

HE ACTS ALONE

Mayor to Employ New Sewer Experts

TO REPORT FACTS TO HIM

Contractors Given Permit to Repair Manhole Bottom.

REPORT SAID TO BE FALSE

While Mayor Does Not Credit This Story, He is Determined to Have a New Investigation Made.

The breach between Mayor Williams and the members of the Council is widening. Partly crediting the tales of "false reports" that he has heard, the Mayor has ordered a new examination of the Tanner-Creek sewer. He will employ experts himself, and they will report to him alone.

After this is done, some action, negative or affirmative, will be taken by the Mayor on the recommendation of the Council that proceedings be begun against City Engineer Elliott and his assistants. The Mayor hopes to have the new report to his hands in less than a week.

Written permission has also been granted to Riner & Riner, the contractors of the sewer, to repair the bottom under the manhole at 5th and Alder streets.

This permission is the result of a conference held Tuesday afternoon between the Mayor, the City Engineer and R. M. Riner. It was not announced until yesterday morning when the Riners began the repair work.

Permit to Repair One Spot.

"I have given Mr. Riner permission to repair the bottom under the manhole, which is considered dangerous," said Mayor Williams yesterday. "I have expressly stated that I shall not touch any other portion of the sewer. I will also engage three or four men upon whom I can absolutely rely to go through the sewer and make an examination. If they find that the sewer can be repaired and be placed in a serviceable condition, I am in favor of the property-owners paying for it."

Incidentally Mayor Williams is one of the largest property-owners in the assessment district.

Want the Actual Facts.

"I don't believe in cheating a man out of his money simply because we have the chance, and I want to get the actual facts of the sewer's condition for myself."

It was suggested that the members of the Council investigation committee might not altogether like the idea of the Mayor's employing experts to do the same work as those engaged by the committee.

"I will be sorry if we cannot cooperate on this, but no matter what I think about it, I cannot surrender my authority to any one."

"Report O. K.," Says Greenleaf.

"If the men engaged by the Mayor will make a report of the sewer's condition and conditions really worse than we said they were," said R. S. Greenleaf, one of the committee's examiners, last evening. "Our report was softened down for us but nothing in it, but what was seen by all four of us. We did not report what any individual saw or thought. We suggested at the time that a Councilman or some other official go with us, that we would be sustained should the sewer be patched up in the meantime, but we were told that it was not necessary."

As to the bridge investigation, nothing further has been done because no qualified expert has yet been engaged by the committee.

CHINESE ARMY DRILLS.

Three Companies, Commanded by Americans, Said to Be at Work.

Fresh hope in the sincerity of the Chinese reform army has been instilled into the breasts of applicants for offices by the receipt of acknowledgments from General English, which explain more fully the scope of the work and depict coming glory on the bloody field. Letters have also been received by recruits already accepted, and they contain information startling in the extreme.

In support of the dreams of glory on the part of the recruits it is announced that three companies of reformers are drilling in Portland at the present time; their drillmasters being American officers. These men have been untrained and carry on their warlike preparations without regard for international law.

Doubting Thomases are of the opinion that there is a grand scale of kingdom-enslaving being prepared in these United States. From the fact that General English has shown nobody his credentials and writes answers to applications in anything but military terms, it is deduced by some that those at the head of the movement are soldiers of fortune who intend to make use of war-loving American youths to further their plans. It being also feared that the pay of the soldiers will depend on the outcome of the campaign—if one is ever indulged in by the men being recruited. Others treat the matter as the huge practical joke of some retired Army officer, while there are some who believe the thing is not without elements of sincerity.

Colonel Gastenbein, of the First Oregon, states emphatically that he looks upon the whole proceeding as a fake of the first water. He points out that the men at the head of the movement are evidently without knowledge of military forms and military etiquette, that they are making moves no discreet officer about to launch a revolution would make, and that the very idea of

DENIES HIS GUILT

Major Rees Tells His Story at the Court-Martial.

EXPLAINS ALL HIS ACTIONS

Relates Why He Failed to Deposit Money in the Bank, and Tells Why He Borrowed Different Sums From Officers.

By Staff Correspondence.—Major Henry L. Rees told his story to the officers of the court-martial today. Whether the rapid fire of cross-examination by Judge-Advocate Morrow made it look like a sieve or left it a Gibraltar is for the court to determine.

When the court convened at 1:30 P. M. the defense opened its case with the testimony of Lieutenant-Colonel William H. Comsey, Deputy Paymaster-General, stationed at San Francisco. Colonel Comsey

recounting the nucleus of an army among the Americanized Chinese, placing them under the command of American officers and taking them across the sea to face a force many thousands of times their superior shows that there is no substantial bottom to the scheme. These military men who have died applications for positions with the army are divided in their opinion. Some declare they believe the movement to be without foundation, while others regret that their applications were filed and announce that they have arrived at the decision that they are the victims of some practical joker, who believes in operating on a large scale.

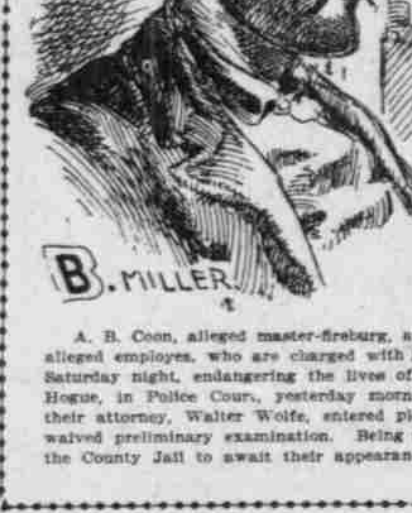
Another opinion is that some shrewd grafter has worked on the nerves of the Chinese until he has succeeded in getting them in line for the movement, thereby hoping to reap profits in the contracting of arms and in the demand of a large salary.

KERAMIC CLUB EXHIBIT OPENS

China Painters of Oregon Display Creditable Work.

The first public exhibit of the Oregon Ceramic Club, a recently formed organization of the china painters of the state, is thrown open at 10 o'clock this morning in the rooms of the Camera Club, Macleay building. The showing made by these artists is most creditable, and those who visit the exhibit will be surprised to learn that there are so many works of this line of art that such fine work is being turned out by them. Not one of the exhibitors prepared for this show, for

MEN CHARGED WITH SETTING INCENDIARY FIRES BOUND OVER TO GRAND JURY



A. B. COON.

They were arrested on Saturday night, enlarging the lives of the occupants, were arranged before Judge Hogan, in Police Court, yesterday morning. The jury was distinctly favorable to Rees as regards the latter's character and ability as an officer and paymaster.

Colonel Huston, commander at Vancouver, next testified about Major Rees in much the same strain.

The accused Paymaster next took the stand. He proved to be a neat talker, but under the frequent questions and promptings of his counsel told his story substantially as follows:

VANCOUVER, Wash., Nov. 30.—(Staff Correspondence.)—Major Henry L. Rees told his story to the officers of the court-martial today.

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Didn't Get the Telegram.

"Why, I got a telegram in June from the same parties to the same effect, which stimulated my fears."

"Have you got that telegram?"

"No."

"If you borrowed that \$500 from Captain Baker to pay Herron, why did you tell him, as the Captain stated yesterday, that you needed the money for the purpose of restoring the Government, as you were about to be suspected and there was an error in your accounts?"

"I made that statement to Captain Baker it was erroneous."

"But the Captain wrote you a letter including one which he threatened to send to the Paymaster-General if you did not pay, and that inclosure contained the statement the Captain says you made?"

"I don't remember that."

"But when you returned you read that letter and you never questioned that statement or protested to the Captain."

"I was very busy and did not read the letter carefully."

"If on June 26 and 27 you deposited \$267.74 to balance your accounts according to your books, and the books have since been examined and the balance was found to be correct, then Mr. Morey's accounts were correct, were they not?"

"The Major did not answer directly, but again went over the ground about various items which were accounted for in his mind about the account. In effect, however, he appeared to admit that the error might be in his mind."

"It was in that you should have so frequently after your return from two trips deposited only part of the same left over in your possession?"

"As I before stated, I was not clear about the balance. I complained in my left-over sums and put the rest in the safe."

"Why should you have held out just such sums arbitrarily?"

"The Major was not clear on that point, but insisted that he had always kept his money separate from his private money and always had the undeposited amounts either stored in the Portland Hotel safe or in his office safe."

"At this juncture the court adjourned until 10 A. M. tomorrow."

UNABLE TO HELP MOTHERS.

Boys Running Errand Forbidden to Work by Child Labor Board.

The Child Labor Commission, having in hand the lists furnished by employers of the ages of their employees, yesterday made a few trips to such as hired youngsters under 14 years of age. Employers were informed that they would have to discharge the children at once, regardless of any cause, charitable or otherwise for which they had them in their employ.

In one specific case the law will work a hardship. Ben Selling hires three boys, below the age limit, to run errands on Saturdays. Week days they go to school. In the case of two, the mothers are widows and need the money the boys bring in.

Mr. Selling was visited by Mrs. Millie Rees, of Benton, who, as Child Labor Commission, yesterday and told that he would have to discharge the boys. He explained the situation.

"These boys," he said, "are not injured by the work they do for me, and the money they earn is of material aid to their mothers."

"I am sorry," said Mrs. Trumbull, chief of my office, who cannot employ them."

So Mr. Selling will have to tell the three boys when they come to his store Saturday that he cannot hire them any longer.

CANTATA IS A SUCCESS.

"Faith and Praise" Sung Before Large Audience Last Night.

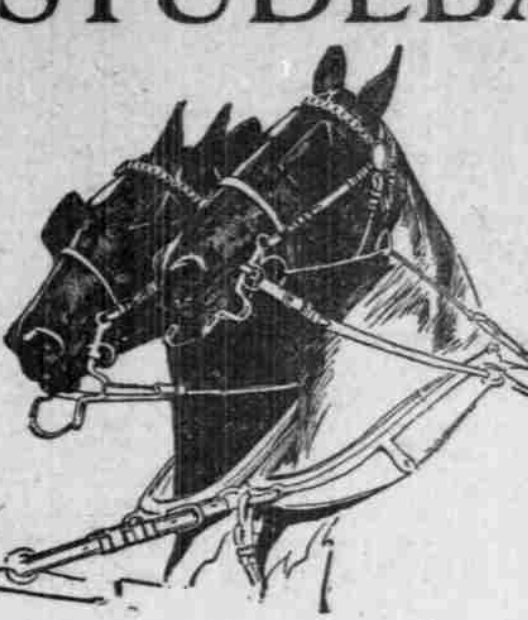
The sacred cantata, "Faith and Praise," by J. A. W. Pat, was sung before a large audience in the First Baptist Church last night by a chorus under the direction of Miss Ella Frances Hoberg, who was assisted by Miss Corneilia Barker, violinist, and Mrs. E. W. Chambers, accompanist. The cantata was well sung and the chorus showed evidence of careful training. The singers:

Soprano—Mrs. Thayer, Mrs. Joplin, Mrs. Currie, Miss Chamberlain, Miss Condon, Mrs. Hughes, Mrs. Poppleton, Miss Norcross, Miss Barth, Miss B. Soderback, Mrs. Soderback, Mrs. Dunn, Miss McParland, Miss Schmiedke, Mrs. Konkler, Mrs. Feltner, Mrs. Feltner, Mrs. Hurlbert, Mrs. Ruff, Miss Stewart, Miss Smith, Miss McClung, Mrs. Coleman, Miss Bell, Miss Lundby, Mrs. Maulbetch, Mrs. Scherer, Mrs. Trippe, Mrs. Currie, Mrs. Schoeppe, Mr. Ruff, Mrs. B. Stevenson, Mr. Joplin, Mrs. Stewart, Mr. Crawford, Mr. Hurlbert, Mr. Meeserve, Mr. Cormack, Mr. Trengrove.

Rare Books Are Sold.

NEW YORK, Nov. 30.—Two of the rarest books in the collection of Americans, made by the late Bishop John Hurst have just been sold at auction. One was a copy of the Mohawk Prayer Book, printed in this city by William Bradford in 1715. It brought \$100. The other was a copy of the second edition of Eliot's "Character and Faith," published in 1710. These two volumes are rare. They were purchased by an agent for an unknown collector.

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PORTLAND, OREGON

TO ATTACK THE LAW

Local Option Measure to Be Tested in Courts.

An attack will be made on the local-option law to test the constitutionality of the provisions which permit prohibition elections in subdivisions of precincts. As the law stands 10 per cent of the registered voters in any contiguous group of precincts can call a prohibition election. The Court of Appeals of Texas, a state which has a local-option law similar to that in Oregon, has decided that the provisions of the Texas statute authorizing such subdivisions are unconstitutional and that petitioners cannot legally create a division for an election, but must accept existing political divisions.

TEXAS PRECEDENT INVOKED

Court of Appeals in That State Held Statute Authorizing Special Subdivisions for Prohibition Elections Was Void.

This opinion, if followed in Oregon, will invalidate the elections whereby Hood River and the saloon district of Roseburg "went dry." The two precincts of Hood River were grouped with three outsiders and the whole subdivision was carried for prohibition by four votes. Anti-prohibitionists in Hood River now propose to fight the result of the election on constitutional grounds. They will set up that while voters may by petition designate an existing precinct or county for prohibition, they cannot arbitrarily create a subdivision by grouping precincts together.

Dry Towns Embarrassed.

All the towns that will be "dry" after January 1 face financial embarrassment for a large part of their revenues hitherto has been derived from saloon licenses. Plans are under way in some of them to have the Legislature re-enact their charters whereby they had power to collect license money. If that were done their charters, being later enactments than the local-option law, would take the precedence and prohibition elections could not be called in their municipal limits.

Prohs Predict Trouble.

Prohs declare that rumssellers are storing up trouble for themselves in the future, and should beware of the wrath to come. Cold-war partisans insist that prohibition is evidently to be enforced are Benton, Tillamook and Curry.

CHARTER BOARD TO MEET.

Amendments to Be Discussed Tonight.

The revived charter board will hold its third meeting tonight in the Council chamber, City Hall, for consideration of amendments to the municipal charter, and will endeavor to finish up the work for which it has thus far vainly invited the legislative delegation to conference. It is certain that not more than four or five members of the Legislature will be in attendance, and probably not that many. The only State Senator who will be present is C. W. Nottingham, who was out of the city when former meetings were held.

The board has already adopted four amendments, two for reducing the cost of advertising special assessments for sewers and streets; one for enabling the Council to suspend the general franchise provisions of the charter in granting street-car companies use of streets for track connections and short extensions; and one for simplifying clerical work in the City Auditor's office when the City Council declares an assessment for street and sewer improvements.

Amendments that will be considered to night are one to require deposits of city

TO ATTACK THE LAW

Local Option Measure to Be Tested in Courts.

Organization of a new China, and foremost among these is the body of Chinese Freemasons, who desire China for the pure Chinese. With not only the expectation, but the hope that they may have the opportunity of establishing themselves and realizing the success of their wish they are rapidly preparing themselves for any possible developments.

As any solution to the problem of China's future is apt to include the strife of warfare, the Chinese of this section who are supporters of the Ming or Freemasons' movement are anxious to be prepared for this probable event and are sparing no pains or labor to be ready to answer the call.

Drills are held regularly in Portland and it is said that the instruction takes place under the command of Americans who have been drilled in tactics and other matters of military knowledge.

Prairie Fire on Rosebud Reservation.

NORFOLK, Neb. Nov. 30.—A prairie fire on the Rosebud reservation has burned over an area of nearly 100 square miles between Bonesteel and St. Elmo and is still burning. Bonesteel City had a narrow escape from destruction. Several thousand tons of hay have been destroyed and a number of ranch buildings burned.

Given Post in Porto Rico.

MADISON, Wis., Nov. 30.—Graham L. Rice, ex-Railroad Commissioner of Wisconsin, received word today of his appointment as Commissioner of Immigration to Porto Rico.

CHINESE TROOPS ARE DRILLING

Portland Celestials Hope Some Day to Go to War.

That Oriental affairs are not entirely confined to the Orient is evidenced by the fact that at least three companies of Chinese in Portland are daily being drilled in the science of modern warfare and the use of modern arms.

This fact has just been developed, and behind it is concealed a part of the inner history of the Chinese Empire of today. Various parties are at work for the re-

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TODAY

Commences our Annual Holiday Special Sale. It's full of great opportunities for those who seek special holiday bargains in Furniture, Crockery, Cut Glass, Pictures and Draperies. Watch our windows and tomorrow's advertisement for details.

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