

WAIT ON CHARTER

Earlier Repair of Bridges Is Sought by Citizens.

"BORROW," SAYS MR. CORBETT

Worst Ones Could Be Repaired and Reimbursement Made When Charter Is Passed—City Officials Discuss This Expedient.

Unless a temporary expedient can be devised, the rebuilding of street bridges and the street improvements which are being undertaken by the city will be delayed for some time. That is the consensus of opinion among those who have discussed the needs of the city in these two directions. H. W. Corbett suggests that the city raise money and repair the worst bridges, repaying those who advance the money when the new charter is passed. President Mills and Mayor Williams are considering the advisability and practicality of this expedient.

"The city ought to raise money in some way to repair the worst of the bridges, or obtain it temporarily from individuals under an arrangement to reimburse them from the city funds when the new charter is passed by the Legislature, if this can be done legally. I think the money could be raised by private subscription to strengthen the bridges until we can build new ones. I think there are enough public-spirited citizens to do that."

"As regards the street improvements, such as East Morrison street, which you illustrated in The Oregonian, I do not see why the city can't make repairs by assessment on the abutting property, for it is valuable and can stand assessment. The conditions are not the same with the elevated roadways as with the bridges over the gulches."

This is the way Hon. H. W. Corbett suggests that the city might deal with the emergency created by the collapse and closing of the bridges by which the business center was connected with the suburbs. These suburbs are now practically reduced to the position of islands or peninsulas, which can only be reached by circuitous routes or by clambering across precipitous gulches.

The question whether some temporary expedient could not be found by which the city could raise money immediately, with the aid of the citizens, for the purpose of repairing such bridges as are necessary to keep open communication with the suburbs until the new charter comes into operation and gives the city the means of either filling or rebuilding the tottering structures, was put not only to Mr. Corbett, but to A. L. Mills, vice-president of the Security Savings & Trust Company, and president of the Board of Public Works, Mr. Mills said:

"I was figuring with the Mayor yesterday on the possibility of going ahead to let contracts, making payment due about February 1, or whenever the new charter is adopted and an improvement district formed. It might be possible to do this, but at the best it is a doubtful expedient, and it is extremely doubtful if a responsible contractor would undertake such an expensive operation as rebuilding a bridge without some better security for payment."

"I might get some public-spirited citizens to guarantee the repayment of money to be advanced by the banks, but some mean-spirited property-owner might fight the assessment on his property for the improvement and then the guarantors would be out their money. The new charter provides that the city may proceed with an improvement unless the owners of 25 per cent of the property assessed protest. We might overcome this difficulty by going around in advance and getting, say, 90 per cent of the property-owners to agree not to fight the assessment."

One of the principal reasons why the Taxpayers' League started the movement for a special session of the Legislature was that it might break the power of the new charter and place the city at liberty to put in operation the provisions contained in that instrument for carrying out street and bridge improvements. Mr. Mills said that the emergency is so great and the remedy provided by the new charter so ample that it would pay the city to defer the cost of a special session for the purpose of keeping in the bottle which contains the medicine."

One day would be time enough for the Legislature to take the necessary action. A special session is estimated to cost \$1000 a day, and even if the session were extended to the constitutional limit of 20 days, the cost would not exceed \$20,000. "There is at least one good result of the closing and breaking of the bridges," said Mr. Mills. "That is that it has called attention so forcibly to the urgent necessity of dealing with the bridges question that the people will be willing to spend a large sum of money."

The provisions for streets and bridges contained in the new charter are as liberal as those in the present charter are restrictive. The street repairs are limited to a quarter of a mill levy, which on a \$400,000 valuation is only \$10,000. To this may be added such sum as the council appropriates from the general fund. This has to be kept in mind in paying 40 miles of streets, including 14 miles of bridges and elevated roadways. The new charter provides for a levy for this fund alone of the quarters of a mill, which would be \$30,000, and devoted to the same purpose all the revenue derived from vehicle licenses. This brings the fund to a total of \$40,000 or \$50,000. As the charter provides that, in case the valuation should be reduced below \$400,000, the levy may be raised as much above the fixed maximum of 7 mills as will suffice to raise the same amount of revenue, the fund is assured of at least \$30,000, leaving the licensees out of consideration. The difficulty in regard to building bridges and roadways at the cost of owners of adjoining property is also factually met. Under the present charter, the cost must be assessed to the abutting property, and as the lots are usually down a gulch and are of small value anyway, the cost is greater than the benefit conferred. The Federal Supreme Court has held that property cannot be made to bear a larger tax for improvements than the benefit conferred is worth. Thus proceedings under the local improvement law are practically blocked.

The provisions of the new charter are based on the fact that the property near the two ends of a bridge is benefited as much as, if not more than, that on the sides. All the property benefited may be included in the improvement district, though it may be some distance from the proposed bridge. Thus the share to be borne by the lots fronting on the bridge will not be out of proportion and the area assessed will be large enough and will contain enough lots of good value to make the charge reasonable on each front foot involved. In drafting these provisions, the charter commission carefully considered all the decisions of the courts bearing on the subject, so as to avoid all risk of having the assessments successfully attacked in the courts.

At the same time that City Engineer W. C. Elliott has been closing the dangerous bridges, he has been preparing estimates of the cost of filling or rebuilding them. Railroad engineers have been consulted on the subject and they advise

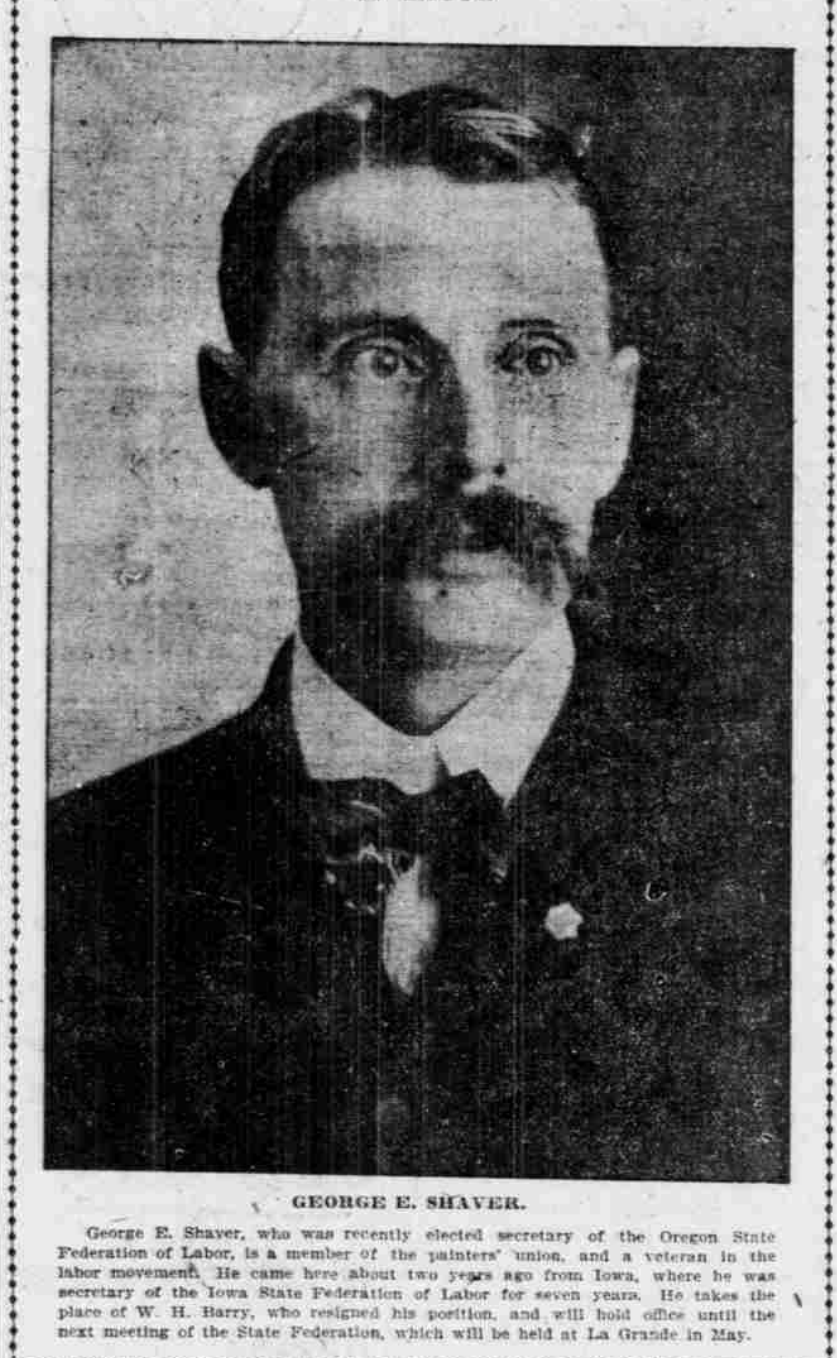
filling wherever it is possible, and running large culverts through the fill to carry off the water. Where filling is impracticable, Mr. Elliott has made estimates for combination bridges of steel and wood, for they would be permanent. The substructure would be of steel and the decking and easily accessible parts of the superstructure of wood, so that they could be renewed from time to time. These estimates are almost completed, so that, when the new charter becomes effective, all the preliminary work will have been done.

FIREBOAT MUST WAIT.

Until New Charter Is Passed There Is No Way of Raising Money.

The report of Fire Chief Campbell and the recommendations that he made as to the improvement of the Fire Department have caused general comment, and it is generally agreed that something ought to be done. It is even urged that immediate action should be taken, but there seems to be no way of raising the funds needed until the new charter shall have gone into effect. The meeting of the Legis-

ELECTED SECRETARY OF THE STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR



GEORGE E. SHAVER.

George E. Shaver, who was recently elected secretary of the Oregon State Federation of Labor, and a veteran in the labor movement, came here about two years ago from Iowa, where he was secretary of the Iowa State Federation of Labor for seven years. He takes the place of W. H. Barry, who resigned his position, and will hold office until the next meeting of the State Federation, which will be held at La Grande in May.

There is so near at hand that all concerned are disposed to endure the condition a little longer rather than take any extreme measure to raise the money. The need of a fireboat is the one that is urged the strongest. Many places along the water front are so isolated by the condition of the streets and bridges that it would be an utter impossibility for an engine to get to them. In other places there is only a six-inch main, which would be of little effect in a large fire.

"Chief Campbell's report is a good one," said one of the Fire Commissioners yesterday. "and it shows the people how far we are behind here, but what can we do? We want a fireboat. We want a half-hundred fire engines, and we want improvements. We will have to have these things before we are in a position to say that we have an up-to-date city, but until we have them we cannot even maintain the department we have as it ought to be maintained. When we get short of hose, it is almost impossible to get an appropriation with which to buy more. The answer of the Council is always, 'We haven't the money,' and what is the use for us to press our claim when there is nothing to ask for? We are allowed but \$5,000 per year for the fire department. A fireboat would be useless if it could not be maintained properly."

"We are bound hand and foot," said Mayor Williams, "under the present charter, and I see no way that we can hope for improvement of the Fire Department until the new charter is adopted. I am sure that as soon as it is adopted, steps will be taken at once to build and maintain a fireboat, and as soon as possible other improvements of the department will be made. Some of the citizens are making arrangements to present a bill asking permission from the Legislature to levy a special tax for the purpose of building a fireboat."

The business organizations of the city have become interested in the condition, and there is some talk among them as to what ought to be done. "If we are granted a special tax for this purpose," the members say, "it will be at least a year before the money can be collected and a boat paid for." The members of the Board of Trade seem to think that there may be a possible way to get it, and we have no money and no way to get any. The only thing to do is to wait for the new charter and make the taxpayers pay for a fireboat."

FINE PIANOS FOR RENT.

Piano Tuning, Polishing, Shipping and Moving.

Just now Eilers Piano House is in especially favorable position to furnish fine brand new pianos for rent, for an evening, week or by the month. Ten cents a day will place a good piano in your parlor now. Why not have music in the home? We also repair, polish, tune, move and ship pianos at the lowest rates. See Eilers Piano House, 351 Washington street. Both phones.

POPULAR POTTER IN SERVICE.

Queen of River Boats Is Now Making the Astoria Run.

The traveling public will be delighted to know that the popular steamer, the T. J. Potter, is now making the Astoria run. See O. R. & N. time card.

DAMAGE TO AFFECTIONS

STENOGRAPHER SUES ELEVATOR MAN FOR \$10,000.

Miss Devereaux Says Secretary Nicholson Promised Marriage, but Wedded Another.

A breach of promise suit for \$10,000 damages was filed in the State Circuit Court yesterday by Lois Eldora Devereaux, a stenographer, against Thomas J. B. Nicholson, secretary of the Pacific Coast Elevator Company. The complaint is in the usual form in such cases. It sets forth that on August 18, 1901, Miss Devereaux agreed to marry Nicholson at his solicitation, and that the promise between them continued in force until June 1, 1902, when he refused to marry her. It is alleged that on June 14, 1902, the

AWARDED \$5000 DAMAGES.

Jury in United States Court Finds Verdict for Eli Hamblach.

Eli Hamblach, the 5-year-old girl whose foot was severed by a turntable in Pendleton, was awarded \$5000 damages from the Washington & Colville River Railway Company late yesterday afternoon by a jury in the United States Circuit Court. The parents of the child contended that the accident was due to the unsafe condition of the turntable in not being locked, and sued for \$50,000 damages.

The railroad company affirmed that the child and her companion, who turned the table while the girl's foot was caught, were trespassing on the grounds of the company at the time. The accident occurred April 7.

Dunning Denies His Liability.

G. D. Dunning, who was recently sued by D. W. Ward for \$2500 alleged to be due on a subscription to stock in the Copper Creek Lumber Company, has denied his liability. He says that he never agreed to pay for the stock, and that he is not liable for the payment of \$20 per month to J. A. Collett, and in his answer he alleges that the agreement was that the company was to sell sufficient stock to pay its running expenses, but recently failed to do so, and contracted debts, and he consequently ceased paying the assessments.

Articles of Incorporation.

Articles of Incorporation of the Commercial Clearance Company were filed in the County Clerk's office yesterday by J. Barrett, A. H. Ballard and H. W. Hogue, capital stock, \$2500. The objects are buying and selling, exchanging and dealing in goods, wares and merchandise. Incorporation articles were filed yesterday of the Calaveras Mining Company, by M. O. Wilkins, Charles Houghkirk and Frank Tress; capital stock, \$3,000,000.

Verdict in Right-of-Way Suit.

In the right-of-way suit of the Oregon Water Power & Railways Company against Alfred J. Stout et al., the jury returned a verdict for the defendant for \$750. There is a second suit yet to be decided by the jury. The plaintiff went to court about four acres of land. The defendants set up injury to water rights, etc., and asked for large damages.

Pleads Guilty and Goes to Prison.

William Bentley, a young negro, charged with stealing watch from George Bunch, and another from Bud Masters, pleaded guilty yesterday, and was sentenced to one year in the Penitentiary by Judge Sears.

Seeks to Clear His Title.

Albert E. Klein has sued Henry Jones and Dimple Jones, his wife, to quiet title to property located at East Washington and East Sixteenth streets.

Court Notes.

Francis S. Ivanhoe was yesterday admitted as attorney to the bar of the United States Circuit Court.

James Brown, the man who has been in jail for some time charged with selling liquor to Indians on the Siletz reservation, was released yesterday by Judge Hellinger on his own recognizance. He will be tried during the next term of court.

TAKEN ILL ON HIS JOURNEY

Rev. H. L. Pratt Goes to Joliet Hospital With Typhoid Fever.

Rev. H. L. Pratt, pastor of the First United Evangelical Church, East Tenth and East Sherman streets, and a prominent Oregon minister, fell ill on his journey to Joliet, Ill. With Rev. C. C. Poling, president of Dallas College, he started home from Pittsburg, where they had been attending the General Conference. Mr. Pratt had not been feeling well, and when they arrived at Joliet, it was found that he had typhoid fever. He was taken to the Joliet hospital, and is now recovering.

WORK OF FIREBOYS.

Proprietor of Saddle Factory Says Building Was Set on Fire.

Arthur Leisure, one of the proprietors of the saddle and stirrup factory on East Twenty-first street, near Brooklyn, which was destroyed by fire Sunday morning, is satisfied, after investigation, that the place was set on fire. He said yesterday that there had been no fire on the building for three days. Mr. Leisure further says that, when he arrived at the building, the fire was all in the west end and that the furnace and boiler were located. Taking these facts into consideration, Mr. Leisure is very sure the fire was the work of incendiaries.

CHRISTIAN SCHROEDER DEAD.

Old Soldier Who Fought in Big Battles of Civil War.

Christian Schroeder died Wednesday evening at his home at 111 Powell street, after a long illness. He was a veteran of the Civil War and had lived in the neighborhood for the past 15 years. His discharge papers show that he enlisted in the Twenty-seventh Michigan Regiment, and was honorably discharged from the service July 28, 1865. He was in the battles of Gettysburg, the Wilderness and many of the hard fights of the Civil War and came through without being wounded. After the war he lived in Detroit, Mich., where he became a member of Father's Post, No. 19, G. A. R. At Detroit he has a number of relatives of prominence in public affairs.

Mr. Schroeder's health failed several years ago and he had been practically helpless for a long time. A wife and

ing's saloon on Everett street. The murder is supposed to have been done about midnight, and the purpose of this testimony is to establish an alibi.

MANY RELATIVES ARE HEIRS.

Will of Jennie C. Card Bequeaths Much Iowa Property.

The will of Jennie C. Card, deceased, was admitted to probate in the County Court yesterday. The bequests are as follows: To Lizzie Atkinson Norris, of Nason City, Ia., \$1000; to Carrie Redington Montague, of Portland, \$500; to Alva Laura Fairfield and Mildred Belch Fairfield, of New York City, \$250 each. The remainder is devised one-tenth each to Mabel Atkinson, Joseph Howard Atkinson, Jennie Atkinson, Norris, Richard Ward Montague, Carrie R. Montague, James Jackson Montague, Jennie M. Lamson, and three-tenths to James Jackson, of which one-tenth is for his own personal use, and two-tenths for the benefit of his children, Rheas and Marion Jackson.

Charles H. McMiller, of Mason City, Ia., and Richard W. Montague, of Portland, are named as executors and trustees. The property is mostly located in Iowa.

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'Twill cost nothing to investigate and will surely save you money. If you are interested and cannot call in person, please fill out the attached inquiry blank, cut out and send to the Piano Club Manager, Eilers Piano House, Portland, Oregon. Catalogues, prices and all particulars will be promptly supplied.

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six children survive. Funeral will be held Sunday from Dunning's undertaking parlors, East Alder and East Sixth. Members of the local G. A. R. posts are expected to participate. While not an active member of any of the Portland posts, he held an honorary relationship and has been looked after by the comrades.

PIONEER BUILDING SOLD.

Minneapolis Man Buys East Side Brick Block for \$10,000.

The three-story brick building on the southwest corner of Union avenue and East Oak street was sold yesterday by Joseph Burkhard to William M. Martzall, of Minneapolis, for \$10,000. It is considered a good bargain. The building originally cost about \$20,000, and was erected by Hall and Stott (John H. Hall and J. M. Stott), who occupied the lower floor as a hardware store.

In the early days of East Portland this building was the center of commercial interest. Albe Blumenthal conducted a large mercantile establishment there. It was sold to Joseph Burkhard and W. H. Robertson, formerly of Stark-street ferry. The investment was disastrous for Mr. Robertson, and Mr. Burkhard finally became owner of the entire building. The new owner recently arrived in Portland looking for investment. All the rooms are occupied. Union avenue property is better than a few years ago.

Eight Deer in Bunch Near Roseburg.

A. W. Lambert, of the Citizens' National Bank, of the East Side, returned yesterday from a week's sojourn at Oakland and Roseburg, where he went to look after timber interests. From Oakland he went with a guide out to the Calapooya Mountains through the thick brush. While there he saw many deer, and while returning saw eight in a bunch. The guide had a gun and Mr. Lambert called his attention to the deer. The guide shot eight times, but missed every time. Mr. Lambert spent two days at Roseburg. He found everything lively and bustling at that place. Work has started on the Coos Bay Railroad. The company has purchased 400 acres on the north side of Roseburg.

Central Board of Trade Meeting.

The Central Board of Trade will hold its half-yearly meeting this evening in Mississippi-avenue engine-house, and election of officers will take place. It being the semi-annual meeting, M. E. Thompson, who has been at the head of the organization since it was started, will be elected president. The board has been one of the most successful push clubs in the city, and has been an effective factor in improvements in Central Astoria.

McDONALD DROPS SUIT.

Bad Bill Collector Wilts Under Threats of Counter Charge.

The ethics attending bill-collecting were talked of yesterday in the Municipal Court, when P. Valentine, a bootblack from Italy, was accused of disorderly conduct in throwing water from a bucket over James McDonald, the elderly collector of bad debts. "In my time I have appeared before the Supreme Court of Oregon and the Circuit Court, to argue my cases," began McDonald. "Last Saturday I went to Valentine's place to collect a bill, and he told me to go away. He began to 'cuss' me, and when he was on the sidewalk he threw water over me. Why I don't know. I had been to his place before, and had told him I would take legal steps against him, if he would not pay. Once he told me he did not owe the bill."

"The bill is paid," insisted Valentine. "Did you not call him bad names?" asked Lawyer George J. Cameron of McDonald.

"No."

"Did you not call him a 'dago'?"

"Not that I remember."

Valentine and a witness named Murphy both testified that McDonald called the defendant bad names, such as a "dago," and a bad-sounding name affecting his reputation. "He taunted me beyond endurance," yelled Valentine.

"Still, the law does not give you any right to deluge him with water," remarked the judge.

"If my city is fined, I would suggest that McDonald be arrested, charged with using abusive language," remarked Mr. Cameron.

"Arrest me?" gasped McDonald, in astonishment, and then a lively scene followed, in which the Valentine crowd threatened to arrest McDonald if the latter pressed his charge against Valentine.

"It's a case of Valentine being fined \$5 and McDonald \$10," remarked a lawyer, and was present. That settled it, and both parties left the court, with litigation at an end.

Britain Will Escape Sugar Bounty.

LONDON, Nov. 6.—When questioned in

the House of Commons today on the action of the Province of Ontario looking to paying a bounty for beet sugar and whether the imperial government proposed to take any action in connection with the Brussels sugar convention, the president of the Board of Trade, Gerald Balfour, said that even if bounties were paid, His Majesty's government, under the terms of the convention, would not be required to penalize the sugar of any British colony.

DAILY METEOROLOGICAL REPORT

PORTLAND, Nov. 6.—8 P. M.—Maximum temperature, 54; minimum temperature, 40; river reading, 11 A. M., 2.0 feet; change in 24 hours, —0.6 foot; total precipitation, 5 P. M. to 5 P. M., 0.39 inch; total precipitation since Sept. 1, 1902, 5.02 inches; normal precipitation since Sept. 1, 1902, 6.74 inches; deficiency, 0.82 inch; total sunshine Nov. 5, 2.34; possible sunshine Nov. 5, 9.54.

PACIFIC COAST WEATHER.

STATIONS	Temp.	Wind	Remarks
Astoria	50.74/10.54	SW	Cloudy
Baker City	40.04/0.04	SE	Cloudy
Bismarck	42.00/0.00	SE	Cloudy
Bozeman	29.00/0.00	SE	Cloudy
Helena	34.00/0.00	SE	Cloudy
Idaho Falls	34.00/0.00	SE	Cloudy
North Bend	54.18/24.18	SW	Cloudy
Pocatello	48.7/12.82	SE	Cloudy
Portland	54.02/0.02	SE	Cloudy
Red Bluff	58.04/8.04	SE	Balmy
Roseburg	56.12/6.12	SE	Balmy
Sacramento	60.00/0.00	SE	Cloudy
Salt Lake	56.00/0.00	SW	Cloudy
Spokane	56.12/6.12	SE	Cloudy
Walla Walla	40.20/0.20	SE	Rainy

WEATHER CONDITIONS.

A storm of marked severity made its appearance near Vancouver Island early this morning, and high southerly winds have occurred along the North Pacific Coast. Moderately heavy rains have fallen in Oregon, Washington and Idaho. Storm clouds are warning are displayed at all seaports in the district, and the winds will increase on inland navigable waters during the next 24 hours.

WEATHER FORECASTS.

Forecasts made at Portland for the 24 hours ending at midnight Friday, November 7: Portland and vicinity—Occasional rain, with brisk to high southwest winds.

Oregon—Occasional rain; southwest gales along the coast and brisk to high winds in the interior.

Washington—Occasional rain; warmer in the east portion; southwest gales along the coast and brisk to high southwest winds in the interior.

Idaho—Occasional rain; warmer in the north portion.

EDWARD A. BEALS, Forecaster Official.

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AUCTION SALES TODAY.

At Gilman's auction room, 41