

BRIDGE QUESTION MAY SOON BE SETTLED

Bridge Question May Soon Be Settled.

MANY ATTEND MEETING

Subject Is Discussed by Mayor Williams and Others.

ALL INTERESTS ARE HEARD

Rivermen, Street-Railway Officials and Citizens Suggest Remedies for Relieving Congested Traffic Morning and Evening.

The possibilities of river commerce being injured through the closing of the bridges at any specified time of the day were considerably lessened by the straightforward action taken by the river men yesterday.

The movement started recently for the closing of the draw for one hour each morning and evening was at first passed unnoticed by those interested in waterway traffic, but the announcement that the county officials would close the bridges to steamboats stirred them into action.

At the conclusion of the meeting, however, a committee was appointed to wait upon Judge Webster and present the suggestions recommended at the meeting.

The meeting held yesterday was well attended by those interested in unobstructed navigation at all times, and the spirit displayed was such that it is believed a remedy for the bridge trouble which would afford relief without hardship to any one.

At the opening of the meeting Captain A. B. Graham was elected chairman. In a few words he told the purpose of the meeting, stating that it was intended to be open for the expression of opinions as to the advisability of open or closed bridges.

He then called upon Mayor George H. Williams for an expression of his views. The mayor, in response, said:

Mayor Williams Speaks.

"In giving my views on the matter I ought to say that I am not personally well enough acquainted with the position to know much about it, and am therefore not competent to present any views of my own. Still, I take the liberty of making a few suggestions. From what I can judge I cannot see where the closing of the draws for one hour each morning and evening would afford any material relief, and it seems to me that it would be a greater hardship than that occasioned by recent conditions. It would not only subject boats to a great inconvenience, and I think that it would also prove a hardship on the people who had to cross the river immediately after the hour for opening. With the bridge draws without any delay, there would undoubtedly be a great congestion of river traffic. As soon as the draws opened there would then be a large number of boats crossing through, and the bridges would certainly have to be closed to land traffic for a considerable length of time. This, it seems to me, would be a great hardship on the people who have to cross the bridge after the closed hour, and while benefiting some, it would work an injury on others."

"It occurred to me that an arrangement could be made whereby the bridge would be closed after the passing through of each boat, and thus enable the people to get over the bridge without any delay. In that way people and cars would not be detained to exceed from three to five minutes, and I think this would be more convenient to all concerned than the time the draws absolutely close for any length of time."

Suggested Whistle Rule.

"I would also suggest that some rule be adopted for the whistle for the bridge. It seems to me that the Port of Portland could establish such rules necessary and proper, so as to have the whistling done at proper distance from the bridge, instead of whistling, as often happens, long distances from the bridge. Under present conditions, the bridge-tender opens the draw whenever he hears the whistle, and it frequently happens that people crossing the bridge are detained longer than is at all necessary. By the establishment of some rule regulating the approach of boats to the bridges, much inconvenience could be prevented."

Unnecessary to Close Draws.

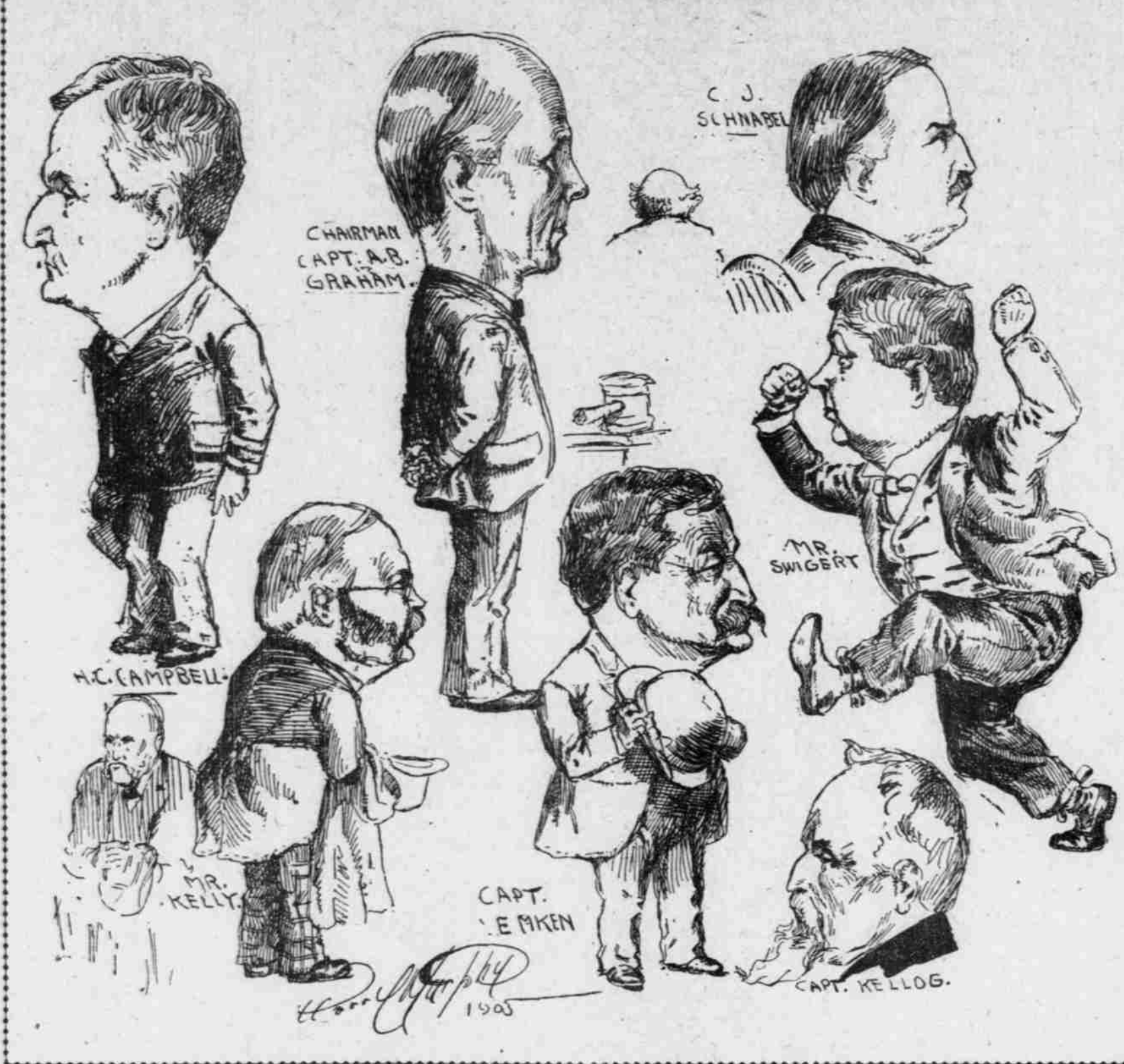
Captain H. Emken followed Mayor Williams, and asserted that it was entirely unnecessary to close the draws. Captain Emken thought that a large part of the delay to people crossing the bridge was occasioned by the bridge-tenders, and not by steamboats. "I have noticed several times," he said, "that the bridge would be opened for a boat, and just when it was almost closed the bridge-tender would see another boat coming. Under such conditions, the thing to do would be to close the draw and allow the people to cross, but, instead of that, they would swing it open. With a little common sense and judgment, these things could be gauged, and there would not be so much complaint."

C. F. Swigert, who was present both as a steamboat and street railway man, strongly opposed the closing of the draws. In speaking, he echoed the opinion and suggestions of Mayor Williams, and said:

"The closing of the draws will not solve the difficulty, but I think that if some concessions are made by the rivermen, the matter can be adjusted. No rule can be laid down, however, governing water traffic, since there are at least three separate classes of shipping—local traffic, towing and the handling of ocean-going vessels. Each class works under different conditions. Still, I cannot see that any long opening of the draw is necessary, and should readily be avoided."

"The Port of Portland, which has water commerce much at heart, is loath to adopt any rules which will impede navigation, and I think they are right in this. Mayor Williams' solution is undoubtedly a wise one, and I believe it should be followed. If the draws are closed immediately after a boat passes through, much delay would be avoided. If two boats approached the draw together, however, they should both be allowed to pass through without wait-

PROMINENT STEAMBOAT MEN DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF CLOSING BRIDGE DRAWS



SUES HER HUSBAND

Mrs. Goldie Wants \$10,000 for Breach of Promise.

CASE IS VERY PECULIAR

Pair Were Married, Divorced, Made It Up, He Promised to Remarry Her, Then Broke Promise and Married Another.

Damages in the sum of \$10,000 for breach of promise is demanded by Jessie L. Goldie from her former husband, William Goldie. She has filed suit against him in the State Circuit Court through her attorneys, C. M. Ideman and McGary & Richardson.

The story told in connection with the case is that the parties were divorced and Mrs. Goldie obtained a decree for alimony. They subsequently made up and he agreed to remarry her, and she received a house at 9th Third street, occupied by H. Luttmann as a lodging house, on December 11 last.

Hart had occupied a room in the house for two weeks, and on the date mentioned he came home late at night and set fire to the mattress. He was seen in the commission of the act by Pat Daley and William Burns, who testified also that they noticed Hart prowling around for some time before the flames broke out. There was no apparent motive for the crime. Luttmann testified that he and Hart were on friendly terms.

Hart took the witness-stand in his own behalf and denied the charges. Word has been received here by the authorities that Hart served a sentence of three years in the penitentiary at Walla Walla for a similar offense. Hart told the jury he has a wife and children who are not living in Portland.

STREET WORK CAUSES TROUBLE

Suit Instituted Against City of Portland by Property-Owners.

The Hancock Street Improvement Company, B. M. Lombard and Melissa Shively have sued the City of Portland and E. A. Jewell in the State Circuit Court asking to be relieved from the payment of assessments against their property for the improvement of Hancock street from twenty-fourth street to a point 200 feet east of the east line of the county road. Lombard owns lots in Wild Rose Addition; the Hancock Improvement Company is the owner of property in Broadway Addition and Fernwood; and Mrs. Shively owns a two and one-half acre tract between the east line of block 3, Wild Rose Addition, and the west line of East Twenty-eighth street. All of this property is included in the improvement district. The complaint recites that the City

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STRIKE IS AVERTED

Sheriff Word Influences Workmen at Fair Grounds.

SITUATION IS VERY INTENSE

Guard Draws Revolver to Prevent Engineer From Blowing Whistle, the Signal Which Was to Announce Strike Was On.

Labor troubles at the Fair grounds have been confined to the employees of J. E. Bennett, who has become contract for erecting the Government building. Most of his men are from out of town and there are a number of agitators among them. The workmen on the main portion of the grounds are not in sympathy with the strikers, as they have shown by continually resisting the demands of the agitators to call them from their work.

The great body of workmen on the Government building wish merely to have certain "straw bosses" who have been discharged reinstated and wish to have the hospital fee done away with. The scale of wages which they ask is practically in force now.

Sheriff Tom Word yesterday averted a strike on the Government building at the Fair grounds. There were 600 men who felt themselves misled and they were evidently ready to follow the agitators had blood in his eye, but the Sheriff came and in that plain way of his got to the bottom of the dissatisfaction in three minutes. He ended all ideas of a strike for the time being. Whether his eloquence will be as effective today, when the situation may be every bit as intense, does not depend so much upon him as upon the attitude of the strikers. Bennett, whose men are those affected.

A committee of five waited on Bennett yesterday morning as delegates from the general body of workmen, according to the agreement of the night before. On that occasion an excited meeting had been held in which the radical element was uppermost. It had been decided to demand of Bennett that he reinstate two discharged "straw bosses," and at the same time make a better arrangement regarding hospital fees.

This was done by the meeting, but the demands which Bennett says were presented him yesterday morning by S. A. Simpson, Nels Helms, S. L. Bryant, Gus Olsen and L. D. Frank contain far more. As a whole they were entirely objectionable. Bennett could not afford to concede to them, and said they were too high-handed and tyrannical. Bennett's refusal to comply with the demands, which were unreasonably exacted, caused the strike.

The Mr. Ward referred to in the demands is the leader of the workmen, as well as their superintendent. A copy of the demands follows:

Demands of the Workmen. Portland, Or., Feb. 21, 1906.—To the J. E. Bennett Construction Co., Portland, Or.: We, the undersigned, employees engaged in the construction of the United States Government building, Levee building, Fair Grounds, do most vigorously protest against the contemptible methods displayed by you in your treatment of us as employees, and it is resolved that we will not submit to such treatment at his hands.

It is further resolved that we meet Mr. Bennett in conference and submit our grievances to him, and such demands as are just and reasonable, to be met forth in the following articles, to-wit:

Article I. That J. E. Bennett shall have no authority to discharge any of the strikers employed on the job, such power to be vested in Mr. Ward, the superintendent, to be in honor bound to employ only capable men, and to protect the interest of Mr. Bennett in every way.

Article II. All men discharged without cause to be immediately reinstated.

Article III. None but union men and competent mechanics to be employed upon the island.

Article IV. That the hospital fee of \$1.00 shall be discontinued and all money saved by the hospital fee shall be accounted for by Mr. Bennett, said amount collected to be turned over to the strikers, to be used as a hospital fund, the employees signing an agreement absolving Mr. Bennett from any liability on account of the same.

Article V. That eight hours shall constitute a day's work, \$3.50 shall be paid for the same time, to be for overtime, double time for Sunday work.

Article VI. All men employed in the rigging gang, if working on the floor shall be paid 25 cents per hour; if aloft, 40 cents per hour; time and a half for overtime; double time for the night shift. There are four children, aged respectively 15, 13, 10 and 5 years. Mrs. Unger asks for the custody of the two youngest and for \$40 per month alimony.

Another Mismatched Couple. Emma Bogardus has commenced suit against William H. Bogardus for a divorce because of desertion commencing in October, 1894. They were married in Fayette, Ia., in 1880.

Divorce Papers Served. Papers in a divorce suit filed in Columbia County, Washington, by W. D. Shell against Sarah I. Shell were served yesterday by Deputy Sheriff Downey.

Count Downey. J. R. Rogers, a printer, has sued Clarence Clason and Mrs. J. A. Deshon to recover \$500 on a note executed in August, 1904.

H. E. Cross and James P. Shaw have filed suit in the State Circuit Court against George Clark to recover a balance of \$250 alleged due for selling a tract of land in Clackamas County. The land, the plaintiffs allege, was sold to Thomas Mostul for \$800, and they were to receive all over \$950 and have only been paid \$300. The original contract between Cross and Shaw and Clark provided that Clark was to receive \$250 for his land and Cross and Shaw were to receive \$200 for effecting a sale of it.

HOLD ENJOYABLE MEETING. Central W. C. T. U. to Prepare for Coming Centennial.

Central W. C. T. U. held a pleasant meeting yesterday afternoon at the home of the president, Mrs. M. J. January. The Bible reading was conducted by Mrs. Barclay, wife of Bishop Barclay, and Mrs. Strode led in prayer. Mrs. Strode, who is recently from Ohio, is an earnest temperance and Christian worker, and has been cordially welcomed by Central Union, of which she became a member yesterday.

Mrs. Sarah Peck, Mrs. Barclay and Mrs. January were appointed a committee to arrange for W. C. T. U. headquarters during the Lewis and Clark Exposition. The next meeting will be held at 2 P. M. at the home of Mrs. January, 292 Clay street.

Drummond Taken to Prison. Otis Drummond, the 18-year-old boy who robbed John M. Lowndale and attempted to rob L. D. Keyser on the Madison street bridge in January last, was taken to the penitentiary yesterday afternoon to serve his sentence of eight years.

Mrs. Drummond will return to her home in Colorado with the hope that her son, by good conduct, will reduce his sentence and some day return to her.

Judge Frazer Grant's Nonsuit. In the \$2000 damage case of Adolf Schaffer against Carl Koster, master of the German ship Anna, Judge Frazer yesterday granted a nonsuit. Schaffer com-

plained that Captain Koster called him a thief, and also said of him, "he is worse than a sailor boarding-house man, he would rob sailors of their clothes. These alleged false and scandalous words Schaffer said were spoken by the captain in the hearing of Emil Hanson and divers other persons, but Schaffer failed to prove that Hanson and the other persons referred to ever heard anything of the kind. Captain Koster sailed with his vessel some time ago, leaving his deposit here. He was represented by Gantenbein & Veasey as attorneys.

Child Deserted by Parents. John Tollyard, a 3-year-old child, has been heartily deserted by his parents, and Superintendent Gardner, of the Boys' and Girls' Aid Society, yesterday applied to the County Court to have the child surrendered to the care of the society. The parents have disappeared. The father is a bartender, and the mother a variety actress. The child was left by the parents with Mrs. Finney at Fulton. They agreed to pay for his board, but did not do so. Mrs. Finney, having a large family of her own, did not want young John and turned him over to Mr. Gardner.

Alleges Cruelty and Nonsupport. After 28 years of matrimonial joys and sorrows, Millie Unger has instituted suit against Arnold Unger for a divorce in the State Circuit Court. The complaint, which was filed yesterday and in it Mrs. Unger recites that her husband has become cruel in his treatment of her and has failed to provide for the support of the family for the past five years. There are four children, aged respectively 15, 13, 10 and 5 years. Mrs. Unger asks for the custody of the two youngest and for \$40 per month alimony.

Contractor Bennett Refuses. Bennett refused to give up all power as demanded and the strike agitators gave him till 2 o'clock in the afternoon to accede, with a penalty of strike over his head. He left and did not come back.

When he left the air was full of trouble, and William G. Lang, chief of the Fair grounds, had his entire force of men in the Government building to prevent trouble. There were many sour looks and the ill-feeling was general. Lang did not care to take full responsibility under the circumstances and telephoned to Sheriff Word to come out. The Sheriff came immediately and got the men together and found out what was wrong. He found out what concessions were really wanted by the body of men at large. He told their wrath considerably by saying that he would take it upon himself to act as mediator and end the trouble. The men had faith in him and returned to their work.

Lang was not so easily satisfied by appearances and kept his men on hand till 2 o'clock. At that time it had been scheduled that the engineer was to blow the whistle and all hands were to quit work. The whistle was to be used so that the workmen on the main portion of the grounds could strike at the same time. Whether they would have done so or not is problematical, for the whistle never blew.

Lang had appointed two guards, Burne and Groom, to stand by the whistle ropes and not to allow them to be pulled under any circumstances. The engineers were apprised of their duty. Burne, who is a tall man, tied his rope so high that Kelly, the engineer, could not reach it if he had wished to. Groom stood silently by.

As 3 o'clock approached an air of excitement prevailed. The uneasiness of the workmen was obvious. It was a toss-up whether the Sheriff would heed to what the Sheriff had said, or would order that whistle blown. The Sheriff stood by with the rest and waited.

Guard Draws Revolver. The moment arrived and Kelly reached up his hand to the rope. As he took hold of it Groom grasped him by the collar and, drawing a revolver from his coat pocket, raised it to club Kelly across the head.

Kelly let go. The dramatic moment passed and the strike was averted for another day. The Sheriff's good work and the prompt action of Groom saved the day.

MONTAVILLA

5-ACRE TRACTS

At Montavilla Station, on O. R. & N. Convenient to street-cars. Good drainage. Pure air. The most healthful and rapidly growing suburb of Portland. Railroad center of a heavy population. For sale on installments.

PRICE \$1250 EACH \$100 DOWN AND \$15.00 PER MONTH

Apply to B. M. LOMBARD, 514 Chamber of Commerce.

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"There will be no trouble tomorrow," said Sheriff Word last night. "I'll be on the ground to see to it myself."

Believed Bennett Will Not Yield. The general opinion is, however, that Bennett will not yield one foot of ground, that he will let the men strike and go, and will put other men on the job. He has a great deal of trouble, and by letting the men strike he may be able to get rid of the agitators who are now saddled to the job. The main body of the workmen will come back as soon as they are away from the influence of the radicals. The great crowd has apparently been duped by the agitators, who seem to be serving their own ends rather than looking after the interest of their fellow-workmen, as they pretend. The demand made upon Bennett himself yesterday morning, so much stronger than what the mass meeting of Monday night had resolved to make, proved that statement.

The workers have shown themselves very amenable when addressed personally. Until the Sheriff got to them yesterday they had been approached through their representatives. They themselves do not understand why there had been any trouble at all, the men were so sensible.

The Sheriff's plan, which he believes he can make succeed, is to have the wages asked for in the petition agreed to by Bennett and have the little matter of the hospital fund accounted for; then he says the trouble will end. He has been assured by the men themselves that they do not care to have all the power that the petition demands placed in the hands of Ward, and are not nearly so dissatisfied as would appear.

MUNICIPAL LEAGUE MEETS. Coming City Election Discussed in All Its Possible Phases.

The executive board of the Municipal League met last night at the office of R. Livingston for its regular monthly business meeting. Some new members were added to the roll, and a deal of routine business was discussed and settled.

No definite action was taken in regard to any petition which may be followed by the league in the coming city election, but the stand to be taken by the organization was discussed, and from this preliminary talk some future course of action will come, in all probability.

It is said that the league will lend its influence to any reform candidate that may be put up for city office by either of the political parties, provided the candidate is willing to pledge himself to the aims of the league, and to work with the body in carrying out its policies toward a closed town.

If, it is said, the political parties will each put up a reform ticket, and one that will work for the good of the city in every way, the league will not cast its influence for any one set of men, but will allow the parties to scrap the battle out, and will be content to see the best man win. If, on the other hand, the parties put up tickets which will be defeated by the league, if it is possible to do so.

This is said to be the plan of the league in the coming election, but it has not been definitely decided upon in all regards, and for this reason no announcement of stand will be made at this time.

Dime Vaudeville for Tacoma. TACOMA, Wash., Feb. 21.—(Special.)—As the result of negotiations just closed, the Lyceum Theater has passed into new hands, its name will be changed to the Star Theater, and beginning Monday, it will be operated as a 10-cent vaudeville house. George M. Shreeder, who holds the lease on the theater, has released it to S. Morton Cohn, of Portland, owner of the Star and Arcade Theaters in that city, and of the Star Theater in Seattle, besides a house in Astoria.

The Consolidated Amusement Company is the name of the corporation controlling the new circuit. Dean E. Welter, who has been manager of the Lyceum Theater under the Shreeder regime, has been engaged to manage the new Star.

Women Discuss the Big Fair. LA GRANDE, Or., Feb. 21.—(Special.)—"Lewis and Clark" was the subject of an open meeting of the La Grande Ladies' Neighborhood Club, held this afternoon. The programme was under the direction of Mrs. C. H. Bluff, of Island City, and was most interesting.

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