

NEW MAN IN FIELD

C. H. Baker, of Seattle, Wants Electric Franchise.

APPLIES TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Proposes to Lay Underground Conduits—Four Propositions Are Now Up to the Portland Authorities.

An ordinance was introduced at yesterday's session of the City Council granting to Charles H. Baker, of Seattle, a franchise for 20 years to furnish electric light and power, by using underground conduits, erect poles for wires on all streets, and other privileges incidental to conducting an enterprise of this kind.

Apparently no one stood sponsor for the measure, which was sent to the clerk's desk to be read without hearing the name of the sender. Mr. Baker was not to be found at the hotels last night, and it is to be presumed he represented here by an agent who has thus far kept his identity secret from the general public.

Charles H. Baker is the son of the financial backer of the Snoqualmie Light & Power Company, William T. Baker, president of the Chicago Board of Trade, himself a millionaire, and through important connections representing many times that amount. C. H. Baker is at the head of the affairs of the Snoqualmie Falls Company, and has directed the construction of the plant and the extension of the company's business.

About five years ago the younger Mr. Baker began operations in Washington, and the power developed at Snoqualmie Falls is now carried over 20 and more miles of wires into Seattle and Tacoma, to subscribers in both of which cities light and power are furnished. The investment made by Mr. Baker and his associates amounts to several hundred thousand dollars, and the financial backing which he commands makes him a formidable figure in the contest for franchises in this city, if he is seriously after one. The other applicants for franchises here for electric lighting and power are the City of Butte, Mont.; the Oregon General Electric Company and the City & Suburban Railway Company, the two last named both of Portland.

The activity on the part of capitalists to secure franchises at this time may possibly be occasioned by the provision in the new charter, now in the hands of the commission, limiting the term of franchises to 25 years. Another inducement which probably has had serious consideration is the 1906 Exposition, which will create a demand for that amount of electrical energy, both for lighting purposes and power. With the brilliant electrical displays of recent expositions as a criterion, doubtless the directors of the Exposition will plan in advance directing on a large scale, and the contract for furnishing the current and power will be of great value.

So far as is known, Mr. Baker and those who are interested with him have not taken any one into their confidence as to the probable source of power, whether it will come from some of the waterways within a radius of 25 or 30 miles from Portland, or from other sources. The ordinance yesterday was read twice and referred to the committee on streets. When it comes up for consideration before the committee, it is likely Mr. Baker will be represented and details of his plans will be given to the public.

SOUTH PORTLAND PROTESTS

Charter Commission Will Hear Delegation of Citizens.

At a meeting of the Charter Commission to be held tonight a delegation of citizens representing the South Portland Improvement Association will appear to protest against the proposed elimination of the Seventh Ward by consolidating it with the Sixth, J. E. Weirlein, chairman of the committee, and the other members have prepared a comprehensive statement in support bearing on the subject. The argument to be presented to the commission will be along the line that residents of the Seventh Ward will be prejudiced to a greater volume of improvements than any other ward, and that by reason of the population of the ward it is entitled to be continued as a separate district.

Two amendments to recommendations of the revision committee will probably be offered. At a previous meeting the salary of the Mayor under the new charter, was fixed at \$800, which is an increase of \$100 over the salary paid that official at present. It is understood that several members of the revision committee have reconsidered their former report, and that an amendment will be offered reducing the amount, the exact figure being as yet undetermined. In the matter of wages to be paid city laborers, the recommendation was that they be paid the highest rates for each class of work. An amendment will be offered by the commission fixing the compensation at the flat rate of \$2 a day.

The commission is now well into the consideration of the legislative and other powers of the City Council, and the greater portion of tonight's session will probably be devoted to passing upon different sections having to do with this department of the charter. The final report of the revision committee on finance, revenue and taxation will come up, as will also the sections relating to franchises and public utilities. The provisions of the two last-named subjects have been given to the public. Power is given the Council to grant franchises for a term not to exceed 25 years, for a fair consideration, and the right is reserved to make the compensation payable in a percentage of the receipts of the corporation applying for the franchise.

MRS. WHITING WANTS JUSTICE

Her Dwelling Has Been Moved and She is Afraid to Go Back.

PORTLAND, Jan. 15.—(To the Editor.)—There has been a great deal said about Mrs. Whiting's building at the foot of Belmont street. Some things said are false, and some things true. The building is moved about 20 feet from where it stood. It is moved off my logs. Joseph Supple never offered me anything. He has not spoken to me for several months. Neither has anyone down there spoken to me on the subject. I told Pennoyer the only piece of ground I knew of to which to move my building would cost \$200. There was no water there, and it was in a situation where I could not live at all. Getting my house there and my things would cost about \$200, to say nothing about buying wood and water, and besides there is no water for me to get. Pennoyer never said anything to me about \$50.

Now they have destroyed my home, taken away a lot of lumber, tubs and many other of my belongings. I do not know what they have done with them. They tell so many false things that I do not think it safe for me to go down there, besides it is nearly impossible for me to get there, for they have the way almost obstructed. I know that Supple does not intend to let my house stay where they have left it. They will not answer me when I ask them. The only way that Joe Supple is going to set the

building there, which now stands in Belmont, between Water and First, the same building that was taken from the corner of East Second and Morrison.

The Chief of Police offered to get a piece of ground for me that I would be satisfied with and would move my building and all my belongings free of charge, and I would have it for a home. He promised to do this if I would consent to go, to which I told him I should gladly go. Then he came and told me he could not do it, and that he would give me \$50, and I could go and find a place and move myself. That was all he would do. I told him that \$50 would not be a commensurate even on the piece of ground which he said, "There is the Poorhouse." That was all he would do, and he said that I might come home any time and find my house torn down. They did seem to be joined together with Supple in the scheme to work against me, and it appears that they will not allow me any justice. They have destroyed my home, and I cannot stay there with safety, as they have shown themselves to have such principles as they have.

MRS. DORCAS S. WHITING.

FIRST SAWMILL IN OREGON

Earliest on Record Is Dr. John McLoughlin's, 1826.

A resident of Walla Walla County has asked The Oregonian who built the first sawmill in Oregon. An accurate answer to the question would require long historical research, and even then the authorities might disagree. The question was yesterday referred to George H. Himes, assistant secretary of the Oregon Historical Society. He said: "I have not gone into this investigation very deeply, but I believe to the bottom of all the historical records in search of the information would require a great deal of labor and time, such as my regular work prevents me from doing at present. I may say with full assurance that the first sawmill in Oregon was built before 1826. In that year Dr. McLoughlin had in operation a sawmill about five miles above Vancouver on the north bank of the Columbia. The mill was run by means of an overshot water wheel. Mrs. Marcus Whitman mentioned the sawmill in a letter which she wrote home to her sister in the Eastern States. The Whitman party, in which were Dr. and Mrs. Whitman and Mr. and Mrs. Spalding, arrived at the place September 11, 1826, on their journey down the river. The date of the reference made by Mrs. Whitman, dated September 12.

"Breakfasted at the sawmill five miles from Vancouver and made preparations for entering it. You may be surprised to hear of a sawmill here, when I said that there was no timber on the Columbia. Since we passed the Cascades the scene is changed and we are told there is timber all the way to the Coast."

"This sawmill was a British enterprise built by Dr. McLoughlin, who was in the service of the Hudson's Bay Company. As to similar enterprises started by citizens of the United States in Oregon, I am unable to say positively which was the earliest. As early as 1828 there was one at the present site of Newberg, Yamhill County, built by Ewing Young and Solomon Howard Smith. It was on Chehalis Creek and was run by water power. The first sawmill within the present boundaries of Clatsop County was built in 1844 by a man named Hunt."

Mr. Himes is up to his ears in work, preparing his third annual report. His greatest labor is that of arranging and indexing the historical references and authorities received in the course of the year. The value of the records for ready reference inheres almost entirely in the index.

PILOT BOARD TO COME

Wants to Explain Things to Portland Chamber of Commerce.

When Pilot Commissioner Farrell went to Astoria to attend a meeting of the Pilot Board Tuesday he carried a letter from President Meers, of the Chamber of Commerce, to the effect that it was the consensus of opinion among Portland shipping men that more pilots should be employed at the mouth of the river. President Meers had communicated with the shipping men for the special purpose of ascertaining what the views were on this subject, and the result was embodied in his letter to the Pilot Commission. The commission was unable to agree on the appointment of more pilots, though prominent every day to comply with the wishes of the shipping men and the Portland Chamber of Commerce. A desire was expressed for a conference with the Chamber of Commerce and the Pilot Board of Pilot Commissioners to be present at the Chamber of Commerce meeting, at which report will be made on an investigation into the conditions at the mouth of the river recently authorized by the trustees. The Pilot Commissioners are said to be fearful that matters will appear in this report that will need explanation or justification on their part, and they wish to be on the ground to get immediate hearing in that case. At any rate, there is not likely to be any objection on the part of the Chamber of Commerce to meeting and conferring with the Board of Pilot Commissioners at any time. Several of the Chamber of Commerce trustees yesterday expressed a desire to have the Commissioners present at the regular meeting to be held next Tuesday morning.

SMOKE BRINGS ENGINES

Chinese Tooters Call Out the Fire Department.

A Chinaman saw a chimney smoking more industriously than usual shortly before 12 o'clock last night, at the southeast corner of Second and Oak streets, and he immediately blew a police whistle. Other Chinamen ran out of their lairs and they also tooted police whistles. Hearing the noise several policemen ran up, expecting that a small riot had broken out in Chinatown, and one of the bluecoats gasped, very much out of breath: "What's the matter?" "Fiey," said the tallest Celestial of the group, pointing proudly to a small stream of smoke sailing from overhead. In the meantime someone had sent in an alarm of fire from box No. 14, and the Fire Department arrived, very much disgusted to learn the state of affairs. There was no loss.

CHARGED WITH LARCENY

Arrest of a Man Who Has Operated at Vancouver.

John Ramsey was arrested yesterday by Detectives Ford and Corrado, in a Whitechapel street, charged with the larceny of an overcoat and a pair of gloves, the property of Dr. Stowell, of Vancouver, taken last Tuesday. The overcoat and gloves had been sold by Ramsey to a second-hand dealer on Third street, near Burnside. Ramsey, who is not known to the Portland police, was taken to Vancouver for trial.

B. B. RICH WILL SELL

Cigars Only in First Selections and Full Factory Sizes.

Our chain of five cigar stores are located conveniently. Our cigars that we sell are all of the best-known manufacturers. Our stores are located at Sixth and Washington, 123 Third street, Fifth and Morrison, Portland Hotel and 66 North Third street.

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

Olds, Wortman & King

Remember delays are dangerous. To reap the best results from our

TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL CLEARANCE SALE

Come now, while assortments are fullest.

REMARKABLE CLEARANCE SPECIAL OF SUITS

50 of our \$25.00 Suits in this season's best styles and colors—browns, navies, tans and grays—are placed on sale today at

\$13.95 each

The materials are elegant, the tailoring superb. Positively the best values in late style suits yet offered in Portland. About half-price.

A THREE DAYS' SILK CHANCE

Today, Tomorrow and Saturday we will sell 36-INCH BLACK TAFFETAS, soft and lustrous, Worth \$1.65, at - \$1.34 yard. Worth \$1.50, at - \$1.19 yard. Worth \$1.35, at - \$1.04 yard. Worth \$1.25, at - \$1.01 yard. Prices that true economists will be quick to appreciate.

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Lipman, Wolff & Co.

GREAT SALE

EVERY ARTICLE REDUCED

Another Big Shipment of....

NORFOLK and NEW BRUNSWICK Ladies' Part Wool Ribbed Vests and... Drawers

Real value \$1.00 at **69c**

Headquarters for....

DR. JAEGER'S UNDERWEAR

Sole Portland Agents for Belfast Linen

MESH UNDERWEAR

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Cheney Bros.' 1902 Foulard Silks—Newest designs and colorings, 89c yd, \$1.09 yd

Meier & Frank Co.

Trunks and Traveling Bags—every size and style—all prices. (Third Floor.) "Willamette" and "Hildredge B" Sewing Machines at Clearance Prices. Toilet Articles, Stationery, all Fancy Goods, Drug Sundries at Clearance Prices.

The Clearance Sale

Is the same story of great bargains, enthusiastic buying, huge crowds. Each day the store is making new records, until the business has attained a point where facilities are seriously taxed during the afternoon hours, which fact compels us to encourage morning shopping more than ever before. We are trying hard to improve the afternoon service, but it is asking almost too much to expect the same attention and dispatch in serving you as can be had during the morning hours. Arrange the housework so you can shop mornings—try it once. We know you will be much more satisfied in every way.

Waist Flannels

In a variety of 15 colors—all desirable—good quality material, 27 inches wide; we have been selling thousands of yards at

23c yd

300 yards of Boucle Cloaking in red and black, browns and green, 54 in. wide, \$2 **50c yd** and \$3

100 pieces of silk-striped Moreen, in all the best designs and colorings. **33c** Yard Regular 50c values.

Lace Dep't

Inviting prices on Laces and Embroideries. Cambric Allovers, 75c. \$1.00 and \$1.50 values, **43c** at yard

Plain and fancy Tucking, in variety of patterns, at yard **33c**

Lace-striped Tucking, for waists—great values, at yard **79c**

Evening Nets and Allovers, \$1.50 and \$2 values, at yard **50c**

Swiss, Nainsook and Cambric Edgings and Insertions, at greatly reduced prices.

Blankets

Blankets and Comforters are appreciated these nights. No excuse for not being comfortable when you can buy warm covering at the prices our Clearance Sale offers—every size and every quality. Lace Curtains greatly reduced.

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Cloak Dept.

Astonishment and wonder are holding court in the Cloak Department these January days. Astonishment at the desirable merchandise and wonder at the little prices. The entire stock is marked at rock-bottom prices. Suits, Costumes, Wraps, Jackets, Silk Skirts, Walking Skirts and Suits, Wrappers, Silk Waists, and Petticoats, Flannel Waists, Children's Outer Apparel, all included. (2d Floor.)

Infants' long and short Coats in white silk, Bedford cord and other material, at special January prices.

Children's Dresses reduced.

Hosiery

When nights and mornings are as cold as the past few days you feel the need of warm underwear and hosiery. Our great Clearance Sale offers you the opportunity of selecting from our massive stocks at the lowest prices of the year. Every style, every size, every quality one may desire for ladies, men, children or infants. Supply your wants immediately.

Underwear

When nights and mornings are as cold as the past few days you feel the need of warm underwear and hosiery. Our great Clearance Sale offers you the opportunity of selecting from our massive stocks at the lowest prices of the year. Every style, every size, every quality one may desire for ladies, men, children or infants. Supply your wants immediately.

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Fur Coats, Capes, Collarettes, Victorias
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Fur Muffs, Caps, Gloves, Trimmings
Fur Rugs, Fur Robes
Ostrich Feather Boas

ALASKA SEALSKINS AND FINE FURS OUR SPECIALTY.

G. P. RUMMELIN & SONS,

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Great... Annual Clearance Sale...

LOOK AT THESE PRICES:

Handsome Line of Fur Collarettes, the \$5.00 kind for **\$2.50**

Beautiful Imperial Boas, made in various furs, the \$6.00 kind, special **\$3.50**

Excellent values in our regular \$10 collarettes, for **\$5.50**

EVERY ARTICLE REDUCED

EVERY ARTICLE REDUCED

Siberfield Fur Mfg. Co.

LARGEST AND LEADING FURRIERS OF THE WEST.

283-285 Morrison St., Bet. Fourth and Fifth

COME AND GET THE KEY

YOU can own this beautiful home. WE will buy it for YOU and let you pay us back at \$4.50 or \$5.00 per month WITHOUT INTEREST. Or we will pay off THAT MORTGAGE on your home on the same liberal terms. WE ASSURE that we will build FOUR TIMES the number of homes in the next period of time than any other company or plan in existence.

Call TODAY and get an early Number.

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225-226 Abington Building, Portland, Oregon.

Agents wanted throughout the Northwest. Phone Main 690.