

### NO SIR, IT WASN'T ME

#### Plenty of Excuses for Fireboat Fiasco.

#### STOKER BROWN INDIGNANT

#### Says Engineer Started Pumps Without Clearing Exhaust-Pipe of Water, Which Ran Into Furnaces and Put Out Fires.

Just what caused the fireboat George H. Williams to cut up queer antics at a vital moment at the outbreak of Saturday evening's fire on the water front is a problem that the Fire Commissioners will investigate today or tomorrow. Captain Whitcomb, the chief navigating officer, says it could not have been his fault. Chief Engineer Kellogg says he is not to blame, and Stoker Brown, who was suspended for having insufficient steam power in his boiler, is not inclined to have the responsibility shifted upon his shoulders.

These three members of the boat crew and the chief engineer, with logical defenses of his part in the performance, and is inclined to contend that it was really nobody's fault, but rather the misapprehension of circumstances.

That the boat would not approach the fire at the foot of Morrison street and that the craft tossed helplessly about in the river while \$2,000 worth of property was consumed was unquestionably due to the fact that there was insufficient steam in the boilers to operate the boat and the pumps at the same time. The question that the Commissioners will probe is just why this steam was not in the boilers.

Captain Whitcomb steps from under all blame with the assertion that his sole duty is that of piloting the boat about the river. He disclaims any responsibility for the amount of steam carried at any time. His place is at the wheel.

Chief Engineer Kellogg says that his stoker is under orders to keep at least 125 pounds of steam in one boiler at all times, and have other fires ready to spread at a second's notice. He says he had all his pumps and his fire-fighting crew ready to fight the fire of Saturday evening, and was astounded when he found there was not enough steam to conduct operations.

#### Stoker Brown Has Grievances.

Stoker Brown, in his turn, offers a logical explanation of the cause of the trouble, and he directly shifts the blame back upon the chief engineer. He says that the pumps were started up suddenly without the exhaust pipe having been cleared of condensed water, whereas it should have been worked off by the engineer. In this way, Brown says, the water was fed down the stacks into his furnaces, thus putting out his fires and making it impossible to keep up enough steam to operate the boat. He says he called this state of affairs to the attention of Engineer Kellogg, and he also claims that the water pouring into the furnaces was so hot that it killed a number of the crew, who had been sent below to help him with the fires. Stoker Brown made the following statement of the affair yesterday:

"I wish to say that it is impossible for one stoker to do anything on short notice when he has three fires in one boiler to spread and three other fires to start. At the time the steam started Saturday, one of the boilers was full of water half way into the steam drum, and that had to be watched to keep it from going dry. When the boiler started to heat, there was 50 pounds of steam in the boiler, which was sufficient for all purposes. The engineer knows that the steam can't be kept up when running under full speed, and at the time the steam started to pump, as he did the entire way to the fire. Furthermore, the steam on the duty-boiler was cut down from 50 pounds to 15 pounds, and there was no chance to have any surplus of steam on hand. Then the steam was used up and there was no force draft to be had to get up a quick fire in the other boiler.

#### Water Poured Into Furnaces.

"The chief engineer threw the pumps wide open, and as he knew, they drew the water from the stacks through the engines and then through the exhaust in the stacks, so that the water poured down on the fires in the furnaces and put them out. I told the chief engineer at the time that he was putting the fires out, and he said he could not help it. I think he could have helped slow the pumps down a little to give me a chance. It was the water pouring on the fires in this way that caused the most of the delay.

#### DO NOT HAVE TO PAY NOW.

Twenty thousand passes to Fair Grounds issued to Fraternal Orders.

Twenty thousand passes to the Lewis and Clark Exposition grounds were sent out yesterday by Corporation Secretary Reed, for distribution among the Knights Templar and Oddfellows in San Francisco. Ten thousand of these passes go to each organization, and are in the form of a request to visit the Fair grounds, and returning to their homes all over the country. The passes are good until September 20.

#### THE OFFICIAL OF AN EXCELLENT ADVERTISING SCHEME.

The idea of sending passes to the grounds in general is regarded by the official as an excellent advertising scheme, and that it will be followed by definite returns there is no doubt. Large numbers of the San Francisco visitors are reported to have already announced their intention of returning by way of Portland.

#### THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE PASSES WILL BE SUPERINTENDED BY JUDGE T. F. BRYAN, OF OREGON CITY, WHO IS NOW IN THE BAY CITY, IN ATTENDANCE UPON THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR TRIENNIAL.

#### DENIES HE CUT RATES.

Fred T. Merrill says he is in no automobile war.

#### Fred T. Merrill emphatically denies that he is renting automobiles for \$3 an hour. He declares that, on the contrary, no automobile ever leaves his garage at a rate less than \$4 an hour. If more than three passengers are taken out \$5 an hour is the rate charged without exception.

#### THE RATE AMONG THE AUTO PEOPLE, ACCORDING TO MR. MERRILL, IS ENTIRELY CONFINED TO A FEW FORMER EMPLOYEES OF THE LARGE GARAGES WHO HAVE GONE INTO BUSINESS THEMSELVES AND CUT DOWN RATES TO GET THE BUSINESS THEY WOULD IN NO OTHER WAY OBTAIN. IN THIS CASE HE BLAMES ART HAYES, A FORMER EMPLOYEE, FOR TELLING OTHER AUTO MEN THAT THE MERRILL SHOP WAS CUTTING RATES.

#### IF GOING TO ST. LOUIS

#### Learn About the Splendid Through Service Offered by the O. R. & N.

Persons planning a trip to St. Louis will do well to learn of the new daily Standard passenger-car straggler offered by the O. R. & N., landing the visitor in St. Louis in the morning, September 6 and October 3, and the St. Louis to Portland will sell 50-day return-trip tickets to St. Louis for \$7.50 to Chicago, \$7.50. Stopovers allowed going and returning. Particulars of C. W. Stinger, city ticket agent, Third and Washington. Write A. Craig, general passenger agent of the O. R. & N., Portland, for a copy of the elegant St. Louis Fair folder, issued by the Union Pacific.

#### REFFLING.

#### Latest styles in Winter Woolens.

#### Any one can take Carter's Little Liver Pills for the cure. No pain or griping after taking.

der streets, within a block of numerous passers-by and policemen.

Vranizan says he spent the evening at a vaudeville theater, and shortly before 10 o'clock left the show to catch a car for his home in Sunnyside. As he passed the Oregonian building on the Sixth-street side, a man stepped suddenly from a doorway, pressed a revolver against Vranizan's breast and exclaimed: "Hold up!"

The robber then held the pistol covering Vranizan with one hand, while with the other he went through the young man's pockets and relieved him of his money. Vranizan was then told to move on, and the highwayman walked rapidly up Sixth street in the direction of the Fourth and Hal.

The robber wore no mask. He is described by Vranizan as being of medium size, dressed roughly, wearing a slouch hat and with a shaggy growth of beard. Vranizan stated yesterday that he was much frightened when the highwayman first made his appearance, hardly expecting to meet such a character in the central part of the city. He did not report the matter to the police yesterday, saying that he did not think it would do any good. Vranizan is a mechanic and lives with a aunt at Sunnyside.

### HEATHEN CAN WAIT AWHILE

#### Minister Advocates Care of Church at Home First.

"First build up the church at home," was the keynote of an address delivered before the Methodist Ministerial Association, in the auditorium of the Y. M. C. A., yesterday, by the Rev. Robert Forbes, D. D., of Philadelphia, secretary of the board of church extension of the Methodist Church. After enumerating the small individual sums given by members for extension work, Dr. Forbes said:

"But the cities of the United States of America are our greatest field of labor—the greatest field that the world affords. We cannot afford to send money to Calcutta and Bombay and neglect New York, Boston, Chicago and Portland. The mightiest victories of the cross are to be won in our own cities. We may build churches in Asia—when we have the money, the man who never errs never progresses. I know of a conference that has not taken a step forward for 25 years because the elder at the head of it was a wise, judicious man, and was never known to make a mistake."

The old-fashioned minister, now retired perhaps, has a friend in Dr. Forbes. "They must have their breakfast and their supper," he said, "they must be the church for us. They performed heroic service, and they should be cared for in their old age. Their methods may not be the same as yours, but they were great and glorious. Let the heathen wait for his religion. You will be old yourself sometime."

### LIKE TO LOOK AT RELICS.

#### Nearly 2000 Persons Visit Historical Society Exhibit in August.

The register in the rooms of the Oregon Historical Society shows the total number of visitors registered during the month of August to be 1918. Thirty-six states are represented besides Oregon, with a total of 57 visitors; five foreign countries, with a total of 27, while 14 towns in Oregon are represented. The rooms are open daily from 1 to 5 P. M., except Sundays and holidays, and are free to everybody. Strangers in the city and in the vicinity are interested in the line of quaint and once-useful articles, used by the men and women who crossed the American continent when oaken were the motive power that brought their scant effects. These people fought the savages, withstood the heat and cold storms and floods of a six months' journey of 200 miles to visit the great river, the Oregon, where they hewed out for themselves homes from the mighty forests, where today fine homes, rich fields of grain, orchards and meadows greet the eye and soothe the heart. Truly the pioneers should be revered.

Many pictures of the pioneers and relics of the past, such as a wagon, chairs, bedstead, spinning-wheel, loom, trunks, cooking utensils, stoves, bakeovens, guns, pistols, swords, knives, Indian stone implements, tomahawks, bows and arrows, arrowpois, old paper money, old papers and books.

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## 1000 Pr. Women's Shoes

### Equal to the Best \$3.50 Values

1000 pairs of women's new Fall and Winter Shoes at a phenomenal low price, made up to our special order from selected leathers—We will put them in competition with the best \$3.50 Shoes you can buy anywhere about town. Big variety of styles, including vici kid lace, heavy sole, Cuban heel, patent tip, and dull kid top; vici kid Blucherette, light sole, Cuban heel, patent tip, dull top; patent colt, wing vamp, lace, Cuban heel, dull kid top, all sizes and widths—Buy your Fall dress and street shoes today, at per pair..... **\$2.22**



## French Underwear at 1/3 Off

Choose from our entire matchless stock of hand-made French Lingerie at one-third off regular prices—Gowns, Skirts, Chemise, Drawers and Corset Covers—Magnificent pieces, an assortment three times greater than any display in the city—For Today, Tomorrow, Thursday and Friday, your unlimited choice at a discount of 1-3 **50c Two-Toned Ribbons**

3000 yards of beautiful new two-toned Ribbons, turquoise, light blue, gray, red, pink, all other leading shades, best 50c values for only, yard **23c**



# The Meier & Frank Store

Portland's Largest and Best Store

### 81x90 Sheets 55c

100 dozen 81x90 sheets, reinforced center seam, splendid quality muslin, bleached; other stores call them great value at 75c each; we invite comparison with other sheet bargains advertised around town.... **55c**

### Pillow Cases at 13c

300 dozen, 36x42 and 36x45 Pillow Cases, best muslin and we'll guarantee them the best bargain in town today **13c**

### Pillow Cases at 8c

Thousands of good muslin Pillow Cases, torn and ironed, size 42x36 inches, the grandest pillow case value ever offered in Portland on sale today at the low price of, each..... **8c**

## Great Sale of Hat Drapes

Another great sale of Hat Drapes for today and tomorrow—A second special purchase to supply those who did not come early enough to share in the great values of two weeks ago—Best styles and colors suitable for veils or hat drapes

### \$5 Hat Drapes at \$1.39 Each

10 dozen beautiful Veils and Hat Drapes, of splendid quality chiffon, silk applique border, leading shades, brown, tan, gray, blue, etc., 1 1/2-yard lengths, values \$3.50 to \$5.00, for..... **\$1.39**

### \$1.50 Hat Drapes at 45c Each

30 dozen Silk and Chiffon Veils and Hat Drapes, 1 1/2-yard lengths, in an immense assortment of styles and colorings; values \$1.00, \$1.25 and \$1.50; your choice at the low price of, each..... **45c**



## Basement Bargains

For today and tomorrow, useful housekeeping articles at prices far below actual value.

### Carving Set \$3.45

3-piece Carving Set, stag handle, fine steel blades, put up in pretty box; best \$4.50 val., **\$3.45** on sale today at, set.

200 9-inch glazed Jardiniers, assorted colors, best styles, regular \$1.00 values; your choice today and tomorrow..... **74c**

### Toilet Sets \$3.57

10-piece fancy decorated Toilet Sets, handsome decoration, value extraordinary for today and tomorrow only at this **\$3.57** low price.....

"Peninsular" Wood and Coal Heaters, largest line in the city, 40 models, all sizes and styles; "Peninsular" Steel Ranges and Cook Stoves. Easy payments for parties of good credit.

## Dinner Set Sale

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### 100 Dinner Sets at manufacturing prices—The best values you have shared in this year. Desirable styles, pretty decorations, variety large enough to please everyone—Sale continues one week

Semi-Vitreous Dinner Sets, brown floral decorations, great special value at—  
100-piece set, sale..... **\$7.14** 60-piece set, sale..... **\$4.88**

Semi-Vitreous Dinner Sets, green floral decorations, gold on knobs and handles; great values at—  
60-piece set..... **\$5.99** 100-piece set..... **\$9.13**

Best English Semi-Porcelain Dinner Sets, green decorated, gold on knobs and handles—  
60-piece set..... **\$6.57** 100-piece set..... **\$9.45**

Fruit Jars, Jelly Glasses and all Canning Utensils can be purchased here at the very lowest prices.

## BOYS' SCHOOL CLOTHING

Boys' School Suits in two-piece, double-breasted styles; neat brown and gray plaids and mixtures, ages 7 to 15 years; the best values in town at..... **\$3, \$3.50**

Boys' School Suits in two-piece, double-breasted styles; strictly all-wool Cassimeres and Chevots, extra well made; brown and gray checks, plaids and pretty mixtures; ages 8 to 16 years; great values; extra trousers to match at \$1.00 pair, for, suit..... **\$3.95**

Little Boys' Overcoats in dark blue and dark Oxford, double-breasted styles, with belted back, brass buttons, 2 1/2 to 8-year sizes..... **\$3.50 to \$6.00**

Boys' Reefers in tans, grays, Oxfords, 2 1/2 to 10 years, at **\$3.85, \$4.50 and \$5.00**

Boys' Overcoats, belted backs, full length, grays and mixtures, 6 to 15 years... **\$3.50 to \$10.00**

## Sept. Sale Blankets

1500 pairs of the best Blankets money can buy are offered at prices every housewife is interested in—Hotel and boarding-house keepers who want good blankets must also appreciate the saving effected by taking advantage of this great September sale—All the grades offered are of full weight and size—Superior quality—Colored borders—Silk bound and finished.

\$6.00 Blankets for, pr. <b>\$4.89</b>	\$11.00 Blankets for, pr. <b>\$9.35</b>
\$7.00 Blankets for, pr. <b>\$5.79</b>	\$12.00 Blankets for, pr. <b>\$10.15</b>
\$8.50 Blankets for, pr. <b>\$7.19</b>	\$15.00 Blankets for, pr. <b>\$12.65</b>
\$10.00 Blankets for, pr. <b>\$8.50</b>	\$20.00 Blankets for, pr. <b>\$16.50</b>

All grades of Comforters at the very lowest prices. Brass and Iron Beds—Big variety of styles, all sizes—Springs, Pillows, Mattresses, etc.

Sole Portland agents for the famous "Ostermoor" patent elastic felt mattresses, superior to hair mattresses and the cost about one-half. Third Floor.



## Baby Carriages and Go-Carts Below Cost

Our entire stock of Baby Carriages and Go-Carts marked at prices far below actual manufacturing cost—Best models—Big variety of styles—Ball bearing, cushion tires, etc.—Prices include rod and parasol—Third Floor

All \$10.00 Carriages and Go-Carts.....	<b>\$6.15</b>
All \$15.00 Carriages and Go-Carts.....	<b>\$9.65</b>
All \$18.50 Carriages and Go-Carts.....	<b>\$11.65</b>
All \$20.00 Carriages and Go-Carts.....	<b>\$12.45</b>
All \$25.00 Carriages and Go-Carts.....	<b>\$16.40</b>
All \$30.00 Carriages and Go-Carts.....	<b>\$19.45</b>

See them before buying elsewhere.

## Lace Curtains at Lowest Prices

Two great lots for this September Sale

Lot 1—Odds and ends of all kinds of Lace Curtains—One, two and three-pair lots at

\$2.50 values for, pair..... <b>\$1.45</b>	\$4.50 values for, pair..... <b>\$2.90</b>
\$3.00 values for, pair..... <b>\$1.80</b>	\$6.50 values for, pair..... <b>\$4.10</b>
\$3.50 values for, pair..... <b>\$2.10</b>	\$8.00 values for, pair..... <b>\$4.90</b>
\$4.00 values for, pair..... <b>\$2.45</b>	\$11.00 values for, pair..... <b>\$5.95</b>
\$6.00 values for, pair..... <b>\$3.70</b>	\$12.00 values for, pair..... <b>\$6.95</b>

Third Floor. \$14.00 values for, pair... **\$7.95**

## FALL CLOTHING FOR MEN

Smart Fall Apparel for men—Clothing, Furnishings and Hats—The best America produces in assortment second to none and at prices 25 per cent below what equal grades and fashions cost you at the exclusive clothing store—We've convinced thousands of this fact the past few seasons—We won't have any trouble winning you over—The old prejudice men had about buying their outfit in a department store is a thing of the past—Our clothing store is entitled to a great share of the credit for wiping out this feeling always offering the best merchandise, and one price to all and that the very lowest

New Fall styles in Men's Black Unfinished Worsted Custom-Tailored Suits, finest materials; all the latest modes; **\$15.00, \$18.00, \$20.00 up to \$25.00.**

New Fall styles in Men's Business Suits, big assortment of desirable materials and designs at **\$15.00, \$18.00 and \$20.00 a suit.**

Men's Belt Overcoats in new models, **\$17.50 and \$20.00.** Fine medium weight Black Overcoats, handsomely tailored and perfect fitting, new exclusive styles; **\$25.00 garments at \$20.00.**

New Fall Trousers, best materials and patterns, at **\$4.00 to \$8.00 pair.**

New Fancy Laundered Shirts, neat patterns, immense variety.

New Golf Shirts, the celebrated "Star," "Cluett" and "Manhattan" makes, **\$1.00 to \$2.00 each.**

New Silk Neckwear in four-in-hands, Imperials, English Squares, solid colors and fancy designs, **50c, 75c, up to \$2.00.**

New "Hawes" Hats, Derbys and Soft styles, always **\$3.00.**

New "Stetson" Hats, the best that's made, **\$3.50, \$4.00 and \$5.00.**



## Portland's Leading Cloak Store

In fact as well as name—The greatest varieties of the best styles—The largest and best department—The best value for your money—Supplying satisfactory ready-to-wear apparel for women and children is our great specialty—All we ask is the opportunity of showing you what attractive, reasonably-priced garments we have for your choosing

## September Carpet Sale

The great September Carpet Sale is attracting the attention of every person having carpet needs to supply—in addition to the exceptionally low prices prevailing we offer a special cash discount of 5 per cent or if payment is made within 60 days—Parties of good credit can arrange for easy weekly payments

<b>70c INGRAINS 52c</b>	<b>\$1.10 BRUSSELS 87c</b>
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Melrose Ingrains, in pretty wood effects, big variety to select from; best 75c grade is offered during this sale, sewed, laid and lined, at the very low price of, yd. **52c**

Royal Axminsters, in the new two-tone and floral effects and Orientals, very large variety to select from; price quoted includes sewing, laying and lining; best \$1.80 quality, yard..... **\$1.63**

Tapestry Brussels, floral and Oriental effects, carpet of beauty and durability; the grade sold everywhere at \$1.10 the yard; you can buy here, sewed, laid and lined, at, yard..... **87c**

The celebrated Windsor Brussels, mostly Oriental and two-toned effects, carpet guaranteed fast color and can be washed with soap and water; includes sewing, laying, lining, yd. **\$1.15**



### HELD UP ON BUSY STREET.

#### John Vranizan Meets Highwayman in Front of Oregonian Building.

John Vranizan, nephew of P. L. Thompson, a well-known restaurant man, was held up and robbed of \$7.50, all the money he had in his pockets at the time, according to his own story, at 10 o'clock Sunday night, in front of the Oregonian building at the corner of Sixth and Al-