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Not only does Mayor Lane pander as much as possible to the political feat-ures of the situation, but it is known that C. F. Adams, president of the gas company, has lately been in close touch with him relative to the course of The Oregonian in the matter, and that Adams has made misrepresentations to the city's chief executive concerning motives of this paper directing attention to the prevailing abuses.

Councilmen State Their Position.

Interviews yesterday with a number of Councilmen indicate that there is not the slightest intention on their part to relinquish their right to take the initiative. Almost with one voice they likewise ridicule the ridiculous attempt of the gas grafters to befog public opinion, and one of them sound-ed the keynote of the entire situation by comparing the methods of the gas company in this respect with the sub-

terfuges of a cuttlefish. "I for one shall never stand for any "I for one shall never stand for any proposition of that sort." said Council-man-at-Large A. N. Wills. "Neither the Mayor nor the Executive Board have any authority to outline any plan of investigation of franchises. That is solely within the province of the Coun-cil, and I don't think any of us is fool comments to show hit and to be the sole of the sole of the coun-cil. and I don't think any of us is fool enough to share his rights with some-body else. Do you think the Executive Board or Mayor Lane would divide honors with us upon a layout of that kind? Not much, and I am dead against our doing it. I am in favor of the Coun-cil taking hold of the sea superior cil taking hold of the gas question, nowever, and inquiring into every phase of the situation. A resolution ap-pointing a committee for this purpose will undoubtedly prevail at the meeting next Wednesday, and the people can rest assured there will be no white-wash brush applied any more than there will be in our report on the Civil Service Commission."

Councilman-at-Large Dan Kellaher was also opposed to the idea of tak-ing the matter out of the hands of the Council. "It will never be done by any yote of mine." said he emphatically, "and it strikes me as a piece of impu-dence to suggest any such notion. I am in no position to say anything at present, but it is my opinion that there will be some lively doings in relation to this gas proposition when the Council meets next Wednesday."

"I do not think the Council ought to give up any authority it may possess for investigating such matters," said Councilman-at-Large John Annand, when the gas company's proposal was brought to his attention yesterday; "and I for one shall combat any such measure

Thinks Right Is Exclusive.

"I coincide with The Oregonian's views on the subject." said Councilman-at-Large Thomas Gray. "We are with-out doubt vested with the exclusive right to examine into a matter of that kind."

Councilman W. Y. Masters, of the have to be installed in order to meet the conditions. He claims also that the Gas Councilman W. Y. Masters, of the Councilman W. Y. Masters, of the fifth Ward, was equally opposed to the idea of surreadering any of the the idea of surreadering any of the to each new house and compelling an ob-to each new house rules. the idea of surrendering any of the rights of the Council relative to in-vestigating the gas company. "It oc-curs to me," said he, "that we have a right to make inquiry into the affairs of the company, and that while they are operating under a franchise grant-ed to them by the State Legislature, at the time the latter body gave the City of Portland its charter it practi-cally parted with all further jurisdic-tion in the premises, leaving the sole controp of all franchises of like char-

mittee, either from the City Council or any other body, with a view of presenting absolute proof that a great majority of the houses have leaky fixtures and piping. With a pump and gauge I believe

could demonstrate this fact beyond a reasonable doubt. These matters are of very little concern to the Gas Company, however, as the gas must be paid for by consumers after it passes the meter. whether it is burned through the jets or leaks from the pipes. On this score I am strongly in favor of the appointment of a

gas inspector, to be under the jurisdiction of the City Plumbing Inspector's office. and at the same time I favor an ordi nance that will compel the company to keep all piping and fixtures in houses in repair and free from leakage, and at no expense to the consumer. At the same time, I would require the company to fur-nish a quality of gas that will approach the proper standard as to quality and illuminating power. The Gas Company claims that it appreciates its duty toward

the public. If it did, in order to consumers, it would follow the plan in

Consumers Must Pay the Fiddler.

"In a recent published statement, they state that it is self-evident that a business cannot be successfully conducted unless its patrons are satisfied with the service rendered, particularly where a number of other illuminants, as well as other terials for fuel can be secured. It is a fact that when it comes to a matter of convenience, to say nothing of cost, gas has by far the long end of the argument-a matter of which they are, no doubt. well aware by virtue of their many years of experience, and one can readily see the reason of their indifference to their pa-trons, so noticeable in this city, as it is

a well-known fact that gas for these purposes stands in a field by itself, and so long as the Portland Gas Company enjoys an exclusive franchise, the people can pay the fiddler." In this connection, a prominent local

plumber, whose business relations with the Gas Company are such that he does relations with not wish to be quoted, has furnished The Oregonian with a statement to the effect that the corporation is compelling the plumbers of this city to put in much larger pipes than the type contemplated when they manufactured their product from coal, thus entailing increased ex-pense on property-owners. In time these pipes become subject to corrosion on the inside, becoming filled with a peculiar substance resembling syrup, retarding the flow to such an extent that extra pressure is required to meet the situation. Ac-cording to this informant, the demolishing of mantles on patented burners can be attributed to this state of affairs, as well as the frequent explosions and buzz-ing sounds. In his opinion, it is only a question of time when new fixtures will

servance of these rules.

"TOTTLE" IN SERVICE.

Goren of River Boats Is Now on the Astoria

Enjoy a trip to Astoria on the Potter. Tou will always remember it. Leaves As...street dock every night at 5 o'clock, except Sunday. (Saturday night, 19 P. M.) Round trip, B. Particulars at Third and

LIMITS

have a complete farmers' telephone sys-tem through the whole State, independ-ent of any commercial system, so that the farmers of Multhomah County can talk to any farmer connected with the rural telephone system. This is one step beyond and alongside the free mail de-

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OBJECTS TO FIRE LIMITS IN RESIDENCE DISTRICT.

Building Inspector Thomas Mann has reached the conclusion that the new fire limits, as established by a recent ornance of the City Council, are apl to become detrimental to that portion of the local residence district lying between

Stark street and the Willamette River and as far west of the railway tracks as Fourieenth street. Under the provisions of the charter no wooden buildings can be erected within these limits and in a communication sent by Mr. Mann to Mayor Lane Saturday the attention of the Municipal Executive was called to the situation. It is glieged that nearly all the district except a small portion tying adjacent to the Willamette River and the freight sheds, aithough sparsely settled now, is destined to become desirable residence property in the near future and to require the erection of none but brick or stone buildings therein would amount to a practical confictation of a large percentage of the property.

The Building Inspector contends that the location will not justify the erection of brick business blocks or ware-houses and that brick as a material for residences is not popular here on account of its liability to attract molature. In all probability an effort will soon be made to secure the repeal of the present ordinance and the substitution of one defining the limits more in keeping with surrounding conditions.

tive Investment Company, while on his way to visi: friends on Nob Hill, was held up and robbed at Taylor and King streets by a lone highwayman, with two revolvers, at 6:45 o'clock last night. With

the exception of 19 cents, which the rob ber left Rand for street-car fare, all his valuable possessions were taken from him. Putting a revolver, which he carried in his right hand into his pocket, the high-wayman covered Rand with the revolver in his left hand while he searched his pockets, taking E4 and a gold watch.

The highwayman, who is described as being about six feet tall, walted at the corner until his victim came opposite him. Stepping from behind a telephone pole, he commanded Rand to throw up his hands. Rand at first paid little attention and started to continue on his way, when the robber, with curses, shoved the two revolvers against his breast and ordered in to halt or die. Rand halted. When Rand had put his hands over his

head, the highwayman lowered one of his revolvers into his overcoat pocket and searched his victim. He relieved him of a gold watch and two 5-cent pieces. The nickels were returned, with the com pliments of the highwayman, to be used for street-car fare. A notebook containing private accounts was also taken from

but was returned when he explained what the book contained. Ordering Rand not to look around, the high-wayman hurried down King street and disappeared. An account of the hold-up was telephoned the police, and Detective Hawley was sent by Captain Slover to investigate. A good description of the highwayman was obtained, and the numof the watch will be given the police today.

Woman Tries to End Life.

Despondent because she said she had brought disgrace upon her 13-year-old daughter. Mrs. Etta McDermot, proprietress of a rooming-house on Sixth street, between Flanders and Glisan streets, at-tempted to commit suicide last night by gas asphyxiation After raving and tear-ing out hair from her head, Mrs. McDermot turned on the gas jet. Her screams had attracted occupants of the house, and before she had become asphyxiated they forced in the door. The police were called and Dosk Sergeant Inskeep arrived at the house before the woman had ended her life. While grappling with the police-man to prevent being taken to police headquarters, Mrs. McDermot tried to jump from a second-story window. Dr. Spencer, emergency physician, was called, and gave her stimulants to revive her. On promising not to attempt her life again, Mrs. McDermot was allowed to go me with friends, who promito care for her.

Negro Porter Is Arrested.

E. R. Brodie, one of the negro porter accused of robbing a negro woman in a Pullman car, while on her way to Port-land, and taking \$90 from her, was arrested yesterday afternoon by Detective Hart-man. Brodle is also alleged to have drugged the woman before taking the money from her.

State Banking Law Needed.

PORTLAND, Or., Jan. 13 --- (To the Edit PORTLAND. Or., Jan. 13.— (To the Edi-tor.).—The public generally owes The Ore-gonian thanks for its advocacy of a bank-ing law for the state. It is prepostorous in these days of enlightenment that the pub-lic should be at the mercy of any shyster who desires to open a bank and receive money on deposit without any security. The Washington banker, however, who says that the "strong conservative banks"

Step Into Pool of Water.

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It does not take much to draw and hold crowd. A clogged drainpipe at Sixth and Washington streets was the means of bringing together a large number of men and boys last night, who stood several hours in the drenching rain, thoroughly entertained by the amusement which it furnished.

Just at the corner of the curb a wide pool of water had formed. It did not appear deep, and the passers-by would step In without hesitation, only to find that it was over their shoetops. Of course, there was always a hurried scramble to get out, and each new victim would receive a thor-ough "joshing," while he retreated as gracefully as possible, and usually lined up to watch some one else take a plunge. The fun lasted until a kind-hearted liceman brought boards and bridged the miniature lake, at which the spectators expressed unanim ous disapproval

TEACH MEN HOW TO VOTE

Clackamas Managers Hold Instructive Meetings for Common People.

OREGON CITY, Or., Jan. 14-(Special.) -Under the direction of the Republican organization of Clackamas County meetings will be held throughout the county for the purpose of acquainting voters with the various provisions and requirements of the direct primary law and the matter of registration. C. Schuelbel, sec-retary of the Republican County central committee, last night addressed a large gathering of voters at Damascus. The meeting was strictly nonpartisan, the name of not a single candidate being mentioned in the course of the evening which was devoted to an exposition of the new plan for nominating candidates and also the necessity for registering in order to participate in the primary election. A number of other like meetings will be held in the county in the next ten weeks.

Just the Weather for Colds

the kind that hang on; just the weather for Scott's Emulsion, too. There's an element of bodily protection furnished by

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that makes one proof against cold risks. Breaks a cold before it can get a foothold and repairs the wear and tear on the tissues affected. Nothing takes hold of a cold so quickly as Scott's Emulsion.

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