

NOTE ON THE FAIR

Referendum May Be Demanded on Bill.

4385 VOTERS MUST SIGN

Special Election Would Then Be Called.

PRICELESS TIME WOULD BE LOST

Fair Directors Believe the Appropriation Is in No Danger, but Are Anxious to Avoid Serious Delay and Embarrassment.

Petition for referendum on the Fair appropriation or on any act of the Legislature must be signed by at least 4385 legal voters.

Should a referendum be required on the Fair a special election must be held within 120 days after the petition is filed.

If a referendum on the 1905 Fair appropriation is inevitable, the sooner it is held the better.

If the referendum should be hastened, the appropriation might be made available before the 90-day limit expires; that is, before May 22, the time when without referendum it would be available.

If the petition for referendum should not be filed until May 21, the constitutional limit, the people of Oregon could uphold the appropriation, but they could not give back the priceless time that the delayed referendum would cost.

If the Lewis and Clark appropriation is to be submitted to referendum the sooner it goes before the people the better. Such is the sentiment of the directors and of the friends of the exposition.

The directors do not fear that the \$500,000 appropriation would be defeated; only that a referendum would cost the Exposition priceless time. They feel Oregon has gone forward too far to turn back and that the people of Oregon feel the same way. Neighboring states have appropriated money wherewith to participate in the Exposition. They have done so in the assumption that Oregon meant to take the leading part in the centennial celebration of the exploration of Lewis and Clark.

The friends of the 1905 Fair therefore believe that the people of Oregon would uphold the appropriation. But the people by their votes could not give back the time that a referendum would cost.

Should it become apparent that a referendum would be required, the friends of the Fair might join with the petitioners so as to have the appropriation go before the voters of the state right away. Petition for referendum may be filed with the Secretary of State as late as May 21, two months hence. If it should not be filed until then, much very valuable time would be lost to the Fair. The Exposition is at such a stage that every day is needed.

Enough signatures could be secured in Portland in one day for a referendum, and the special election on the appropriation could be held within one month from now if the people of the state could see that a referendum was inevitable. By so doing they might save as much as six or eight weeks to the Fair.

The Legislature will have session enacted a law providing that should a referendum on the fair bill be required, the Governor should "issue a proclamation calling a special election within 30 days after the said petition shall have been filed and such election shall be held within 90 days after such proclamation shall have been issued."

Referendum on any other bill than the Fair appropriation would be held at the general election in June, 1904. The Legislature enacted a bill for a special election as mentioned in the foregoing, should a referendum be required on the Fair.

The number of signatures required on every petition for referendum is a little less than 4000. These signatures must be of legal voters and must be less than 2 per cent of "the whole number of votes cast for Justice of the Supreme Court at the regular election last preceding the filing of any petition for referendum or for the referendum." Last June "the whole number of votes cast for Justice of the Supreme Court" was 87,728. The required 2 per cent would therefore be 4385 voters.

Embarrassment of a Referendum.
That 4385 legal voters can be found to sign a petition for referendum is quite possible, and, indeed, quite probable. The backers of the Exposition half expect a referendum; so do the directors. The directors are hampered by the apprehension that the special election on referendum will retard their progress. They have a forecast picture of the delays, the embarrassments, the perplexities and the vexations that will harass them should the state commissioners be unable to co-operate with them until next Summer.

Without a referendum the state commissioners could begin their functions May 22. With a referendum they might be prevented from entering upon their duties until Autumn. For example, the petition might not be filed until May 21; Governor Chamberlain would not have proclaimed a special election until 30 days had elapsed, or until June 20, and he would not have to act the date for the election earlier than 30 days thereafter, or until September 20. This late date would be the extreme limit, however. The probability would be that the Governor, instead of allowing 120 days to elapse between the filing of the petition and the holding of the election, would allow less than 30 days. The latest probable date for the election would be in the middle of June.

And it is not likely that the petition for referendum would be filed very long before May 21, or soon enough for the special election to be held early in June, say, on June 1, the day when the First Congressional District will elect a representative to Congress.

The men who circulate the petition will take their time. "What's the use," they will say to themselves, "of rushing this petition through when we have a month or six weeks ahead of us? The constitution allows us until May 21. Why then be in a hurry?"

Those Who Want a Referendum.
Two classes of voters demand the referendum. One class would defeat the \$500,000 appropriation; the other desires a referendum simply on principle. Obviously most of the signers of the petition will desire to knock out the appropriation.

Many citizens who desire to have a

referendum will desert from petitioning for one because they do not wish to hamper the Fair. Otherwise 4385 signatures could be secured promptly. Socialists would probably sign readily, under any circumstances. But many of them wish the Fair to turn out a success. In the state election last June Socialists cast nearly 600 votes. They could themselves require a referendum, but they will not do so alone; signatures will come from other parties also, to make up the required number.

Appropriation Not a Burden.
The appropriation will not appreciably increase the rate of taxation in the state. The Legislature provided new sources of revenue at the last session, which will prevent an increase of the tax burdens of property-owners, who have been paying most of the taxes hitherto. These new sources of revenue are supplied chiefly in the Eddy law for taxation of corporations, and in the Malarkey law, for taxation of inheritances and legacies.

The Eddy law will add \$10,000 annually to the revenue of the state. The Eddy tax will not be burdensome to corporations. Corporations have assented to it, except those engaged in mining. Mining corporations are protesting against the law and are working for a referendum on it.

Two bills for further taxation of corporations were defeated in the Legislature. One, introduced by Davey, provided for taxation of intangible assets of corporations, telephone, express and oil companies. The other, introduced by Speaker Harris, provided for taxation of intangible assets of railroad, telegraph, telephone, express, steamship and oil companies. These bills were deemed too severe for the young industrial conditions of Oregon. They might do very well in older states, like New York, Ohio or Kentucky, but as no state on the Pacific Coast has such a severe tax either of the bills, they were rejected. The chief argument against them was that, if enacted, they would drive corporations to seek homes in neighboring states. Inasmuch as some corporations threatened to move away from Oregon and the Eddy law, this threat might not have been idle talk had the Davey or the Harris bill been enacted.

MUST BE SPECIAL ELECTION.
How Fair Bill Would Be Voted On If Referendum Is Demanded.

The act of the Legislature providing for a special election on the Fair appropriation should a referendum be required is as follows:

Section 1. If, within the time provided by section 1 of article 4 of the constitution of the State of Oregon, the requisite number of legal voters of the State of Oregon shall order the referendum and file their petition with the Secretary of State, to submit for a vote of the people for its approval or rejection, an act of the Legislative Assembly of said state passed by it on the 16th day of February, 1903, entitled "An act to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the exploration of the Oregon Country by Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark during their expedition from St. Louis, Mo., 1804 and 1805, and to provide and authorize a commission, representing the State of Oregon, to hold at the City of Portland, in said state, an exhibition of arts, industries and manufactures and the products of the rivers, soil, mine, forest and sea, in said city; to provide for representation of the State of Oregon, in the State of Missouri, in the year 1904, at the International Exhibition to be held in said city during said year, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the purchase of the Louisiana Territory by the United States, and to appropriate the sum of \$500,000 for said purposes," then, and in that event, it shall thereupon be the duty of the Governor, and he is hereby directed, to issue a proclamation calling a special election, at which shall be submitted said act under section 1 of article 4 of the constitution aforesaid, such special election to be called within 30 days after the said petition shall have been filed as aforesaid, and such election shall be held within 90 days after such proclamation shall have been issued, and declared in the same manner as is provided by law for the election of a Justice of the Supreme Court, and the title of said act so to be submitted, and the date of approval thereof by the Governor, and so to be submitted, and the date of approval thereof, immediately following thereafter have the words which shall mean, when used by the voter, the approval or rejection of said act, as follows: "For the Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition—Yes." And if a majority of the ballots so cast shall be "Yes," the said election shall be declared to be in favor of the said act, and the majority be "No," the measure shall be considered rejected; provided, that if any ballot at such election shall be cast by any legal voter who has cast his ballot for or against said act, it shall be conclusively presumed that such voter intended to cast the same in favor of said act, and such ballot shall be so counted and declared.

GAMES START TO RUN.

Gambling-Houses Open—The Police Manifest Ignorance.

An effort is being made to start gambling in Portland, Thursday night. "Twenty-one" games were opened in some of the North End saloons, and last night both craps and "twenty-one" were running in Blaines, Fritz and Erickson's.

Since Chief of Police McLaughlin stationed officers in the gambling-houses and stopped the games, nothing but poker games have been permitted. The police say that no arrangements have been made to allow the games to run, and excuse themselves by saying that they have not seen any games running.

TODAY WILL BE A GREAT DRESS GOODS DAY

With the exclusive dry goods house of McAllen & McDonnell. No use in denying the fact. They are leaders in fine dress goods at low prices, variety unsurpassed and quality superior to any ever shown in Portland. If you want new Spring dress goods in Volles, London Twines, Aimas Albatrosses, veilings, serges, cloths, Venetian Melroses, Frunclies and satin Victorias, come today. Expansion sale. Prices on all goods.

GOOD NEWS FOR MANY.

Our new Spring styles in boys' and children's clothes arrived yesterday. This will be good news to hundreds of mothers who have been looking forward to the date of their arrival. We can state without exaggeration that we now have the best line of boys' clothes in Portland. Prices that fit the purse, quality a long way ahead of the prices—that is, the kind you buy at the Salem Woolen Mill Store, 8-27 Third street.

Plant Roses on the Curbs.

PORTLAND, March 20.—(To the Editor.)—Just a suggestion—probably thought of by dozens before the writer. Why not put out thousands of rose bushes along the curb, so that visitors to the city in 1904 may walk through avenues of roses? Where there may be a few families unable to provide their own trees, the Lewis & Clark Fair Association should supply them. People have had their bushes stolen and grounds vandalized, but surely, where there is a common ground for all to meet upon, the vandals will be unknown, and there need be no fear from that source. ENIS.

HIGHBINDER'S WAR

Chinaman Shot in the Back by Countryman.

MURDERER ELUDES THE POLICE

Crime Said to Be the Result of Quarrel Between Mongolian Societies, and Further Trouble Is Feared by Authorities.

As the result of a highbinder war which is raging in Chinatown, Leung John was yesterday shot and killed, and the police are expecting more trouble to follow.

Lee Wan, member of a rival society, is thought to be the shooter. He is still at large, and the police have no clew as to his whereabouts.

The murdered man was a member of the Leung Society, and had only been in Portland a short time. He had worked in the different river canneries, and was just planning to leave the city. Lee Wan is thought to be a member of the Sin Sing Tong Society, which is the leading highbinder society of the city.

The trouble has been brewing for several days, and is probably only well started. Among the Chinese the troubles of the individuals are taken up by the society to which he belongs, and it is thought that the Leung will not be content until they have killed at least one member of the organization to which the murderer belongs.

On Thursday night the affair was first brought to the notice of the police. "Come quick," begged a frightened Celestial, as he rushed into the police station. "Eight Chinamen are trying to kill one man at Fifth and Pine streets."

Jailer Kallish and Patrol Driver Reimer started for the scene with their informant as a guide.

A short distance from the station they met another Chinaman, and the guide was very much frightened.

"He kill me," he cried, and started to run at his best speed. The officers now think that it was a member of a rival highbinder society that they met. They went on to Fifth and Pine streets, but found no sign of any disturbance.

The trouble yesterday occurred at 27 Pine street. Leung John had been in a rooming-house there, and was leaving when he was shot down and killed. He fell in his tracks and died almost instantly. Patrol Driver Price, Officers Franklin, Slover and Carpenter, and Detectives Simmons, Kerrigan and Snow, were at the scene a moment after the shot was fired, but could get no information.

"No sabee, never saw the man before," was the statement of every Mongolian that was asked, until a member of the Leung Society came along.

"My brother," he wailed, as he sank down by the dead man, and vainly tried to gain some sign of recognition from him.

"Lee Wan did it," was his first declaration. "They have had trouble before, and Lee said yesterday that he would kill my brother."

Several Chinamen were afterward found who knew of the quarrel, and there seems little doubt that Lee Wan is the guilty man. A vigorous search is being made for him in the city and suburbs. He has been sent out over every line to stop any Chinaman answering his description.

The accused Chinaman is small and thin, and wears Chinese clothing. His eyes are very small and affected with some disease. He is about 35 years of age and bears a bad reputation.

The house in which the murder occurred is divided into an upper and lower portion. The lower is in charge of How King and John Kon, while the upper part is run by John Chung. Leung John was shot just as he was passing out of the door, and from the course of the bullet it is thought the shot was fired from the lower part of the house. The hole where the bullet entered his body in the back is considerably larger than where it emerged from his breast. Coroner Finley took charge of the corpse.

OBTAIN MORE FRONTAGE

Five-story Building Leased Before Its Erection by Department Store.

Meier & Frank Company..

"Perrins" real French Kid Gloves \$1.50 to \$3 pr.

Meier & Frank Company..

"Hawes" Hats for well-dressed men, always \$3.

Store open tonight until 9:30—Special values in many departments—Come.

Artistic Picture Framing to your order—Best moldings and workmanship—Orders promptly executed.

200 new styles in Dress Suit Cases—All the best leathers and shapes—All grades, \$2.00 up.

6 to 9:30 Men's Wear, Bargains

These values for tonight only.

300 bamboo Portieres, large variety of patterns, lowest price ever quoted each	55c
500 pairs of Ladies' Corsets, girdles or short styles, white, pink or blue, all sizes, pair	40c
2000 yards of finest quality All-Silk Moire Ribbon, five inches wide, pink, light blue, red, maize, white, cream and black, 35c quality, yard	25c
5000 plain hemstitched All-Linen Handkerchiefs for women, great value, at each	5c
2000 boxes of satin-finish Writing paper, 24 sheets paper, 24 envelopes, only, box	11c
500 ozs. good Perfume, violet, carnation and white rose, tonight only, oz	8c
500 dozen fine, juicy Navel Oranges, 35c grade, doz.	22c



Seldom has there been richer reward offered for a little foresight than the Men's Furnishing Goods store promises today. Plainly and briefly the facts are these:

Men's fancy Half Hose, in cotton and lisle thread, stripes and figures in large variety, best colorings, all sizes, 50c and 75c values
 27c pr || Men's Golf Shirts with attached cuffs, all the best patterns and colorings, all sizes, our regular \$1.50 values, for, today | \$1.23 |
Men's Spring-weight Wool Underwear in tan and camel's hair, shirts and drawers, all sizes, regular \$1.00 Underwear, today	79c
2000 Handsome new Imperial Four-in-Hands, an immense variety of all the newest patterns and colorings, always sold at 50c each, today	38c
100 dozen Men's Fancy Web Suspenders, leather ends, good patterns, regular 35c	19c pr
Suspenders, today	
Men's good Cotton Night Shirts, embroidered front, all sizes, regular 50c value, today	40c

Boys' Golf Shirts with two collars and cuffs to match, 43c

All our Boys' 25c Golf Caps, today 17c

Ladies' Neckwear




The manner of attractively dressing the neck is no small part of the feminine make-up now-a-days. Here are some of the exquisite new things.

Twice-around Batiste Ties, embroidered ends.

Silk Ties with turnover collar and silk embroidered ends and collar.

Stocks and Ties of barathea and crepe New silk-embroidered Cuff and Collar sets.

Today's Specials

50 Handsome Lace Collars only, each	27c
35 Stock Collars in all colors, today, each	29c
Embroidered Turnovers, 12c, 15c kinds, each	9c
White and colored embroidered Turnover Sets	40c

Ladies' Underwear




The most tempting array of special values in Ladies' Underwear we have ever presented. Anticipate June and July needs today.

Ladies' Swiss-ribbed low-neck sleeveless Vests, hand-crocheted yellow, silk ribbon trimmed, white only, 65c value, today
 49c || Ladies' fine cotton Corset Covers in white, or ribbed styles in pink, white or blue, extra knitted cuff on high-neck and long-sleeve styles, low-neck sleeveless styles if you want them, all \$1.00 values | 85c |
| Ladies' "Aertex" Cellular-Mesh Vests, low neck, sleeveless or high neck and long sleeves, torchon lace trimmed, all the | |

The New Millinery

The Spring and Summer Millinery display is by far the largest and best we have ever made, particularly in the popular priced lines, \$2.98 to \$10.00. We have variety and style unequalled in this or any other city. All the latest shapes trimmed with lace, flowers and ribbons—Turban, Picture Hats, the new "Flatiron," "Florodora" and Shirtwast Hats—Beautiful creations at prices that will please you.



"Peter Thompson"

Coats and Sailor Suits for children. Have you ever heard the story of the old sailor residing on a back street in Philadelphia, having been a tailor in his younger days, upon being retired from service started making sailor suits for the children of the "400" in Philadelphia. "Sweldom" took a fancy to his neat, effective garments with the coat of arms on the sleeve signifying the different ranks in the navy. This tailor's name was "Peter Thompson." Soon every manufacturer of children's garments in the land was making "Peter Thompson" clothes. Here you find the original "Peter Thompson" coats and sailor suits for children of all ages. See Fifth-Street window display.



Important Sales

Last day of the great sale of Silverware, Cut Glass, Vases and Dinner Sets—Basement.

Last day of the great Easter sale of Bibles, Prayer Books and Hymnals.

50c Hosiery 37c.

Last day of the great sale of ladies' black and fancy hosiery. All the newest and best 50c value today, your choice 37c pair.

Today we offer 500 guaranteed Fountain Pens, 14k gold pen, 87c each. Demonstration sale of M. M. & H. Gold Rings, 2000 styles, immense assortment, low prices.

Boys' Clothing

Boys' Waists and Blouses in dark blue, pink and light percales, fast color, detachable waistbands, ages 3 to 13

18c years

Fine quality Boys' Corduroy Knee Pants in dark mode

52c color, 4 to 16 years

Boys' navy blue Sailor Suits, trimmed with black, white or red braid, 3 to 8 years, great value.

\$1.78

Boys' Norfolk, and two-piece double-breasted Suits, neat gray and brown mixtures, special

\$3.10

Young men's all-wool Suits, latest styles and materials, 12 to 18-year sizes, only

\$5.35



Men's Clothing Specials

Last day of the Great Clothing Bargains—New, desirable Spring clothes for men, at a saving of one-quarter on the exclusive store's prices. (Second floor.)

Men's wool tan covert Spring Topcoat—Fine Italian lined, satin sleeve lining, all sizes, great value.

\$8.95

Men's hand-made fancy mixed Tweed Suits, also fancy Cheviot Suits, correct styles, unusual value

\$7.65

Men's all-wool dark mixed black and white Cheviot Suits, well made and trimmed, a \$15.00 suit for

\$10.85

Men's all-wool fine fancy Cheviot Suits, in medium dark mixtures, finely trimmed, best workmanship, unusual value for three days only at

\$13.65

All the newest Spring styles in Suits and Overcoats up to \$30.00.

Meier & Frank Company Meier & Frank Company Meier & Frank Company Meier & Frank Company

over by a bicycle and they fall to see any sense or reason in the bicyclists using the sidewalk when the path is there. Yesterday morning a rather crusty fellow, a little lame and carrying a heavy cane, was walking down the sidewalk by the path when a shrill and prolonged whistle warned him to give the right of way to a bicycle coming up behind him. He wheeled suddenly and whirled his cane over his shoulder, and the big boy who had whistled at him came to a stop rather suddenly. "Why don't you ride your wheel on the path?" asked the man with the cane. "Cos, I ain't got no license," replied the boy, as he swerved to one side and rushed past. "You'd better get one," yelled the man after him as he hobbled

along thumping the walk very hard with his cane.

Boy Sent to Insane Asylum.
ALBANY, March 20.—(Special.)—Howard Oliver, a 15-year-old boy, was today committed to the state insane asylum at Salem by the County Court on complaint of the lad's father, S. F. Oliver. Young Oliver's home is at Sweet Home. He is a degenerate, having been weak from birth.

House Cars Burned Up.
ALBANY, Or., March 20.—(Special.)—Two boxcars, used as a dwelling by the Japanese section-hands of the Corvallis & Eastern Railroad, were totally consumed by flames today while standing on a siding in the railroad yards. The contents of the cars were not of much value, but were almost entirely lost. When the flames broke out some of the little Orientals were near, and began combating the flames, never thinking to turn in an alarm until the fire had gained such headway that everything was lost.

Oregon City Planning Mills.
OREGON CITY, March 20.—(Special.)—The Oregon City Planning Mill Company was incorporated this afternoon, with F. S. Baker, Margart Baker and J. L. Barry as incorporators. The capital stock is \$500,000, divided into 500 shares at \$1000 per share. The principal place of business is Oregon City.

