GREEDY GAS GRAFT WILL CUT PRICE

It Will Also Further Water Its Stock to Conceal Its Dividends.

PROMISES DOLLAR RATE

In Order to Hide Its Big Profits From the Consumers It Raised Number of Shares, and Will Do So Again.

Extortion by the Gas Graft has raised uch a storm of popular wrath that the Graft will try to pacify the people by re-ducing the rate from \$7.15 a thousand feet to \$1. As already pointed out by The Oregonian, even a \$1 rate will make a fat rake-off for the Gas Company, because the cost of supplying the gas, as shown by expense figures from other cities, is

less than half that price.

The get-rich-quick graft has a greedy hold on the people of Portland and hopes that by giving up a trifling share of its profits it will be able to allay the popu-lar holignation. With this end in view, the company has issued a pumphlet, say-"It is confidently expected that ng this year a price of \$1 a thousand feet will be made

Its Big Dividends,

In the same pamphlet, the company asserts that its dividends are a legitimate return on its capital stock, but its own figures show that the dividends in the year just past were nearly 30 per cent larger than in the year preceding, and more than double the dividend of 1865. The company makes no mention of prof-its retained outside of dividends as surplus, and refrains from explaining satis-factorily why last year the capital stock was raised or "watered" \$499,000 and why \$250,000 more water is to be added next month, if not to afford a means of con-cealing big profits. And there are other cunning tricks in the pamphlet, made up to deceive an "easy" public.

According to the statement, the present Gas Company, created in 1991, has paid dividends on capital stock as follows:

852.200 1,250,000

The company is in better position than ever now that its plant is about ready to make cheap gas, to amass big profits at the expense of consumers, not only at the expense of consumers, not only by charging high rates but also by diluting the gas with air.

make big profits off the public, of concealing their graft, is that of increasing
or "watering" their capital stock so that
the heavy carnings can be disbursed in
dividends. The gas company in 190 paid
35,132 dividends and in 1905, \$75,000, each
time 6 per cent on capital stock.
In 196, it would have had to pay a dividend of almost 9 per cent in order to
disburse the \$55,000 among its stocklouders, a rate which would have subloiders, a rate which would have subloiders a rate which would have subloiders, a rate which would have subloiders jected the company to popular criticism. Consequently the gas company swelled its capital stock so as to keep down the dividend rate and hide its profits from the public. This method is pursued by public service corporations all over the United States, in order to pull the wool over the eyes of the public

Greedlest of Grafts.

All over the United States, sale of gas always has been one of the greediest of grafts. The graft has thrived conspicu-ously on the Pacific Coast since oil came use for manufacture of what is called "water gas"—the kind used in Portland—because of the cheapness of the oil. The cost of gas to consumers has not diminished in the same amount as the cost of production to the manufacturers; consequently, the latter have been white to make the relationship to make the relationship. able to make big rake-offs. A man who has engaged in the manufacture of gas in a large city on the Pacific Coast informs The Oregonian that in his city water gas could be made for between 40 and 50 cents, and that Portland should do it even cheaper, on account of the cheaper price of oil in Portland. Another authority, also in the gas business, while declining to tell what the Portland company can make gas for, says that a \$1 rate in Portland will afford ample profit.

LEE YECK YEE PASSES AWAY

Victim of Highbinder Dies at Good Samaritan Hospital.

Lee Yeck Yee, the Chinese merchant

shot by Yon Hong, a highbinder, Wedner-day night, died at II o'clock last night. All hopes for his recovery were given up physicians yesterday, and last night began to sink rapidly. Before he became unconscious he made a statement to detectives and to the District Attor-ncy, saying that he was shot by You Hong because he had married the latter's wife in San Francisco. Hong was taken to the hospital yesterday morning and was confronted by Lee Yee, who identified him as the one who had shot him.

There is thought to be little truth in the dying statement of Lee Yee, and the fight is said to be the outgrowth of a tong war. Both men were members of warring tongs. Lee Yeck Yee was a warring tongs. Lee Yeck Yee was a member of the Hop Sing tong, and his assailant of the Jue Tong society. At the hospital Wednesday night efforts the hospital Wednesday night efforts to conceal the tong badge which Lee Yeck Yee wore were made, and a Chinese who was at the hospital was caught by Detective Resing taking the badge from Yee's clothing. Resing now has the badge in his possession.

Members of Yee's tong have taken up the fight in the dying man's behalt, and have retained attorneys to prosecute retained attorneys to prosecute

SCORE ONE VICTORY FOR THE PLAIN PEOPLE.



GAS BILLS TOO HIGH

Many East Side Residents Make Complaint.

OVERCHARGES FREQUENT

From \$4.50 a Month One Man's Bill Jumps to \$8.05 - Consumers Threaten to Use Other Kinds of Illuminants.

Complaints pour into the gas company's counter in great numbers these troublesome days. The East Siders are having their innings, and they are af-flicted in the same manner and vexed as sorely as their West Side bretaren. High prices and poor quality are the basis of many of the complaints.

basis of many of the complaints.

"Have I any complaint to offer?" asked Jack Penny, of 202 East Morrison street. "Well, I should say I have I don't mind being taxed any price that is reasonable for anything I get, but when it comes to paying two prices for the use of gas I think it is time to balk. All the gas I use is burned in a single are light, and heretofore the bill has never been over \$4.50, and only once to my recollection did it reach that figure. Today I paid my bill and was politicly invited to dig up \$8.52 1901, it has expended \$80,000 on its plant, "all of which is represented by stock paid for in cash, at the rate of 100 cents on the dollar," without increasing the bonded debt, which four years ago cannot be altogether the fault of the meters, for they are happening too frequently, and I do not intend to

the expense of consumers, not only by charging high rates but also by diluting the gas with air.

A favorite method of corporations that make big profits off the public, of concaling their graft, is that of increasing or "watering" their graft, is that of increasing or the public of the public o

tised reduction of gas comes in I have been a patron of the gas company for

several years, and am in business and always pay my bills on the day they are due. Yesterday I called at the gas

are due, Yestorday I called at the gas company to meet my bill, but on ascertaining the amount with which I was assessed, I refused to pay the demand, Upon considering the matter I found that I was helpless, Accordingly I shall return today in order to save what little I can by the rebate. My bill should be, if honestly rated, about \$11, which amount I would readily my but the exercitant churge of

ily pay, but the exorbitant charge of nearly \$16 is not within reason. I can-not say that I approve of their method

"You sabbe gas bill?" said Wing Lee.

will soon take notice of our com-

Vickery Takes to Flight.

on a charge of issuing spurious checks

reduction.

SEATTLE GETS HONORS FOR BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCKS.

Among Pigeon Fanciers Prizes Are Well Divided Between Nanaimo. B. C., and Oakland, Cal.

not say that I approve of their method of reducing the gas rate.

S. D. Skollarens, of 125% Grand avenue, made the following statement: "My bill was too high, Yes, much too high, I never paid such a price before. They tell me they are reducing the rate. If so I should like to be shown the system by which it is figured a reduction." The first day of awards of prizes among the poultry fanciers exhibiting at the local show resulted in the judges passing on a umber of fine birds. Awards were distributed for exhibits of pigeons as well as chickens, and the work of classifying this species of fowl was almost concluded

J. L. Anderson, of Seattle, captured the honors for the best barred Plymouth Rock poultry exhibit, securing 12 awards in this class. The contest among Plymouth Rocks witnessed the keenest Chinese laundry keeper of the East Side. "Hew muchee you pay? No sabe him," pointing to an advertisement of the company stating that gas consumcompetition, for there were many exhibitors of this species and the Scattle man's ers would receive a reduction in the price. "No can tell about leductios. Him ail sames big fland. Me taxes ties victory is regarded as an excellent tes-timonial among the poultrymen. The following are the awards of yes-

dolla more as last month, Alle samee hold-up man. No can tell," and the puz-zied son of Confucius ambied down terday J. L. Anderson, of Scattle, II awards-Yambill street, shaking his pigtailed First and third cockerels, fourth and fifth

hens, second, third and fifth pullets, first and third collection, first pen, cup for best "I am going to buy a lamp," remarked a comely young matron to her neighbor, as she issued from the office collection, cup for best five males and up for best five females, B. F. Keeney, of Eugene, five awardsof the gas company, "and use common lamps instead of this miserable gas, and I guess if a good many of us do the same thing the horrid company

Second and fourth cockerels, third hen, second pen and cup for five best cockerels. E. J. Ladd, of Portland, four awards cond cockerel, second hen, fifth cockrel and second collection.

J. O. Watts, of Eugene, three awards-First and third cockerels and fourth pen.

Mrs. George S. Shaw, of Sand Point, Idaho-Pourth cockerel and fifth collec-After paying money from his own pocket to go to Goldfield, Nev., to cap-J. C. Murray, of Portland, two awardsture R. E. Vickery, wanted in Portland N. L. Wiley, of Rex. Or., one award-Detective Joe Day arrived only to find

that his man had escaped. Although he J. M. Garrison, of Forest Grove, Or., one award-Fifth cockerel, Murrow, of Oregon City, one award-Third pen.

Among the pigeon fanciers the following awards were made:
Thomas Wilkinson, Nanaimo, B. C.—All in England.

onds in bluebeards; all firsts, seconds and thirds in runts and runt hens.

J. Griebelhouse. Portland — Four firsts and one second in plain tumblers.

L. Spady, Portland—Four firsts, one sec-

and and one third in different varieties.

H. G. Farrell, Portland—Four firsts and five seconds in different varieties.

Thompson & Vahl, Portland—Seven firsts, six seconds and two thirds in different varieties of rollers.

Charles Steinel, Portland—Eight firsts and one second in different varieties.

and one second in different varieties,
Athens Loft and Poultry Farm-Four
firsts and two thirds in Maltese varie-

G. Powell, Portland-Two firsts and two J. P. Limerick, Portland-Three firsts in yellow parior tumblers.
E. H. Bauer, Portland-One first in

INQUIRES AS TO OREGON Wisconsin Woolen Manufacturer May Locate Here.

Replying to a woolen manufacturer of Wisconsin, who was seeking informatio relative to the establishment of a wooten mill bereabouts. Mayor Lane yesterday ndvised his interrogator to make this state a visit and investigate conditions

on his own account.

"However," said the Mayor, "I do not think any one thoroughly understanding the manufacture of woolen goods would make a mistake in locating here, as Ore-gon is rated about the fourth state in the Union in the production of wool, having an output last year of something over 20,000,000 pounds, and perhaps you know as well as I can say the reputation of our wools in the markets; especially Willam-ette Valley wools, with its fine quality, long staple and light shrinkage. Eastern Oregon wools are of a very fine quality, but possessed of a somewhat heavier shrinkage.

"Only about 2,000,000 pounds of this woot was scoured and made into cloth and clothing in this state, the rest having been shipped East, there manufactured, and a part of the product returned to this mar-ket. There are probably ten mills in the state which handled the 2,000,000 pounds used here last year. For woolen mill purposes the water of the Willamette Val-ley is generally conceded to be equal to the water of the famous Stroud Valley,

JOHN A. ANDERSON AWARDED DAMAGES.

Was Choked at The Oaks Because He Refused to Pay to Leave Grounds.

A verdict in favor of John A. Anderson for \$26 in his suit against the Oregon Water Power & Railway Company for damages for assault and battery, was returned by the jury in Judge George's court yesterday morning. Last Summer Anderson went to The Oaks in his private launch, and was refused exit until he bought a licket on the company's boat line for 10 cents. When he refused, he says, he was assaulted and choked by Officers employed by the Oregon Water Power & Rallway Company. The verdict a rebuke to the company's methods.

Round of Festivities Greets British

MANILA, Jan. II.-The British squad ron on the China station, under command of Vice-Admiral Sir Gerard H. U. Noel, arrived here at 10 o'clock this morning nd was received with the usual formaliies by the naval, civil and military au-horities. Admiral Noel returned the hore calls in the afternoon, and was received at the palace by Acting Governor Ide, and at night by Major-General Corbin at a lawn party given in his honor. A brilliant reception will be held on board the American flagship Ohlo on Saturday orning, and in the afternoon Sir Gerard Noel will review the troops stationed at Camp McKinley.

On Saturday night 1000 American sailors On Saturday night 1000 American sallors will entertain an equal number of the men of the British ships at a banquet, followed by a vaudeville show at the Grand Opera-House.

Numerous festivities have been arranged for the entertainment of Admiral Noel and the officers and men of the squadron, the visit of which will be extended until Tuesday, January 16.

Standing and Pettit Win Match.

was won by the latter pair by the score

NOEL ARRIVES AT MANILA

China Squadron.

Clever Amateurs Stage "An Old Maids' Convention" in Trinity Parish-House



FLASHLIGHT PHOTOGRAPH OF CAST OF "OLD MAIDS" CONVENTION" AND INCIDENTALLY FRANK B. RILEY, WHO APPEARED AS PROFESSOR ALPHONSE DE PHLIM FLAM.

last evening to watch the proceedings of "The Old Malds' Convention" assembled therein. Some, too, lost the chance of a jolly laugh at their own expense, for the "old maids" made very personal remarks Hodge (Miss Luin Hall), read the names, "old maids" made very personal remarks about well-known bachelors about town. The parish-house was crowded, and. Little Hope for Knoblock.

One of the most peculiar cases brought to the attention of the police and the hospital authorities for some time has developed at St. Vincent's. Alex Knoblock a Swede, was asphyxiated by gas in a room at Sixth and Ankeny streets Wednesday morning and was taken to the hospital unconscious. Every effort was made to revive the man, but so far without success. He is in a state of coma, having remained so since taken from his room. It is thought that he will die without regaining his senses.

B ACHELORS of Portland who are or donned them were transformed into for-ought to be hunting for wives, lost lorn spinsters of uncertain age and comit. Chester Murshy D ought to be hunting for wives, lost form spinsters of uncertain age and coming a great opportunity unless they were present at Trinity parish-house the distribution of the control of t

met to discuss the best means of winning husbands for themselves. Josephine Jane Green (Mrs. A. S. Barsodge (Miss Luin Hall), read the names, each "sister" responding with an appropriate quotation concerning "Man." Reports from the "lookout committee," the treasurer, the vigilance committee and others were read. The report of the last-named committee clicited shrieks of laughter. It was presented in the guise of a stereotyped market report and gave the current valuation of bachelors in the Portland market. Among the quotations Portland market. Among the quotations were the following:

William D. Whoelwright, fairly steady.
Scott Brooke, looking up.
John Carson, fluctuating.
Falsa Linthicum, immovable.
J. Couch Finnders, cornered.
James Mc. I. Wood, out of the market.
Bodney Glisan, nothing doing.

Fat Gifferd, to be had for the asking.

Chester Murphy, changrable with wheels chough to ran a skating rink.

Various plans were suggested for capturing men. One stater proposed advertising in the matrimontal column of The Morning Oregogian; another proposed that all look for places nursing sick men and a third had heard of love powders. The president then stated that Professor Alphonse de Philm Phiam had promised to be present and show his wonderful new machine called the "Electric Transform-Her." Here the professor (Frank B. Riley) entered and his machine, a tall, black box, with a door and without a top, was brought in. He explained that if a "sister" entered the machine she could come forth again in a few minutes changed in whatever way she might desire. The one needful thing was that each sister before entering should state her exact age. One after another the sisters went in, the professor turned the grinder as the sister slowly sank from view and when the door opened again forth stepped the impersonation of whatever wish had been made. Patience De-

| sire Mann (Miss Nan Wood) who had | Penelope Gertrude Doollittle

GIGANTIC POWER PLANT PROJECTED

Vast Syndicate to Utilize the Waters of Feather River. California.

FRANK L. YOUNG'S PLAN

Fifty Million Capital Will Develop Four Hundred Thousand Horse-Power for Sacramento Valley and San Francisco.

A vast syndicate, financed at the present time with a capital stock of practically \$50,000,000, and formed to harness the waters of the Feather River, in Northern California, lead them through tunnels and runways and convert their energy into an electric current of 400,000 horsepower, is

announced by Frank L. Brown, of San Francisco, now at the Portland.

The stupendous nature of the project can hardly be grasped by the Western mind, until it is known that the power from the monster stations will eventually run the railways, fight the towns and turn factory wheels of all the towns in the Sacramento Valley, and the cities

around the Bay of San Francisco.
But of more interest to Oregon people is the announcement made by Mr. Brown and Marsden Manson, a famous engineer, of San Francisco, now with Mr. Brown, that the California project is only the nucleus of a vast chain of similar projects reaching through Oregon and Washington, and backed by an approximate capi-tal of \$100,000,000, for the development of the hydro-electric powers of the Northwest States.

The Oregon Project.

Plans are not as yet far enough advanced to make definite announcement of the Oregon projects, but the developments of the future hold great promise for the state.

According to the statement made by Mr. Brown and Mr. Manson, a syndicate backed by great financial powers of New York, has after two years of effort been able to form the Feather River power project. Brown, Wilson & Co., of New York and San Francisco, is the company name back of the active management of the construction, but with them are associated Frank H. Ray, Edwin Hawley, Alfred C. Bedford, all of New York, and all powers in the financial world.

It is the plan of the company to con-struct a reservoir covering 36,000 acres a struct a reservoir covering 20,000 acres at Big Meadows, near the headwaters of the Feather River. From here the stored waters of the river will be taken to Big Butte, into a smaller reservoir, and from this will drop 2000 feet, through an under-ground tunnel, and will be led into the famous Big Bend tunnel, which was built by Dr. R. V. Pierce, at an expense of \$1,125,000.

By means of this great project it will be possible to generate approximately 400,000 horsepower, or more than three times the power furnished by the famous plant at Niagara Falls.

History of the Tunnel.

The history of the project is an inter-sting one. More than 20 years ago Dr. R. V. Pierce, discoverer of a well-known parent medicine, in association with oth-ers, spent \$1,125,000 in the construction of a tunnel 12,000 feet long, 16 feet high and 15 feet wide, at what is known as Big Bend, a place where the Feather River, nel 12,000 feet long, 16 feet high and after running 13 miles around a mountain Standing and Pettit Win Match.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 11.—The racquet | 12,000 feet of the upper bed on the other match which took place today between Peter Latham, champion of England, and Fred Tompkins of this city, on one side, and George Standing, of New York, and Thomas Pettit, of Boston, on the other, so huge that no progress could be made and the tunnel was abandoned,

From Big Meadows to the tunnel is a drop of 2000 feet, and this will be utilized in generating the great power contem-

plated. mento Valley, and will furnish power to this valley and to San Francisco by means of two pole transmission lines, 1% miles in length, so arranged that in case of acci-

dent to one an automatic switch will throw the current to the other. The projected line of the Western Pacific runs parallel with the power system from the lower tunnel practically to the Big Meadows, where the reservoir will be. It is expected that power, light and heat will be furnished by the new company to all the new towns which will follow the

ailroad into the valley.

Work will be started on the project immediately, all property rights having been settled. This, so it is stated by Mr. Brown and Mr. Manson, will be the nucleus of a Pacific Coast line of power stations, which will be built in the near future to develop the untold water power of Oregon and Washington.

Mr. Brown will leave tonight for the

East in the interest of his construction work.

Seeks to Obtain Reconveyance.

E. Warren seeks to obtain a reconveyance to him by Catherine E. Warren, re-siding at The Elms, Milverton, Somer-setshire, England, of property in Kinzel Park, which, he says, he conveyed to her as trustee, January 29, 1905. When he asked the defendant to sign a deed transferring back the property she refused. Warren yesterday began a suit in the State Circuit Court, asking to have the trust deed canceled.

CARD OF THANKS.

We desire to thank the neighbors and friends for their kind help and sympathy; also the many beautiful floral offerings. iuring our recent sad bereavement, MR. AND MRS. NIELSON AND FAM-ILY.

SOMETHING DOING. At the Winter Garden tomorrow-opened as a permanent billiard hall,

Cause of Headaches

tion of your liver and bowels. Unless there is daily action of the bowels, poisonous products are absorbed, causing headaches, biliousness, nausea, dyspepsia. Ayer's Pills are liver pills, mildly laxative.

"Having already passed my threescore years and ten, I still find myself relying upon Ayer's Pills for my unruly and disordered atomach. They have always given me relief and I could not get along without them."— A. J. Gorr, Boulder, Colo.