

CITY NEWS IN BRIEF

The Oregonian's Telephone. Counting Room. Main 907. Editor. Main 911. City Editor. Main 108. Advertising. Main 108. East Side Office. Main 907. Superintendent's Building. Red 3233.

AMUSEMENTS. CORDELL'S THEATER—This afternoon at 2 p. m. "The Highest Bidder." THE BAKER THEATER—Ralph Stuart company in "The Highest Bidder."

IMPORTED SHRUBS ABOVE THE CURIOUS.—Sprays of a very singular appearing and fragrant flowering shrub were on exhibition at a drug store Saturday, having been brought from near Washington by a steamboat engineer who said the shrub was about 15 feet high. There was not a visible leaf on the sprays, but the tiny flowers which completely covered them appeared to be crowded on what might have been the thread-like foliage of some strange evergreen. These thrills were only about an inch long and were covered with pinkish flowers crowded closely together, their whole length and so tiny that their formation could not be seen without a strong magnifying glass. No one could be found for some time who knew the name or whether it was a native plant or an imported one. One suggested that it might be the Fringe tree, another that it might be the "Smoke tree." The sprays which excited so much interest were from the Atlantic tamarac, a small tree common in the Orient, and a specimen of which, planted by Judge Lewis, has been flourishing on the grounds of E. Mann, at Third and College streets, for many years. This may have been called "Smoke tree" by some, for when in bloom it looks at a distance much like a cloud of smoke. A specimen of the Fringe tree, also a native of the Orient, is to be seen on the grounds of Charles Hyde, 361 Fourteenth street, planted there many years ago, and is said to be the only one of the kind in the city. It has a small, spreading tree, with slim, drooping branches bearing numerous clusters of delicate white blossoms hanging in clusters, whence probably came the name Fringe tree.

RECOVERED FROM SEVERE SHOCK.—An elderly woman in feeble health who has been residing in the country for a number of years, and who came into Portland during President Roosevelt's visit here, to visit old friends and see the distinguished visitor, has only just recovered from a serious shock she received, and is able to return home. While she was in the street on the day of the parade in honor of the President she met a woman accompanied by a flock of small children. She knew that this woman had ten children before she went into the country to live, and had had five more since she returned. She asked this mother of many "Where is your husband?" "Oh," was the reply, "as in feeling that the children are all comfortably seated to see the procession go by," and added, "he has about 200 to look after now." This gave the elderly woman a shock that quite prostrated her, and she had to be assisted to the place where she was staying. She might have been spared this if the mother had mentioned that her husband was a janitor in one of the public schools, which the elderly woman did not know. She had naturally supposed the children he was looking after were his own.

SHOW THE CITY'S BEAUTIES.—L. Tidale and C. E. Shinnick, two merchants of the Imperial, Tenn., are at the Imperial, accompanied by their wives, and are touring the West for pleasure. The gentlemen in chorus criticized the lack of provision for showing the scenery to sightseers, saying: "We are constantly asking questions about it, and were finally advised to go up on Portland Heights. The street-car company has made absolutely no provision for the information of sightseers, and consequently we were taken up on the Heights, went to the wrong point and saw nothing. In other cities the street-car companies employ men to do nothing but arrange for such matters, so as they realize that traffic can be built up and developed, like anything else. The Columbia River scenery between Astoria and here is grand."

FINANCER FURY THROUGH THEIR PAGES.—Chief Campbell had a large number of police and firemen out at the Multnomah Club yesterday setting them through the Civil Service tests. All of the applicants passed through in good shape, and will be sent on to the next round, the preliminary examiners. There were about 70 firemen left from last week who did not get tested, and they were tried yesterday. Nine policemen were tried through the 80-yard dash, which they had to complete before they can get on the force. The examination for the firemen included carrying a Babcock extinguisher up a 35-foot ladder, jumping into a net from the second story, climbing five feet hand-over-hand on an inclined ladder, running 50 yards in 14 seconds and climbing 70 feet on the aerial ladder.

VERY LOW EXCURSION RATES HAVE BEEN placed in effect by the Northern Pacific Railway Company. Tickets will be on sale June 4, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29 and 30, and on July 15 and 16, and again on August 15 and 16, at an excellent opportunity for all to visit points in the East at a very low rate. Full particulars will be furnished on application in person or by letter to A. D. Charlton, assistant general passenger agent, 225 Morrison street, corner of Third, Portland, Ore.

COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN.—Wednesday afternoon, at 2:30, the last meeting for the year of the Council of Jewish Women, under the direction of Dr. Stephen S. Wise, will meet Wednesday afternoon, at 2:30, at the Hebrew Congregation, 225 Morrison street, for the purpose of electing officers for the coming year. Papers are to be read on the Book of Ruth and the Book of Ecclesiastes, the discussion to be led by Dr. Stephen S. Wise. All those who are interested in a critical study of the Bible are invited to be present.

BLIND LETTER-CARRIERS' BENEFIT, June 3, at Marquam Grand Opera-House. Tickets on sale at the following places: Rowe & Martin's drug store, Sixth and Washington; Woodard, Clarke & Co., Fourth and Washington; Lane-Davis Drug Company, Third and Yamhill, and all of the B. B. Rich clear stores; Koehler & Grand, First and Main streets; Lewis & Rogers' barber shop, 26 Alder street.

TO SPY ON A FAIR AT HILLSBORO.—Major and Mrs. William Hancock Clark, accompanied by Mrs. Edith Toussier Weathered, will go to Hillsboro this morning to meet the Women's Lewis and Clark Club of that town. A banquet will be served by the Hillsboro Hotel. Major Clark, who is a grandson of Captain Clark, the explorer, will address the club.

FINANCER FROM OPERATION.—George McBride, of Astoria, who was operated on for appendicitis recently, is recovering rapidly. His father, Judge T. A. McBride, who was called to Astoria by his wife's illness, will reconvert Circuit Court at St. Helens on July 1.

IF YOU ARE NOT working, why not go to Hood River to pick strawberries? Plenty of work and good pay. Take Regular Line passenger from the Union street wharf, daily 7 A. M. For information, phone Main 214.

NEW VARIETY OF BROOM.—The time of the blooming of flowers has come, and visitors to Portland are astonished to see the great variety of flowering plants and shrubs from different parts of the world flourishing here. At any time even old residents are likely to come across some flower they have never seen before, and cannot find a name for. A few days ago a man well versed in botany met a woman on Washington street carrying a handful of what he at once recognized as White Scotch broom, though he had never seen the flower before. He had not the nerve to stop her to ask questions, but from a man who had, and who had also noticed the strange flower, he learned that it was rare here, there being only three or four bushes of the kind in Portland. It was a sport from the common Scotch broom, with yellow flowers, the white flowers being smaller, more familiar to all, and was brought here from Great Britain by the late A. J. Johnson, horticulturist, forestry expert and botanist. It cannot be propagated from seed, as the plant sports back to its original yellow flower, but it can be raised from cuttings, but not with certainty. Since the white broom was noticed another variety, probably a sport also, has been found on Johnson's plantation at Astoria and exhibited by a florist here. The flowers are yellow and bronze colored, producing a startling contrast with the white. It is prettier than the original yellow broom, but neither is likely to become so common as to flourish so luxuriantly as the original old yellow broom.

TAKES BROAD VIEW OF BUSINESS.—The head of the law firm of H. S. Thorne, in this city, took a broad view of business, when, taking a short time ago that another wholesale house in his line was to be opened here, he said: "We will have the day when it starts. In our line of business it is impossible for any one house to carry everything for which there is a demand. If I could have the profit on the things which are called for which we do not and cannot carry, it would be all the money I would need. If another wholesale house in this business is opened here it will have many of the things we do not carry in its stock, and when we have orders for such goods we will be able, through the courtesy which exists among business men, to go to the new firm and say, 'We have orders for such and such goods,' and they will be furnished us at a cost which will divide the profit between us. The next day we can return to our merchant and tell him we will be benefited and neither will injure the business of the other." There would seem to be the wisdom of age and experience in this.

CHOWD VARIETY CITY PARK.—Owing to the fine day an unusual number of visitors was attracted to the City Park. They found everything at its best, the sward green and well kept, the paths straight and in perfect order, and the trees well trimmed and in luxuriant and perfect foliage. Several who had not seen the park for a year or more said they had never seen it looking so well. The pool near the entrance and the circular tank near the top of the hill have been much improved and beautified, the bird and wild animal cages are as clean as possible and their occupants look well fed and happy, except the herd of elk. The latter are shedding their coats and growing new sets of antlers and have a rough, ragged appearance, which will disappear when their old coats are gone. The flowering plants and shrubs in the park are in fine condition. The roses are a little late, as they are everywhere, but the bushes and beds are in fine condition and give promise of abundant bloom.

DOG FIRES A PEACOCK.—A rather exciting incident occurred in the City Park yesterday afternoon. Two of the kind of women who for want of something else to do, are in the habit of feeding the dog, brought this animal into the park, contrary to the rules, laying themselves liable to a fine. The dog strayed into a patch of shrubbery, and probably its great surprise flushed a magnificent peacock, which, using a lot of bad Sunday language, flew some distance, his long tail trailing behind like the tail of a comet, and alighted on the top of an eagle's cage. Park-keeper Louie, who heard the cries of the peacock, went after the dog with a handful of rocks and made it fly faster than the peacock had. The dog needed a small boy with a stick to help him to get the peacock very interesting. It will be well for people visiting the park to leave their dogs at home or to have them on a leash, as they are so much of a nuisance to the animals or themselves.

MRS. O. M. SMITH IN A RUNAWAY.—Mrs. O. M. Smith, her two little daughters and their nurse, had a fortunate escape from a runaway horse yesterday afternoon. The horse, purchased a horse a few days since and was out for a trial trip yesterday afternoon, when she lost control of the horse on Sixth street, near Washington. The unruly animal dashed down the street, and Mrs. Smith, who was sitting in the carriage, was thrown out. A telegraph pole stopped the carriage, but the horse continued his flight down the street. Mrs. Smith, her daughters and their nurse were thrown to the pavement. Dr. G. T. Trommler, attending physician, who was called to the scene, said that Mrs. Smith and her two little daughters were injured, but not seriously.

COLONEL JOHN SOBRIEKI TO LECTURE.—Colonel John Sobrieki will be in Portland a few days to give a lecture on "The Interests of Temperance and Health." He has kindly consented to give two lectures here, one under the auspices of the Multnomah County Woman's Christian Temperance Union, tomorrow evening in the First Baptist Church, and another Wednesday evening in the Y. M. C. A. Hall, under the auspices of the Prohibition Alliance. Both lectures will be free. Good music will be featured.

SAILOR FALLS FROM RIGGING.—Carl T. Fink, a sailor on the schooner John A. fell from the rigging at a height of 45 feet yesterday afternoon. He was rescued by St. Vincent's Hospital, where it was ascertained that he was suffering from concussion of the brain. The attending physicians have hopes of his recovery.

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AT THE THEATERS

"The Highest Bidder." Jack Hammerton.....Ralph Stuart. Sir Evelyn Grant.....Frank Camp. Lawrence Thornhill.....Priscy Morrice. Bonham Cheviot.....William Harris. Sir Muffin Struggles.....Ernest Van Pitt. Solomons.....Don Brunaldi. Parkyn.....A. C. Wain. Rose Thornhill.....Helen MacGregor. Mrs. Honblin Lee.....Mary Hone. Louisa.....Virginia Bressac. Josephine.....Martha Mayo. Ann.....Julia Mortimer.

Shields' Vaudeville. Harry Sawyer, singer and mimic. Mann and Franks, burlesques. Macrop sisters, singers. The Kobers, trapeze. Mully sisters, dancers. Joseph Thompson, illustrated songs. De Ruiz and Granville in "A Prisky Play." Baby Irene, singer and contortionist. Polyscope.

That pleasant, delicately tinted English comedy, "The Highest Bidder," in which E. H. Sothern played with distinguished success when he first began to tour this country, was the attraction yesterday at two performances, given at the Baker houses at Baker's by Ralph Stuart and his company. Mr. Stuart received quite an ovation when he first stepped on the boards, after a week's rest to take care of his cold. In "The Highest Bidder," Mr. Stuart does not have much opportunity to use his fencing foils or pistol, and he courageously turns down an offer to fight a duel with the villain of the play, Sir Evelyn Grant (Frank Camp). It is one of the few fighting scenes that Mr. Stuart has declined this season. Curiously enough when Sir Evelyn Grant's villainy is timely unmasked, he is not slaughtered as bad stage men usually are—he simply disappears. This is quite in accordance with the motif pervading the comedy, that the villain usually are—he simply disappears. This is quite in accordance with the motif pervading the comedy, that the villain usually are—he simply disappears.

The change of bill seen yesterday at two performances of vaudeville by Shields' company at Cordray's Theater contained some diverting and amusing features. It was a great day for fathers, mothers and children, and the programme was so skilfully arranged that it pleased all. Harry Sawyer, who is a first-class vaudeville singer, actor and mimic, met with no fewer than nine different encores. The audiences went wild over him and no better act of his kind has ever been seen in this city. There is nothing cheap about his work, and his voice, both natural and falsetto, is splendid. He speaks his words with unusual distinctness, and he lived up to the reputation that preceded him from Proctor's circuit, New York. He gave laughable imitations of Della Fox, in the "Pretty Girl" song from "Wings"; of Josephine Sabel, the coon singer; of the English vaudeville star, Vesta Tilley, in "Eben" song, and "I've Been Showing My Aunt Matilda." "Round the Town"; of Russell Brothers, in "The Irish Servant"; and in a treat, it to hear him imitate his little sister singing "There Was a Young Lady Named Maid."

Mr. Stuart was in good voice, and he gave an interesting and laughable portrait of the Hebrew waiter, and got a double encore for a parody on "The Holy City." The Macrop sisters, two young girls, are refined and amusing in "Rosie, You're Ma Poo," and other songs. Little Mully is effective with her wince-ways and singing of "Hello, Central, Give Me Heaven." De Ruiz and Granville are better this week in their new sketch, "A Prisky Play," the business and the humor in their act represents a palace, and it valued at hundreds of dollars. Granville made a funny burglar, and his make-up and "roast" of the baseball teams caused roars of laughter. The Kobers, in their exciting trapeze work, appear in new costumes. Their work is daring. The three Mully sisters, in their sketch, "The Kobers," and Pinky Mully is one of the best comedians in the profession. The same bill will be played all week.

Several persons collected in a tailor shop Saturday while a printer was trying a new suit tried on, were amused at a discussion which arose. The tailor was asked what his rather peculiar foreign name was. In English and replied that it was the Norwegian for blacksmith. "Then it is very appropriate for you," said the printer, jokingly, "for in my profession an incompetent workman is called a blacksmith." A carpenter who was standing by said: "In my trade an incompetent workman is called a butcher." The printer said: "Among us an incompetent workman is called a carpenter, and blacksmiths, carpenters and butchers are all men," retorted the carpenter, while a tailor is only the ninth part of a man." "You misunderstand the old saying that 'It takes nine tailors to make a man,'" said the tailor. "It arose from the fact that a raged, unskilled tramp went into a shop where nine tailors were working, and he hunted up garments enough to make him a whole suit, and as he made it said: 'Now I feel as if I were a man again.' Hence came the old saying that nine tailors make a man, but this must not be taken to intimate that a tailor is only the ninth part of a man." If they had a printer, a tailor ranks lowest in the list of artisans for his work is only a woman's after all. "The shoemaker ranks lowest in the list of artisans," said the tailor. "Just why I do not know, but all other trades look down on the cobbler." "You probably mean that his work is 'looked down upon' by everybody, which is a ragged, unskilled tramp went into a shop where nine tailors were working, and he hunted up garments enough to make him a whole suit, and as he made it said: 'Now I feel as if I were a man again.' 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