MAY BE A SCANDAL

Finger of Suspicion Points to First-Street Bridge.

SENSATIONAL SUIT IS FILED

Difference in Yardage Between the Measurements of City Engineers Elliott and Wanzer on Concrete Work Causes War.

A suit, which may open up a scandal in connection with the letting of the contract for the building of the bridge across Marquam Gulch, on First street, has been commenced by Hoffman Bros., concrete contractors, against J. R. Bowles, George F. Hensner, John Doe and Richard Roe, T. C. Devlin, City Auditor, and J. E. Werlein, City Treasurer. The complaint asks that the City Auditor be enjoined from issuing city warrants to the Pacific Construction Company to the amount of $3500, and the City Treasurer is restrained from paying the same until the litigation is determined.

The complaint recites that Bowles, Hensner and John Doe and Richard Roe conspired to defraud the City of Portland out of over $5000 by bidding $53,000 for the work and at the same time causing a bid of $58,000 of the Pacific Construction Company to be accepted and the bid for $53,000 to be withdrawn. The certified check for $3500 deposited by the lower bidder was returned.

Bid on Concrete Work.

It is alleged that Bowles, Hensner and the two unknown defendants, on the representation that they had received the contract, induced Hoffman Bros. to bid on the concrete work, informing them they would be allowed yardage by City Engineer Elliott at the rate of one and one-fourth yards of concrete for each barrel of cement used in the work. Acting on these representations, it is asserted Hoffman Bros., whose knowledge was confined to concrete work, bid to do the same at $5.25 per yard, and entered into a contract to that effect with the Pacific Construction Company.

Hoffman Brothers put in 1631 barrels of cement, and, according to the agreement, should have been allowed a little more than 2000 yards, which would have realized them a profit of $2000.

It is further alleged that the Pacific Construction Company was to receive $9.75 per yard, which realized the company $10,000 profit on the sublet contract. This rate of $9.75 is said to have been abnormally large.

Wanzer Refuses Yardage.

The complaint also recites that after Charles Wanzer had succeeded Elliott as City Engineer he refused to allow the yardage which Hoffman Bros. had been assured by the Pacific Construction Company, and estimated it in the solid, making his estimate 138,643 yards, or 600 yards less than previously calculated, causing Hoffman Bros. a loss of $3000. Even with this reduction, Hoffman Bros. allege the Pacific Construction Company made $7000 for doing nothing.

Hoffman Bros., desiring to recover the differenc from the Pacific Construction Company, said to have been incorporated in the state of Washington, instituted and inquiry, ascertaining that four companies of this name have recorded articles of incorporation at Olympia, but in none of the incorporation papers are the names of Hensner or Bowles mentioned.

The attorneys for Hoffman Brothers are Dan R. Murphy and Brodie & Merges. Mr. Murphy says they do not know who the defendants John Doe and Richard Roe are, but intend to make Hensner and Bowles inform them of their identity.

The $5300 check, which the city returned to the lowest bidder, is said to have been sent to an Everett contractor, and C. W. Miller is said to have acted as an attorney in the case. Recently A. A. Bailey, member of the Legislature, made a complaint to District Attorney John Manning against Robert Wakefield in connection with this check. It is not known that an investigation would disclose anything illegal about the withdrawal of the $53,000 bid so as to permit the $58,000 bid to have precedence.

HE TRIES TO STARVE TO DEATH

Fearing He Was Losing Sight, S. B. Back Crawls Under Barn to Die.

Slowly starving himself to death, having tasted no food or drink for five days and nights, S. B. Back was found under a barn at Twenty-eighth and Lovejoy streets yesterday by Mounted Patrolman Circle, and conveyed to Police Headquarters in a patrol wagon. Although famished, the man refused to partake of food or drink, and what to do with him is puzzling the officials. Fear of losing his eyesight, he says, drove him to seek death by starvation.

When pulled from under the barn, where he had lain down to die, Back was in a pitiable condition. He was unable to stand, and was laid on a bed of hay while a patrol wagon was driven out, in charge of Patrolmen Gruber and Wendorf. They returned to headquarters with the man, and he was locked up in a cell of the City Jail.

When offered food and drink, Back refused to partake; saying he had nothing for which to live, inasmuch as his eyes were growing worse daily, and he had a constant headache.

"I know I am going blind," said Back, "and I want to die, rather than come to that. I thought I would crawl under the barn out of sight of everyone, and starve myself to death. I do not want to live. I have no relatives or friends in this country, and would like to die."

What steps the officials will take to save Beck's life, if he persists in refusing food or drink, is a question. If he declines to eat this morning, his case will probably be turned over to the City Physician. Back is a Finn, aged 28 years.

WINS FROM THE MARTHA ROUX

Portland Gas Company Victor in United States Court.

As a result of its suit against the French vessel, Martha Roux, the Portland Gas Company yesterday received an addition to its coffers of $15, Judge Bellinger making the award.

The Martha Roux brought a shipment of coal to the Gas Company, but after its discharge remained at the company's dock. While lying there an oil steamer came into port with a cargo consigned to the gas company, and the latter, through its officials, requested the berth occupied by the Martha Roux. The boat was given notice to secure another berth, and notified that after a certain time there would be a charge of $25 an hour. After the time limit for removal had expired the vessel remained 17 hours, and the gas company brought a libel suit for the wharfage charges based on $25 an hour for 17 hours.

After the hearing of the testimony, Judge Bellinger decided that the gas company was entitled to remuneration for one day's wharfage, and as the customary charge for dockage is $15 per day, this amount was allowed, with costs.

Spring Opening Today at The Meier & Frank Store

Thousands of Portland's best dressed women viewed our superb opening displays yesterday—Everybody appeared delighted with the magnificent assortments and styles we have gathered in Millinery, Cloaks, Laces, Dress Goods, Silks, Wash Materials, Draperies, Etc., Etc.—By far the grandest showing Portland has ever seen was the unanimous verdict rendered—Particularly in Millinery the enthusiasm was unbounded—Purchases exceeded our fondest expectations—Opening continues today—You miss a treat if you don't visit the store—Webber's Mandolin Orchestra will play from 2 to 5 P. M.

The Meier & Frank Store's 797th Friday Surprise Sale

400 Beautiful Silk Waists

$7.50 Values, Tomorrow $3.85 Ea.

Our banner silk waist offering is announced for tomorrow's 797th Friday Surprise Sale—400 handsome silk waists in plaids, checks, figures, etc., at about one-half their real value—A great special purchase from New York's largest and best silk waist manufacturer—All this season's styles, having the newest sleeves—Splendidly made throughout and an immense assortment to select from—Each waist in a box—Tailor-made effects in large and small plaids—Very best colorings, Scotch checks, invisible checks, changeable silks, Plain colored Taffeta silks, black Crepe de Chines, figured silks, made up in many styles—Tucked and stitched sleeves and cuffs—All sizes—Big Fifth street window display gives you the best idea of what really splendid bargains they are—Tomorrow at **$3.85**

We expect there'll be a throng of buyers equal to last week's embroidery sale, so you had better plan to come down early

The Meier & Frank Store's 797th Friday Surprise Sale

2000 Prs. "Onyx" Hosiery

50c to $1.00 Values at 25c a Pair

Our semi-annual distribution of "Onyx" Hosiery takes place tomorrow—A surprise sale bargain that will attract thousands of eager buyers—You know "Onyx" Hosiery so well that there's really very little we can say outside of giving you the details—2000 pairs in the lot, hundreds of styles, plain black cotton, heavy, medium and gossamer weights, plain black lisle, medium and gauze weights, fancy colored hose in vertical and horizontal stripes, dropstitch effects, tans, brown and leather shades, new changeable novelties, black and white stripes, embroidered Oxfords, pink, blue, green, navy and red Hosiery, immense variety to select from—All sizes, from 50c to $1 values tomorrow only at, per pair..... **25c**

See Fifth-street window display—Chance to buy Summer Hosiery at a big saving

40c-50c Handkerchiefs 25c

Great special purchase of 200 dozen Women's Swiss embroidered Handkerchiefs at half their value. Clean-up of a prominent importer's forward stock. Beautiful line of patterns. Scalloped and hemstitched edges; styles suitable for fancy work, stock collars, etc.; regular 40c and 50c values, on sale today and tomorrow at the special low price of **25¢** each.

Great Easter Sale Bibles, Etc.

Bibles, Prayer-Books, Hymnals and Testaments at greatly reduced prices this week.

Teachers' edition, 6x9 inches, with dictionary and concordance; great special value.....**95¢**

Teachers' edition, 6x9 inches, indexed; each..... **$1.20**

Oxford Bibles, printed on rice paper $3.50 to..... **$10.00**

3x4-inch Combined Prayer-Book and Hymnal, cloth binding, 70c; leather binding, $5 to....**95¢**

Testaments, cloth-bound, 10c, 19c, 25c.

Testaments, leather-bound, 25c, 50c, 75c $1.15.

Catholic Bibles Dorvay version, $1 ,$1.50, $2.

Key of Heaven, cloth, 25c, 50c; leather, 50c to $3.00.

The Temple Bible, 25 volumes, **35¢** each.

Flannels

Today's Bargains

The new Tona flannel for Shirtwaists; stripes, checks and dots; very pretty effects; 31 inches wide, yard..... **40c**

40c Scotch Flannels, in stripes; big variety of styles; great special value, at the low price of, yard..... **22c**

Snowflake Flannels; all wool; all colors; best 35c value. On sale today at, yard..... **27c**

Knit Underwear Specials

Spring styles in women's knit underwear at reduced prices today and tomorrow

"Swan" brand women's swiss-ribbed Vests; high neck, long sleeves; white, pink or blue; all sizes. The grade other stores ask $1.25 for. Sale price..... **87c**

Women's swiss-ribbed, low neck, no sleeve, Lisle Vests; lace trimmed. The quality other stores sell at 60c. Sale price..... **41c**

Women's fine white-ribbed Corset Covers; high neck, long sleeves; all sizes. Great special value at..... **43c**

Imported Silk Vests in beautiful new styles and at very reasonable prices.

60c Cambric Drawers 39c

Women's Cambric Drawers, made with wide flounce; clusters of fine tucks and Val. lace edging; all sizes. The best 60c values on sale for a few days at the low price of, pair.... **39c**

$1.25 Cambric Skirts 79c

Women's White Cambric Skirts, wire flounce, with cluster of tucks and embroidery edging; separate dust ruffles; best $1.25 values on sale for a few days at, each..... **79c**

25c Ribbons 15c

3000 yards of 4-inch Taffeta Ribbons, large assortment of all the leading shades; superior quality; best 25c value, on sale today and tomorrow at the low price of, yard..... **15c**

Girdle Belts at 27c

100 Girdle Belts, in brown, blue, black and white, all sizes, exceptional values for a two days' sale at, each..... **27c**

Hand Bags $1.09

New Hand Bags with card case and purse in black, tan and brown, with braid or Vienna handles; the kind other stores ask you $1.50 for; buy them here today at, each..... **$1.09**

$1.25 Veils at 89c

Ready-made Veils in white, blue and brown with dots, pretty styles, best $1.25 values for, each **89c**

Special lot of Pearl Buttons, regular 15c card values, on sale at, card of two dozen for ..... **7¢**

Leather Pillows

Japanese Leather Pillow Covers at reduced prices—

$3.00 values at, each....**$2.37**

$5.00 values at, each....**$3.57**

Pin Tray and assorted Black Pins, 15c value ..... **9¢**

Embroideries 12½c

Swiss and Cambric Embroideries, 3 to 10 inches wide, edgings and insertions in an immense variety of the very best patterns, values up to 25c a yard, for..... **12½c**

Corset-Cover Embroideries, handsome styles, values up to $1 a yard, on sale Wednesday at the low price of, yard **65c**

Imitation Irish Crochet Bands and Appliques, white and cream, values up to $1.25 a yard, on sale, yard....**63c**

Specials in Men's Furnishings

Some very interesting bargains in men's and boy's furnishing goods—Desirable apparel at a saving every economical man will appreciate

Men's pure linen hemstitched Handkerchiefs; best 25c values; on sale for...**19¢**

"Shawknit" Sox; all colors, black, greys and tans; plain and white feet; all sizes; some stores ask 35c for them; sale price, pair..... **19c**

Men's Flannelette Night Shirts, in the best patterns and colorings, all $1.00 values, each..... **69c**

30 dozen new large English Squares and 2¾-inch Four-in-Hands, in the very best patterns, colorings and quality of silk; best $1.00 values; on sale for, each..**50¢**

Boys' Jersey Sweaters, in navy, gray and maroon; the best $1.50 values; one sale at..... **$1.10**

Boys' and Girls' new Overshirts, new Madras and Chambrays, the kind other stores ask $1.00 for..... **68c**

New Shirts, Hosiery, Neckwear, Gloves, etc., etc.

In The Pure Food Store

Sample prices of the way we sell groceries and provisions The thrifty housewife cannot fail to recognize the great advantage in buying groceries here—Phone Private Ex. 4

17 lbs. Western dry Granulated Sugar for..... **$1.00**

10-lb. sack yellow or white Corn Meal; on sale for..... **25¢**

10-lb. sack Pastry Flour..**30¢**

10-lb. sack Cream Rolled Oats..... **40c**

2 cans Alamo Tomatoes...**15¢**

"Victor" Flour; none better..... **$1.25**

1-lb. can ground Chocolate..... **25c**

1-lb. pkg. Bakers' unsweetened Chocolate for..... **35¢**

1-lb. jar Sliced Beef..... **25¢**

3 pkgs. Seeded Raisins...**25¢**

3-lb. pkg. Soda Crackers..**20¢**

2 jars McLaren's Cheese..**25¢**

1-lb. can Shrimps..... **10¢**

5000 lbs. of Meier & Frank's famous Mocha and Java Coffee, equal to the best 40c grade. Buy all you want this week at

25 c POUND

3 cans Van Camp's Soups.**25¢**

1 gal. Log Cabin Maple Syrup..... **$1.25**

14-oz. bottle Queen Olives.**25¢**

5-lb. pkg. Gloss Starch...**25¢**

1-lb. basket Washed Figs.**22¢**

7 bars Victor Soap..... **25¢**

3 packages Jell-o..... **25¢**

3 cans Pioneer Cream...**25¢**

3 cans Oregon Cream.....**25¢**

C. & B. Pickles, quart....**30¢**

Toy Dept.

Specials for today, tomorrow and Saturday, Coaster Wagon, 32 in. long, 12 and 14-in. wheels. Best $2 value on sale for.....**$1.64**

A practical plaything for little folks. The Little Color Artiste; 25c value for..... **18c**

Child's Decorated Tea Set; 25 pieces; regular $1.00 value for..... **82c**

Extension Roller Skates; nickle trimmings; regular 50c values for..... **34c**

New game of "Sniff"; 50c value to introduce at...**34c**

U. S. Mail Combination Bank; regular $1.25 value for.....**94¢**

Play Ball

Catcher's Mitt, with ridge and thumb; 50c value..... **34¢**

Fielder's Glove; straight thumb; felt lined; 50c value..... **34¢**

Baseballs and Bats at low prices.

Picture Sale

Etchings framed in 2-inch fancy frames, size 3x22 inches, $2.25 values **98c**

Water Colors, framed in wide frames, size 8x10 inches, regular $1.95 values, for **65c**

40c Medallions on sale for, each....**27c**

16x20 Posters with red and green mounts, black binding, 45c value.**29c**

Closing out all Oil Paintings at, each **$2.50**

Artistic Picture Framing to your order at the very lowest prices. Second floor.

Wash Goods Sale

35c fancy white mercerized Waistings, this season's best styles, on sale for today only at, yard..... **26c**

20c embroidered dotted Voiles in a big range of patterns and colors, best materials for waists and shirtwaist suits, great special value at low price of, yard **14c**

Fil de Soie Foulards, silk finish, one of the season's prettiest and most serviceable materials for waists and shirtwaist suits, 35c value at this low price, yard **23c**

Spring Clothing For Boys

Our boy's clothing display for Spring and Summer is the best we ever made—All the newest and prettiest styles—Serviceable garments for school wear—Dress garments for Sunday wear—Prices are fully 25 per cent below what equal grades cost you at the exclusive clothing store

Boys' all-wool Norfolk and double breasted 2-piece Suits; plaids and mixtures; ages 9 to 16 years, $5.00 and.....**$6.00**

Boys' Sailor and Eton Sailor Suits, in dark blue serges and cheviots, light gray and brown mixtures; 6 to 10 years. Special values at $4.50, $5 and..**$6.00**

Russian Blouse Suits, for little boys 2½ to 6 years; serges, tweeds, cheviots and cassimeres; light and dark mixtures, also red and royal blue; $5.00, $6.00 and **$7.50**

Special in Boys' Waists and Blouses; dark and light percales; 4 to 12 years. Best 25c values on sale for, each..... **18c**

Large assortment of little boys' washable Russian Blouses; ages 2½ to 6 years, at prices from $1.25 to.. **$5.00**

Boys' Reefers, in navy, brown and tan covert; ages 3 to 10 years; at, each, $5.00, $6.00 and..... **$7.50**

Great Basement Sale Kitchen Goods, Crockery, Silverware, Etc., Continues

$1.25 Savory Roaster for.....98c
60c Family Roaster, 10x14 in..39c
15c 7-pin Hat Rack.....12c
3c Japanese Pot Brushes.....1c
75c 8-arm Clothes Racks.....62c
25c Galvanized Pails, 10-qt....19c
20c 2-hoop Cedar Pails.....17c
$1.00 Castiron Cook Pots.....82c
75c Galvanized Wash Tubs....63c
90c Galvanized Wash Tubs....74c
$1.35 Family Scales for..... $1.19
Tin Measuring Cups.....4c
1-quart Graduated Measures....6c
14-quart Tin Dishpans.....29c
$1.50 Universal Food Choppers $1.22
Asbestos Mats, each.....4c
20c Wooden Salt Boxes.....16c
$3.50 Clothes Wringer.....$2.78
Guaranteed for three years.
$1.25 set Mrs. Potts' Sad Irons.89c
15c Dover Egg Beaters.....12c
50c Wall Coffee Mill.....42c

25c 100-ft. Wire Clothes Line...19c
$3.00 Adjustable Wringer.....$2.39
Clothespins, 8 dozen.....5c
5c Spring Clothes Hanger.....5c
35c Zinc Washboards.....27c
$1.10 Copper-Bottom Wash Boilers 78c
50c 10-quart Sprinklers.....42c
20c Galvanized Oil Cans.....15c
30c 16-quart Dishpans.....20c
6c Tin Graters, large size.....5c
30c No. 8 Tin Steamers.....20c
5c 9-in. Jelly Cake Pans.....4c
9-inch Deep Pie Pans.....3c
10c Bowl Strainers.....7c
20c Extension Strainers.....16c
20c Drip Pans, 11x17.....16c
10c Wire Tea Strainers.....8c
Tin Match Safes.....3c
Garden Trowels 4c
Mrs. Potts' Iron Handles.....11c
Weeding Hooks 8c

5-Hook Hat Racks.....7c
No. 8 Copper Bottom Kettles...39c
75c Rice Boilers, each.....62c
65c Rice Boilers, each.....54c
6-foot Ironing Boards.....63c
15c Mop Sticks, each.....11c
$1.00 Granite Slop Pails.....88c
35c Potato Ricers, each.....27c
Wire Egg Whips for.....2c
10c Wooden Towel Rollers.....8c
35c Double Knife Slaw Cutter..29c
12c Wooden Towel Rings.....10c
15c Double Towel Rings.....12c
Pancake Turners 8c
Cook Forks, extra heavy.....16c
10c Glass Juice Extractors.....8c
10c Never-Slip Can Openers.....8c
20c Steel Mincing Knife.....16c
15c Steel Mincing Knife.....12c
Famous "Elite" 4-coated Blue and white German Graniteware, none better; all at special low prices.

60c Covered Kettles for.....48c
75c Covered Kettles for.....60c
90c Covered Kettles for.....72c
$1.10 Covered Kettles for.....88c
30c Lipped Sauce Pans.....24c
35c Lipped Sauce Pans.....25c
45c Lipped Sauce Pans.....38c
50c Lipped Sauce Pans.....40c
35c Wash Basins for.....28c
45c Wash Basins for.....36c
50c Wash Basins for.....40c
35c Lipped Kettles for.....28c
45c Lipped Kettles for.....36c
50c Lipped Kettles for.....40c
60c Lipped Kettles for.....48c
25c Pudding Pans for.....20c
35c Pudding Pans for.....28c
45c Pudding Pans for.....36c
50c Pudding Pans for.....48c
$1.65 17-qt. Dish Pans for.....$1.27
4-pint Nickel Coffee Pot, regular $1.19 value 88c

$1.75 8-qt. Teakettles for.....$1.38
12-inch Nickel Trays, 35c vals..27c
25c Crumb Tray and Scraper....19c
Decorated Covered Chambers, 75c to $1 values, on sale for, each.62c
Decorated Wash Bowls, worth from 60c to 85c, on sale for, ea.50c
15c Japanese Teapots.....11c
20c Japanese Teapots.....14c
75c Slop Jars.....62c
6-in. yellow Baking Dishes.....6c
8-in. yellow Baking Dishes.....9c
9-in. yellow Baking Dishes....12c
7-in. oval yellow Baking Dishes..7c
8-in. oval yellow Baking Dishes..9c
9-in. oval yellow Baking Dishes.11c
Good grade Paring Knives.....8c
6-inch Butcher Knives.....27c
8-in Butcher Knives.....39c
35c Bread Knives.....28c
Christy Edge Bread Knives.....21c
Cooks' Knives, 6-inch size.....47c

10-inch Pastry Knives.....62c
90c Carvers, knife and fork, cocobola handles 73c
90c Ham Knives for.....72c
15c Nickel Nut Crackers.....12c

Dinner Sets

60-pc. white semi-vitreous Dinner Sets $3.88
100-pc. white semi-vitreous Dinner Sets $6.19
60-pc. floral decorated semi-vitreous Dinner Sets..... $5.89
100-pc. floral decorated semi-vitreous Dinner Set..... $8.97
60-pc. decorated German China Set $13.45
100-pc. decorated German China Set $18.95