the parlors of the Oregon Mining Stock Exchange, Chamber of Commerce building, this evening at 8 o'clock. A full attendance is desired.

WOMAN'S CLUB.—The library department of the Woman's Club will meet at 2 P. M. today at the residence of Mrs. George Flanders.

WHAT A DIFFERENCE IN THE MORNING.—A young man visited a downtown drug store yesterday morning for the purpose of having several injuries about his body attended to. His right arm was swollen to double its former size, and his left side was black and blue. The doctor asked what had happened, and he explained that four or five men had jumped on him while a dance was pending at Linnton, New Year's eve. A resident of Linnton, who was in town last evening, said the injured man had visited the dance dressed up like an Indian; that his language was bad and that he took possession of the women's dressing-room, forbidding all to enter. He was thrown out by several of the young men, but came back with a whoop, just as the floormaster was arranging for a new set of quadrilles. Then the Indian was pitched out again, but this time he was stamped on and rendered harmless and helpless before quiet was restored in the ballroom. When he came to yesterday he must have realized that he had had a rattling time New Year's eve.

ANNUAL MEETING OF BOARD OF TRADE.—The Board of Trade will hold its first annual meeting in Artisan Hall, Arlington building, at 2 o'clock this afternoon. President L. B. Cox has not fully recovered from his recent severe illness, and will not be present. Vice-President Connell will occupy the chair. A proposal will be submitted to the meeting to enlarge the membership of the board of directors so as to bring business directly before the entire body. There are now 11 directors. The suggestion is to add one member for each subboard and call frequent meetings of the stockholders. The Board of Trade closes the first year of its existence with 550 members.

BEGIN PAYING LICENSES.—The City Treasurer opened his books yesterday for the collection of licenses for the current quarter. The receipts during the day were very gratifying. Liquor-dealers came in in considerable numbers, and there were also a large number of business licenses paid. As soon as there is any decrease in the numbers coming in to pay their licenses the license officers will begin to circulate and every one who owes a license fee will be made to pay it, and no long delay will be allowed. A few shirked paying last quarter, but they will find their names on the list this quarter.

COOS BAY JETTY.—Wilhelm Jacobsen, whose firm has the contract for building the jetty at Coos Bay, returned from there a few days ago. He expects to finish the work within the next six weeks, and to that end has about 100 men employed. The jetty now extends about two miles out from the mainland, but some 300 feet of it was washed away from the outer end in the recent storm. His firm has been engaged on the work for 17 months.

REPORT DELAYED.—The committee appointed at the last informal meeting of the Sons and Daughters of Indian War Veterans has been somewhat delayed in its work of gathering information and data, owing to the serious illness of the chairman, Mrs. Harrington. She is rapidly recovering, however, and the committee will no doubt have at least a partial report ready to be read at the meeting next Tuesday.

WELLS, FARGO & CO.'S NEW CASHIER.—R. Lea Barnes, who was manager of the Bank of British Columbia until it was bought by the Canadian Bank of Commerce, was installed yesterday as cashier of Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Bank, succeeding R. M. Dooly. Mr. Dooly will wind up the affairs of the Commercial National Bank, which Wells, Fargo & Co. bought several years ago.

GONE TO ST. HELENS.—Ex-Mayor Storey has gone out of the slabwood business here to go into the slabwood business at St. Helens. He stated to Mayor Rowe that he would not do business in a town where he was charged a license for doing it. He proposes to get slabs in St. Helens and retail them here. He may run across the license officer again.

SCHLITZ BEER on draught at The Abbey, 148 Sixth street. Hitchings & Burelbach.*

COMING ATTRACTIONS.

Sale of Seats for Collamarini Opens Today.

The sale of seats for the engagement of Signorina Collamarini, at Cordray's Theater, in conjunction with the Boston Lyric Opera Company, will open this morning. There has been a tremendous

Signorina Collamarini.

demand for seats, especially for the nights when Collamarini will appear in grand opera, and every indication points to a rapid disappearance of the tickets in the box office.

The four nights which will be devoted to Collamarinia and grand opera are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. On Monday night, Collamarini will appear as "Carmen;" on Tuesday, as Lucena in "Il Trovatore." On Thursday night, "Carmen" will be repeated, and on Friday night she will sing "Mignon."

The comic operas to be sung by the Lyric company during the engagement will be "The Fencing Master," on Sunday night; "The Idol's Eye," on Wednesday night and Saturday matinee, and "Wang," Saturday night.

"A Turkish Bath."

The offering for next Sunday night at the Metropolitan is F. A. Wade's company in a rewritten version of "The Turkish Bath." This roaring laugh incubator is presented by a company of which Miss Etta Merris, the chic comedienne, and E. L. Graves, the well-known comedian, are leading members, and they are surrounded by a company of versatile and clever people, including several handsome girls who can sing, dance and make merry, as well as wear becoming and artistic costumes.

The play has been revised, much new and pleasing matter has been added, making it an entertainment exceptionally meritorious from start to finish without one dull moment. A number of strong vaudeville acts will be introduced, making this a comedy musical treat. Seats will be selling this morning.

"The Belle of New York."

"The Belle of New York," having concluded an enormously successful run of two years in London, and having been welcomed back to America with enthusiastic fervor at the New York Casino, is being exploited in the principal cities with most of the English favorites included in the company. During the present season it will be played in Berlin, Paris and Australia, and the end is not yet in sight. The company which will present "The Belle of New York" at the Marquam Grand, on next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 8, 9 and 10, is the same that played it originally, and the same that gave the piece 651 performances in London. In all, they have played "The Belle of New York" nearly 3000 performances, a record which has never been made by any other American play in London. An actress new to American audiences is Miss Beulah Dodge, a dainty, winsome little woman who plays the Salvation Army lass. E. J. Connolly, Arthur Deagon, George Tollman, Grace Rutledge, Mae Sailor, La Belle Dosle and Flo Perry are other favorites in the cast. "The Belle of New York" comes to this city with all the beautiful chorus girls, gorgeous costumes and the magnificent scenery which has gained for this piece a world-wide reputation.

"The Day of Atonement."

The sale of seats for Phil F. Rogoway's romantic drama, "The Day of Atonement," will be opened Friday morning, January 10, at the Marquam Grand. The cast is composed of the best talent in the city, including Company F, of the Oregon National Guard. The production promises to be one of the best produced by local talent for some time.

PERSONAL MENTION.

C. E. Jones, a Moscow, Idaho, merchant, is at the Perkins.

Sol. Abraham, of Roseburg, was at the Perkins yesterday.

A. M. Baker, a druggist of Starbuck, Wash., is at the Perkins.

Senator C. W. Fulton, of Astoria, is registered at the Imperial.

W. H. Becker, a mining man of Salt Lake, is at the Perkins.

John E. Winters, a San Jose fruitgrower, is at the St. Charles.

Captain A. J. Walker, a steamboat man of Astoria, is at the St. Charles.

J. B. Weist, a logger of Stella, Wash., is at the St. Charles, with his wife.

D. P. Ketchum, a sheepman of The Dalles, is registered at the Perkins.

Gilbert Hunt, a Walla Walla manufacturer, is at the Imperial, with his wife.

Mrs. L. Ostrander, a hotelkeeper of Bridal Veil, is a guest of the St. Charles.

O. A. Palmer, a Bridal Veil lumberman, registered at the Perkins yesterday.

J. T. Lawson, a wholesale shoe manufacturer of San Francisco, is at the Perkins.

J. B. Smith, of Jamestown, N. D., an extensive purchaser of sheep, is at the Perkins.

Rev. Father A. Brongeest, parish priest of The Dalles, registered at the Perkins yesterday.

County Judge J. H. D. Gray, of Clatsop, registered at the Imperial yesterday, from Astoria.

J. C. White, of Palmyra, Neb., is in the city on a visit to his son Henry, whom he has not seen for 17 years. Mr. White feels quite at home and really enjoys the climate, since the snow came.

NEW YORK, Jan. 2. — Northwestern people registered at New York hotels today as follows:

From Portland—E. J. Failing, at the Murray Hill; C. Heiling, at the Bartholodi.

From Tacoma—Q. Giese, at the Murray Hill.

From Spokane—Mrs. T. Jacobson, at the Park Avenue.

From Seattle—Mrs. Vanogle, Miss Harris, at the Cadillic; C. F. Reynolds, W. H. Mellen, at the Albemarle; J. M. Young, at the Union Square; F. M. Raibb at the Glesy; J. P. Howe, J. P. Howe, Jr., at the Mariborough.

Court Notes.

The will of John L. Hayseth, deceased, was admitted to probate yesterday. The estate comprises various lots and also property in Clatsop County, and is devised to the wife, Brita Hayseth, who, it is stated, will care for the five children. She is named as executrix.

Robert N. Adams, of Pendleton, a stockman, yesterday filed a petition in bankruptcy in the United States Court. He owes debts which he is unable to pay; if he had any property he would be willing to surrender it for the benefit of his creditors, but he has none whatever. His liabilities amount to about $1000, of which he asks to be relieved.

District Attorney Chamberlain yesterday filed an information against John A. Long and Phoebe A. Gage, charging them with burglary in entering the office of the Blue Mountain Ice Company at 247 Stark street, and blowing open the safe. The money taken, amounting to $371, has been recovered. The woman was not a direct participant in the crime, but was connected with it in other ways.

A motion for a new trial in the case of Olsen vs. the North Pacific Lumber Company, was argued in the United States Court yesterday before Judge Bellinger, and taken under advisement. Olsen was injured in the North Pacific Lumber Company's mill and lost one of his legs. He sued for damages in the State Court and a verdict was rendered in his favor. The court decided to modify the verdict and plaintiff's counsel had the case dismissed without prejudice. A suit was commenced in the United States Court, and on trial a verdict was found for the defendant. Before judgment had been taken on the verdict the case was dismissed. A second suit was begun, and this resulted in a verdict for the defendant. Now an effort is being made to procure a new trial.

Embezzlements in 1900.

Chicago Tribune.

Although the embezzlements of 1900 show a decided increase over those of 1899, it is to be considered that the total of last year was the smallest in 23 years. The figures for 1900 are $4,602,124, as compared with $2,218,373 in 1899, an increase of $2,383,751. Large as this sum appears, it is far below the average of the last 23 years, which is $7,329,806.

The losses for the year are distributed as follows: Stolen by public officials, $1,183,678; from banks, $1,857,761; by agents, $271,878; forgeries, $136,900; from loan associations $125,100; by postoffice employes, $24,427; miscellaneous stealings, $983,380. Bank employes have the unenviable reputation of heading the black list, and more than three-fourths of the bank total was taken by six employes, in Newport, Ky., Fort Worth, Tex.; Elizabethport, N. J.; Buffalo, N. Y.; Rutland, Vt.; and New York City banks, under conditions which would not have existed had the embezzlers been under proper surveillance and the banks been conducted on safe business methods.

There is nothing discouraging in the increase for the year, however, as it is still far below the average. The comparatively small sums embezzled are an evidence of the general prosperity of the country. In 1883-4 the totals were $26,504,000 and in 1893-4 $35,363,714, and these were hard-times years.

TRADES UNIONS, ATTENTION

Smoker Tomorrow Evening at A. O. U. W. Temple.

Members of trades unions, whether affiliated with the Federated Trades Assembly or not, and all friends of organized labor, are most cordially invited to be present at this, the first smoker of the series to be given by the Portland Federated Trades Assembly. Good programme and plenty to smoke. No long speeches. A good time assured. Everything free, 7:45 P. M. sharp.

Knew His Place.

London Answers.

A youth of weak intellect, known as "Daft" Jimmy, used to frequent a large pond near a Midland town during the skating season for the purpose of fixing skates. The first hard frost found Jimmy at his accustomed post. Presently two ladies arrived.

"Will the ice bear, Jimmy?" asked one.

"Dunno, ma'am."

"Go on and try it, there's a good fellow, and I'll give you sixpence."

Jimmy doffed his cap and answered:

"'Scuse me, ma'am, I might be daft, but I knows me manners. Ladies fust!"

Silence is the understanding of fools, and one of the virtues of the wise.—Bolleau.

"Wit, Oratory and Wisdom all
Sit down when the Price rises to speak."