NOT FOR 35 YEARS

Councilmen Against the City & Suburban Franchise.

WOULD GRANT 25-YEAR TERM

Street Railway Managers in Response to This Proposal Say They Prefer to Operate Under Their Present Franchises.

The application of the City & Suburban Railway Company for a blanket franchise will meet with strong opposition in the Common Council unless the company agrees to a term of 25 years instead of 35 years, the period asked. Councilmen Bentley and Merrill, at the meeting of the street committee yesterday afternoon, declared themselves as unalterably opposed to a franchise having a life of more than 25 years, and President Tyler Woodward and Manager C. F. Swigert, of the City & Suburban, said that such a short term would never be accepted by them.

The provisions of the blanket ordinance were again stated by Chairman Rumelin, who added that he had been informed by the company's officers that the franchise was acceptable and the only question was as to its duration. There was no need of discussing it section by section, for if the terms demanded were not granted the ordinance would be refused by the company.

"The question is a complicated one," said the chairman, "and I suggest that we ask the Auditor to compile data of the terms of the old and the late franchises so that the application may be fairly considered."

Bentley Opposed to Long Time.

"If the company asks for a franchise of more than 25 years it will never get my vote," said Mr. Bentley.

"Nor mine, either," said Mr. Merrill.

"All we ask for," said Mr. Swigert, "is the same relative increase that was granted to the other company. It got, so I understand, an average increase of three years. We ask for 35 years, but if the term is found to be too long we are willing to reduce it. If an agreement should not be reached we shall continue to operate our lines under our present franchises. Our application was not unsought. Some Councilmen asked us to present it, and as we wish some franchises we thought it only fair to comply with the request. We ask these franchises because the other company is paralleling our most valuable lines."

"Your outside franchises," said Bentley, "have a life of 38 years, but they cannot be compared in value with some you hold in the city and which run only 17 years. My vote will never give the company a franchise for more than 25 years. I do not believe in a longer term, and I said so when we considered the troubles of the other company."

Will Not Accept 25-Year Grant.

"We had our doubts about applying for the franchise, but we were asked to come before the Council by some members of that body," said Mr. Woodward. "Our company is purely a local concern. Ninety per cent of our stock is owned here, and we have the only company north of San Francisco that has not gone into the hands of a receiver one or more times. Our bills are always paid and our stockholders have always stood by us. If the company's receipts exceed its expenditures, the money is spent in Portland. We have franchises running up to 38 years, and we are willing to surrender them and all we ask is the same treatment relatively that you have given to the other company. If you cannot give it to us, we shall continue to operate our lines as usual. We will not accept a 25-year franchise, and if that is settled in your minds I have nothing more to say on that point. As to our applications for our other franchises, we shall, of course, expect the same treatment that has been extended to the other company, which is owned in Boston, New York and San Francisco."

"If we consider the ordinance," said Rumelin, "we will have to begin with the life of the franchise, which is the principal question."

"I have a number of amendments which I wish to offer," said Bentley.

As the amendments were very extensive the ordinance was set for hearing before the whole Council at a meeting to be held at 8 o'clock next Tuesday evening.

East Water Street Vacation.

The ordinance vacating East Water street, from East Ash to East Ankeny and East Ankeny from East First to the river, was laid over for two weeks. The petition for the vacation had been received from W. M. Ladd, and had been held several months, awaiting a remonstrance, before an ordinance was finally drafted. Yesterday objections were presented. H. Hogue and J. M. Nickum, who had purchased a site for a lumber shipping depot near the streets asked to be closed, said the passage of the ordinance meant the practical confiscation of their property. On the East Side there were only four blocks south of the Burnside-street bridge that could be reached by deep-water vessels. The closing of the streets would reduce the number to two. If Mr. Ladd had any other site to offer them they would agree to a trade, that is, if the Council decided to close the streets. Otherwise they would neither sell nor trade.

W. B. Cobb, at whose request Mr. Ladd presented the petition, said he and others intend to start a large lumber mill and box factory on ground which they have leased by May 1. The streets were unused and dilapidated, and their closing would not injure Messrs. Hogue and Nickum. The committee had some doubts about the matter and decided to lay the matter over.

To Amend Sidewalk Ordinances.

An opinion was received from City Attorney McNary as to the status of the Second and Third-street cement sidewalk ordinances. The questions submitted to Mr. McNary were: Does the exemption of a person from building a walk for a certain time nullify the ordinance, and does the passage of the second cement walk ordinance invalidate the first? Mr. McNary replied that if the exemption asked were for a reasonable time only, and for good cause shown, and not for the purpose of evading compliance with the ordinance, and a proper bond given for such compliance, the exemption may be made without subjecting the ordinance to nullification. On the other question he said that the passage of the second ordinance did not repeal the first, as the two may be construed together and the two-foot and excess fill provision of the former would attach to the latter. As a settlement of all questions relative to the last matter he suggested that a provision be added to the later ordinance exempting property where there is an excess of a two-foot fill. The amendment will be made and the ordinance will go to the Council next Wednesday.

The petition for the improvement of Benton street, and against which a remonstrance was filed, was laid over for two weeks. Some of the residents along the street want only a portion of it improved, and others want it opened from end to end. A second petition will be circulated, and a second remonstrance will probably follow in its wake. T. M. Richardson's petition for damages by the opening of Kelly street also went over. The viewers allowed Richardson only $300 for property which he says is worth $1500.

Bicycle Law Postponed.

The Sigler bicycle ordinance was indefinitely postponed on the joint motion of Merrill and Sharkey. Merrill said the ordinance left the wheelmen no place to ride except along the hillsides, and Sharkey said that men going to and from work could never ride through the muddy streets.

The Albee grass ordinance was referred back to its proposer for an amendment requiring its enforcement by the City Engineer.

The petition for the improvement of Glisan street from Twenty-second to Twenty-third was indefinitely postponed, as a remonstrance was presented bearing the signatures of more than half of the interested property-owners.

BEUTELSPACHER GETS $2.

But Council Committee Will Make Health Officers Pay.

At the meeting of the Council committee on health and police yesterday, the claim of William Beutelspacher for $2 for conveying a smallpox patient to the pesthouse was allowed. This claim had been held over for nearly six weeks, as the committee thought it should properly be paid by the Health Commissioner or his deputy. Deputy Commissioner Evans said that at the time the patient was found he was engaged in other business of the Health Department, and he could not be expected to pay the claim.

"Some one in the Health Department must pay it," declared Chairman Sigler. "There is plenty of help in the Health Office and there is no need of engaging others to do their work. The amount is small, but I do object to establishing a precedent. We will pay the claim, but we will hold the matter open for further investigation, and I shall insist that the $2 be paid by the City Physician, the Health Commissioner or his deputy."

Plumbing Inspector Hulme called attention to the fact that the terms of two members of the board of examining plumbers expire on the first of the year, and as applicants are to be examined soon after that date, some steps should be taken to select the appointees for the year. The retiring members are: Robert Brady, representing the master plumbers, and John Lang, representing the journeyman plumbers. The other members of the board are the health and police committee and the Plumbing Inspector. The committee took the matter under advisement and will announce its appointments in a week or so.

DEFENDS HIS BROTHER.

J. B. Huntington Says Ex-Sheriff of Baker Is Not Dishonest.

Concerning the alleged shortage of ex-Sheriff Huntington, of Baker County, announced by a press dispatch in yesterday morning's Oregonian, J. B. Huntington, brother of the ex-Sheriff, said to a reporter that he knows nothing of the facts except that when his brother was elected to the office in 1898, upon the advice of his bondsmen, he appointed as office deputy one of the most expert and accomplished accountants in Eastern Oregon, who had charge of the books of the office during all of the time of his brother's four years' term.

"Daily balances," said Mr. Huntington, "were struck during all this period, and the taxpayers who took the trouble to inform themselves as to the conduct of the office, without an exception, say that the accounts were more systematically kept than in an other Sheriff's administration. This correct and businesslike method of collecting and depositing the public funds caused many prominent taxpayers of opposing parties to support him for a second term. If there is any shortage it will be fully explained and accounted for on the return of the ex-Sheriff, who has many friends throughout the state, who are asked to suspend judgment until further developments. The duties of the Sheriff, outside of the office, and especially since the acquisition of the panhandle of Union County, have been arduous, requiring him to be absent from the office nearly all the time. If the financial branch of the office is out of order, it will be found to be the result of inattention rather than corrupt practices. The ex-Sheriff is a man of modest and correct habits, and all who know him feel certain that if the reports are founded in fact the trouble is not the result of extravagance or dishonesty."

PRESS CLUB BENEFIT.

"We-uns of Tennessee" to Be Given at the Baker.

The performance of "We-uns of Tennessee," to be given for the benefit of the Portland Press Club at the Baker Theater next Thursday night, is an assured success. The Neill Stock Company are enthusiastically preparing to show the people of Portland how generously they can display their talents, and Manager Baker is putting everything in readiness to gild the fullness of his giving.

Tickets are already sold for a large part of the house, and all who delight in the finished work of the company that has done so much for the stage in Portland are hastening to show their double appreciation of both theater and press.

The play is a very fine one, and scenically and musically it will be the equal of any ever put on the boards in this city. Indeed, everything is being done to please the most critical, and the newspaper men, always admirers of the Neill Stock Company, have spared no efforts to show their grateful appreciation of the courtesy of Mr. Baker and the company by insisting that all their friends go to hear "We-uns of Tennessee."

The audience next Thursday night will represent the best of Portland society, and all who are fortunate enough to procure tickets will remember the occasion as one marked by brilliancy and joyous festivity. The Christmas holidays put everybody in a good humor anyhow, and when Art lends her enchantment to giving, who can refrain from enjoying?

Tickets may be bought anywhere in town, and they read for Thursday night, December 18. Come as purchasers, stay as guests and go home as friends.

AGREE TO MUTUAL COUNCIL

Settlement of Difficulties of Second Baptist Church in Sight.

There are prospects that the difficulties in the Second Baptist Church will soon be settled. It was found that the conference council, called from the various Portland churches, could not effect a settlement, mainly for the reason it had no authority to enforce its findings, no matter what they were. Through the efforts of some of the leading Baptist ministers and laymen the conference council has been changed to a mutual council. Leaders on both sides of the church controversy have consented to the mutual council, which means that they will submit to its findings.

In the form of a mutual council the body will commence taking testimony on both sides at the Second Baptist Church next Tuesday. Just how long it will take to hear both sides is not known, but probably all the testimony will be in next week, and the council will make up the verdict, when all parties will have to abide by the decision, whatever it may be, for they have agreed to do so. The mutual council will probably try to end the controversy for all time. The leading ministers and laymen of the Portland Baptist churches are members of the council, and probably will not hesitate to apply whatever remedy may seem necessary to end the trouble for all time to come.

A Druggist's Advice.

Mr. C. L. Thompson, a druggist of Danville, Ind., gives the following wholesome advice to his customers: "If you should ever need a remedy for croup or whooping cough, get Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. It absolutely has no equal for the prevention and cure of croup, and if taken in time and according to directions, it is a most excellent remedy for whooping cough and all throat and lung troubles. I would recommend that a bottle of this medicine be kept in the home at all times, especially where there are children in the family." For sale by all druggists.

IS NO PLACE FOR MICE

PEDIGREED CATS ON EXHIBITION AT THE CYCLERY.

Owners of Blue-Blooded Felines Place Their Pets on View for Public Approbation.

Today will see over 100 cats on exhibition in the coops of the poultry show, all meowing, scratching and washing their faces and fur in vain efforts to get rid of the sawdust that is evident all over the showroom. The first cats to arrive showed up yesterday, and were put in their quarters, but by far the larger number will put in an appearance today.

The cats are a new feature in the Oregon State Poultry Association shows, and the few that were on exhibition yesterday attracted no little attention. Proud owners from all over the Northwest will

PRIZE CAT ENTERED AT THE SHOW.

have pets in the coops, and visitors will have a chance to see some really fine animals.

Judge Shellabarger finished going over the chickens yesterday, and all the premium cards have been issued by Secretary Ladd. Some of the coops have six and seven premiums on show, proving that many of the birds present are of the first order.

The decisions arrived at yesterday by the judge have been announced as follows:

Barred Plymouth Rocks.

Cocks—Second, E. J. Ladd, Portland; third, J. L. Anderson, Seattle; V. H. C., J. L. Anderson, Seattle; H. C., George W. Downs, Portland.

Hens—First, C. B. Staples & Ryan, Tacoma; second, J. O. Watts, Eugene; third, Frank Fenwick, Portland; V. H. C., B. F. Keeny, Goshen, Or.; H. C., C. B. Staples & Ryan, Tacoma.

Cockerels—First—William Arps, Santa Cruz, Cal.; second and third, Murrow & Son, Oregon City; V. H. C., Staples & Ryan, Tacoma; H. C., J. O. Watts, Eugene.

Pullets—First and second, J. C. Murry, Woodlawn; third, J. O. Watts, Eugene; V. H. C., Orlo Cahow, Goshen, Or.; H. C., tie, J. Murry & Son, two birds; William H. Arps, Santa Cruz; Orlo Cahow, Goshen, and B. F. Keeny, Goshen.

Pens—First, J. C. Murry, Woodlawn; second, J. Murrow & Son, Oregon City; third, C. B. Staples & Ryan, Tacoma; V. H. C., William H. Arps, Santa Cruz, Cal.; H. C., C. B. Staples & Ryan, Tacoma.

First collection—C. B. Staples & Ryan, Tacoma; second, George W. Downs, Portland.

Buff Plymouth Rocks.

Cocks—First, L. R. Short, North Yakima; second, J. Henry Penn, Yaquina.

Hens—First, J. Henry Penn, Yaquina; second, third and V. H. C., M. O. Wilkins, Portland; H. C., J. Henry Penn, Yaquina.

Cockerels—First and second, L. R. Shott, North Yakima; third, W. H. Driggs, Portland; V. H. C., L. R. Shott, North Yakima; H. C., J. Henry Penn, Yaquina.

Pens—First, L. R. Shott, North Yakima; second, J. Henry Penn, Yaquina.

First collection—First, L. R. Shott, North Yakima.

Silver-Laced Wyandottes.

Cocks—First and second, F. A. Ball, Portland.

Hens—First, second, third, V. H. C., F. A. Ball.

Cockerels—First, second and third, F. A. Ball.

Pullet—First, second and third, V. H. C., F. A. Ball.

Black Minorcas.

Cocks—First, N. L. Wiley, Rex, Or.; second, Frank Fenwick, Portland; third, Oscar Winters, Rex, Or.; V. H. C., I. L. Hoskins, McMinnville.

Hens—First and second, N. L. Wiley, Rex, Or.; third, E. H. Bauer, Sellwood; V. H. C., E. F. Peterson, Portland; H. C., J. L. Hoskins, McMinnville.

Cockerel—First and second, N. L. Wiley, Rex, Or.; third, E. H. Bauer, Sellwood; V. H. C., Oscar Winters, Rex, Or.; H. C. tie between E. F. Peterson, Portland, and Mrs. C. D. Nairn, Ballston, Or.

Pullets—First, N. L. Wiley, Rex, Or.; second and third, E. F. Peterson, Portland; V. H. C., and H. C., N. L. Wiley, Rex, Or.

Light Brahmas.

Hens—First, second, third and V. H. C., Edward Carlisle, Portland.

Cockerels—First, Edward Carlisle, Portland.

Pullets—First, second, third, V. H. C. and H. C., Edward Carlisle, Portland.

Golden Wyandottes.

Cocks—First, A. W. Giesy, Portland.

The committee in charge of the show wishes to announce that the exhibit will be open all day Sunday, so that those who have been unable to attend during the week days will have a chance to attend. All the cats will be in place before the Sunday opening, and visitors will see everything in connection with the show.

ANOTHER PIONEER DEAD.

Mrs. Sophie Hefty, Who Came to America in 1849, Passes Away.

Mrs. Sophie Hefty, a resident of Oregon for 24 years, died at the residence of her son-in-law, Eugene F. Willie, 471 Montgomery street, yesterday afternoon, after an illness of some five weeks. She was known both in this city and in the East as a woman of wide benevolence, especially to institutions of her denomination, the German Methodist Episcopal. Mrs. Hefty was born in Switzerland 76 years ago, and with her husband came to this country in 1849, settling in Wisconsin. Here her husband died, and she brought her children to Oregon 24 years ago, residing in Salem until about a year ago, when she moved to Portland, making her home with her daughter, Mrs. Willie. She was the mother of six children, four of whom survive her. They are: Mrs. E. F. Willie, of Portland; Rudolph Hefty, of Washington; Mrs. F. E. Legle, of Wisconsin, and Mrs. H. E. Luethe, of Colorado. The funeral will be held today from 471 Montgomery street, at 2 P. M. The body will be interred at Salem.

New Infernal Machine Invented.

"Dolls which are warranted to talk and cry and sleep like a baby," was what the father of a colicky baby read in the advertising department—much the largest department, by the way—of a 10-cent magazine yesterday. "The man who invented such a 'toy' ought to be sentenced to take care of one of them for life," he exclaimed. "A French invention, too," he continued. "The French are always seeking out new inventions, each worse than the last. The very thought of a doll that really cries like a baby is enough at this season of long, cold nights to drive one crazy. Think of walking the floor all night with one of those infernal machines. Couples who have no babies should be made to purchase the whole output of these dolls. They would soon be thrown to the jealous pet dog, which such people always keep, which would do the first useful deed of its life by tearing the doll to pieces. The Government should prohibit such things being brought into the country to shatter the nerves and ruin the health of patriotic citizens," and he threw the advertisement down and walked all over it.

WHITE WYANDOTTE, "MT. HOOD."

BILLS, NOT POLITICS

Multnomah Delegation Busy With Legislation.

MANY PROPOSED MEASURES

Water Rights, State Banking Law, Relations of Debtor and Creditor, and Landlord and Tenant Subjects to Be Considered.

Politics is the least of the troubles of the Multnomah delegation in the next Legislature. While all of the members from this county are giving more or less attention to matters of legislation, they are neither considering nor discussing such subjects as organization or the election of a Senator. Probably each member has views of his own, but these opinions are not being exchanged by the gentlemen who will go to Salem from this county next month. As C. W. Hodson, chairman of the delegation, expressed it, "We are spending no time on political questions, because we have no doubt that such matters will force themselves upon our attention soon enough. They always do. The organization of the Legislature and the election of a Senator are of less importance than the enactment of laws, and whatever time we have to give to our Legislative duties, we are not spending on politics. I do not know what any member of the delegation intends to do regarding the selection of presiding officers, and I doubt whether any member knows the opinions or intentions of any other member in this respect.

"All the talk about the Multnomah delegation being solid for this man or that man is pure speculation. We may be solid and we may not be, but that remains to be seen. We have no agreement or understanding upon any of these subjects, and, so far as I know, there is no intention of deciding before the Legislature meets what course we will take. Of course, upon such matters of legislation as the charter bill and the Centennial appropriation, we have already taken action.

"There are not so many applications for clerkships as you would expect. The fact of the matter is that people are finding out that a Legislative clerkship is not such a profitable position as has been generally supposed. Because Legislatures in the past have expended considerable sums for clerk hire, and these expenditures are called 'grafts,' people conclude that a clerkship is an opportunity to make a good sum of money. But those who have gone to Salem and worked 40 days for $3 or $4 a day, and have spent the greater part of their money for traveling expenses and board, find that the positions are not worth going after. Some come back with even less money than they had when they went away, for one attending a session of the Legislature will spend money for many things besides railroad fare and board. There will be plenty of applicants for all the positions we have to fill, but since most of the people are employed at more profitable work at home, there are not so many applications as I had expected.

"I do not know when the delegation will hold another meeting. A few persons who are interested in proposed measures have presented them to the members of the delegation, and these will receive consideration."

Law of Water Rights.

Representative John Gill, secretary of the delegation, received a letter today from a Portland real estate dealer calling the attention of the delegation to the need of an act limiting the rights of riparian proprietors on the streams of this state. Since irrigation in Eastern Oregon has become of so great general interest, Mr. Gill thinks the subject of water rights is one of the most important to which the Legislature can give attention. In his letter the real estate man inclosed a newspaper article from a recent issue of The Oregonian reciting some of the changes which are proposed in the law of water rights in California. The letter is as follows:

"To the Multnomah Delegation: The development of irrigation projects will do more good to the State of Oregon and to Portland than any other class of enterprises. Laws should be enacted at the next session which will be more favorable. The doctrine of riparian rights, as passed upon by the Supreme Court is a monstrous wrong. It simply means that the waters of running streams shall continue to run to waste forever.

"The builder of every irrigating canal is held up by every owner of a foot of land bordering the stream below, and every such owner can say that the waters of that stream shall run to waste. I hope the Multnomah delegation will consider this matter fully and draft and secure the passage of a bill modifying as far as possible this great wrong, both to the builders of canals and those who would make homes on arid land."

State Banking Law.

Representative Hodson believes a state banking law should be enacted for the purpose of regulating banks for the better protection of depositors. Several attempts have been made in the past to secure the passage of such laws, but they always met such vigorous opposition that they failed to pass. Mr. Hodson believes that a bank other than a National bank should be required by the state law to make reports similar to those required of National banks by the Federal laws. Under the present laws a private bank can receive deposits though its assets are exhausted and it has not enough money to pay the depositors. If banks were required to make reports whenever called upon to do so, and an official were authorized to examine the affairs of the bank whenever he thought it advisable, all banks would be compelled to conduct a legitimate business and pursue conservative policies. While the owners of banks can see little use for such a law, the people generally favor it, for it would afford them protection to their deposits. Mr. Hodson will probably introduce a bill for a state banking law.

Judgment Debtors.

Representative W. W. Banks has in mind several measures which he thinks should be passed by the Legislature, and to these he will give some attention. It was recently held in the Circuit Court that when a judgment creditor brings supplementary proceedings to enforce payment of his judgment, the creditor must set forth in his petition the specific property which he thinks the debtor owns but refuses to apply to the judgment. Mr. Banks thinks the law should be framed so as to enable a creditor to examine the debtor concerning any property he may have unknown to the creditor, and he will introduce a bill authorizing a procedure of that kind. Mr. Banks will also endeavor to secure the passage of a bill limiting the wages exemption to $50, and if he has time to do so, he may prepare a complete law for the government of the relations of landlord and tenant. As the present laws were passed at different times and are composed in part of court decisions, there are some uncertainties which Mr. Banks thinks should be remedied by statute.

Want Fire Protection.

Councilman Dan Sherrett, of the Eighth Ward, is being strongly supported by his constituents in his efforts to secure a fire-engine house and fire-engine on Powell street. The petitions he placed in the hands of various citizens have been generally signed. They read as follows:

"We, the undersigned residents and property-owners of the City of Portland, do most respectfully petition your honorable body to make provisions for the establishment and maintenance of an engine-house in that part of the city south of Division street and east of the Willamette River. The territory in this district is densely populated and has within it a number of business houses and manufacturing enterprises which are now entirely without fire protection. We beg to represent that the City of Portland has in its possession a piece of land at the intersection of Powell and Milwaukie streets which would serve as a location for an engine-house, as it would be practically in the center of this district herein referred to. We are also informed by the Fire Commissioners that there is in service a fire-engine that could be spared for the purpose, and, therefore, the expense of establishing an engine-house would be very small, as compared with the benefits to be derived therefrom, and we would respectfully ask that in making appropriations for 1903 consideration be given this request."

STUDENTS IN DEBATE.

To-Logeion Society Entertains Audience at High School.

The To-Logeion Society of the Portland High School celebrated its fourth anniversary by an excellent entertainment in the assembly hall yesterday afternoon. The interlude of Pyramus and Thisbe, from Shakespeare'e "Midsummer Night's Dream," was given by 12 students. The other number on the programme was a debate on the question: "Resolved, That all executive duties in American cities should be concentrated in the hands of the Mayor, and that his appointments should not require confirmation." The affirmative was defended by Coulson Soule and Harry Raffety, while their opponents were Lee Wells and Lloyd Magness. The judges Miss Friendlich, Miss Baird and Mr. Breece, all teachers in the High School, decided in favor of the negative.

A short address of welcome was made by President Coulson Soule, who spoke on the record of the To-Logeion Society and remarked that it had furnished many high-standard graduates and editors of the High School Cardinal. He then resigned the gavel to T. J. Lanford.

Preparations for the debate have been going on for the past two months and all four speeches showed a most thorough investigation of the history of city governments in the number of facts drawn from the experience of other municipalities on the subject. The affirmative held that municipal government was a failure in this country because of the corruption and heavy taxation, and declared that the reason of this failure was because the power was not sufficiently centralized in the hands of the Mayor. He had no authority to curb corruption and maintain good government.

The negative held that corruption in cities was not due to the form of government, but for the reason that the best people in the community were indifferent and apathetic and permitted the corrupt element to rule and control the reins of government. Numerous illustrations were given by Messrs. Wells and Magness of cities where the Mayor had autocratic power, and they declared that under such a regime corruption was greater than under any other form. So well did they support their statements that the judges decided in their favor.

The presentation of a part of the "Midsummer Night's Dream" was the most ambitious production ever given by students of the High School, and the performance was well conducted in every particular. The actors showed an appreciation of the thought of the play far better than do some older and more experienced actors, and the performance was entirely out of the class of the ordinary amateur theatricals. Much credit is due to the To-Logeion Society and to the teachers who coached both the debaters and the young actors.

Following is the cast of characters:

Theseus, Duke of Athens.....Arthur Pinkham
Hippolyta, Queen of the Amazons, bride of Theseus.....Maud Cleveland
Philostrate, master of the revels for Theseus.....Albert Young
Demetrius, a Lord attending upon Theseus.....Harley Glafke
Hermia, lady attending upon Hippolyta.....Mildred Walrath
Helena, lady attending upon Hippolyta.....Edna Church
Quince, a carpenter.....Ralph Holman
Bottom, a weaver.....Nathan Blackburn
Flute, a bellows-mender.....Charles Henderson
Snug, a joiner.....Claude McCulloch
Snout, a tinker.....Hugh Bellinger
Starveling, a tailor.....Victor Wilhelm

STORES IN HOLIDAY GARB

Christmas Season Is Marked by Novel Decorations.

Never before in the history of Portland has there been seen such lavish and magnificent displays of holiday goods; never have stores been so decorated or so crowded with goods and customers as at present. This is only natural, for never before was Portland so wealthy, so populous or so prosperous as at present.

The great department stores are packed and jammed with the products of all sorts of the world from basement to roof, and so thronged with buyers that it is difficult for one to make way through them.

From the displays of rich and elegant and costly goods appropriate to the season displayed in the show windows one might suppose that all the attention of the proprietors had been given to these "decorations," and when the interiors have been visited it is easily understood that the space for mere decorations and the time to arrange such display must be grudging spared.

The art of decorating these great establishments for the holidays has become a specialty, like the dressing of show windows, but the public has come to expect it, and it cannot be neglected. Each of the great stores strives to have a change in the style, and if possible an improvement in their decorations from year to year, and as much time and space as can possibly be spared is given to them. Sometimes the decorations are spread over many departments; sometimes they are concentrated, but they are always attractive and beautiful, and are appreciated by the public.

The Meier & Frank Company has this year concentrated its decorations principally on the main floor. A gigantic Christmas tree has been erected on a huge stand in the rotunda, about the only place in its establishment where space could be had. This tree, a genuine Oregon fir, is 45 feet in height, reaching above the third floor. A four-horse team and the services of 10 men were necessary to bring it in from the hills back of the city, and it was necessary to employ mechanics with blocks and tackle to hoist it into place. This young monarch of the forest is decorated with tinsel and all sorts of appropriate pretty things, and is lighted with hundreds of electric lights incased in colored Japanese lanterns, 10 men climbing into the tree to do the work. The corridor from the main entrance to the sides of the rotunda are lighted in the same manner, there being in all over 1000 electric lights, and the effect in the evening, when all these lights are turned on, is magnificent. A large portrait of Santa Claus, in whose honor all the decorations have been prepared, stands at the main entrance.

Olds, Wortman & King have changed the style of their decorations this season. There is a lavish display of palms and other greenery in all the departments where any space can be found, giving some of them a truly tropical appearance. On the third floor is a Christmas tree beautifully decorated in the most lavish style. A large figure of Santa Claus is on hand.

Woodard, Clarke & Co. have not neglected the usual decorations in greenery, and have a large Christmas bell, but they have made their main display this season with Oriental art work.

Lipman, Wolfe & Co. are preparing to decorate, and will try to find room for some artistic work in this line, but have been so crowded and rushed with business that they have not got fairly started in the work yet.

Any one taking a look through the different department stores can easily understand how difficult it must be to find the time and the space for mere ornamentation, when there is barely room for the tremendous stacks of goods and the never-ending throng of customers.

TWO BANKS CONSOLIDATE

In Them Big Life Insurance Companies Pool Interests.

NEW YORK, Dec. 12.—A banking consolidation was announced today, which will bring into harmony the large financial and insurance interests of the Mutual Life Insurance Company, the Equitable Life Assurance Association and the Morton Trust Company. This was brought about at the meetings of the directors of the National Bank of the United States, which was acquired some months ago by the interests which control the trust company; and of the Western National Bank. The directors of the Bank of the United States voted to amalgamate with the Western and to make the combined capital of the banks $10,000,000. The directors of the Western National, in which the Equitable is largely interested, voted to fuse with the National Bank of the United States upon a basis mutually agreed upon by the interests in control.

The new bank will continue under the management of V. P. Synder, the president of the Western, and will be known as the Western Bank of the United States. The vice-presidents will be Richard A. McCurdy, president of the Mutual; James E. Hyde, president of the Equitable Life; Henry A. Smith, vice-president of the Western National Bank, and Thomas F. Ryan, president of the Morton Trust Company. The Mercantile Trust Company, the Prudential Life Insurance Company and George J. Gould are interested in the consolidation.

Factory Will Replace Them.

ST. JOSEPH, Mo., Dec. 12.—The Gazette this morning says: The town of Florence is to be erased from the map and a large industry, involving millions of dollars and employing hundreds of men, planted there, according to a well-founded report. Options on every lot have been secured, which stipulate for possession on April 1. Florence, which is a suburb of St. Joseph, consists of about 500 lots and has 400 houses.

BRINGS CHICAGO NEARER.

Seventy Hours Is the Time East Via "Chicago-Portland Special."

The time between Portland and Chicago via the "Chicago-Portland Special" now is 70 hours, or two hours less than three days. Train leaves every morning at 9 o'clock. Inquire O. R. & N. ticket office, Third and Washington.

Keep looking young and save your hair, its color and beauty with Parker's Hair Balsam. Hindercorns, the best cure for corns. 15cts.

PRIZE FIGHTER'S HEART.

Coffee Shown to Be the Cause of His Weak Heart.

Frank Wallis, the Illinois champion featherweight, says:

"Nearly all my life I drank coffee, and it finally put me in such a condition that training for any fight was almost impossible.

"My breathing was poor, and slight exertion always made me very tired. I could not understand it, for I was otherwise well and strong, until one day, in training quarters, a friend and admirer of mine asked me if I drank coffee. I told him 'yes,' and he said that was what ailed me.

"This was two weeks before an important fight of mine was due. He explained how coffee affected the heart and nerves, and told me of the good qualities of Postum Food Coffee. I immediately commenced to use it in place of coffee. The result was wonderful. My nervousness left me, my breathing bothered me no more, my confidence returned, and I was as good as ever in a short time.

"I returned victor of the fight, which I am confident I would not have been had I continued the use of coffee."

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The Peabody Medical Institute has many imitators, but no equals.—Boston Herald.