

### FACE A HARD TASK

#### Railroad Officials and Jobbers to Harmonize Rates.

#### "NOT EASY," SAYS CAMPBELL

#### Fourth Vice-President of Northern Pacific Tells of the Difficulty of Rearranging Distributive Rates Equitably.

Ben Campbell, formerly of this city, but now of St. Paul, fourth vice-president of the Great Northern, in charge of the traffic of that system and friend of Portland and Portland's interests, returned Monday night from Seattle, where he has been inspecting the lines of the Hill property for the first time since his recent appointment to his present position.

Those who know him say that Mr. Campbell has not changed in the slightest since he left the service of the O. R. & N., some years ago; that he is the same man they knew in business and social life in the days gone by. But he has changed in that he now holds a greater power over the destinies of Portland's inland trade and commerce, and it is pleasing to those interested here to know that the city has at least one in the councils of the big roads who is entirely familiar by residence and study with the peculiar needs and special demands of this section and who will weigh, in the light of knowledge and friendship, any and all of the complicated questions which are to come up at the conference to be held here on either Thursday or Friday between the representatives of the traffic departments of the Northern Pacific, Great Northern and the Harriman party on the one hand and the North Pacific Jobbers' Association on the other.

Yesterday afternoon Mr. Campbell sat in the billiard room of the Arlington Club and talked of the relations existing between the railroads and the jobbers, of the delicacy of the operation to be undertaken the latter part of the week.

#### Differences of Roads and Jobbers.

"The real purpose of the meeting to be held here," he said, "is to confer on the existing differences between the roads and the jobbers, and to come to some agreement which will satisfy and be fair to all parties concerned. The meeting is the result, in part, of the conference held here some time ago between the local traffic representatives and the association, and it is too complicated and far-reaching in its effects and of too great importance to the different interests and sections interested to have been settled by correspondence. Nothing but a personal conference could settle the question satisfactorily."

"The question of distributive rates from the coast and of the acquisition of trade in the inland regions is of great interest not only to Portland but to Chicago, San Francisco and all of the large trade centers. There has been recently formed in Chicago a very strong association which has for its object the upbuilding of trade with the coast and the interior points. The jobbers on all hands are looking for



BEN CAMPBELL, FOURTH VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE GREAT NORTHERN.

### TRAFFIC MEN COME

#### Many Here for Conference on Lower Rates.

#### GREAT LINES REPRESENTED

#### Great Northern and Northern Pacific Parties Already on Hand, With Harriman Party en Route—Banquets for Visitors.

The traffic representatives of the trans-continental lines are beginning to gather in the city preparatory to the conference over lower distributive rates held here the latter part of the week.

Ben Campbell and his party from the Great Northern reached the city Monday evening and Tuesday morning and will remain the rest of the week.

Last night the Northern Pacific party, consisting of J. M. Hannaford, second vice-president; J. G. Woodworth, traffic manager, and J. R. Baird, general freight agent, reached the city and will visit with friends until Saturday.

J. C. Stubbs, traffic director of the Harriman lines will reach Portland Thursday morning, accompanied by P. C. Stohr, assistant traffic manager; J. A. Monroe, freight traffic manager of the Union Pacific; T. M. Schumacher, traffic manager of the Oregon Short Line, and A. J. Deitcher, private secretary to Mr. Stubbs.

R. B. Miller, general freight agent of the O. R. & N. Co., and A. L. Craig, general passenger agent of the same line, will leave today to meet the Harriman party at some point on the Oregon Short Line, and accompany it to Portland.

While in the city the visitors will be entertained in an informal way by the railroad men here. On Friday night they will be the guests of honor at a dinner given especially for them by the Portland Chamber of Commerce. On Saturday night they will be further banqueted at the annual dinner of the Portland Commercial Club. Most of them will leave the city for their homes on Saturday.

#### DEATH OF THOMAS MILLER.

#### Well-Known Freight Traffic Manager Dead at Chicago.

Friends in Portland learned yesterday afternoon of the death of Thomas Miller, freight traffic manager of the Burlington route at Chicago. Mr. Miller, or "Honest Tom," as he was familiarly known to the railroad men throughout the United States, had been in the service of the Burlington for the past 40 years. He has filled many offices of trust with the company and was appointed general freight agent at Chicago on February 1, 1896. After that time he was promoted to the office held at the time of his death.

#### Puts Stop to Profitable Trade.

#### HONOLULU, Jan. 17, via San Fran-

trolician Circle. He was sent to Pollock Headquarters in a patrol wagon, where he was charged with a serious offense. The complaint against him is Miss Nellie Devenish, residing with her parent at 623 Guildie avenue.

For two months Mr. Conover and others have been endeavoring to capture a man who has been guilty of unseemly conduct toward girls of the Chapman School. As the little girl named was going home yesterday afternoon she encountered Mellon, who badly frightened her. He was caught and will have a hearing today in the Municipal Court.

#### Lecture at A. M. E. Church.

"How to Be a Great People" will be the subject of a lecture by Rev. F. Brown, D.D., former pastor of the A. M. E. Zion Church, corner Main and Thirteenth street, this evening. The speaker is a well-known and a lecturer. In addition to the lecture there will be a concert, which will be conducted by the young people of the church.

#### Installation of Foresters.

The Catholic Order of Foresters held its installation of officers at St. Mary's Church in Albina last night. John McEntee officiated. The following were installed:

H. C. Allehoff, chief ranger; J. H. Martert, vice-chief ranger; J. P. Meshan,

past chief ranger; J. A. Duff, treasurer; D. W. Lane, recording secretary; Peter Meyer, financial secretary; John Miller, senior conductor; J. Don Broski, junior conductor; A. Bock, inside sentinel, and Otto Waskow, outside sentinel.

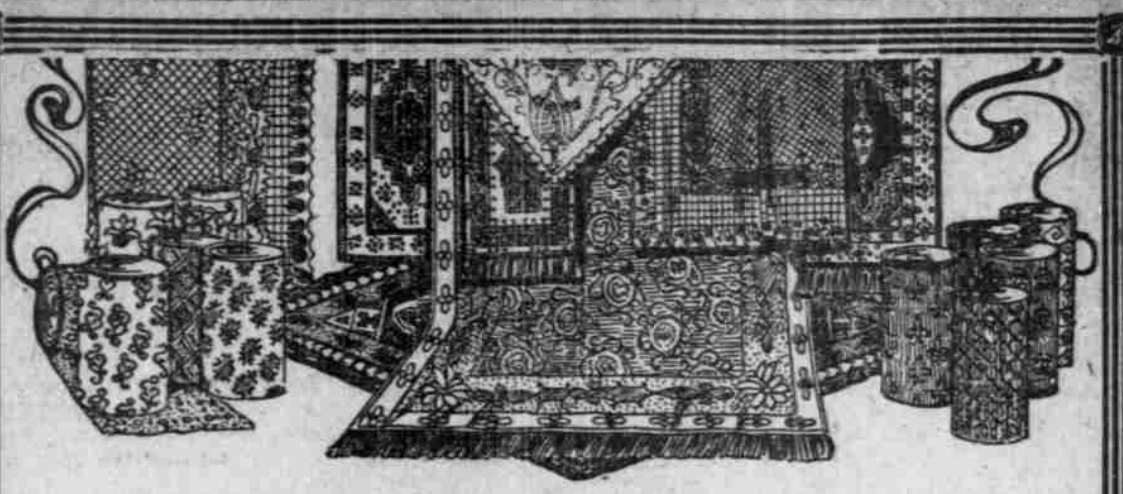
A sumptuous banquet completed the evening. While the members of the order were partaking of this Dr. O'Leary, Robert O'Neill and Father Ladeque delivered some very appropriate remarks.

#### Successful Operation on Edison.

ORANGE, N. J., Jan. 24.—Thomas A. Edison, the inventor, was recovering rapidly today from a surgical operation performed last night for a mastoid abscess behind his left ear. Owing to a similar trouble a few years ago, the operation was difficult, but the doctors declared it was entirely successful. Mr. Edison recovered quickly and was in good spirits today. The doctors say they expect an uninterrupted recovery.

#### Postmaster Hahn Confirmed.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23.—The Senate has confirmed the nomination of John Hahn as Postmaster at Astoria, Or.



## SPECIAL SALE FINE ORIENTAL RUGS

Commencing tomorrow morning and continuing for the rest of the week, we shall have a special sale of "Carpet-size" Oriental Rugs. We cannot too highly commend these Rugs, as they are all our own importation, and each one carries our guarantee of authenticity. Every one is a perfect example of its kind—

**KIRMANS, BOKHARAS, CASHMERES, YHORDES, KIVAS, SAVALANS.**

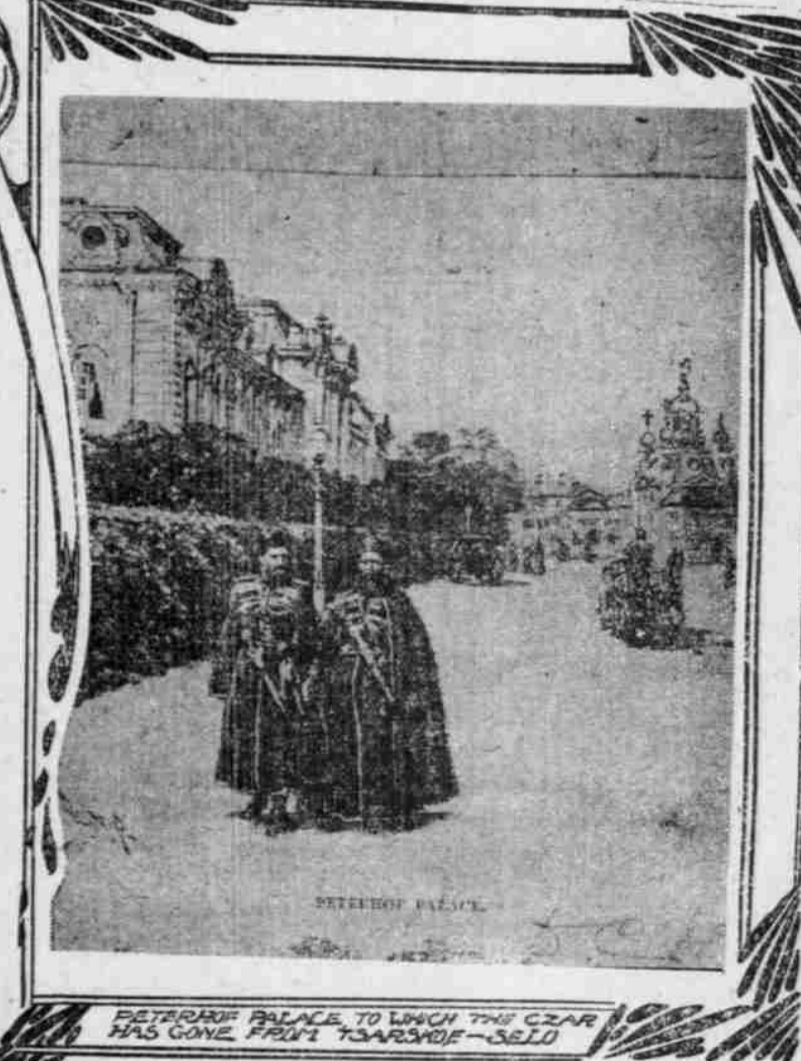
### 25 PER CENT DISCOUNT

YOUR CREDIT IS GOOD



# TULL & GIBBS

MAKE YOUR OWN TERMS



the trade with the retailers, and so, if any rate were to be made from Portland inland which would be considered discriminating by the Chicago jobbers the road would be taken to task for the act. And it is the same with the San Francisco, the Salt Lake or the Spokane people.

#### Great Difficulty of Settlement.

"The great difficulty of settlement lies," continued Mr. Campbell, "in the fact that the jobbers themselves do not get together and agree some settlement of the difficulty. If they would do that it would be easy for the railroads, but they don't. They leave the whole settlement to the roads, and then, if all are not satisfied the city which thinks it is being discriminated against complains."

"It is the desire of the roads to be as fair and impartial to all points as is possible. Absolute fairness and justice is what they are seeking, and what they wish, inasmuch as it is their business and interest to build up the traffic along all of their lines in every district covered by them. This is the spirit that all will have when they go into conference, and that is the object which will be striven for."

#### Degenerate in the Toils.

After a desperate struggle of ten minutes with Special Policemen Dunn and Principal Conover, of the Chapman School, Charles Mellon was overpowered at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon, tied up with ropes and given into the care of Pa-