MUST SHUT UP THE OPIUM DENS

Places Reeking With Filth Menace the Health of All the City.

POLICE WILL TAKE ACTION

Chinese and Japanese Quarters, It Is Declared, Will Be Put in Good Sanitary Condition and Kept So.

Chinatown and certain districts of the Japanese quarter are to be purified, as far as lies within the power of the police, Municipal Judge Hogue and Deputy City Attorney Fitzgerald. Sanitary conditions are to be insisted upon. Chief Hunt has also declared that the terrible disease-breeding opium dens, which abound in the Chinese quarter, must be closed.

It is doubtful if credence would be given a story of the exact conditions prevailing in certain sections of Chinatown and some places where Japanese reside, so vile are the habitations. There is fear of an epidemic of disease springing up from long-neglected tenements of Chinese and Japanese. For years the Orientals have been practically left to themselves, and filth and disease are the results.

Opium dens, operated by Chinese, are the worst features of Chinatown. Of these there are at least 20 along Second street, and most of them are within a stone's throw of police headquarters. They are visited by policemen, who never molest the Orientals found smoking unless white people are there, too. Keepers of these vile dens have no fear of the police, unless, as stated, the forbidden white smokers are within. The doors of the disease-laden rooms are left open, and there is free ingress and egress, day and night.

All Smoke Opium.

Practically all Chinese smoke opium; it is a part of their custom, the same as playing fantan or lottery. Sheriff Word is said to have abolished the fantan games, and the police have nearly broken up the lotteries, but neither the Sheriff nor the police have brought about any degree of reform relative to the opium-smoking evil.

"We have stopped most white people from going into the Chinese opium dens," said Chief of Police Hunt last night. "It is very seldom that any white person ventures into one of those places. It is too risky. We have also attempted to stop the flagrant smoking of opium by the Chinese, but it has long been the custom to leave them more or less alone, as long as they keep to themselves. The police are continually watching these places, and will maintain as good order as possible in Chinatown."

"There must be sanitary conditions in Chinatown, and in the Japanese quarters, as well as all other portions of the city," said Deputy City Attorney Fitzgerald. "It is the duty of the police to see that people keep their houses and buildings in clean condition. In Chinatown, the very worst thing that prevails is the opium den. Those addicted to the habit of smoking opium are indolent, and will not take care of themselves. They want to lie about and smoke. The very nature of the slaves of this drug is to sleep and lie in idleness, except when it becomes necessary to get out and earn money with which to make purchases of more opium."

Unclean Dens Maintained.

From Stark to Oak, on Second street, there are five fully-equipped opium dens, in operation all the time. To these, it is said, white persons are not admitted, but Chinese can be found there almost any hour. All that is necessary to gain admission is the price for the drug; in fact, many without the price loiter in these vile dens.

An opium den is a weird place, and a place of mystery to the uninitiated. It consists of bunks on which patrons recline while smoking, and the air is so foul that but few are able to remain for any length of time, except those who frequent such places and are accustomed to the conditions. The Chinese crowd large numbers into a small space everywhere, and, as a rule, do not take much precaution regarding disease. Left to themselves, their habitations become so filthy that words fail to set forth the conditions.

"It is the unspeakable conditions obtaining in these dens that make them sources of great danger to the general public," said Deputy City Attorney Fitzgerald. "If left alone, these places are apt to cause an epidemic of disease, and even plague. These dens cannot be renovated, and permitted to run, but it is the duty of the police to see that they are closed. The law makes no allowance for Chinese to smoke opium, but plainly specifies that this evil must be abolished."

While white persons are prohibited from entering opium dens, a statement from Chief Hunt shows that as a result of former laxity in enforcing the laws in this respect has led to a great evil in homes and rooming-houses.

Whites Smoke the Drug.

"There are a great many white people who smoke opium in their own homes or in rooms," said the Chief. "It is surprising how many are addicted to the habit. Rather than risk arrest, they buy outfits and opium and smoke in private."

Chinatown has long been neglected, and has become foul with filth, not only inside the buildings so crowded with Chinese, but Second street is not drained by sewer, and stagnant pools of water, green with accumulated corruption, are to be seen along both sides. This, however, is a matter not to be laid at the door of the police, as it is under the jurisdiction of the City Engineer or the street-cleaning department.

That it is entirely within the power of the police to keep Chinatown and all other foreign quarters clean and in sanitary shape, is shown by the conditions prevailing on Pine, between Third and Fourth streets, and on Fourth and Fifth. While through force of habits long unchecked, the Chinese there have to be closely watched, a visit to any of their houses in the territory named will show that attention to this duty will bring the desired results.

A section of the Japanese quarters now under investigation is that on Everett, between Third and Fourth streets. In the middle of the block on the south side of Everett street, there are several houses occupied by Japanese, that are said to be overcrowded and unsanitary.

BURNSIDE BRIDGE CLOSED

This Morning Traffic Must Cross on Other Bridges.

The work on the repairs to Burnside bridge was started yesterday, under the charge of Superintendent W. S. Chapman, and was closed both to teams and street-cars. Cars on the Holladay and Vancouver lines have been running over the steel bridge and will continue until travel can be resumed on Burnside bridge. Repairs are being made at the East Side approach, where a concrete retaining wall is nearly finished. A pile driver is being put into place at this approach.

Superintendent Chapman has posted notices that all travel over the Burnside bridge will cease this morning. However, it is the intention to interfere with travel as little as possible, and it is probable that pedestrians can cross in a few days. Meanwhile the public will have to use the other bridges from today.

Savings Bank Elects Officers.

At the annual meeting of the board of directors of the Oregon Savings Bank held yesterday afternoon the present officers were re-elected for the ensuing year: They are: L. O. Ralston, president; William Ralston, vice-president; W. Cooper Morris, cashier; S. L. Hays, assistant-cashier. The stockholders at the annual meeting held at the same time elected the following to serve as directors: L. O. Ralston, William Ralston, W. Cooper Morris, Albert T. Smith, Walter S. Moore and W. H. Copeland. The annual report showed the bank to be in a strong condition. During the past year the deposits have exceeded $350,000, the depositors numbering 500.

FOR SHORT LINE TO VANCOUVER

New Railway Incorporates for the Purpose of More Construction.

SHAW'S ISLAND TERMINAL

Better Ferriage and Landing and Quicker Route Into Portland Are Said to Be the Aims of Projectors.

It is the fashion to bring new railroad corporations into existence at the present time and the latest addition to the family is the Portland, St. Johns & Vancouver Railway Company, which has been incorporated and will begin construction at an early date of a line of road reaching from the south end of Union avenue to a new landing on Shaw's Island, about one-half mile below the present landing of the Portland Consolidated on the Columbia.

Portland capital is behind the deal, the construction of which will necessitate the expenditure of from $60,000 to $70,000. The new road will overcome the disadvantage under which the Portland Consolidated line operates, in that a large part of the long trestle this side of the ferry will be done away with and the road will be easier of maintenance. Work will begin at once and it is thought that the whole three miles of the new track will be built during the early Summer and ready for the use of the rolling stock.

It is the expectation that the line will be used by the Portland Consolidated through a traffic arrangement with the new company. The Portland end of the line joins with the tracks of the large company on Union avenue, and will be shorter and more direct to Vancouver than the line now in use.

The Portland & St. Johns Company will have an advantage in the terminal, since it will be on Shaw's Island, nearly half a mile down the stream and almost directly opposite the ferry landing on the Vancouver side of the river. The old ferry landing is practically on a sand bar, and it is not easy to maintain in good condition, while the proposed landing of the new company will be on the more solid ground of the island.

The new arrangement will be an improvement in the service now in effect as it will shorten the ride to a certain extent, besides giving a straighter and better track over which to run. It will shorten the ferry trip across the Columbia and make for quicker time between Portland and Vancouver.

J. V. Beach is president of the Portland, St. Johns & Vancouver Company and O. F. Paxton, vice-president.

Millionaire Marries Poor Girl.

The following is an extract from an article on the editorial page of yesterday's Oregonian, copied from the New York Evening Post: "The recent engagement of a young millionaire to a girl who worked in a cigar factory has fluttered the dovecotes not merely on the East Side of this city, but throughout America. No wonder that men and women of all degrees are eager to see her picture and read what she has said. The world has hung breathless on the adventures of her prototype in fiction; it is ecstatic over the realization here and now of the theme of a thousand romances."

The article then goes on to refer to Cinderella, Ruth, the lonely gleaner, lifted to high estate by Boaz, and the ballad of "King Cophetua and the Beggar Maid."

Bertha M. Clay's noted story, "Dora Thorne," which is being presented by the Columbia Stock Company this week is founded on the same theme, and this no doubt, accounts for the marvelous interest displayed by the public everywhere the book is read or the play produced. Seats are now on sale for the entire week at the Columbia and should be ordered early. One matinee only—Saturday.

AT THE THEATERS

What the Press Agents Say.

Empire Attractions.

More than 300 persons were turned away from the Empire Theater Sunday, unable to gain even standing room, and last night every seat was filled. "Ten Nights in a Barroom," as presented by the new stock company, has certainly caught the public fancy. It is a play that has a moral lesson much stronger than the average, and the comedy element is bright and sizzling during its entire action. A matinee will be given every day at 2:15, and it is doubtful if a vacant seat will be in evidence during the entire week.

Dierke Piano Recital Tonight.

Tonight at 8:15 at Parsons' Hall, Nineteenth and Washington streets, will take place the last piano recital this season of Beatrice Dierke, and it will be one of the chief musical events of the year. Several of the numbers of the high-class programme Mrs. Dierke has selected have never before been played in Portland, and they are sure to receive an artistic rendering. She will play, among others: Prelude and fugue (Mendelssohn), "Walkurewitt" (Wagner), "Erl King" (Schubert-Liszt), two Chopin mazurkas and barcarolle, and "Japanese Etude" (Poldini).

Marquam's Next Attraction.

L. R. Stockwell, the character comedian, who appears next Monday at the Marquam Grand in the title role of the "Honorable John North," was an associate with the late Charles Hoyt for 12 years, and during that time created the leading roles in such plays as "Temperance Town," "A Hole in the Ground," "A Texas Steer," A Midnight Bell" and "A Contented Woman."

Mr. Stockwell is this season starring with the famous Irish player, Charles E. Verner, and will be seen at the Marquam for two nights only, April 24 and 25.

PLEAD FOR BETTER THINGS

Object of the American Anti-Tuberculosis Congress.

ATLANTA, Ga., April 17.—The American Anti-Tuberculosis Congress assembled today with an attendance of about 400 physicians from nearly every part of the United States east of the Rocky Mountains, and several prominent representatives from European centers. Addresses of welcome were made by Governor Terrell, Clark Howell, editor of the Constitution, and others. Dr. George B. Brown, of Atlanta, president of the American Anti-Tuberculosis League, in an address opening the proceedings said:

The mission that brings us here will carry with it the good wishes of the world and the prayers of many, for of all the afflicted on God's great footstool, who are more to be pitied and prayed for than those we would benefit?

We are here today to plead for better things for those sufferers and better treatment, better laws and better attention. The Old World has awakened to the fact that there is a useless sacrifice of life in permitting over 1,000,000 deaths a year from this scourge of earth. In our country over 150,000 die annually from this dreadful consumption.

We are appalled at the report of an accident in which a steamer is burned and a thousand lives lost, our sympathies go out to the fate of miners lost by the score in the gloomy depths of mines, and we read of railroad wrecks with a shudder of horror, but we see these doomed victims drives off one by one and we do ever realize the number of them that pass to the great beyond from this destroyer.

All honor then to those who are here today to try to check this stream of death which, when the cold statistics are received, chills one with horror. God grant that they may bring hope to the hearts of many a poor sufferer and brighten many a desolate household.

Finns to Pay One Year.

HELSINGFORS, April 17.—The Finnish National Parliament has agreed to pay to the Russian Treasury $2,000,000 toward the military requirements for the year 1905 only. The proposal of the Russian government was that this amount should be payable annually from 1905 to 1908.

BLACKMAIL, HE SAYS

Counsel Asks Court to Order Plaintiffs Held.

MALARKEY'S GRAVE CHARGE

William Muir, Accused of Attempted Criminal Assault, in Turn, by Attorney, Makes Charge Against Accusers.

Dan J. Malarkey created a sensation in the Municipal Court yesterday morning, when he addressed Judge Hogue concerning the case of the state against William Muir, charged with attempted criminal assault upon Mrs. Charles L. Bartonett.

"If Your Honor pleases, I have not completed my investigation of this affair, but I have gone far enough to warrant me in making the statement that this is one of the worst cases of attempted blackmail ever occurring in this city," said Senator Malarkey, who is counsel for Muir. "I ask that the complainant and his wife be placed upon bonds. It is probable that before this case is finished, very serious criminal charges will be preferred against both of them. If they are permitted to go on their own recognizance, and the case is continued until tomorrow, I do not expect to see either of them here to press this charge.

"Of course, I may be wrong," continued Senator Malarkey, "but from what I have been able to ascertain, it certainly looks as though this is one of the worst cases of attempted blackmail I have ever known. I have had considerable experience in criminal prosecutions, and have heard of some pretty tough cases, but I have reason to think this is one that beats them all. I surely think both man and wife should be held under bail."

"I do not agree with Mr. Malarkey," said Deputy District Attorney Haney, representing, with Attorney Stuart, the prosecution. "It may be, as he says, a case of attempted blackmail, but I do not think it is. I am willing to take a chance, and risk the complainant and his wife being here in the morning to prosecute. I will not ask that they be placed under bond."

Attorney Stuart, employed as assistant counsel for the prosecution, also addressed Judge Hogue, saying that he had made personal investigation, and was convinced that, from the evidence at hand, the defendant was guilty.

"I do not wish to parade the evidence before the court until the hearing," said Stuart. "Your Honor is to be the judge, anyway, and I wish to let you pass upon all the testimony. I think there is no cause for alarm regarding the complainant and his wife; I feel certain they will be here when the case is called, and think it unnecessary for them to be placed under bail."

Muir, the defendant, was discharged from the regular Army at Fort Wright recently. He is said now to possess paychecks for $542. This is supposed to have been known to several, including the Bartonetts, and Malarkey bases his statements upon this. However, the Bartonetts strongly deny this insinuation.

Muir is the man who leaped through a second-story window of a Sixth-street rooming-house, Saturday night, to escape.

Ridicules Divorce Plaintiff.

"I don't see how a big man can complain of cruel treatment inflicted by a woman who is not half his size. If his mind has been destroyed by this action on the part of his wife, he ought to appear by a guardian." These remarks and others were made by J. H. Hitchings, attorney for Mrs. Mary L. Swess, in the State Circuit Court yesterday, in arguing a motion to have made more definite and certain a divorce complaint filed by her husband, William Swess. The court made no comments but heard the arguments of counsel on both sides to the close and took the matter under advisement.

CRUSADE TO IMPROVE SANITARY CONDITIONS IN BUILDINGS OCCUPIED BY CHINESE IS BEGUN

SCENE IN PORTLAND'S CHINATOWN, SECOND STREET, BETWEEN STARK AND OAK.