# CITY NEWS IN BRIEF

**The Oregonian's Telephones.**

Counting Room ..... Main 667
Managing Editor ..... Main 636
Sunday Editor ..... Main 638
City Editor ..... Main 166
Composing Room ..... Main 666
Superintendent Building ..... Red 2823
East Side Office ..... East 61

**AMUSEMENTS.**

MARQUAM GRAND THEATER—Tonight at 8 o'clock, Klaw & Erlanger's stupendous production, "Ben Hur."

THE BAKER THEATER, Third and Yamhill streets—Evening, 8:15, the Baker company in "Jim the Penman."

ARCADE THEATER, Seventh and Washington—Continuous vaudeville daily, 2:30, 3:30, 7:30, 8:30 and 9:30.

CORDRAY'S THEATER, Washington street—Evening, 8:15, "Yon Yonson."

THE EMPIRE THEATER, Twelfth and Morrison—Evening, 8:15, "Not Guilty."

MUSHROOM OR TOADSTOOL.—A rather curious specimen of some kind of fungus has been received by mail from B. U. Hawley of Wildwood, Or., who wishes to know whether it is a mushroom or a toadstool. This is a difficult question to answer, as both belong to the fungus family, and the line between them is rather indefinite. Mr. Hawley probably wishes to know whether the specimen is poisinous or not. This is also a difficult question to answer, as some species of fungus which are usually called toadstools are really wholesome and nutritious, and the fact is that poisonous species of fungus are not numerous, but when they are bad they are very bad. The only certain method of testing them is by eating them, and as scientists are not numerous on The Oregonian staff it will be necessary to leave this testing to Mr. Hawley himself. As to canning mushrooms, they should be stewed and seasoned properly, and then placed in cans and steamed in a retort, as all canned goods are. There is such a demand for fresh mushrooms in this city, and the season for them is usually so short, that very few are canned here. Most of the canned mushrooms come from France, where they are raised artificially in caves or cellars all the year round. There are several varieties eaten here, but none so much liked as the old-fashioned meadow mushroom, and many people fight shy of any other variety, fearing that they may not be wholesome.

PLAZA BLOCKS USED AS MARKET-PLACE.—Many people who do not go by the Plaza blocks early in the morning have no idea of the number of vegetable men who collect there with their wagons about 8 o'clock to buy and sell, nor of the amount of litter they leave behind. Yesterday morning there were no less than 80 such wagons, containing an immense amount of garden truck, gathered around the two blocks mentioned, and during the time they are there most of this truck is handled over and sold. When the hucksters leave the pavement and sidewalks are littered with cabbage leaves, turnip tops and all kinds of vegetable refuse, and are a sight to behold. Then the "janitors" of the plazas have to sweep off the walks, and the street-cleaning department comes along and cleans up the refuse, throws it into carts and hauls it away. When citizens come by there on their way to business they have no idea of all the business and work that has been done there during the early hours of morning. When the new city market is built all this will be changed.

SEA GULLS COME INLAND.—A large flock of sea gulls have been making themselves at home on one of the tracts on the East Side belonging to the Ladd estate for the past two weeks. The field is being plowed, and the gulls have been following the plow and feasting on the earth worms turned up by it. This has surprised many, but it is nothing unusual for flocks of gulls to go inland in the Winter season when there is heavy weather on the coast. They used to be seen feeding up and down the river in front of the city at such times, but now the harbor is so crowded and there are so many bridges across the river that they take to the open fields, where they are not likely to be molested. The city people visit the coast in numbers during the summer, and the gulls are now returning the visit. They are harmless birds, and should not be mistreated.

GAMBLERS' FINES INCREASED.—A 25 per cent increase in their fines has made the representatives of the larger gambling houses sit up and take notice. Twice a month certain men, acting for the boss gamblers, are arrested. This time they found larger bail, which is a fine, in polite language, decidedly larger than usual. In several cases those who had been paying $150 semi monthly must hereafter pay $300 or go out of business. Those arrested were Fred Fritz, E. Blazier, G. Fuller, for A. Erickson; J. Smith, for the Gem Club; John Thomas, for the Portland Club; C. Burley, for Blazier's First-street establishment. The bail was raised upon all but the last two.

DEATH OF SISTER MARY BENILDIS.—Sister Mary Benildis of the Community of the Sisters of the Holy Names, of this city, died at Holy Names Academy, Spokane, Wash., at 12:30 A. M. November 29 of acute peritonitis. The deceased nun was in the twenty-third year of her age, and was a daughter of Peter Van Hoomissen of this city. Her remains will arrive on the 8 o'clock Spokane train this morning. A solemn funeral mass will be sung at 9:30 A. M., to which the friends of the family are invited. On Wednesday morning the remains will be conveyed to St. Paul, Marion County, and interred in the Community Mortuary Vault.

NOW IS THE TIME TO KICK.—If the people in the vicinity of Stanton and Commercial streets don't want a saloon on that corner, they will have to make their complaint to Councilmen Flegel and Bentley, for those two officials were appointed an investigating committee at yesterday's session of the liquor license committee of the Council. The members of the committee acknowledged they didn't know much about the neighborhood, and as there is an application for this corner they will make a trip to the neighborhood.

PIONEER LIFE AMONG THE JEWS.—"Pioneer Life Among the Jews" of the Northwest will be the subject under discussion at the regular meeting of the Council of Jewish Women tomorrow afternoon. The members have been privileged to invite pioneer friends, and a large attendance is anticipated. Miss Carrie May will be the soloist, and talks on early days will be given by Messrs. Jacob Mayer, Samuel Blumauer and Leo Friede. The council meets in the Selling-Hirsch Hall.

HUNGRY AND OUT OF MONEY.—Hungry and out of money was the plea which Fred Ross, aged 18 years, put up to Justice Reid yesterday as excuse for stealing a bicycle at Troutdale from G. Bennett. Ross said he came from Nelson, B. C., and that running out of money he was forced to steal. The bicycle was sold for $3. He was fined $30, which means 15 days in the County Jail.

ONLY 25 cents to The Dalles and way landings. Take steamer Bailey Gatzert and get to your destination from one to two hours ahead of any other steamer on the river. Leaves Alder-street dock 7 A. M. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Meals 25 cents. Steamer Dalles City leaves 6:30 A. M. same days. Tickets to any point only 25 cents. 'Phone Main 914. *

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E. H. MOOREHOUSE & Co. are prepared for you at their new quarters, northwest corner Seventh and Alder. Art goods, picture framing, etc. *

FOR labels, lithographing, cartons, maps and all kinds of color work, see Mutual Label & Litho. Co., Macleay building. *

SUBSCRIBE for periodicals. See J. K. Gill Company. *

PURE ingredients in OLYMPIA PANCAKE FLOUR. *

WOOSTER, all kinds hardware. 7th & Mor.

STREET REPAIR DEPARTMENT RUSHED.—The Street Repair Department has become a rather important and useful branch of the public service under the provisions of the new charter, which fixes the life of street improvements and provides for their maintenance until this term expires. This is generally conceded to be a just provision "if the improvements are properly made," and if they are not properly made it is the fault of the city, as the work has to be done under the supervision of an inspector. He must report favorably on the work before it can be accepted by the city. The repair department has plenty of work on hand at this season, and the only trouble is that the force is not large enough, there are so many streets to be repaired. The repair of the plank roadway on Williams avenue, north of Weidler street, has been completed, and the men are now at work on the bridge at the intersection of Avenue and Weidler streets. This is quite a job, involving practically the rebuilding of the bridge at an expense of about $1000. This expense is borne by the owners of property at the corners of the intersection, who contribute $600, and the City & Suburban Railway Company, which contributes $225, and the city furnishes the remainder. The work is progressing rapidly, and will be completed in about three weeks, without car travel over the bridge being interrupted. The bridge at Williams avenue and Hancock street is to be filled in by the City & Suburban Railway Company, which has the work so far along that about 25 carloads of earth will complete it. When this is leveled off and improved there will be no more trouble about decaying bridges there.

HOOD-STREET REMONSTRANTS SORRY.—A property owner on Hood street who did not remonstrate against its improvement says those who did are now very sorry for doing so, as on the occasion of a late fire in that neighborhood Engine No. 5 of South Portland was stalled there, and could not get to the fire at all. It is reported out there that Chief Campbell has given orders for none of the fire engines to attempt to get out Hood street, and residents now realize that a fire there under these circumstances might cause a great amount of loss which would have been prevented had the street been improved. The remonstrance by which the improvement was defeated was filed July 17. A petition for the improvement of the street would be presented at the next meeting of the Council but for the fact that that meeting takes place on December 16, one day before the six months required by law before the remonstrance expires, so the people will have to wait till another meeting before they can put in their petition. One blunder leads to many troubles.

R. EVERDING DANCES AGAIN.—R. Everding has been somewhat lame from rheumatism for some time, and therefore not so spry and active as he used to be, so some of the boys smiled when a letter from his wife was received yesterday in which it was stated that the doctor had ordered him to quit dancing round dances. It was added, however, that he was allowed to dance Old Dan Tucker dances and Virginia hoe-downs, Highland flings, etc. This made the boys in the store shout with laughter, till Mr. Farrell, Everding's partner, took the matter up, and said that in early days Everding was a dancer from Dancerville, and asked no odds of any one, and in round dances, the cancan or any old dance he was at home. He said further that John Kiernan and J. B. Kellogg were others of the same stamp, and the three of them took the house and led the revels at all the dances in town. Mr. Kiernan has lately taken up shooting, after 35 years' vacation, and now that Everding has resumed dancing he will also probably want to shake the light fantastic toe again.

FOUND DEFECTIVE PLUMBING.—A householder, who has been complaining of late about trouble with his water supply, had the water shut off from his place yesterday, to his great surprise, and will have to employ a plumber to put his pipes to rights before it is turned on again. The trouble was all the fault of a plumber who put in a peculiar stopcock to shut off the water from the pipes within, which could be turned both ways, and when turned the wrong way caused all the leakage and trouble. This stopcock was under a floor in a narrow space, but the inspector finally crawled under and found out what was the matter, and shut the water off at the same time. It appears that occasionally plumbers do things wrong, or do not know how to do them right. One received a wigging from the Plumbing Inspector yesterday for placing a trap under a floor when it should have been above and accessible. The plumber was ordered to put the matter to rights at once.

SPECIMENS OF FINE FRUIT.—Those who have been invited to send in fine specimens of fruit for exhibit at the meeting of the Northwest Fruit Growers' Association are responding freely. The association meets here January 12 to 15. In order that there may be a fine showing of the fruit products of this region for inspection by delegates to the National Association of Cattle Growers, which meets here about the same time. Several boxes of choice Spitzenbergs, Newtown Pippins, etc., which are intended to show the style of commercial packing, arrived from Southern Oregon a few days ago, and samples are coming from Washington, Idaho and Montana. The Fruit Commissioner of British Columbia writes that he will gather some of the best samples of fruit to be found in that province to send. The prospect is that the finest showing of fruits ever made here will be ready for the inspection of the National Cattlemen.

TO INSTRUCT MILITIA OFFICERS.—The officers of the Third Infantry, Oregon National Guard, will undergo a weekly course of instructions, commencing December 1 and concluding June 14. The ultimate aim of the work is to train officers to command men in war, and every officer will be required to fit himself thoroughly for the responsible duties of his grade. Recitations will be held once a week at such time and place as the instructor shall direct, except as to officers stationed in Portland, who will recite in the Multnomah County Armory Tuesday evenings from 8:30 to 10 o'clock. At stations outside of Multnomah County the senior officer will act as instructor, including Lieutenant-Colonel Poorman at Woodburn and Captain C. B. Winn at Albany.

DISCUSS METHODIST PUBLISHING CONCERNS.—At the regular meeting of the Methodist preachers of Portland, held yesterday morning at the Y. M. C. A., Rev. T. B. Ford of Eugene read a 50-minute paper on the consolidation of the Methodist book publishing concerns. At present there are two divisions, the Eastern and the Western, and it has been a matter for discussion for some time if it would not be better to run all the publishing houses under one management. The question is expected to occupy considerable attention at the general conference of the Methodist Churches, to be held at Los Angeles next May, at which Dr. Ford will be a delegate.

TROUBLE IS TO FILL THEM IN RIGHT.—A quantity of proposal blanks for bids on supplies for the Government at Mare Island, California, and Puget Sound, Washington, have been received at the office of the Portland Chamber of Commerce. They will be kept there for the use of any local bidders who may desire to compete for the privilege of furnishing supplies.

OPEN RIVER COMMITTEE WILL REPORT.—There will be a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce Wednesday morning at 11 o'clock, at which important business will come before the directors of the Chamber for consideration. The open-river committee will be present and report recommendations relative to the portage road and other matters of similar nature.

WAIT for the Unitarian Bazaar Thursday evening, Friday afternoon and evening. Just the Xmas gifts you want, artistic, useful and new. Delicious viands. *

WE have $50,000 to invest in Portland property. What have you to offer? Sixth street preferred. Address T 92, care Oregonian. *

# MAKING A CHARIOT RACE

**MARQUAM GRAND STAGE HAS TO BE ALTERED FOR "BEN HUR."**

**Big Production Requires Ponderous Mechanisms Which Are Installed by Force of Trained Men.**

To adapt the stage of the Marquam Grand Theater to the production of a spectacle like "Ben Hur," is a task that requires something more than the ordinary knowledge of an ordinary carpenter. For the past week a force of trained men, engaged by Klaw & Erlanger to travel in advance of this remarkable theatrical venture, have been striving to fit the stage of Portland's big Theater so that the great scene of the play, the chariot race, for which the vast Coliseum in Rome was none too large, may be simulated so faithfully that the spell-bound audiences will feel the self-same thrills the Romans felt.

In order to do this it was necessary to cut away the entire center of the stage and to build a superstructure capable of holding up 40 tons. It is on this false stage that the cradles of the chariot race are placed. These cradles, each 14 feet in length and 12 feet in width, rest on railways and are movable back and forth. Each cradle bears the four horses of the contestants. Up in the fly galleries is a 50-horsepower electric motor, which, by means of a complicated arrangement of belts and cogs, operates both the cradles and the panorama which extends across the entire back of the stage and which is moved at the rate of 1200 feet a minute during the operation of the race. This panorama is stretched on cylinders, each three feet in diameter and 40 feet in height. It takes 2600 feet of canvas to cover it, and it is probably the largest panorama ever constructed.

In the fly galleries is nearly all the machinery of the play, and at present they have the appearance of a large and fully equipped machine shop. From the rigging loft high over head dangle the miles of lines with which the scenery is hauled into place, over ten miles of rope being used in the production. When the race scene is not in action the cut in the stage is covered by a temporary structure, and it is on this that the dances in the Gardens of Daphne are held. The cut in the stage also does duty during the galley scene, and is used during the first act of the play.

### New Bill at the Arcade.

The most entertaining bill presented so far at the Arcade is this week's, and all the performances were well attended yesterday. It is difficult to say whether the Bragdons, in their Irish act, or the Jarrett marionette troupe are top-liners. They are both good.

The Jarretts present a theater show, within a theater, and the dolls dance, pose and take themselves to pieces in an amusing way calculated to make children in the audience open their eyes with astonishment. Only one actor in the Jarrett show is real, and she is a baby girl, prettily dressed, who dances and poses quite gracefully. The four Bragdons create a sensation in the Irish act that aroused so much applause at the Marquam last season, and the scene in which the Irish boy engages the prima donna and her dog to sing must be seen to be enjoyed.

Winstanley and Sullivan are clever step dancers, and Paul Newman sings effectively "You Will Always Be the Same Sweet Girl to Me." Morris Jones, in blackface, sings, and his sermon on "Woman" creates roars of laughter. The bioscope pictures are new and worth a visit.

### COMING ATTRACTIONS.

**Special "Ben Hur" Matinee.**

Owing to the fact that there is such a great demand for seats for "Ben Hur," Mr. Heilig has prevailed upon Klaw & Erlanger to give an extra performance this week. This performance will be given Friday afternoon, and the seats will go on sale at 10 o'clock this morning. An impression has gone abroad that the seats for the regular advertised performances are all sold. This is erroneous, as there are still some very good seats to be had for almost every performance of the engagement.

**"Yon Yonson" Tonight.**

"Yon Yonson" will be given at Cordray's Theater tonight and tomorrow night for the last times. It would take something more than great opposition to keep the people away from "Yon Yonson." There is reason for this. The play is good and the company presenting it, likewise.

**"A Little Outcast."**

"A Little Outcast" commences a brief engagement next Thursday evening at Cordray's Theater. Miss May Stockton, a favorite in Portland, appears as a newsboy.

**"Jim the Penman."**

By special request the favorite old play, "Jim the Penman," will be produced by the Baker Theater Company all this week, with the usual Saturday matinee.

**"Not Guilty."**

"Not Guilty," the bill at the Empire, the present week, is an unusually strong melodrama.


### WHERE TO DINE.

All the delicacies of the season at the Portland Restaurant; fine private apartments for parties, 305 Wash., near 5th.

Imperial Hotel Restaurant, 2d floor, six-course dinner, 50c; first-class service, a la carte, 6:30 A. M. to 8 P. M.

We serve coffee that is pleasing to those of a refined and discriminating taste. Raster's, 68 Sixth street.

### A X-MAS SHOPPING DIRECTORY.

For pictures that are new and pretty
The Little Art Shop.
For artistic framing
The Little Art Shop.
For casts and novelties
The Little Art Shop.
In fact all that any one may wish for a Xmas gift can be found at
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### REMEMBER THE MOTTO.

Remember our motto: "High grade, full measure, low prices." Neuberger's Full Measure House, 108 Sixth street.

### CAN DINE AT HOME

**Before Taking the "Spokane Flyer," for Eastern Washington Points.**

By the O. R. & N. time-card, persons desiring to take the Spokane Flyer for Spokane, Couer d'Alene and other Eastern Washington points, can now dine at home (train leaves at 7:45 p. m.) before leaving. The "Portland-Chicago Special" now leaves at 8:50 A. M.

**For Suit Cases and Bags**
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In order to have this beautiful assortment of instruments move off quickly, we will extend easy terms of payment when desired.

Come and personally investigate present prices and the chance to get a really good piano.

Also several big bargains in second-hand upright and square pianos. Prices no object; we want to get rid of them.

Remember the place—SOULE BROS. PIANO CO., 326 Washington St., between 6th and 7th streets.

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Come today and you will get the best values in fine Dress Goods, cloths, tweeds, Venetians and French broadcloths.

Alteration Sale will continue all this week. Don't miss it.

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NOT HEREDITARY.

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ATTENTION, SOLDIERS!

Surely the testimony of one of the survivors of the war of '61 will carry conviction to the mind of every thinking individual. We all know the suffering and privation which the men went through during those years of fighting, and also the depleted physical condition of many of them at the close.

Dodge Center, Minn., May 25, 1903.

Gentlemen: I am one of the survivors of the U. S. sanitary commission of the civil war. I am 67 years old, and owe my comfort in living these later years of my life to your Shredded Wheat, which I have used from my first knowledge of it, six years ago or more. I write to say that I have just received your circulars, "The Vital Question," and Gen. Booth's "Eureka." I am amazed at the extent of your operations and the large, educative way your work is extending. Thousands of our brave fellows died of sheer hospital starvation from inability to assimilate the eternal toast and tea and farina and corn starch "hospital diet," that soon excited disgust, and could not be eaten with the endless whisky and quinine. In the extreme south I became invalided—a starch dyspeptic—never "saved" until I found your Biscuit. You have begun and done a great work. I am glad to see you are getting part of your reward in this world. I am,
(Signed.) J. M. SPERRY.

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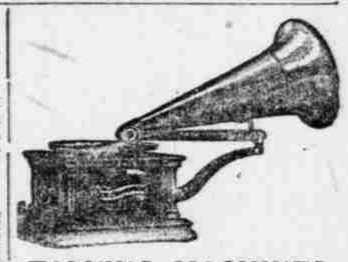

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