CITY NEWS IN BRIEF

The Oregonian's Telephones.

OREGON.

Counting Room	Main 667
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Managing Editor	Main 639
City Editor	Main 166
Composing Room	Main 688
East Side Office	East 61
Superintendent Building	Red 2821

COLUMBIA.

Counting Room	667
Editorial Room	490
Engine Room	299

AMUSEMENTS.

MARQUAM GRAND THEATER—Tonight at 8:15 o'clock. Mrs. Patrick Campbell in "The Joy of Living."

CORDRAY'S THEATER—This evening at 8:15, "Ole Olson."

THE BAKER THEATER—This evening at 8:15. Mr. Ralph Stuart in "Prince Otto."

UNITARIAN CHAPEL—Mrs. Raymond Brown, lecture, recital, 8:15 o'clock.

MUST MAKE CONNECTIONS NOW.—The long looked for improvement of Alder street west from Sixth is soon to be commenced. City Engineer Elliott has served the property-owners along that part of the street with the following notice: "The improvement of Alder street, from the west curb line of Sixth street to the east line of Lownsdale street, has been authorized, and will be proceeded with immediately. If you desire to make connections with the water main, or with the sewer or gas mains, you will please do so at once, and carry the connection at least to the curb line, as it will not be permitted to tear up the pavement after being laid." Property-owners will do well to heed this notice and thus save themselves trouble in the future. Scarcely a street has been improved of late, especially where a cement base has been put down, but that almost before the improvement has been completed applications have been made for permits to tear it up to make conections with water or gas pipes or sewers, to the damage of the improvement and the expense of the property-owners, which expense, in most instances might have been saved by a little forethought.

TO MAKE A BOULEVARD.—The members of the Driving Association are beginning to lay plans for raising a larger amount of money than usual, to be expended in keeping the road to the White House in order for a pleasure drive this season. There is also the matter of widening the road from the cemetery north to be attended to. It has been widened and improved south of the cemetery, till it is a fine boulevard. The property-owners along the flat country down through the Terwilliger tract some time ago donated the strip of land necessary to widen the road there, but this work has not yet been undertaken. If the donation is allowed to lapse without the road being widened, it is hardly possible that a free gift of this strip can be procured again. The Driving Association, therefore, has this matter to attend to, and will need quite a sum of money to expend. The carrying out of the scheme undertaken by the association to make a fine boulevard of the road to the White House to be the fashionable pleasure drive for citizens, is a matter of pride with most of the members and is not likely to be abandoned.

WAKE CHINA PHEASANTS UP.—The Mongolian pheasants out on Tremont Park were slightly jarred by the explosion of the meteor Friday evening. George L. Curry, who lives out there, says that his wife was about to light a lamp as the flash of the meteor was seen. They all went out on the back porch imagining there was going to be an exhibition of street lighting, and he heard the crowing of the cock pheasants, which had been awakened by the glare. He says he thinks he heard a hundred of the birds crowing. The pheasants flock into that addition in large numbers to nest, as there is much brush there, and the birds seem to realize that the residents extend protection to them. He says the pheasants appear to like children and stay near them when they are playing out in the brush. If they find that this confidence in humanity is not misplaced they will become as tame as domestic fowls in time, but in every neighborhood there is some greedy person who loves pheasants broiled better than alive, and lose no opportunity to kill the birds which his neighbors have fostered and protected.

THE COAL WAS NOT RIPE.—A sawmill man, who invested some of his surplus capital in endeavoring to develop a coal mine in Clatsop County in order to have something to fall back on when the timber supply is exhausted, has abandoned the scheme. After driving a tunnel in some distance and sinking a shaft through three layers of lignite separated by strata of decomposed sandstone and such a profusion of clam shells that it was evident that a clam-chowder cannery had been operated there in prehistoric ages, the coal was found to be too new for use. The expert geologist who tested the coal said it would be ripe for use in about 100,000 years. The promoter figured up that the timber supply in Oregon would last for about 100 years and concluded that he would have a competency to retire on by that time. So he abandoned the coal mine and filled up the entrance to the tunnel, and says he doesn't care a rap who harvests the coal when it is ripe. It takes a long time for coal to get ripe, as the geologist said this deposit had been formed about 1,000,000 years ago.

MAY HAVE TO STOP BRIDGE REPAIRS.—Now City Engineer Elliott is complaining of being interfered with in his duties by the strike and consequences arising from it. He ordered 30,000 feet of lumber some time ago for the repairs of the bridge or elevated roadway at the foot of Hawthorne avenue. One load of the lumber has been delivered and he cannot get any more, and so cannot proceed with the repairs, as it is not worth while to begin tearing away the roadway just to lay this small lot of lumber. Unless he can procure lumber before long he will have to lay off the bridge gang and then there will be more men out of employment and the work of repairing bridges and elevated roadways will be interfered with indefinitely. However, this is only one of the incidents attendant upon such luxuries as strikes, and of which all have to bear a share. Everybody is longing for the strike to terminate.

MONEY EASES THE PAIN.—City officials are more content with the idea of licensing prizefights, since, under the ordinance lately passed, a license fee of $100 was paid for the last exhibition of this kind, which they considered a more equitable division of the profits with the city than the old style of a $5 fee. The promoters of the exhibition made no objections to paying the $100, nor to admitting free as many city officials as deemed it necessary to attend. The fee is not likely to be reduced again for the old one was always considered inadequate as the receipts from such exhibitions are always large.

CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS.—The United States Civil Service Commission announce that on May 26 examinations will be held in this city for the following positions: Immigrant inspector in the immigration service; mechanician, in the National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C., at a salary of $1000 per annum, and skilled woodworkers in the National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C., at a salary of $840 per annum. Persons desiring to compete should call on Z. A. Leigh, secretary board of examiners, Postoffice Department, City.

FOR RENT—House 181 Twenty-third street, corner Johnson, and furniture and carpets for sale. Call on or address Henry E. McGinn, 311 Oregonian building, or Mrs. John Wortman, 181 Twenty-third street.

LESSONS in life insurance. Private or in classes; also by mail; for men and women. One scholarship free in each county. Address Mark T. Kady, 606 Oregonian building.

CHANGE of timetable on Portland and Vancouver line goes into effect April 27. Ask for new timetable at office Portland Railway Company, First and Washington streets.

BUSINESS opportunity at The Dalles. See page 8.

Dr. Kirkpatrick, 110-111 Abington bldg.

Dr. Connell, offices 613-614 Oregonian bldg.

WIRE BROS., dentists, the Failing.

APPEARANCES AGAINST HIM.—A large family is sometimes the cause of trouble to the opponent of race suicide, as is shown by an incident which happened to a reputable citizen of Portland a few days ago. He has six children of age to attend the public schools, and, of course, each at this season is furnished with an umbrella. One morning last week his wife called attention to the fact that the children had gone to school without their umbrellas, as there was something wrong with each of them, and asked him to take them down town with him and have them repaired. So he started off to business with his own umbrella over his head and six of different sizes tucked under his arm. On his way he called at his barber's to get shaved. When this was done he was in a hurry, and as the sun had come out he went off leaving the whole lot standing in a corner of the shop. On reaching Third street he went into a dry goods store to order something his wife wanted, and when he had completed his purchases, he noticed an umbrella standing by the counter, which he took to be his own and picked it up. An elderly woman, who was buying something at the same counter told him to put it down as it belonged to her. He apologized, saying that it looked like his own and that he had no intention of taking hers. She said he evidently intended to steal the umbrella, which was bad enough, but lying about it was worse. He felt much annoyed at being taken for a thief and at once went back to the barber shop, gathered up his bundle of umbrelas and took the six belonging to his children to an umbrella maker's and ordered them repaired, saying that he would call for them on his way home to dinner. They were all ready when he called about 5 P. M., and he took them and boarded a car for home. As he took a seat in the car he noticed the woman he had encountered in the morning sitting just opposite him, staring at him and his bundle of umbrellas, and despite his efforts his eyes drooped. He felt worse when a moment later the woman remarked: "Well, you appear to have done pretty well today."

HOW THE BABYLONIANS DID.—A prominent lawyer was found busily engaged on Saturday in examining a code of laws of a King of Babylonia who flourished 2250 years before Christ. This is the oldest collection of public laws that has yet been discovered. The code, which has lately been received from the mines of Susa, the capital of the Elamite Kings, who had packed it off from Babylon, is published in the March number, "Records of the Past," and the lawyer said he found it very interesting as it contains most of the fundamental principles on which modern social legislation is based, and was without doubt used by Moses 700 years later in preparing his laws for the government of the Hebrew state and church. The Babylonian King evidently did not prepare his code for the benefit of lawyers, as the first section provides that "any person convicted of preferring charges against another person which he cannot substantiate shall be put to death." The enforcement of such a law in these days would be likely to be styled race suicide. The portion of the code which the lawyer was most interested in was that governing the wages of laborers and workmen. Section 273 provides that any one hiring a laborer shall pay him 6 groschen of money per day for the first five months of the year, and for the remainder of the year 5 groschen per day (The code was translated into German, and then into English, hence the word groschen). "Section 274. Any one employing a workman who is a member of an association (union) shall pay him at the rate of 5 groschen. A potter's wages shall be 5 groschen, and a tailor's wages 5 groschen; the wages of a carpenter shall be 4 groschen; the wages of a ropemaker, 4 groschen; the wages of a mason shall be (?) groschen per day." This kind of a law must have effectually prevented strikes, and shows that the Babylonians of 6000 years ago were ahead of the present in some ways. The price to be paid for animals hired is also fixed by law, and an ox, wagon and driver cost 40 "ka" of grain per day.

NOVELTY IN SAWMILLS.—A sawmill being erected at St. Johns by M. B. Rankin is likely to prove one of the attractions of that young city as it is different from any of the sawmills here. It is to be operated by electricity, for which purpose several motors will be required. It is intended to cut logs so large that none of the other mills in this region can handle them and this is probably the reason why it is different from all the others. Usually in mills the saws are stationary, and the logs to be sawn are moved up against them by the machinery. In this mill the log remains stationary and the saws are mounted on a carriage which carries them along as they cut the log. The saws are circulars, one standing upright as usual, the others lying horizontally. They are so arranged as to cut pieces out of a large log, the shape of a quarter of a smaller one, and when in this way the log has been reduced to a proper size it is then cut into lumber. None of the millmen have ever seen a mill on such a plan, and know nothing about it, but say it is an invention of Mr. Rankin, who had experience in the sawmill business years ago. It will not be long now till the mill will be ready for business and then all will have an opportunity to see how it works.

GUARDS THE BLACK BASS.—Game Warden Quimby says that black bass are plentiful, not only in Columbia Slough, but in all such sloughs in this section, and in the Willamette River as far up as Salem at least; and are especially numerous in a slough at Newberg, Yamhill County. He is much put out by the actions of the two fishermen who went out and caught a big lot of bass just to see if there were any, and intends to prevent any more such experiments being made. He has two men on the outlook. They are provided with boats and if they catch any one violating the law by catching black bass they will be punished to the extreme limit of the law. He has also instructed his deputies everywhere to keep a sharp lookout for bass fishermen and will appoint more deputies when needed. The black bass has just obtained a good foothold in the waters of this state, and, if given a fair show for a few years, will furnish plenty of sport for all. Mr. Quimby does not intend that these fine fish shall be exterminated in the start. Sportsmen will, and all other fishermen should, therefore, wait till June 1 before going out for bass and when the season begins they should content themselves with a reasonable catch.

WHY HE HAS NOT MARRIED.—A man of 30, who has a good home of his own and has made a good start in life, having already accumulated property enough to make him independent, and who may therefore be spoken of as eligible for matrimony, was asked yesterday why he had not married. He said he supposed he should marry before long, and he did not wish to put it off too long. The reason he had not married sooner, he says, is that he considers the city a poor place to rear a family in. He was raised on a farm and says that in the country is the proper place to raise children as well as most other things. Children when small can enjoy themselves much better in the country than in a city, and as they grow up they can be made useful and taught to work, which is one of the things that all should learn in time. He thoroughly understands the advantages of obtaining an education in the city, but says children learn many things in town which they would be better ignorant of, and the older they grow the worse it is in this respect. Children grow up healthier and stronger in the country, and there are schools within reach of all now. When they are old enough they can be sent to higher schools.

TWO SMALL FIRES.—The Sunday stillness was twice broken yesterday by alarms of fire, but neither blaze gained any headway. The first alarm was from box 31 at First and Mead streets. A small blaze was playing about the roof of a residence house but it was soon extinguished. The second alarm came in the afternoon from box 34 at Seventh and Jefferson streets. The roof of a small dwelling-house was slightly damaged.

GOOD chance for active man at The Dalles. See page 8.

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AT THE THEATERS

"Prince Otto."

Prince Otto	Ralph Stuart
Fr. von Waldenhoff	Edward Poland
Baron von Gondremark	Frank Camp
Paffnitz	Scott Robertson
Herr von Stolpe	Don Brunaldo
Count Steinbach	Ernest Van Pelt
Major Fergus	Frederic Scott
Lord Philip Saxe	Priestly Morrison
Farmer Leopold	Reginald Travers
Gustav	Charles Inslee
Princess Seraphina	Helen MacGregor
Countess von Rosen	Mary Horne
Madam Paffnitz	Martha Mayo
Baroness Ruegerstadt	Estelle Clinton
Madam Steinbach	Julia Mortimer
Minna	Virginia Brissac

Baker's Theater was crowded to its utmost capacity yesterday at two performances by Ralph Stuart and his capable company of Otis Skinner's dramatization of Robert Louis Stevenson's romance, "Prince Otto," with Mr. Stuart as the hero. He received a most gratifying reception and again established the fact that he is a popular favorite in this city. Nearly a dozen curtain recalls were tendered him in the course of the performance.

Stevenson's master hand is seen in the treatment of the romance. He tells an aristocratic story of coolness, armed peace and then love between Prince Otto Frederick, of Kronfeld, and his wife, the Princess Seraphina (Helen MacGregor); intrigue, revolution, but without the clash of swords and with the finale as pastoral and poetic as even a Quaker would wish for. As seen from the stage, only one person is stabbed, Baron von Gondremark (Frank Camp), and he recovers in time to lead his troops in revolt against the royal house. If a modern dramatist had written the story he probably would have filled the stage with sword fights, and Prince Otto would reach his throne through a sea of blood. Stevenson's way was "All for Love."

The play is richly staged and the scenic artist has excelled himself, especially in the third act. The women's dresses are grand, and Miss MacGregor's court dress as Princess Seraphina is like a dressmaker's dream of heaven. Ralph Stuart, as Prince Otto, gave a striking and manly portraiture of that young aristocrat. He was careful in the first act to paint the carelessly dressed young Prince more alive to the pleasures of hunting and galloping along on one of his horses than working in the affairs of state as became the ruler of Kronfeld. This was clearly shown in the scene in Farmer Leopold's cottage, where the Prince acts the part of a gallant towards pretty Minna (Virginia Brissac). When he sees peril surrounding his throne the Prince changes like the bad Prince in Shakespeare, and invests the part with a manly dignity and nobility. Miss MacGregor was magnificent in the stabbing scene, where she rolls downstairs into the Prince's arms. Mary Horne gave a fine portraiture of the Countess von Rosen, and Virginia Brissac's work shows marked ability. It would be an improvement were Frank Camp, as Baron von Gondremark, to infuse more fire into his part. "Prince Otto" is a grand production, and will be seen at Baker's all week.

"Ole Olson."

Ole Olson	Ben Hendricks
G. Quintlan Shingle	Charles Clary
Paul Jordan	Royal Thayer
Jefferson Bassett	George Rushbridge
O. B. Thayer	Thomas Mansfield
Mrs. Agnes Jordan	Belle Francis
Genie Dimple	Mattie Lockette
Mrs. Bridget O'Flannigan	Mabel Gray
Philip	Baby Margery
Maja	Elin Syden
Marta	Hildegarde Heden
Greta	Alma Soderstrom
Cacia	Stephana Heden

Swedish-Americans were liberally represented yesterday at Cordray's Theater, at two performances of that enjoyable and familiar friend, "Ole Olson," with Ben Hendricks in his famous part of Ole Olson, who has "bane in dis kontry for moot and sax wake." The house was crowded to the doors with laughing, enthusiastic listeners, who applauded and cheered everything Hendricks did, from the moment he stepped on the stage, whether he sang one of his songs, made love to Genie Dimple or fought with Paul Jordan to expose the latter's villainy.

"Ole Olson" was written about 14 years ago by the late Gus Heege, and has proved a gold mine to its owners. It has played to capacity houses wherever it has been presented, because of its fun and vigorous action, and because it is one of the most realistic Swedish plays ever offered the public. Hendricks appeared in this city about one year ago, when he played in Baker's Theater. He speaks and looks like a bona fide Swedish emigrant, notwithstanding the fact that he was born in New York State, and that his people belong to Alsace, now a portion of Germany.

Heege also achieved fame as the writer of two other successful Swedish plays, "Yon Yonson" and "Tenuine Yentleman." In "Ole Olson" he has written a play which revolves around the star, Hendricks, and the latter is on the stage most of the time, and does a good deal of work. The plot is simple, and has as its motif the predicament of Mrs. Agnes Jordan, who, thinking that her first husband, Jefferson Bassett, is dead, marries in haste a second time. Bassett, in the meantime, has secured a divorce from his wife and comes to life again, just as Ole Olson is engaged by Mrs. Jordan as her gardener. It does one good to see Olson romping with the Jordan children, playing see-saw with them and singing Swedish songs with a pretty yodel at the end. Two of his best songs are "Babies and Blossoms" and "Memories of My Swedish Home," and he received double encores. He triumphantly routs the villain of the play, Paul Jordan (Royal Thayer) when the latter tries to abduct Mrs. Jordan's son because the latter is heir to considerable property.

When Jordan gets on fire a slow-burning match at the old powder mill, of course, Olson steps slowly along in the nick of time, and the audience was so fearful yesterday that he would not discover the match that they yelled "Look out for that match, Olson." Mattie Lockett is a pretty and talented soubrette, and the Swedish ladies' quartet won a great success, responding to three deafening encores. "Ole Olson" will play at Cordray's all week, probably to capacity houses.

COMING ATTRACTIONS.

Mrs. Patrick Campbell at the Marquam in "The Joy of Living."

Mrs. Patrick Campbell's engagement at the Marquam Grand under the direction of Charles Frohman tonight and Tuesday night with a special matinee Tuesday, is awaited with great interest. Her success in this country has stamped her as an actress of great intellectual force, most striking individuality and fine artistic traits. The pleasure of her visit to Portland is accentuated by the fact that she will present as her opening attraction "The Joy of Living," in which she is declared to have won a great triumph fully up to the highest standard of her most famous impersonations. At the special Tuesday matinee, tomorrow, she will appear in "The Second Mrs. Tanqueray," and on Tuesday night she will present the new comedy, "Aunt Jeannie," by E. F. Benson, author of "Dodo."

Her appearance as the Countess Beata obtains additional weight for the reason that it is the principal role in "The Joy of Living," the English translation of Hermann Sudermann's great play, "Es Lebe das Leben," by Edith Wharton. Mrs. Patrick Campbell will present tomorrow night for the first time here, the new comedy, "Aunt Jeannie" by E. F. Benson, the author of "Dodo." "Aunt Jeannie" being a very amiable and pleasant type of woman. The story deals with the smart set in London and tells a pretty love story with genuine heart interest. It grows out of the protective interest which an aunt takes in the love affairs of a niece, and through her scheming to save the latter from an unfortunate alliance, almost wrecks her own happiness. The locality of the action gives Mrs. Campbell the opportunity of wearing numerous beautiful and striking gowns. At the matinee tomorrow, "The Second Mrs. Tanqueray" will be the bill. Seats are now selling for the three performances.

Are You a Mason.

The advance sale of seats will open tomorrow, Tuesday, morning at 10 o'clock for "Are You a Mason?" which is to be presented at the Marquam Grand Theater next Thursday, Friday, Saturday matinee and night. The play was constructed solely for laughing purposes, and, from trustworthy accounts it has accomplished its mission nobly. The piece is said to be filled with funny complications which come fast and furious, and the responsive laughs from the audience follow equally as rapidly. It is safe to say that no comedy seen for a long time will be laughed over as heartily as "Are You a Mason?" A great feature of the production will be the excellence of the company, which is headed by John C. Rice and Thomas A. Wise, two comedians of unquestioned first rank. The San Francisco press has been most enthusiastic over the company, they having just finished a two weeks' engagement at the Columbia Theater in that city.

Shields' Vaudeville at Cordray's.

Edwin Shields returned from Seattle last night and is now completing the final details for his big continuous vaudeville opening at Cordray's next Sunday. Every act on his opening bill is new to Portland, and the programme is varied in every particular.

Fowler Bros.' act should be seen by every physical-culture student in Portland. Their balancing and acrobatic work shows to what perfect development and strength the human muscles can be brought. Theater-goers like comedy, and a liberal amount of this particular kind of theatrical merchandise has been provided in with South and Dixie's musical satire and in Lyden and Wrenn's sketch and Sam Hood's local hits.

Every act on the bill has played all the big Eastern circuits.

WHERE TO DINE.

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Imperial Hotel restaurant, 2nd floor, take elevator; first class service, a la carte, 6:30 A. M. to 8 P. M.

Played With Dynamite Cartridge.

SALEM, Or., April 26.—(Special.)—Chester, the 13-year-old son of Mrs. J. R. Willard, was severely injured this afternoon by the explosion of a dynamite cartridge with which he was playing. He will lose three fingers of his right hand and one of his left. His face is badly torn, but Dr. W. H. Byrd, who was called to attend the boy, thinks that the greatest injury will be the loss of the fingers.

MORTGAGE TAXATION.

Its Hardships on the Enterprising, as Shown by Experience.

NEWBERG, Or., April 26.—(To the Editor.)—In your weekly edition of April 17 I notice an article entitled, "Taxation of Mortgages." One of the writer's chief grievances is that he owns a farm valued at $4800, but needs $2000 for improvements. This sum he borrows. He complains because he must pay 23 mills taxes on the full assessment of his land and pay interest and taxes on the improvements he makes with the borrowed money. The interest on $2000 at the rate of 10 per cent, the rate that was customary in Oregon under the mortgage tax law, would be $200, whereas, now the rate of interest and taxes combined would amount to only 93 mills, or $186 on the amount he borrowed, giving him a balance of $14 in favor of the present law.

I have been living in Oregon since my childhood, and have had a chance to see the workings of the mortgage tax law. When a boy my father was one of those fortunate farmers that had a little money to lend. When a man borrowed money from him he would often make this proposition: "If you are willing to pay the taxes on the mortgage I will lend you money at 8 per cent, otherwise I will charge you 10 per cent." Often the borrower would take the money at 8 per cent and agree to pay the mortgage tax. Since reaching man's estate and studying these questions for myself, I have often thought I would like to meet those men once more and congratulate them on their ability to understand that in either case the borrower has the tax to pay.

Most of the states now exempt money notes and mortgages from taxation, and Oregon, though now exempting mortgages, might well follow their example in regard to notes and money, as very little of the above-mentioned property is in evidence in this state when the Assessor calls. I am in favor of the enactment of a law in Oregon that will exempt money and notes from taxation.

Many hold to the view that debtor should be exempt from taxation to the amount he is in debt, but this leaves a way open to fraud. Suppose a man comes to our state for the purpose of speculating in real estate. He has the means enabling him to buy hundreds of acres of valuable land. When, after giving his assessment, he is asked the amount of his indebtedness, he replies that he owes parties in New York and London $50,000. This covers the assessed value of all his real estate. A promissory note is transferable and movable property, and an unscrupulous man, claiming to be in debt for the purpose of evading taxation, is very apt to get off clear. Such gross injustice on the part of speculators enables them to grab large tracts of land and cheat the state out of its just revenue and hinders the honest homeseeker from so readily procuring a home.

From 1836 to 1863 the state banks had entire control of the issuing of paper money, the result being a very unequal value of paper currency. The Federal Government was driven to its wits' end with the problem of getting rid of the state banks and issuing a paper currency that would be of uniform value throughout our land. It finally hit upon the plan of taxing the state banks so high they could not subsist. This proved entirely effective, and made plain the feasibility of taxing many useless institutions out of existence.

Does any one think that money brought here for the purpose of investment is a detriment to the state? It gives work to thousands of our citizens, enabling them to provide comfortably for their families. Employed in the means of transportation, it greatly aids the farmer in getting his products to the best market, and many times increases the value of his real estate. When many of our sister states are bidding for the investment of capital by letting it escape taxation, shall we with our fertile soil and many great resources, practically undeveloped, retard progress by taxing capital out of our state? G. S. ROBINSON.

Looking for Meteoric Fragments.

The meteor which exploded in the "neighborhood" of this city Friday evening has been the subject of general conversation ever since, throwing the strike and even race suicide quite into the shade. Engineers generally have been trying to figure up how far it was from Portland when it burst. This would be easily accomplished if they could only ascertain the length of time between the bursting and the report being heard, as sound travels at about 1100 feet per second, but faster in warm weather than in cold. No one appears to have taken note of this time, but most observers place it at 30 seconds, or perhaps a little longer. This locates the exploding meteor at, say, eight or ten miles distance. Acting on this computation several persons started out yesterday to search in the vicinity of Linnton for the fragments, which they imagine Colonel Hawkins will pay a large sum for to place in the free museum in the City Hall. Some are calculating on being able to trail the fragments by the brimstone smell which Mr. Mears noted at the time of the explosion. Meteoric stones are not uncommon, and are sometimes of large size, one weighing many tons having been brought down from the Arctic regions by Lieutenant Peary.

MOST FRIENDLY TO OREGON

Colonel Mackenzie a Firm Believer in Columbia River Improvements.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, April 25.—The assignment of Colonel Alexander Mackenzie, of the Engineer Corps, as a member of the General Staff of the Army, removes from an office of great influence a man who has for many years done much to advance the commercial interests of Oregon. Since 1895 Colonel Mackenzie has been the assistant to the Chief of Engineers, and has had immediate charge of river and harbor improvements. He is one of the officers of the corps who recognizes the importance of the Columbia River, and has always advised liberal appropriations for that stream, in his hearings before the river and harbor committee.

In his official capacity Colonel Mackenzie has never failed to advance the work of the Engineer Corps in a manner beneficial to the improvement of the Columbia River. Under his supervision the work of improving the mouth of the river has been favorably considered and passed upon by the officials of the War Department. All departmental recommendations, both on the mouth of the river and for the upper stream, including the work at The Dalles and Celilo, have been formulated by Colonel Mackenzie, and at the present time he is deeply interested in hastening work at the mouth of the river and of procuring a practical and thoroughly feasible project for opening the river between The Dalles and Celilo.

Colonel Mackenzie believes in an open river. He maintains that the benefits of commerce from such an improvement cannot now be estimated. Not only that, but the opening of the river will, in his opinion, bring down freight rates in a manner that cannot but benefit the farmers and shippers of the Inland Empire. It will be long before another officer so friendly to Oregon fills the position of assistant to the Chief of Engineers. Colonel Mackenzie was the best friend Oregon had at court, especially since the retirement of General Wilson.

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