CITY NEWS IN BRIEF

The Oregonian's Telephones.

OREGON.

Counting Room	Main 667
Managing Editor	Main 636
City Editor	Main 166
Composing Room	Main 685
East Side Office	East 61
Superintendent Building	Red 2823

COLUMBIA.

Counting Room	667
Editorial Rooms	166
Composing Room	714
Engine Room	296

AMUSEMENTS TONIGHT.

THE BAKER THEATER (corner Third and Yamhill streets)—Ralph Stuart and Company in Bronson Howard's great play, "The Banker's Daughter." 8:20.

CORDRAY'S THEATER — Edward Ownings Towne's fantastic musical comedy, "Too Rich to Marry."

POKER FOR A STREET MASHER.—"As the old cock crows, so crows the young," is an old saying which is not usually applicable to hens, for crowing hens and whistling girls are supposed to come to bad ends, and no one would wish to see the children of a "crowing hen" imitate her. Little girls, however, are quick to notice characteristics of their mothers or grown-up sisters, and to imitate them. While waiting for a car last evening, a young man noticed two little girls of about 5 and 3 years, out for a promenade, dressed in gowns of grown sisters, which trailed far behind as they walked. Presently, one reached around and drew her trail clear of the ground and the folds tight around her form, while the other hitched her skirt up under her arm, and, wheeling, came walking back, evidently under the impression that strangers would take them for grown-up folks. The young man who had been watching their antics with much amusement, walked up to meet them, and, raising his hat, said: "Good evening, ladies. You are Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Jones, I believe?" They acknowledged that they were, and when Mr. Brown and Mr. Jones and the children were inquired about, made precisely such replies as their mothers would, under the same circumstances, and finally proceeded down the street. The young man turned to go back to the corner to catch his car, but, after he had followed them a few steps, one of them turned and indignantly demanded to know why he was following them. This was a poser, and he did not know what reply to make, and stood abashed, while they glared at him. Luckily, his car came along just then, and he made a break and hoisted himself aboard and escaped. He says he will never again attempt to joke with even the littlest girl he meets with whom he is not acquainted.

TRACK CONNECTION COMPLETED.—The Portland Railway Company has completed the construction of its track on Burnside street, from Front street to a connection with its line on Fifth, formerly the cable road of the Traction Railway Company. As it is of 7-inch girder rails, the joints cast, welded, set in concrete, and the spaces between the rails, and for a foot or more on the outside paved with stone, graveled with cement, it is far and away the best street railway in the city. The complicated cross-over and curve which connects the Burnside track with the track on Fifth street is of the same kind of rails and cast welded at every joint and angle, and, like the rest of this section of the road, is entitled to be called "solid construction." This connection at Burnside street is the first direct connection made between the system of the Portland Railway Company and the system of the old Traction Company since the latter was acquired by the former, and it will be a great convenience. Heretofore when a car was to be changed from one line to the other, it was necessary to lift the car off the track at some crossing and turn it half way round, and then lift it on the other track.

NEW INSURANCE RATES.—The new fire insurance survey of this city is nearly finished. J. C. Stone, in charge of the local board of surveyors, expects to have the last of the minimum rate cards printed by the end of this week. The last of the special hazards will be surveyed and rated by Tuesday or Wednesday. The surveyors soon after will be put to work in other parts of the state, where there is plenty of work to do. Portland has received generally more favorable rates than before, but, on the water front, property owners have to pay very much higher rates, that have made some of the good people wince and sigh for a fireboat. An insurance man said yesterday that property along the river has been rated entirely too low for the risks involved. He thought that a fireboat might get rates down to their former figures, but that without it the good old times would never be restored.

GAS TANK SUBSIDES TEMPORARILY.—Some of the residents in the vicinity of Couch and Fourteenth streets, who consider the gasholder there unornamental, are feeling much pleased because the tank has been, as they imagine, changed so that it goes down into the earth, and so is not so prominent a feature of the landscape. They are not acquainted with the construction of gasholders, and have an idea that now that the tank in question has hidden itself in the ground, as it were, it will remain there. They will be disappointed when they learn that the tank has only settled down because it has been emptied, and that it has only been emptied in order to change it into a telescopic tank or holder by adding another section or story to it; and that when this is completed, it will rise again and go up higher than before. Gas tanks and men filled with gas or hot air seldom subside unless they blow up.

TO ENTERTAIN EDITORS.—The meeting of the Portland Press Club yesterday for the purpose of considering the entertainment of the National League of Press Clubs and other bodies of editors, who will be here during the Summer, resulted in the appointment of the following committees: Transportation, A. Noltner, W. Wisdom, F. A. Dunham, F. Lee, J. H. McKibben, A. E. Tozier; entertainment, M. Williamson, W. H. Galvani, Mrs. S. Dunlway, Mrs. L. A. Mallory, William Candlin; programme, George H. James, Layton Wisdom, A. E. Kern, P. Linford, Mrs. Bessie Guinean Stone; reception, Will G. Steel, E. L. E. White, J. Zane, Mrs. C. A. Coburn, Alex. Sweek; finance, E. L. E. White, Frank Lee, A. Tozier.

CITY PRESS CLUB MEETS.—At a meeting of the City Press Club yesterday afternoon an organization was effected, with the following temporary officers: Max Gillock, president; E. L. Powell, vice-president; D. C. F. Freeman, secretary; Paul Kelty, treasurer; John Kelly, librarian; directors, Claude Simpson and C. N. McArthur. Plans for securing and furnishing quarters were discussed.

ARE YOU contemplating a trip East? If so, call at the Northern Pacific ticket office, 255 Morrison street, corner Third, for full information in connection with special excursion rates, and then reserve accommodations on the "North Coast Limited," the crack train of the Northwest. It is just as cheap for you to travel on this train as on any other, and the cost is none too good for you. *

STRAWBERRY-PICKERS' NOTICE. — Only $1 round trip to Hood River and White Salmon. Boat leaving foot Alder street daily except Sunday. Dalles Electric line. Both phones, main 351. *

VERY LOW excursion rates have been opened by the Northern Pacific to all points East. Call at the ticket office, 255 Morrison street, corner Third, for particulars. *

SPECIAL ROUND TRIP RATE to Cascade Locks for $1 50. Steamer leaves daily from foot of Alder street at 7 A. M. Steamer ride both ways without transferring. COURT contract and fidelity bonds, Fidelity & Deposit Co. Surplus, $5,000,000. Cofer, Burgard & Rodgers, 251 Wash.*

ASTORIA BOAT leaves daily 7 A. M., except Sunday, foot Alder street for Astoria and all Lower Columbia River points. *

REGULATOR Line steamers for The Dalles at 7 A. M. from Oak-street dock. Full time card. *

CAT IN A CRAWFISH NET.—Down on the wharf at the foot of Pine street, a lot of crawfish nets or traps belonging to an old Frenchman, temporarily out of the crawfishing business, are stored. They are very ingenious and efficient, being formed by stretching a piece of netting over a cylinder made of hoops and slats, such as bunches of bananas are sometimes shipped in. A piece of old iron pipe is fastened to one of the slats to hold it on the bottom. At each end the netting is drawn into the shape of a funnel, the small end pointing inward, and held there by a string between the two funnels. On the top or side, opposite to the iron pipe, an opening is left, out of which to pour the crawfish and to insert the meat or fish which is used for bait, and to reach which the crawfish crawl through the funnel-shaped entrance. A cat is kept in the warehouse, and the other day, from lack of anything else to do, she crawled into one of these traps, through the slit left open at the top. She soon found that she was "in a box," and, becoming alarmed, began to tear around, and the pile of traps tumbled down and rolled about the floor. The cat went wild at this, and, as her claws could grasp the floor through the meshes of the netting, she propelled herself and her cage all over the place, cutting all sorts of curleycues and turning flip-flaps, at the same time uttering yells like those of a lost spirit. It was some time before any one dared to take hold of the trap, and then it was not safe to attempt to get the cat out at the hole by which she entered; so the netting was slashed from end to end to release her. She has not got over her scare yet, and will not go within a mile of the traps, nor let any one carrying a trap come near her.

E. J. JEFFRIES ON A STRIKE.—E. J. Jeffries was seen on the curb near the Chamber of Commerce Saturday, with a look of stern determination on his face, and his hands shoved as far down in his pockets as possible. "What's the matter, Jeff?" asked a friend. "Oh, I'm on a strike," was the reply; "and I shall hold out to the bitter end, I tell you." Now, as the friend has known Mr. Jeffries a long time, he could not imagine what on earth he was striking about, and so asked him what his grievance was, and what he was striking against. "I am striking against work," was his reply. "My wife told me to cut the grass about our premises, and so I took off my coat, collar and cuffs, and hunted up a scythe and started in. The scythe was dull, there were lots of stones in the grass, and the sun shone brightly. I soon got tired and sweaty. I hung my scythe on a tree, put on my collar and cuffs and coat and sent word to my wife by a messenger boy that if any one inquired for me, she was to say that I had gone on a strike." "Why, this is a very serious matter," said the friend. "You bet it is!" said Jeff., as he looked at his watch. "It will be dinner time in half an hour, and then I shall find out where I stand. If my wife decides on a lock-out, I will be up against it sure." As he has not been seen on the curb since, and the grass has been cut, it is evident that the strike was amicably settled.

GARDENS ON A ROOF.—Moss on the roofs of old buildings is no uncommon thing in Oregon, but it is seldom that a regular meadow, where a swath could be cut with a scythe is seen. Such a spectacle can, however, be seen on the roof of an old two-story house on Columbia street, one door west of Water street. The roof, as well as a veranda in front, is thickly covered with moss, and out of this is growing a crop of some kind of weed, about a foot in height, which waves in the wind like the grass in a meadow. On the south slope of the roof the plants are beginning to dry up, and have some kind of flowers or cottony seed vessels on them, but on the north slope there is a patch still green and thrifty. An old settler, whose attention was called to this "roof garden," said it served to show what a productive country this is. Very often crops of young maple trees are seen growing on old, moss-covered roofs, the seed having been blown there from shade trees on the streets; but they seldom get more than three inches in height, and by the time they have put forth good-sized leaves, the moss dries up, and they wither and die.

ANXIOUS FOR CONDENSED MILK FACTORY.—Dairymen along the Willamette slough, and in other sections where many cows are kept for their milk, are anxious to learn what is to be the outcome of a scheme broached a short time ago for starting a condensed milk factory here. They say they could make much more money if they could sell their milk just as it comes from the cows than they can by separating and selling the cream and milk, and with much less trouble to them. It takes about six cans of milk to yield one can of cream, for which they receive $3 50 to $4 per can; while at, say 10 cents per gallon for milk, the year round, they would get over a dollar a can for it, and the skim milk is of but little value to them. The steamboat men are also anxious to have a condensed milk factory started, as they would then have five times as many cases to carry, and would make much more from their business in milk. There is a great deal of condensed milk sold here, a large part of which comes from Kent, Wash., and there appears to be no reason why a factory for condensing milk here should not prove a profitable investment. All that is needed is some one who understands the business and $50,000 to start a cannery.

GIRDERS FOR MASONIC CATHEDRAL.—Four huge steel girders, the largest ever seen here, arrived a few days ago for the Cathedral of the Scottish Rite Masons, at Morrison and Lownsdale streets. They are 60 feet in length, 4 feet 4½ inches high, and the flanges 16 inches in width. They are to support the ceiling of the grand banqueting hall and sustain the floor of the lodge-room above. Just which kind of an animal candidates for initiation into this way-up Masonic order are obliged to ride during the ceremony cannot be surmised by a "profane," but, without doubt, it is something much more majestic than the traditional goat—an elephant, maybe; but these girders are strong enough to allow a whole menagerie of elephants to caracole around the lodge-room, without danger of breaking through into the banquet hall below; and also sufficient to prevent any number of banqueters, no matter what pressure of exhilaration they may be working under, from raising the roof. The girder will be "the right thing in the right place" when in place.

VISITS MOUNT BAKER MINE.—Leo Friede, who has an interest in the property of the Mount Baker Mining Company, has lately visited the mine away up in the snow at the base of the mountain. He says the stamp mill and other machinery for the mine, which it was necessary to abandon while en route to the mine last Fall, still remains where it was left, 16 miles away from the mine. It is expected that the job of getting it up to the mine will be resumed very soon, as the snow is going off rapidly; but as it has to be taken over a high divide, where the snow is deep, it has not yet been safe to start it, for fear of slides. It will be got there, however, if it takes all Summer. Mr. Friede says the region around Mount Baker is a paradise for fishermen, as there are numerous mountain lakes, which are literally alive with trout. Unacquainted with the ways of mankind, they are caught in large numbers by the merest tyro in the fishing business.

CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS.—The United States Civil Service Commission announces that on June 17 examinations will be held in this city for the positions of record and identification clerk in the United States Penitentiary service, and medical inspector and physician in the Philippine service. Persons desiring to compete should call on or address Z. A. Leigh, P. O. Department.

STRAWBERRY-PICKERS' NOTICE. — Only $1 50 round trip to Hood River and White Salmon. Boat leaving foot Alder street daily except Sunday, at 7 A. M. Dalles Electric sign, Both phones, Main 351. *

BERRY-PICKERS for Hood River should take the Regulator Line steamers, foot Oak street, $1 50 for the round trip, the only line running through without transfer. *

NEW BILLS IN LOCAL PLAYHOUSES.

"The Banker's Daughter," by the Stuart Company at the Baker.

THE CAST:

John Strebelow	Ralph Stuart
Lawrence Wulbrook	Louis Morrison
Babbage	J. C. Fenton
Brown	Louis Frahoff
Phipps	Arthur Garrels
De Carojac	Frank Sheridan
Harold Routledge	C. P. Clary
Lillian Westbrook	Lansing Rowan
Florence St. Vincent	Catherine Countess

"Too Rich to Marry," at Cordray's.

THE CAST:

Jonathan Bradbury	Ed Redmond
Mrs. Bradbury	Jessie Brink
Aletha	Jessie Emison
Cyrus Brown	J. C. Palmer
Mrs. Brown	Edna Ward
Sam Brown	B. R. Brown
Sambo	Arthur Smith
Officer	Burt Neville
Leona Delroy	Estelle Redmond

Bronson Howard's fine drama, "The Banker's Daughter," was given by the Stuart Company before two big houses at the Baker Theater yesterday. The play is one which can be interpreted only by a strong company, and the presentation was fresh proof that the organization is one of exceptional merit.

As John Strebelow, the man who marries the daughter of Lawrence Westbrook, Mr. Stuart was quiet and dignified, and there was a strength to his performance which gave it character and intensity. Lansing Rowan was excellent in the emotional role of the daughter, her scene with Routledge, whom the girl loved, and those with Strebelow when he discovers that his wife's supposed love for him has not been real, were easily the best work she has done in Portland. Catherine Countess had a splendid chance as Florence St. Vincent, and improved it so well that she was a pronounced hit. J. C. Fenton, as Babbage, made more than welcome his reappearance in the cast; Louis Morrison was an excellent banker, Arthur Garrels made an exceedingly funny Phipps. Louis Frohoff made a particularly good character of Brown, and the remainder of the cast were acceptable.

"Too Rich to Marry," a play with a plot, which is extracted from the customs of the Dunkards, was put on at Cordray's yesterday afternoon and evening, the matinee being an innovation at the house. The play is comprised of a series of compromising situations, which are replete with horseplay, but which served to afford the audience with amusement. The love of a young man for a girl who cannot marry him because she is rich, is the central idea, and around it is woven the jealousy of a wife, the desire of an elderly banker to make the acquaintance of an actress, and other things of a character not startlingly original.

The company is not large, nor particularly noteworthy. Ed. Redmond played Jonathan Bradbury in a way that created considerable merriment; Jessie Brink did a good piece of character work as Caroline Bradbury, and the rest were on hand when they got their cues, and knew their lines. Most of the situations are forced, but they were all of a nature which gave opportunity for action, and there can be no question that the piece was a hit with the house. It will run all the week, and will undoubtedly do the usual good business.

MAYOR ROWE has said: "No councilman has ever worked harder for the people and for the city of Portland than has Fred T. Merrill." *

TEN DOLLARS reward, no questions asked, for return of Rambler bicycle 68776, coaster brake, to 348 Washington street. *

COLUMBIA and Hartford bicycles. 126 First street, near Wash. F. P. Keenan. *

FRATERNITY AT BANQUET

Chapter of P. Delta Kappa Makes Public Appearance.

Saturday evening the Beta Chapter of Oregon, Pi Delta Kappa Fraternity, held its first banquet. The 21 members sat down to a sumptuous spread and an elaborate menu was served. After the dinner the remainder of the evening was spent in toasts and short speeches.

The Beta Chapter of Oregon represents the Portland High School and the members are from the school alumni and those about to finish the school. The chapter was organized a year ago last Fall, but this was its first formal appearance. Heretofore the meetings have been of a secret nature. The mother chapter of the fraternity is at Orchard Lake, Mich. In 1892 an Alumni chapter was established from the alumni of the Lowell High School, at San Francisco. Since that time chapters have been formed in San Jose, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Fresno and Oakland. The chapter in this city is the first one to be established in Oregon. The members are well-known young men of this city who received their academic education at the Portland High School.

The fraternity members have had a houseboat built, and will have their Summer quarters on it. The houseboat will most likely be moved up to Ross Island this Summer, and the members will make that their headquarters during the Summer months. The plan of taking the boat to some point on the Columbia River for a several weeks' camping trip has also been proposed, and will probably be carried into effect.

Dr. Millard C. Holbrook acted as toastmaster, and filled his position in a graceful manner. The toasts were all well given, some witty and some serious, but all showed the love the members retained for "Dear Old High." After the toasts on the menu card had been given the toastmaster called upon the others present for speeches at random. The toasts and speeches were well received, and after each was sung "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow." The following were the toasts on the menu card: "Our Fraternity," Ben L. Norden, '97; "The 'Dear Old High,'" Jay H. Upton, '98; "The 'Finneganah Society,'" Lloyd B. Wickersham, '96; "Our California Brothers," Harry R. Smith, San Jose High School, '95; "The Faculty," Herbert Lee, faculty; "The Ladies," W. Carr Morrow, '98; "The Football Team of '95," Edward Barrett, '98; "Our Goat," Samuel C. Holbrook, '98; "Graduation Days," Rufus Holman, '96; "Our Athletes," Lambert Dunbar, '98; "Our Initiation," Le Conte Stiles, '98; "The Cardinal," Curtis Sargent, '03; "Doc," Dr. S. C. Slocum, '96; "Prospects," Harry Gaylord, '93.

The members of Beta Chapter of Oregon, Pi Delta Kappa, are: Edward Barrett, '98; W. A. Dill, '02; Lambert Dunbar, '98; Albert Goss, '02; Harry Gaylord, '93; Howard Gaylord, '95; Dr. Millard C. Holbrook, '96; Samuel C. Holbrook, '98; Rufus Holman, '96; Ralph Holman, '03; Herbert Lee, faculty; James McKinnon, '93; W. Carr Morrow, '95; Ben L. Norden, '97; Curtis Sargent, '03; Le Conte Stiles, '98; Dr. S. C. Slocum, '96; Harry B. Smith, San Jose High School, '97; Jay H. Upton, '98; James Watson, '93; L. B. Wickersham, '96.

TO ENLARGE POWER PLANT

Portland General Electric Company to Make Improvements.

The Portland General Electric Company, which for some time has been considering plans for extensive additions and improvements to its plant, has finally adopted specifications and placed orders for a large amount of machinery. From a New York company it has ordered five 700-horse-power electric generators, to be installed at Oregon City, and has placed an order with a Dayton firm for the necessary water wheels and other appliances to operate the generators. Work on the foundations for the extension of the generating station at Oregon City will be commenced as soon as the water has subsided to a stage low enough to permit of this. It is expected that the first of the new generators will be ready for operation by October 1, and the installation of the others will be completed as soon thereafter as possible.

The company will also add to the capacity of its central or distributing station at Seventh and Alder streets, by the erection of a fire proof building, 60x100 feet, on the corner adjoining the present station. Work will be begun on this building as soon as practicable, in order that it may be ready for the reception of the machinery when it arrives, and a large amount of new and improved transformers, rotary converters and other appliances will be placed in the new station to take care of the increased volume of electricity from the generating station at Oregon City.

There will also be a complete reconstruction of the entire distributing system all over Portland, and the service will be greatly improved. The pressure on the main transmission line, between Oregon City and Portland, will be doubled, and the loss in transmission will be reduced to about 5 per cent.

The orders already placed amount to about 40 carloads of machinery, and it is expected that the entire equipment will be installed and ready for use within one year.

FORGOTTEN HISTORY.

Expert Opinion Saw the Land Situation in 1895.

PORTLAND, May 25.—(To the Editor.)—A statement in this morning's Oregonian shows that the state school fund has gained $500,000 under the Daly law, which was passed by the Legislature less than eight years ago. As a wee bit of forgotten history, kindly publish the following letter, which was written January 13, 1895:

Hon. William P. Lord, Governor of Oregon.

Dear Sir—On the 28th day of September, 1893, by proclamation of the President of the United States, the Cascade Range Forest Reserve was established in the State of Oregon, within which there are, in round numbers, 4,500,000 acres of Government land, which is withdrawn from the market. Previous to the issuance of the President's proclamation, Oregon was entitled to two sections in every township of this vast tract of mountains for school purposes. The moment the reservation was established Oregon was entitled to lieu lands, to be selected at pleasure from any unclaimed Government lands in the state.

Now stop for one moment and think of the enormous gain by the cause of education if prompt and judicious action is taken by the present Legislature. The creation of this reservation has taken from the state nearly 250,000 acres of worthless land and given it in lieu thereof a like amount of the best Government lands to be found. Under the laws of the state as at present administered, the public school fund realizes but $1 25 per acre, at which rate but $312,500 could possibly be obtained for this entire lot of lieu lands. No property within the keeping of the state is so sacred as the public school fund, and every effort should be made to both increase and protect it. Here is an opportunity for the present administration to increase this fund by at least several hundred thousand dollars. Shall it be done, or shall it not? To do so, a law should be passed, providing for the selection, appraisement and sale of lieu lands, and the minimum price should be fixed at not less than $2 50 per acre.

I desire to impress upon you the importance of this measure, and beg leave to suggest that you transmit to the Legislature as soon as possible a special message calling the attention of that honorable body to the subject, and recommend prompt action in the premises. Very sincerely, W. G. STEEL.

Governor Lord promptly acknowledged the receipt thereof and sent a special message to the Legislature, calling attention to the matter. Senator Daly was interested in the matter, introduced his bill, in line with the above sentiments, and crowded it to a successful termination, for which he is entitled to the gratitude, not only of his own constituents, but of all friends of education in Oregon. In commenting on my letter to Governor Lord at the time, The Oregonian said: "The benefit to be derived directly by the state from this action, if the Legislature takes proper action, is clearly set out in Mr. Steel's letter." WILL G. STEEL.

RIVER RISES SLOWLY.

It Will Soon Reach 20 Feet—Cascade Locks Will Be Closed.

The Willamette River, according to reports received by Forecast Official Beals, will reach a heighth of about 20 feet at Portland by the end of the month, and the locks at the Cascades will be closed by next Wednesday or Thursday. The river report of Mr. Beals is as follows:

"The Snake River has been falling for the last three days, but warmer weather will prevail over its drainage area during the next few days, and it will rise quite rapidly during the week.

"The Upper Columbia River has risen at the rate of about a foot a day during the past week, and it will rise at a greater rate during this week.

"The rise maintained in the Upper Columbia has been sufficient to overcome the slight fall in the Snake River, and to cause the Lower Columbia to rise about a foot and a half during the last seven days.

"It is expected that a stage of about 20 feet will be reached at Portland by the close of the month, and that the locks at the Cascades will be closed by next Wednesday or Thursday."

The daily river bulletin is as follows:

STATIONS.	Stage of river today	Change in 24 hours	Rainfall last 24 hours	Danger line	Highest water known	State of weather
Portland	16.9	0.1	0.00	15.0	33.0	Clear
The Dalles	29.1	0.3	0.00	40.0	59.6	Clear
Umatilla	18.0	0.3	....	25.0	34.5	Clear
Northport	21.8	1.0	....	50.0	53.0	Pt. cldy
Wenatchee	32.9	2.0	....	40.0	58.0	Clear
Riparia	11.1	-0.2	....	....	24.7	Clear
Lewiston	9.3	-0.4	0.00	24.0	26.0	Clear
Weiser	....	....	....	16.0	26.3	.....

TREES CUT FOR PILES.

Oregon Mills Are Busy Filling Large Orders.

The sawmills of this region are clearing the large trees off the timber land at a rapid rate, and the growing demand for piles, which are being shipped in every direction bids fair to clear off the small trees at the same rapid rate.

The Southern Pacific Company recently let contracts here for 36,000 piles, 68 to 70 feet in length, and 14 to 16 inches in diameter, to the butt, which are to be used in constructing a cut-off across Salt Lake, which will save considerable mileage. Messrs. Wakefield & Jacobson have the contract for supplying 18,000 of these piles, and have a dozen parties in the timber in different sections getting them out. The first raft of them is at hand, and will be loaded on the cars at St. Johns for shipment at once. The contract for the other 18,000 was let to several different persons who are also at work getting them out to the railroad.

The Southern Pacific will also ship 18,000,000 feet of lumber to Salt Lake, to be used in the construction of the cut-off and other railroad work.

The Oregon Round Lumber Company is also filling orders for piles and poles for California and the Orient. The French Government has placed an order for 800 piles, 48 to 66 feet in length, and 14 to 20 inches in diameter at the swing; that is, at the point where the tie on being suspended balances itself. This is considerably larger than the piles used in this country, and such sticks would be accounted good sawlogs in some countries.

This company is also filling an order for 500 cedar poles of 30, 40 and 50 feet in length for California, where they are to be used for electric light, telegraph and telephone poles.

It was said at one time that the supply of such cedar poles here would soon be exhausted, but on the contrary it is all the time becoming easier to get them. Young cedars grow up in the fir forests, and as the fir trees are now logged off large areas every year by the aid of logging railroads, and steam engines, which have taken the place of ox-teams, the young cedars which are left become available, and orders for any number of cedar poles of any length can readily be filled. What the result of all this promiscuous cutting of old and young timber is going to result in is a matter which will interest residents here in the next century.

NOT DUE TO HENDERSON.

Delays With the Irrigation Bill—Danger in Too Much Debate.

WASHINGTON, May 21.—Considerable ill-feeling has been aroused over reports that have appeared in certain Western papers stating that Speaker Henderson has broken faith with the supporters of the irrigation bill and refused to give the bill consideration at a time promised. The friends of the bill are hastening to deny that there has been any breach of faith on the part of the Speaker, and say that no time has ever been set for the consideration of the bill. When the programme in the House looked clear some time ago the irrigationists decided that they would like to have their bill called up about the 12th of the present month, and made plans accordingly. However, when the date approached it was found that other matters would crowd in, and that consideration would be further delayed. Again the irrigation people turned their eyes to May 30, but now it looks as if that date would be too early, as the House has already laid out business that will carry it beyond that date. The latest announcement is that the friends of the bill are striving to have it considered within the first 10 days of June.

Just now the warmest supporters of the irrigation bill are planning to have two, and possibly three, days of general debate in the House before taking a vote on the bill. They say they certainly can have two days, and, if they ask for it, probably a longer time. This is rather discouraging, for debate, if it be too prolonged, will certainly open up opportunities for the enemies of the bill to get in some deadly strokes. This fact is inducing some Western members to exert themselves to have but a brief time allowed for debate on the bill. These members point out that the recent poll shows that a safe majority of the House is ready to vote for the bill, and this is, to their minds, all that is essential. It is to a certain extent unfortunate that some of the advocates of the irrigation bill are over-anxious to have an opportunity to speak in its support in order that they may have their remarks printed and circulated during the coming Congressional campaign. The desire for a long debate is almost entirely a selfish one, and can do no general good.

WHERE TO DINE.

Oregon berries, lunches, dinners, also Maillard's candies, at Brandes', 145 First.

Strawberries, ice cream and other delicacies. Portland Restaurant, 305 Wash.

THE BROOM AS AN EMBLEM OF VICTORY OR SUPERIORITY.

Green, in describing in "Short History of the English People," the battle between the Dutch and England, in which Van Tromp was leader on the Dutch side, says:

". . . the unequal fight went on doggedly till nightfall, when the English fleet withdrew, shattered, into the Thames. Tromp swept the channel in triumph, with a broom at his masthead."

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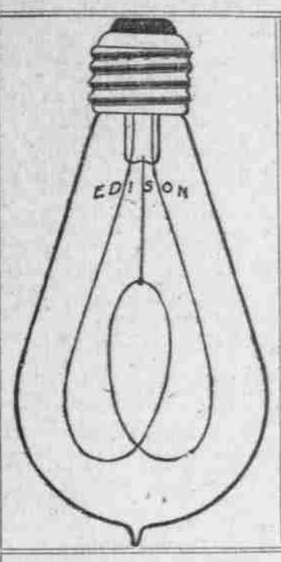

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