PRICE HELD FAIR

Bridge Extras Not Overcharged, Says Butler.

FIGURES OF CONTRACTOR

Denies Graft in Stringers and Wood Blocks.

ANSWER BIHLER AND HOWELL

Declares Cost of Additions to Be on Same Basis as That of the Other Parts of the Structure.

The "extras" for Morrison bridge are bringing the Pacific Construction Company no more than a fair profit, says F. M. Butler, manager of the company. Mr. Butler announced yesterday, in an interview for The Oregonian, that his company would not have added the "extras" for less money than it contracted with the city to receive.

Within ten days the bridge will be open permanently for street-car traffic, and within two weeks for all kinds of travel.

Charles S. Bihler, expert engineer, who was retained to examine the bridge by the special investigating committee of the Council and the Executive Committee of the Taxpayers' League, reported last week that the Pacific Construction Company was making $15,000 more than a fair profit on the steel stringers which were substituted for wood in a subsequent contract. George H. Howell, member of the Executive Board, declared to that body last Friday, in a written communication, that the company was making out of the "extras" more than $30,000 profits, to which it is not entitled, $22,839 out of the steel stringers, and $3000 out of the wooden block wearing surface of the floor.

Mr. Butler would say little in answer to Mr. Howell's allegations further than to submit an arithmetical comparison between the cost of the treated block floor and what the cost would have been of the oak plank floor. The comparison showed for his company that the wooden blocks represented, not a gain of $3000, but a loss of $2155.27.

Says Engineer Was Mistaken.

As to Mr. Bihler's report of the $15,000 excessive profit on the steel girders, Mr. Butler said that the engineer was "mistaken in his assumed figures."

"The company, said Mr. Butler, would not have put in the steel girders for the price which Mr. Bihler named for a fair profit. The actual weight of steel in the stringers, according to Mr. Butler, "was considerably in excess of that assumed by him," and "we paid a higher price than he shows." If the stringers had been included in the original contract, Mr. Butler affirmed that his company would not have bid a lower price than the city is paying. As things are now, he averred, the price for the stringers is the same as the average price for the other steel in the structure, "less the cost of the material discarded," meaning thereby the value of the discarded wooden stringers. The steel stringers would yield a profit, testified Mr. Butler, but "materially less than is shown by Mr. Bihler." Not for a less price, declared he, would his company have undertaken the contract for the stringers.

In the original contract it was stipulated that compensation for changes from the specifications would be the cost of additional materials and labor, plus 15 per cent thereof, "for superintendence and use of machinery and utensils." Mr. Howell and others have said that the "extras" should have been added by the contracting company and paid for by the city according to that stipulation, and that the contracts which the city entered into for them with the Pacific Construction Company are illegal.

Believe "Extras" Are Legal.

But Mr. Butler avers that his company satisfied itself at the time that the additional contracts were entirely legal, and is yet sure of it. He also insists that the 15 per cent clause was for simple additions and alterations, and not for big changes from the specifications, such as were contained in the additional contracts. He contends that the only consistent and proper way to secure the "extras" was by contracts with his company, since other contractors could not be tolerated, because they would necessarily be in the way of his own company.

In short, Mr. Butler contends that his company is doing an "honest job," and that the work is up to requirements in all details.

Mr. Butler spoke of Mr. Bihler as "a competent and honest engineer."

"But," said he, "we know he is in error in his opinion of the extras and especially in his assumed figures on the steel stringers. It is certain that we could not have been required nor even expected to undertake an addition of the magnitude on any such basis as that on which he bases his figures.

"To the net cost of any part of a bridge must always be added incidental and contingent expenses. Had we agreed to do this particular extra work at Mr. Bihler's cost, plus 15 per cent, we should have suffered an actual loss. We would never have consented to any such arrangement.

"The 15 per cent clause of our contract has been persistently misquoted," went on Mr. Butler. "Let me quote it correctly," and forthwith he read from the contract the following clause:

Work necessary to be done and ordered by the Executive Board or the City Engineer of the City of Portland, not included in this contract, and not otherwise agreed upon, shall be performed by the contractors and paid for at actual cost of the material and labor, and the additional amount of 15 per cent thereon for superintendence and use of machinery and utensils.

"The city authorities," continued Mr. Butler, "wrote this contract. The specific statement, 'not otherwise agreed upon,' clearly shows the intention to provide a means under which extras or additions of magnitude were to be considered and provided for. The general 15 per cent provision was simply to protect the city and contractor on smaller additions or claims not especially agreed upon in the contract.

"Our price for the steel stringers is the same as the average price for the rest of the steel in the bridge less the cost of the material discarded. Under no circumstances would we have undertaken this change on any other basis or for any less price.

Profits Are Less Than Reported.

"We expect of course to make a profit on this addition, but it is a fact that the amount of profit will be very materially less than is shown by Mr. Bihler. We may say further that the actual weight of the stringers furnished was considerably in excess of that assumed by him and we paid a much higher price than he shows.

"If these stringers had been included in our original estimate we would certainly have figured them on the basis of our present price. We were certainly entitled to as much for them as an extra as we would have received in sharp competition.

"The stringers and the other extras are said to be improvements and not necessities. This depends entirely on the point of view."

Mr. Butler said that when the bridge was designed and estimates were made the city authorities had grave doubts as to the possibility of being able to get bids for the bridge within the funds available. Therefore, in order to keep the cost down to the money available the parts afterward added were omitted. After the Pacific Construction Company's bid of $331,343 was accepted," added Mr. Butler, "it became evident that the steel stringers and the other additions could be included. No doubt," said he, "the value and the life of the structure have been materially increased thereby."

"If this argument is sound that steel stringers are not necessary," went on Mr. Butler, "why did the city desire a steel bridge at all? Why didn't it build a cheap wooden structure like the Madison-street bridge?"

Mr. Howell Answered.

Adverting to the allegations of George H. Howell, member of the Executive Board, who avers that the company is making $30,000 profit from the extras, Mr. Butler said:

"Concerning Mr. Howell's nightmare we have little desire to make remarks. He has evidently been imposed upon by some busy figurer. In proof here are some facts concerning the floor." Thereupon Mr. Butler produced the following from the specifications as to the floor of the bridge:

Floor of the roadway of the bridge must be seven inches in total thickness, wearing surfaces of oak flooring or wood blocks treated with approved preservative, etc.

Floor as now laid—

22,400 square feet of blocks	$4,977.77
(We are using four-inch blocks, with a 3½-inch floor underneath, making the floor one-half inch thicker than specified.)	
Oak floor as it would have been laid—22,400 square feet oak, three-inches thick, with four-inch subfloor, 67,200 feet of oak, at $36	$2,419.20
Laying and nails, say, 67,200 feet, at $6.00	403.20
Total	$2,822.40
Excess cost of blocks	2,155.37

"Mr. Howell is quoted as saying that we make a profit of $3000 on changing from oak plank to treated blocks. The fact is plain that we had no voice whatever in this matter; that the city had the option of using either oak planks for floor or blocks; we had to furnish blocks. We sustained considerable loss in the change from the cost of the oak to that of the blocks.

"We are prepared to prove that we had a responsible bid for this oak flooring of $36 per thousand. Using the price $2 per square yard, which we believe is the lowest price for which the city has ever laid treated blocks, as a basis for comparison, here is an exhibit for Mr. Howell."

Thereupon Mr. Butler took out his pencil and indited the following:

"Thus," went on Mr. Butler, without considering the fact that we are making a 7½-inch floor instead of seven-inch, "there is an actual loss to us by this selection as against the other of $2155.37 instead of a gain of $3000. This ought to convince Mr. Howell that he is mistaken."

City Gets a Good Bridge.

Mr. Butler remarked that Mr. Bihler's report showed the city was getting a good bridge and that his company is performing the contract faithfully. Said he:

"We have no apology to make for anything we have done here and we think that criticisms of our work or prices are unwarranted. We know that we have done an honest job and that the work is fully up to requirements in all its details.

"We also feel that, under the existing circumstances, when we have had to care for traffic and navigation, and in the latter to meet the unexpectedly severe requirements of the United States Government authorities, we have handled the work with as little inconvenience to the public as could possibly be expected. Though the bridge is not completed just on time, we hope the public will appreciate the difficulties we have had to contend with and not be impatient at the present slight delay, for this bridge will have been completed in about half the time it took to build the smaller Burnside bridge.

"There need be no fear that we will make undue profit on the contract, and there can be no question as to the legality of the proceedings in awarding us the original contract and the additions thereto, and we will require full payment for the same as agreed."

HYMNS IN INDIA.

Bishop J. M. Thoburn Talks to Junior Epworth League.

A large gathering of the Junior Epworth Leagues was held yesterday afternoon in the Centenary Methodist Episcopal Church. Mrs. L. E. Rockwell led the meeting and talked to the young people briefly, and Mrs. C. R. Thoburn, superintendent of the Junior League, furnished the music. Bishop J. M. Thoburn, of India, gave the children a pleasing talk. Among other things he said that when he first went to India he heard only two boys singing familiar hymns in their native tongue. That was over 40 years ago, and now where there were but two boys singing the Gospel hymns, there were at present more than 50,000 children chanting the praises of the Redeemer. Bishop Thoburn expressed great pleasure at seeing so many children present in so good a cause. It is the intention to hold other mass meetings of the Juniors of the city.

SELLWOOD AFTER LIBRARY.

Association Will Be Formed at Presbyterian Church Tuesday.

There will be a mass meeting of the people of Sellwood on next Wednesday evening, in the Sellwood Presbyterian Church, to take steps toward the organization of a library association in that suburb. Rev. D. P. Thompson, pastor, hopes to effect the establishment of a library and reading-room.

A building has been secured on Umatilla avenue, across the street from the Sellwood public school and the mass meeting will lay plans and provide means for maintaining the library on this site. All are invited to co-operate in the movement. Several prominent speakers will address the meeting.

Early Memories.

Atchison Globe.

The neighbors are very indignant at a North Atchison woman who spanked her baby when it was three months old. Still, years ago they used to begin even younger. We can remember when we got spanked when we were six weeks old.

SOON TO CONVENE

Legislature Will Meet in Two Weeks More.

WHO THE LEGISLATORS ARE

Farmers Exceed in Lower House, While Lawyers Are Majority in Senate—Lawmakers and Their Vocations.

The Oregon Legislature will convene two weeks from today in regular biennial session, and will make laws during a period of 40 days and 40 nights, unless earlier adjourned. It will number 30 members in the Senate and 60 in the House.

Lawyers will predominate in the Senate and farmers in the House of Representatives, for, although 17 tillers of the soil will sit in the lower chamber, but two will grace the upper body. The science of medicine and surgery will be represented relatively stronger in the Senate than in the House, for the upper branch will have four members of the "sawbones" profession against the lower body's two. But lumbermen, like the farmers, will be much stronger in the House than in the Senate.

Vocations of Legislators.

The business pursuits of the Legislators are as follows:

	Senate.	House.
Lawyers	8	6
Bankers	2	3
Farmers	2	17
Physicians	4	2
Merchants	4	7
Printers	1	2
Druggists	1	2
Hop dealers	1	0
Lumbermen	1	6
Real estate dealers	1	1
Steamboatmen	1	2
Stockraisers	1	4
Wool buyers	1	0
Dentists	1	0
Manufacturers	0	2
Fruit canners	0	1
Insurance men	0	1
Miners	0	1
Fishermen	0	1

Who Are in the Senate.

In the Senate the classification is as follows:

Farmers—E. M. Croisan, of Marion; Peter McDonald, of Union and Wallowa.

Lawyers—O. P. Coshow, of Douglas; George C. Brownell, of Clackamas; Dan J. Malarkey, of Multnomah; F. P. Mays, of Multnomah; Jay Bowerman, of Gilliam, Sherman and Wheeler; W. M. Pierce, of Umatilla, Morrow and Union; John L. Rand, of Baker, Harney and Malheur; J. S. Coke, of Coos and Curry.

Bankers—E. V. Carter, of Jackson; E. W. Haines, of Washington.

Physicians—C. J. Smith, of Umatilla; Jay Tuttle, of Clatsop.

Merchants—W. H. Hobson, of Marion and Linn; W. A. Howe, of Yamhill; C. W. Nottingham of Multnomah; Sig Sichel, of Multnomah.

Printer—C. W. Hodson, of Multnomah.

Druggist—M. A. Miller, of Linn.

Hopdealer—Squire Farrar, of Marion.

Lumberman—R. A. Booth, of Lane, Josephine and Douglas.

Real estate dealer—N. Whealdon, of Wasco.

Steamboatman—Herbert Holman, of Multnomah.

Stockraiser—J. A. Laycock, of Grant, Crook, Klamath and Lake.

Woolbuyer—P. Avery, of Benton.

Dentist—G. S. Wright, of Yamhill, Tillamoook and Lincoln.

List of Representatives.

In the House the classification is:

Farmers—J. L. Calvert of Marion, John S. Richie of Marion, F. D. Cornett of Linn, I. A. Munkers of Linn, I. N. Edwards of Lane, D. H. Jackson of Jackson, H. Von Der Hellen of Jackson, V. A. Carter of Benton, F. H. Fawk of Polk, W. T. West of Tillamook, Yamhill, M. S. Barnes of Washington, A. B. Flint of Washington, W. K. Newell of Washington, J. N. Bramhall of Washington, Frank Jagger of Clackamas, C. C. Kuney of Wheeler, Sherman and Gilliam, and J. N. Burgess of Wasco.

Merchants—J. G. Graham of Marion, G. W. Griffin of Lane, J. S. Gray of Douglas, H. G. Sonnemann of Douglas, S. B. Hermann of Coos, J. N. Laws of Clatsop and J. V. Burns of Clatsop.

Lawyers—R. G. Smith, of Josephine; W. I. Vawter, of Jackson and Douglas; S. B. Linn Cum, of Multnomah; W. T. Muir, of Multnomah; N. C. McLeod, of Union; A. A. Jane, of Wasco.

Bankers—J. S. Cooper, of Polk and Lincoln; J. H. Settlemier, of Marion; A. L. Mills, of Multnomah.

Physicians—R. E. L. Steiner of Lake, Klamath, Grant and Crook; W. G. Cole, of Umatilla.

Lumbermen—I. H. Bingham, of Lane; S. C. Miles, of Yamhill; E. B. Colwell, of Multnomah; M. F. Henderson, of Multnomah; W. R. Hudson, of Multnomah; George J. Mayger, of Columbia.

Printers—A. B. Cavender, of Linn; A. A. Bailey, of Multnomah.

Manufacturers—T. B. Kay, of Marion; S. M. Mears, of Multnomah.

Fisherman—Robert Burns, of Clatsop.

Druggists—F. H. Caldwell, of Yamhill; C. G. Huntley, of Clackamas.

Fruit canner—George W. Holcomb, Jr., of Multnomah.

Insurance—A. J. Capron, of Multnomah.

Steamboatmen—Captain T. H. Crang, of Multnomah; Madison Welch, of Multnomah.

Stockraisers—John S. Shark, of Klamath Lake, Crook and Grant; Jay H. Dobbin, of Wallowa and Union; J. L. Stitz, of Malheur, Harney and Gilliam; R. N. Donnelly, of Wheeler, Sherman and Gilliam.

Real estate dealer—W. M. Killingsworth, of Multnomah.

Miner—A. P. Smith, of Baker.

Northwestern People in New York.

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—Northwestern people registered at New York hotels today as follows:

From Portland—A. B. Scott, H. R. Failing, J. R. Bowles, at the Imperial; J. R. Peck at the Park Avenue; William Wood at the Hotel Astor; Miss E. M. Cadwell, Mrs. C. Burkhardt at the Herald Square.

From North Yakima, Wash.—A. W. Hertzken at the Herald Square.

Spokane—J. Scott at the Imperial.

Seattle—William Breslin, H. Webb and wife.

Born, Lucky.

Atchison Globe.

A very fortunate Atchison girl was once engaged to a man whose last name began with I, but the engagement was broken. She recently became engaged to a man whose last name begins with "L," and finds that by putting a tail on the letter on her linen, it will suit the new conditions.

SECRETARY REED'S STATEMENT.

The statement of Henry E. Reed, secretary of the Lewis and Clark Exposition Corporation that the enterprise of holding the big Fair in Portland next year would involve a total investment in excess of $25,000,000, a statement published for the first time in yesterday's Oregonian, has attracted much popular interest. The Exposition will be opened on June 1 next. The New Year's Oregonian for 1905 will contain illustrations of every building that will grace the grounds of the Fair site. The paper will be mailed to any address in the United States or Canada, postage prepaid, for 10 cents. Address The Oregonian, Portland, Or.

He Carried Liquid Cargo

JACQUES LABEAUDEAX, a seafarer hailing from some "square-rigger" flying the "tricolor" from its gaff, is incarcerated in the City Jail. He had called at way ports and taken a full cargo in the hold of his human cosair. With a slight list to starboard, he luffed and set a course for a beer sign two points off the port bow. The wind failed him, and from his "tack" fellow pedestrians thought that some lubber had monkeyed with the binnacle, or that the gyrating Frenchman had lost his sextant over the stern.

While making for any old port to the chant of "Boney Was No Corsican," Labeaudeax was sighted by the "2 B" duo, Officers Baty and Burke (not a comedy sketch team), who let out their flying jibs and topgallants for a stern chase. The Frenchman sighted them a point off the starboard quarter, lay two, worked around, brought his port bow to bear on the enemy and opened fire with a most delightful collection of blasphemous expletives. The enemy gave him a couple of broadsides and boarded him. He is now interested in a copy of "Reflections for the Morning After," which he persistently peruses in his bunk in the jail foc'sle.

WILLIAM SEYMOUR, a farm laborer, who claims that "Bob" Patterson induced him to deposit "30 simoleons" at the "Favorite" saloon, and then refused to liquidate, applied at the Portland municipal hotel last night for lodging, and was tendered many courtesies by Captain Moore's very able corps of assistants.

ALBERT P. CHATIVAT, an Algerian "lumberjack" who arrived last night from the "tall timbers," was also a guest of the city, engaging one of the magnificently appointed suites at the gaol. Chativat is a most interesting chap, who says he is 21 years of age, but carries enough whiskers on the under side of his jaw to make him look at least 40 years old. He writes and excellent hand, and speaks English fluently. From a perusal of a diary he keeps, the sturdy young Algerian has been blessed with better educational advantages than most Americans of the same age. The first part of the diary is in well-written Greek. In English he has chronicled his meanderings from place to place, hundreds of cities, towns and hamlets in the United States and Canada being mentioned. There is hardly a city that he has not seen, and the present financial embarrassment of the erudite young foreigner is probably due to his roving disposition.

WILLIAM BURNS was brought to the police station last night, and told a wild story about being held up and robbed. He was making himself obnoxious on the fore end of a street-car when the motorman requested that he be arrested. When the officer phoned for Chief Hunt's "trap and two" he realized that he was being arrested, and suddenly remembered that two men on the car had robbed him.

When brought to the station, Burns felt the humiliation of his incarceration keenly, and after consigning all souls present to regions of eternal warmth, he shed tears. His was a sad Christmas.

ITALIAN STABBED IN BRAWL.

Rosarie Destito Slashed Three Times During a Fight.

Rosario Destito, an Italian, was stabbed three times in a brawl in the saloon of Not Costance, at First and Clay streets, last night at 9:30 o'clock. The cuts are not in any instance, it is thought, serious. One penetrated the left side near the heart, and while it was an ugly wound, it is believed he will recover. He was taken to the good Samaritan Hospital for treatment. Two Italians who were present when the deed was done were arrested and held as witnesses. G. Destito, a half-brother of the injured man, was one of the Italians detained by the police.

WORTH ALL IT COSTS.

Washington Should Make an Adequate Exhibit.

Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

The Washington State Commission to the Lewis and Clark Exposition will recommend an appropriation of $75,000 to be made by the Washington Legislature for the purpose of having this state properly represented at the Fair.

The Legislature of Washington will be fully justified in making an ample appropriation for this purpose, and each county in the state would do well to further supplement it. Washington by all means should make a showing at the Exposition greater and better than that of any other state in the Union save Oregon, for it will mean more to Washington than to any other state.

Washington is part of the old Oregon country, the title to which was vested in the United States by original discovery, exploration and occupancy, to which title Lewis and Clark contributed in very large degree. It is but an incident that the Exposition held to commemorate the Lewis and Clark expedition is held in Portland rather than in one of the newer cities which have grown up on this side of the Columbia River.

The Exposition promises to be visited by many thousands of people from the East; a very large share of whom will likewise visit this state. A showing of the immense variety of the resources of Washington will count very largely towart attracting attention to this state and toward bringing here the immigrants for whom there is still an abundance of room.

The showing which Washington makes at the Exposition will be worth all it costs and much more, no matter how liberal the scale of expenditures adopted for the purpose. The Legislature will make no mistake in being liberal in this matter.

Time for Jackson County to Act.

Jacksonville Times.

What are the people of this county going to do about an exhibit for the Lewis and Clark Fair. We are paying a large sum of money for this Exposition, and are we going to derive any benefit from it? If we do, we will have to make a good exhibit and suitably advertise the county. Now is the time to begin to think about this and prepare for it. It will only be a few months until the Fair is open, and we should be ready by that time.

Legal Jollying.

Atchison Globe.

A man is usually a little timid about engaging in a lawsuit, but he feels better after his lawyer goes over the case and says imperiously: "Here's where we skin him."