CITY NEWS IN BRIEF

The Oregonian's Telephones.

OREGON.

Counting Room	Main 667
Managing Editor	Main 638
City Editor	Main 166
Composing Room	Main 685
East Side Office	East 61
Superintendent Building	Red 2823

COLUMBIA.

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

AMUSEMENTS.

MARQUAM GRAND THEATER — Tonight at 8:15 o'clock, Florence Roberts in "The Unwelcome Mrs. Hatch."

THE BAKER THEATER—Tonight at 8:15, "The Starbucks."

HITCHING RINGS VERSUS POSTS.—A citizen, who is having a cement sidewalk built in front of his residence, applied at the City Engineer's office yesterday for permission to place an iron hitching-post 18 inches in height on the curb instead of the iron ring provided for in the ordinance regulating the construction of cement sidewalks. The reason given for this request was that horses hitched to rings often get restless, get their feet over the hitching strap and break their bridles. Sometimes they throw themselves down, turn over and break buggies to which they are hitched. Engineer Elliott said he had no authority to grant the permission asked. The law required a hitching ring and he could not change it. A hitching post came under the head of "obstructions to sidewalks" and would have to be removed. Many say that if horses are kept checked up a little when hitched to a ring so that they cannot get their noses to the ground, they will not get their feet over the halter strap attached to a ring, and further that a hitching post 18 inches high is dangerous to horses and vehicles in case of a runaway or other trouble. The few concrete bicycle racks seen about town appear not to have been troubled. They are such an improvement on the old style racks which took up a quarter of the walk that no one has complained of them, but the number is still small.

SPRING IN THE CITY PARK.—A number of men were put at work yesterday trimming rosebushes in the City Park. Parkkeeper Lowitz is confident that the worst of winter is past, and that there will be no more frost to hurt anything. Rosebushes have hardly been dormant, and if not pruned at once will begin to sprout. Then it will be necessary to cut off more wood than is desirable. Mr. Lowitz has had a lot of men at work spading up grass plats in order to reseed them, and is having the footpaths through the park put in order for Spring. He is also building a new driveway into the park from Jefferson street. About 800 feet of this is completed and 1000 to 1500 feet more will be built, giving a much better grade than the old road had. On the slope back of the mountain, where the carpet beds were, 2000 hyacinth bulbs are being planted, which will make a fine early show of bloom. The birds and animals in the park are all in good condition. A large number of breeding boxes have been placed in the birdcages and it is the intention of Mr. Lowitz to raise a large number of canary birds this year.

NOVEL EFFECT IN BRICK.—The front of the building being erected at Third and Salmon by the Holman Undertaking Company is up nearly one story, and attracts much attention, as it is entirely different from anything in the building line seen here before. The material is buff bricks, which is thicker at one end than the other. In building the arches over the door and windows the ends of the bricks are cut to angles, each different to the other, producing a very singular effect. The builder said yesterday that he did not know what kind of arches they were, but he called them "three circle" arches. The effect of the wedge-shaped bricks and the angles at the ends is to give the columns and corners and arches an appearance as if they were about to fall. The front looks just as if an earthquake wave or "trembler" had run through it, and had started it to tumble. If any one cannot understand this description he can take a look at the front and try to write a better one.

PRIVATE SIDEWALKS THROWN OPEN.—The fine piece of cement sidewalk built on Everett street, across the tier of Park blocks, as a present to the city from Messrs. Classett & Devers, was thrown open for travel yesterday. The walk is 100 feet long with two corners and curb, all complete, and cost the donors $150. At each end there is stamped in the concrete, the words: "Presented to the city by Classett & Devers." Mr. Devers says the intention is to help beautify the Park blocks, and to set an example to induce others to do the same, and thus help along in the way of public improvement. He thinks the inscription on the walk will keep his memory green in the minds of all who use it, and that he can enjoy the walk while on earth much better than he would a costly monument which might never be built over his ashes.

CITY ENGINEER'S OFFICE IS BUSY.—The City Engineer and his deputies are up to their eyes in business these days, as the Council at their last meeting directed estimates to be prepared showing the amount of work involved and the cost of improvements for 31 streets. Notices for proposed sewers have to be made out and posted. All this means a great deal more work than would be imagined, and all hands have been working far into the night. There is at least four times as much clerical work in connection with street and sewer improvements to be done in the Engineer's office now as there used to be 10 years ago, owing to the changes in the system, growth of the city and the increase in the number of streets being opened, extended and improved.

LAWYER AND HIS CHICKENS.—A lawyer who operates a chicken ranch by proxy, for amusement, complained a while ago because his chickens would not lay, while his neighbors were producing lots of eggs. Then his chickens went to laying, and now he complains because they won't sit. When asked why he did not get an incubator, he said, "Oh! it is too much trouble." He wants his chickens to lay the eggs, hatch them and attend to bringing up the young chickens. When asked if he was hungry for spring chicken he said he had eaten it every Sunday for two months, but these chickens were hatched in an incubator. He still declines to purchase one for his flock. What he will complain about next remains to be seen.

OREGON FIRE CLAY IS GOOD.—A sample of fireclay from a deposit lately discovered in this state has been analyzed by J. H. Fisk, of this city, for C. F. Lester, of Warrenton. The analysis compares very favorably with the best English fireclays, and the prospect is that the deposit will be of great value. The value of fireclay, it is understood, depends largely on the amount of alumina present in this clay there is more alumnia than in most other. Following is the analysis of Mr. Fisk: Moisture, 1.30 per cent; silica, 53.50 per cent; alumnia, 38.30 per cent; iron oxide, 2.95 per cent; lime, 1.70 per cent; magnesia, 0.50 per cent; alkalis, 1 per cent; organic matter, 0.75 per cent.

GINGER.
WORLD'S WONDERS.
SEE THEM BOXING.
REILLY VS. NEILL, 20 ROUNDS.
MIDDLEWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP.
JIMMY REILLY VS. CAIRNS, SIX ROUNDS.
ROSS VS. SAYER, 10 ROUNDS.
EXPO BUILDING.
TOMORROW EVENING.
DOORS OPEN 7:30; FIRST BOUT, 8:30.
ADMISSION, $1, $1.50 AND $2.50.
SEATS ON SALE SPORTSMAN SALOON, MIKADO HOTEL AND SCHILLER'S CIGAR STORE.

MADE FROM OREGON FLAX.—A sample of linen mesh cloth such as is used in manufacturing underwear, made from Oregon linen fiber, is on exhibition at the permanent exhibit. It was sent from Germany by Dr. Deimell, who visited Oregon two years ago and took back samples of the flax fiber grown here. The cloth appears to be of excellent quality.

WHY DO THEY LOAF?—A line of people stands along the railing on the west incline of the Burnside-street bridge nearly all day long when outside work is going on, looking at the men and machinery at work transferring sand from barges to the dock just below the bridge. A business man who crosses the bridge several times every day on the cars has often wondered what this crowd of people, which is constantly changing as some walk away and others take their places at the railing, were watching so intently, constantly and continuously. Yesterday he took time to stop and join in the crowd. He found that they were merely watching the men and the machinery handling sand. As he describes the affair, a derrick stands on the dock, operated by a donkey engine, and swings a large bucket holding a ton or so out onto a loaded barge where men deftly and swiftly shovel it full of sand. It is then swung back to the dock, the bottom is unlatched by a man with a pole, and the sand falls in a heap. While this has been going on the men have filled another bucket. The empty one is swung back and the full one taken away, and this is the whole performance. The only remarkable thing about it is the rapidity with which the buckets are changed and the swiftness with which the men work who fill them. After seeing the show the business man in question came up to The Oregonian office and wanted to know why people stop to look at it and stand in line to see it, in short what there is about the affair that attracts so many spectators. Perhaps some one knows, but the reason which first suggests itself is that it affords people pleasure to see other people work, especially when they work like beavers. There is a weak spot in most humans which causes them to stop when they see others looking at anything in an endeavor to see what they are looking at. "Human nature is human nature" and is slow to change.

NO VEGETABLES ON SIDEWALKS.—Officer Caswell, who has in charge the matter of keeping sidewalks free from obstructions, is getting along swimmingly with the work. All the grocers and market men have kept their displays inside of late, and there has been no ill feeling over the matter. Officer Caswell says he has not had any trouble or a cross word with anyone, and that the order is very generally observed even by junk and second-hand dealers, who used to keep lots of old stoves and other obstructions on the walks. Front-street dealers are a little behind the procession in this matter, but will all be in place soon. First-class grocers are all strongly in favor of the change. One of them said yesterday that first-class grocers were not supposed to carry fruits and vegetables in any city in the United States. There should be a market where people could find these commodities. Grocers should keep only oranges and lemons in the way of fruit. The idea of the best part of one's store being occupied by a display of vegetables was ridiculous. The show windows should be occupied by the best groceries. It looks as if the day of vegetable displays on the sidewalks is past, but the city ought to provide a vegetable market at once.

PROHIBITIONISTS MEET.—The Multnomah Prohibition Alliance held its regular monthly meeting at the home of I. H. Amos, 853 Hawthorne avenue, last evening. There was no political significance whatever in the meeting, the purpose of these monthly meetings being to throw the members together in a social way. The programme consisted chiefly of incidents and articles on the life of Frances E. Willard, read by different members of the alliance. The programme used is one that Oliver W. Stewart, chairman of the National Prohibition Committee, prepared and is used at all the different alliance meetings throughout the state. There are 54 prohibition alliances in Oregon and all hold their meetings at the same time and use the same programme. The Mutnomah Alliance contains some 70 members, and Mr. F. McKercher is the president.

BARBERS TO INDORSE MAN FOR STATE BOARD.—Portland barbers are doing some deep thinking just now in deciding which one of their number they shall recommend for the position on the State Board of Barber Examiners, soon to be vacated by the expiration of the term of Samuel Howard. Mr. Howard's term of office will expire March 1, and he does not wish a reappointment. The Barber's Union has nominated three men for the position and at the next meeting will vote upon them. The candidates are William Wanner, H. A. Wolf and J. C. Wise. Governor Chamberlain will be notified of the indorsement of the union with the request that the candidate recommended by appointed upon the Board of Examiners.

HE CANNOT KEEP MONEY.—City Treasurer Werlein received $34,000 from the Security, Savings & Trust Company for street improvement bonds on Monday, and yesterday the contractors who had done the work to pay for which the bonds were issued had taken nearly every cent of it away from him. "To have and to hold" does not apply to the money the City Treasurer gets hold of, as he cannot hold it, and does not have it long. Probably it is a pleasant sensation to have a stream of money running through one's hands. At least it is a rarity to most people, and what is rare is generaly sought after. The sale of bonds mentioned clears up everything in the way of street improvement complete to date.

CHINESE MISSION NEEDS TEACHERS.—More teachers are required by the Portland Chinese Mission, for the rapid increase in attendance has seriously embarrassed those in charge. The institution is under the care of the Methodist Episcopal Church, whose presiding elder, Rev. L. E. Rockwell, D. D., has issued an appeal for more teachers. Young women from Sunday schoools and Epworth Leagues are urged to take up the work.

CITY BOARD OF CHARITIES MEETS.—The City Board of Charities held its regular monthly meeting yesterday at the office on Fourth street. The regular monthly report was read and the monthly routine business transacted. The meeting of the board of directors of the Boys' and Girls' Aid Society did not occur on account of the absence of Superintendent Gardner.

CHARLES MCGINN, of Los Angeles, will be here for two weeks, he will entertain any proposition from parties wishing to lease his quarter block, corner Seventh and Washington. Can be seen during business hours at Henry E. McGinn's office, Oregonian building.

CENTRAL W. C. T. U. TO MEET.—At the regular meeting of the Central W. C. T. U. at the Y. M. C. A. today at 3:30 P. M., Mrs. Mattie M. Graves will deliver an address.

SEED POTATOES.—Just received, large lot choice tested varieties, suitable for this climate. Call and see them before you buy. Mann, the Seedman, 188 Front.

MACCABEES dance, Burkhard Hall, Tonight.

WISE BROS., dentists, The Failing.

WHERE TO DINE.

The best people patronize the Portland Restaurant, 305 Washington street.

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 9:30 o'clock. Inquire O. R. & N. ticket office, Third and Washington.

BUSINESS ITEMS.

If Baby Is Cutting Teeth,

Be sure and use that old and well-tried remedy, Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup, for children teething. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind colic and diarrhoea.

High-Grade Pianos for Rent.

Sold on easy installments. Pianos tuned and repaired. H. Sinsheimer, 72 Third st.

For a Social Game of Billiards,
Parlors, 127 6th, adjoining Oregonian Bdg.

For a Quiet Game of Pool,
Parlors, 127 6th, adjoining Oregonian Bdg.

ORATORIOS BY BOYER CHOIR.

Gade's "Christmas Eve," Handel's "Messiah."

Mrs. Rose Bloch Bauer, soprano.
Mrs. Walter Reed, contralto.
H. W. Hogue, tenor.
Dr. W. A. Cumming, bass.

Taylor-Street Methodist Church was crowded to the doors last night on the occasion of another oratorio success by the Boyer choir, consisting of 65 voices and an orchestra of 25 pieces. A rare event happened. The chorus, "For Unto Us a Child Is Born," in the "Messiah," was encored and had to be repeated before the audience would consent to stop their applause. It is very seldom that this takes place in sacred oratorios. The chorus singing was much improved in precision and tone.

"Christmas Eve," by Niels Wilhelm Gade (1817-1890), a Danish composer, is unique in its way. It is a sacred cantata for contralto, solo, chorus and orchestra. What grievance Gade had against soprano, tenor or bass can only be imagined. It is interesting to recall that critics have pointed out the similarity existing between Gade and the English composer Sir William Sterndale Bennett, in that these two composers drank deeply of that inspiration of which Mendelssohn is the fountain head. Gade, like Bennett, was attracted to Leipsic by the fame and artistic individuality of the great German composer, and in Gade's case it is worth while to trace the influence with which Mendelssohn colored Gade's writings. His "Christmas Eve" is fragmentary, and the writing is of distinct musical value, but not strong. The two solos, "O With Pure Devotion" and "When Onward I Am Gazing," are the best in the work, and are splendidly suited to Mrs. Walter Reed's style, and she invested them with dignity and fine religious feeling. She was in good voice, and it was a pleasure to hear her clear, even notes. Gade's treatment of the score in the last chorus, "Forget, O Man, Thy Sorrow," is curious. The theme is a vigorous and triumphant one, yet Gade marks the score piano.

The chief musical treat of the evening were selections from Handel's "Messiah." Mrs. Rose Bloch Bauer, soprano, must be given a high place for her impressive singing and fine declamation in "Rejoice Greatly" and "I Know That My Redeemer Liveth." Too many sopranos sing this latter selection in a mystic fashion, and forget the fine opportunity for impressive elocution in illustrating a grand motif. Mrs. Bloch Bauer invested the solos with a grand tone, plenty of volume, yet fine finish. She sang also with emphasis, and followed tradition in singing piano at the prophetic finish. H. W. Hogue, tenor, sang the familiar solos, "Comfort Ye" and "Every Valley," with satisfactory interpretation. Dr. Cumming, bass, sang three solos, the last being "Why Do the Nations." He made a good appearance. The tempo was too slow, however, and it requires a heavier bass to do full justice to so formidable a solo, requiring fire and suitable emphasis. It was a pleasure to see Dr. Cumming taking part in this oratorio work.

The chorus took the audience by storm in "For Unto Us." The time was perfect, the fugues were sung with decision, and the finish with organ, orchestra and drums was almost dramatic. Great things were, of course, expected from the chorus in "Hallelujah," and the expectation was more than realized. It is pleasing to record that when the "Hallelujah" chorus began the audience stood of its own accord. W. H. Boyer made an efficient conductor, and Edgar E. Coursen played the accompaniments with his usual skill, both on piano and organ. It was a treat to hear the first violins playing the leads in "Rejoice Greatly." The concert was a very enjoyable one, and the chorus made many more friends by their fine work last night. It is gratifying that Portland has such a choir. "Mary Magdalene," by Jules Massenet, is in preparation.

"The Starbucks."

Baker's Theater is filled with delighted crowds every night to witness the fine presentation of the drama of Tennessee life, "The Starbucks," and the play is one of the real successes of the season. The different members of the company have mastered the intricacies of the Tennessee dialect in creditable fashion. The play is not essentially a serious one. There is many a laugh in it, as the fun is rapidly unfolded by William H. Dills, as Laz Spencer; Howard Russell, as Mose Blake, and Fred Mower, as Kintchin, a colored man of all work. It is easy to see that W. H. Dills played his part before, his work is so highly finished and natural. He was the Laz Spencer in the original production of "The Starbucks" in Chicago, and was highly praised by the author, Ople Reed. If ever a country character, with a dry, laughable humor, was ever created, it is Mr. Dills' creation at the Baker this week. Cathrine Countiss has a part eminently suited to her, as Mrs. Mayfield, a charming widow. Mina Gleason, as Mrs. Starbuck, is making a hit, and it is conceded that in portraying the character of Jasper Starbuck, the rough, but sterling, Tennessee farmer, George Alison is at his best, and that is saying a good deal for this able, young actor.

COMING ATTRACTIONS.

The Kiltie's Band From Canada.

For some time past a great many boys and girls have been saving their odd nickels and dimes, and people wondered what was the reason. The mystery is now explained. The young folks have been saving up to see the famous Kiltie's band from Canada, which will give its first concert in this city at the Exposition building, at the matinee Friday afternoon. There will also be concerts Friday night, and Saturday afternoon and evening. Competent critics who have heard the band at Madison-Square Garden, New York, say that it is one of the greatest bands both of America and Canada, and that they would sooner hear it than any other. It does not matter whether the band plays gems from grand opera, or "an auld Scotch sang," they are at home. With its bagpipe section there is no other band like the Kiltie's now on the road. The concerts are certain to draw big crowds, and the event will be one of the chief musical events of a busy season. There will be two street parades. Watch for the big drum-major.

Louis James and Frederick Warde.

The legitimate drama will have another call in Portland when those celebrated classic players, Louis James and Frederick Warde return to the Marquam Grand on Monday and Tuesday nights and Tuesday matinee in "Francesca da Rimini." Their tour in a pecuniary way has been a phenomenal success, and from an artistic standpoint it has never been equaled. The play is a wonderful dramatic effort, and is staged in a gorgeous manner.

Mr. James will be seen in his original role of Pepe, the jester. Mr. Warde, as Lanciosto, gives renewed evidence of his greatness.

The supporting company, prominent amog whom is Miss Teresa Maxwell, Mr. Norman Hackett, Mr. Wadsworth Harris, Mr. Thomas Coffin Cooke, is exceptionally good, and the mounting of the piece is on a plane never yet attempted.

That there will be a crush at the Marquam Grand on Monday and Tuesday goes without saying.

The gorgeous kaleidoscopic spectacle, "The Tempest," will be the bill on Tuesday night.

"All the Comforts of Home."

William H. Gillette's mirthful comedy, "All the Comforts of Home," will be the attraction at Baker's Theater next week, commencing with the Sunday matinee. The play has been for many years a favorite of the amusement-loving public, and for no other reason perhaps than that the characters it represents are drawn from life. Of course, its situations and climaxes are very often ridiculously overdrawn, but they are always within the bounds of reason, and can, therefore, be readily appreciated by any one who can boast of the least bit of imaginative faculty. The story of the adventures of a young man who, after the departure of the family for a visit, left upon his own resources in a large, well-furnished house, hits upon the scheme of renting the rooms to lodgers to raise a little money, is in itself suggestive of unlimited merriment. An interesting household of lodgers is the result of the young man's plan. The unexpected return of the family forms the action of the play. The comedy is clean-cut and fresh, and every laugh is produced by the natural complications which arise.

"The Unwelcome Mrs. Hatch."

In "The Unwelcome Mrs. Hatch," which is to be presented at the Marquam this and tomorrow evenings, Miss Roberts gives to the theater-going public of the West one of the strongest of recent New York successes. The play is from the pen of Mrs. Burton Harrison, the well-known Washington authoress and society leader. It was first produced at the Manhattan Theater, New York, by Mrs. Fiske, and ran there the greater part of last season, with uninterrupted success. Excepting Mrs. Fiske, Miss Roberts has been the only actress to interpret the role, which is a most exacting one, and gives full scope for her wonderful emotional powers.

It is the part of a woman cruelly wronged, a mother love for a daughter she has not been permitted to see for years, a pitiful figure with whom one can sympathize without being unfaithful to any true principles. Everywhere that Miss Roberts has presented the play this season her audiences have been moved to the greatest enthusiasm. A finer bit of emotionac acting than that in the third act, where Marian assists in arraying her daughter in her wedding gown without disclosing her identity, has seldom been witnessed.

Coming Attraction at Cordray's.

"Human Hearts," a play which is said to be well named from the fact that it never fails to touch the heartstrings of its auditors, will be presented by a good company at Cordray's Theater, beginning Sunday matinee, February 15.

Be Just Before Being Generous.

YONCALLA, Or., Feb. 9.—(To the Editor.)—Is it fair that I have to pay my share of the appropriation of $500,000 of the Lewis and Clark Exposition and $200,000 of The Dalles portage bill (a gift by the state, the larger part of which will be gobbled up by and benefit already rich men and companies), when I cannot get $100 or $20 due me for services rendered 47 years ago in the Indian War of 1855 and 1856, upon the promised pay of $2 per day by the Legislature at that time? Being self-interested, my judgment may be warped; but I hope to see these big appropriations left to the referendum of the people. WILLIAM THIEL.