

PLOT TO BLACKEN LOCAL MINISTERS

Dr. Brougner and Dr. Wilson Accuse Saloonkeepers of Conspiracy.

SAY THEY HAVE PROOF

Plan, They Say, Was to Entice Them to Disreputable Places, Where They Were to Perform Marriage Ceremony.

Dr. J. Whitcomb Brougner and Dr. Charles True Wilson assert that they have in their possession definite and unanswerable proof that there exists among certain liquor dealers of Portland a plot to injure by unscrupulous means the reputation of any one of five leading preachers of the city and the secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association. The statements that such a plot existed were first made by Dr. Wilson and Dr. Brougner in sermons delivered from their respective pulpits. In a signed communication to the executive committee of the Liquor Dealers' Association denied all knowledge of any such plot and stated that, so far as the association or any of its members were concerned, the accusation was absolutely false.

Tell of Alleged Plot.

The pastors whose statements have been questioned claim when the plot to injure their reputations was hatched there were witnesses present who were ready to swear to the proceedings which occurred as soon as it seems desirable to divulge the details of the affair. One person overheard the proceedings, they assert, who called two others, and the three are in possession of dates, places and names. The liquor dealers who were present, they say, were members of the association.

According to the alleged plot, some prominent pastor was to be enticed into a house of ill-fame on the pretext of inviting him to visit a sick person or perform a marriage ceremony. Disreputable persons were to be connected with the affair, who were to swear to what occurred during his visit, giving false testimony, which, if credited, would be damaging to the reputation of the pastor involved. The whole scheme, the ministers assert, was worked out in a view to creating sentiment against the pastors for use in the fight to secure the proposed amendment to the local-option law.

Dr. Brougner Called.

Following out this plan, it is said that on two separate occasions Dr. Brougner has been summoned to questionable places on fictitious errands. In each case he was accompanied by his co-conspirators, who warned him would be necessary, and the scheme fell through. Attempts have been made to victimize at least one other pastor, but no other names have yet been divulged.

It was also planned at the meeting, it is said, that in case the scheme failed, disreputable persons were to be induced to visit certain pastors on fictitious errands. The liquor-dealers, according to the programme, were to have reliable witnesses at hand, who would swear that the call was made, and the pastor himself would be induced to do the purpose of her visit.

What the Pastors Say.

In a statement to The Oregonian, Dr. Brougner and Dr. Wilson say: "We have never charged the Liquor Dealers' Association, as an association, with being in the plot, but we have the names of men connected with the Liquor Dealers' Association who were planning to do as charged. We know the place, the dates and the witnesses. Whenever we deem it necessary we can furnish them. We are glad that the five men who signed themselves as the executive committee state that they have no knowledge of this scheme."

"We know, however, what we are talking about. At a conference of prominent pastors attending the meeting of our churches, the facts were presented and it was decided that the evidence should not be divulged until we deemed it necessary to do so. When that time comes we shall present proof enough to satisfy the public."

Quote From Scriptures.

In their communication yesterday, the executive committee of the Liquor Dealers' Association quoted a certain passage from the Bible, and Dr. Wilson and Dr. Brougner, not to be outdone, call attention to the following excerpts from the Scriptures:

From Proverbs: "Wine is a mockery, strong drink is railing. Whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise."

"Who hath we, who hath sorrow, who hath contention, who hath babbling, who hath wounds without cause, who hath redness of eyes. They that tarry long at the wine, they that go to seek mixed wine."

"Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his color in the cup, when it goeth down smoothly. At last it biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder."

From Habakkuk: "Woe unto him that giveth his neighbor drink; that putteth his bottle to him, and maketh him drunken also."

The conference referred to in the statement occurred two weeks ago. Present at that time were many of the pastors of the city and two lay members from each congregation. All of these men, it is said, are in possession of all of the facts in connection with the episode and stand behind the statements as made by the two pastors mentioned.

Will Hold Second Conference.

The matter will again be brought before another conference of similar character, when it will be decided when, if at all, the details of the case will be made public. The pastors say that they feel they were obligated at this time to make their evidence public for the benefit of the Liquor Dealers' Association, but will do so when they think it proper to give it to the public.

PERSONAL MENTION.

W. P. Blake, superintendent of the Postal Telegraph Company at Seattle, is in Portland for a short visit.
M. J. Buckley, superintendent of the O. K. and Southern Pacific lines in

Oregon, is out of town on a tour of inspection of the trackage under his supervision.

J. B. Lauer, secretary of the Portland Board of Trade, has been granted an indefinite leave of absence in order to attend to business matters. F. E. Reed, assistant secretary, will take the position of acting secretary during Mr. Lauer's absence.

A regular semi-monthly meeting of the directors of the Portland Consolidated Railway Company was held yesterday afternoon at the headquarters of the company in the Mohawk building. Usual routine business occupied the attention of the directors.

H. W. Roberts, general agent for the freight department of the Canadian Pacific Railway at Seattle, has resigned his position to accept a place with the American-Hawaii Steamship Company, with offices at the same place. The change will become effective February 1. His successor has not yet been named.

C. J. Mills, livestock agent of the O. R. & N. leaves tonight for Pendleton, where he will attend the convention of Oregon Woolgrowers' Association, which meets there on Saturday. Two sessions, one in the afternoon and the other at night, will be held. Subjects of interest to sheepraisers and livestock men will be taken up.

Charles Wanzler, chief engineer of the Pacific Railroad & Navigation Company, left Wednesday night for Omaha, where it is rumored he goes on business connected with the line headed by E. E. Lytle. The latter denies any knowledge of the object of Mr. Wanzler's trip and says private business calls him East.

CHICAGO, Jan. 25.—(Special.)—Oregonians registered today as follows: From Portland—H. W. Scott, J. R. Emmett, at the Grand Pacific; P. Geering, Mrs. A. Smith, at the Auditorium; W. McBride, at the Bridge; W. B. Dennis, at the Annex.

NEW YORK, Jan. 25.—(Special.)—Northwestern people registered today as follows: From Portland—M. J. Morris, at the Cadillac; A. O'Brien, at the Murray Hill; From Tacoma—W. W. Mills and wife, at the Bristol.

From Seattle—W. W. Phillips, at the Imperial; T. Hunter, at the Brestin; E. F. Cassel, at the Murray Hill.

WANTS HIS MONEY BACK

H. W. DROHN ACCUSES WOMAN HE WANTED TO MARRY.

Declares That Laura Gassage, Alias Laura Williams, Bounced Him Out of Coin.

Soft soap, taffy, a pretty face and a coaxing manner used on H. W. Drohn, superintendent of Government works at St. Michaels, Alaska, by Laura Gassage, alias Laura Williams, formerly the wife of an insurance agent of Portland, tempted the old man into giving the woman money, diamonds and jewelry, amounting in all to over \$600.

Drohn, became bewitched over what he considered unrequited love and swore to a complaint, after giving the woman a check for \$100, which was cashed, and last night the woman with two names was landed in the City Jail by Detectives Day and Vaughn on a charge of larceny by bailie.

Drohn, who is 55 years old, although making plenty of money in Alaska, has not thrown much in the society of women. When he met Miss Gassage or Williams and found that she warmed up to his ardent words of devotion, he lavished upon her by all means in his power. They journeyed on a premarital honeymoon to San Francisco, where Drohn fitted his sweetheart out with gowns galore, returning to Portland, she wanted the man to buy out a lodging-house and saloon and go into partnership with an alleged brother. Drohn gave the woman a check for \$100 to carry out the plan. The check was cashed, but the hotel was not purchased. About \$500 of the amount is in the safe at the Imperial Hotel. Chief Gritzmacher has about \$400 worth of diamonds in his possession which Drohn claims. A friendly suit will be brought against the "Chick" today by Drohn's lawyer, H. C. King, to recover the diamonds, and a replevin action will be brought against the Imperial Hotel to recover the \$50.

WILL HAVE HIGH SCHOOL

St. Johns Taxpayers Vote to Establish Higher Grades.

St. Johns is to have a High School. At an enthusiastic meeting of representative citizens held last night at the schoolhouse, it was voted to empower the school directors to establish the higher grades as soon as it is expedient and necessary. It was also voted to investigate the James Johns bequest for school purposes in St. Johns.

The meeting was held under the auspices of the board of directors. Chairman Culp said that the matter of establishing a High School in St. Johns had been under consideration for more than a year, but the directors had found that they had no authority to establish it without a vote of the taxpayers. An explanation was made by Professor W. C. Alderson, principal of the school, who said that the rooms were all filled, and that it would be necessary to provide more room in a short time. Thomas Monahan, O. R. Downs and H. W. Brice spoke for a High School. On the vote, which was by ballot, there was but one vote against its establishment. It was left to the discretion of the directors how soon this branch should be established. It will first be ascertained how many will enter a High School class.

W. H. King spoke of the funds of the James Johns estate, which had been willed for school purposes in that place. Most of the land had been converted into cash, he said, and was in the hands of trustees, to be lent for the benefit of the "St. Johns High School," according to the terms of the will.

Mr. King said it was clearly the intention of James Johns that the money should be used for the St. Johns school. On motion, Mr. King and T. J. Monahan were appointed to ascertain the amount of money the trustees of the estate now have, and whether it was available. Out of the estate one block had been reserved on which to erect a High School. It is understood that there is now about \$700 on hand. The St. Johns school has an enrollment of 42 pupils, and 12 teachers, including the principal.

SPECIAL PANTS SALE

At the Woolen Mill Store.
Today we place on sale 150 pairs of men's fine worsted pants, at the special price of \$2 per pair; regular value is \$2.50. These pants are the best quality, and the neatest designs we have ever shown. See them in our Third-St. window. Brownsville Woolen Mill Store.

"POTTER" IN SERVICE

Queen of River Boats is Now on the Astoria Run.
Enjoy a trip to Astoria on the Potter. You will always remember the Astoria street dock every night at 8 o'clock, and the "Potter" (Saturday night, 8 P. M.) round trip. El Particulars at Third and Washington streets, Portland.

Friday Bargains at The Meier & Frank Store

49 Cent Silk Sale

2500 yards of fancy Silks to be sold today at half price—An accumulation of broken lines including figured taffeta shirtwaist suiting silks—Embroidered polka dot pongees, fancy figured moire silks, India silks, etc.—All good styles, designs and colorings for waists, shirtwaist suits, lining and trimming purposes—Silks selling regularly at 85c and \$1.00 the yard, to be cleaned up today at, yard **49c**



Two great special lots of fancy Waist and Shirtwaist Suits, at yard... **69c and 79c**
Values \$1.00, \$1.25 and \$1.50 per yard.
Cheney Brothers' 1906 Foulard Silks in superb styles—\$1.00 grade, **79c** yard; \$1.25 grade, **89c** yard; \$1.25 grade **\$1.05** yard.

1000 Window Shades Today

\$1.25 to \$1.75 Values at 49c Ea.
In the Upholstery Department—Third Floor—we place on sale at promptly 8 o'clock this morning a great special lot of Window Shades—odds and ends made up in our own workrooms—some of them are slightly marred; three sizes, 53 inches wide by 6 feet long, 44 inches wide by 6 feet long, 39 inches wide by 6 feet long; made of hand-painted opaque and mounted on Harts-horn rollers; green only; regular \$1.25 and \$1.75 values; your choice at **49c**. Better come early if you want to share in this offering.

Boys' \$10, \$12.50 Suits \$6.69 Ea.



Extra special values in Boys' Clothing today and tomorrow. Boys' fine quality Sailor Suits in red, brown, navy and royal blue; combination collar and shield; ages 3 to 7 years; this season's best styles; \$10 to \$12.50 values for... **\$6.69**
Boys' all-wool two-piece, double-breasted and Norfolk Suits, in dark mixed cassimeres and chevrons; ages 8 to 16 years; the very best styles for school wear; regular \$4 and \$4.50 values... **\$2.98**
Boys' fancy Overcoats, in reds, tans and mixtures; ages 2 1/2 to 7 years; large variety of leading styles; sold regularly at \$10.00 each; wonderful values today at this special low price... **\$6.15**
Entire stock of boys' and young men's Suits and Overcoats on sale at low clearance prices—Second Floor

50c, 75c, \$1 Golf Gloves 39c Pair

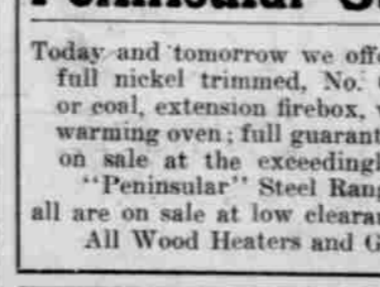
Broken lines of women's Golf Gloves; odd lots 50c, 75c and \$1.00 values... **39c** in good styles; great values at this exceptionally low price of pair... **39c**
Broken lines of women's Mocha Gloves on sale at this low price of pair... **69c**
Our entire stock of Perrin's real French Kid Gloves on sale at values ranging from \$1.50 to \$3.00 a pair. Anticipate your Easter needs. Complete stock of elbow-length kid gloves. All shades and all sizes. Glace and suedes. Clearance sale prices on the entire stock. All our silk gloves on sale at low clearance sale prices.

Extra Specials in Muslin Underwear



Women's nainsook and cambric Corset Covers, trimmed in Valenciennes laeces and embroideries, headings and ribbons; very pretty styles; regular... **59c**
75c and \$1.00 values on sale for low price of... **59c**
Special lot of women's cambric and nainsook Drawers; lace and embroidery trimmed; very pretty styles; our best 35c and 50c values; your choice **25c** at the exceedingly low price of, pair... **25c**
Special lot of women's cambric and nainsook Gowns, round and V-shape necks, long and short sleeves, trimmed in terehon lace, val lace and embroideries; all sizes; regular \$1, \$1.25 values... **69c**
Great special lot of Corset Covers in nainsooks and cambrics, trimmed in terehon lace, insertion and tucks; all sizes; best 35c values for, each... **18c**
Special lot of women's white Underskirts; trimmed in laeces, embroideries and plain tucked flounces; very attractive styles; 75c to \$1.00 values on sale... **39c** at the exceptionally low price of, each... **39c**

Extra Specials in Infants' Wear



Special lot infants' Moccasins; 25c values for, pair... **12c**
White embroidered Flannel for children's skirts; \$1.25 values for, on sale for... **12c**
Special sale of white Flannel for infants' socks and wraps; pink, blue and white silk dots; regular \$1.35... **98c**
Bear brand Shetland Flows, white only; value \$1.25 a pound, on sale at the special low price, pound... **75c**
Infants' handkerchiefs, lace-trimmed edges; white pink or blue; all sizes; \$2 values... **\$1.47**
Arnold's Knit Gowns... **98c**
Arnold's Knit Diapers... **10c**
Stockinet Sheets, size 36x45 inches; \$2.50 values for the very low price of, each... **\$1.63**

Peninsular Steel Ranges at \$27.00

Today and tomorrow we offer 50 of our "Peninsular" planished steel Ranges, full nickel trimmed, No. 6 or 8 covers, large oven, asbestos lined, burn wood or coal, extension firebox, ventilated oven, steel-head rivets, and extra-large warming oven; full guarantee for 10 years; our best \$35.00 model... **\$27.00**
on sale at the exceedingly low price of, each... **\$27.00**
"Peninsular" Steel Ranges, 30 models; every good size and style up to \$75; all are on sale at low clearance sale prices—Basement.
All Wood Heaters and Gas Stoves at clearance sale prices.

Clearance Sale of Dinner Sets in the Basement

60-piece German China Dinner Sets; blue violet decoration; \$17.50 value... **\$12.60**
100-piece Set, same as above... **\$18.30**
Haviland China Dinner Sets; pink rose decoration; open stock patterns... **\$17.10**
60-piece Set, on sale for, set... **\$17.10**
100-piece Set, on sale for, set... **\$22.95**
Haviland China Dinner Set; purple and green decoration; stippled gold edge; special values at these prices—... **\$25.42**
60-piece Set, on sale for... **\$25.42**
100-piece Set, on sale for... **\$42.20**
Haviland China Dinner Sets; blue forget-me-not pattern; gold edge; great values at these prices—... **\$25.25**
100-piece Set, on sale for... **\$42.20**
Mrs. Potts' nickleed Sad Irons; \$1.25 value, set... **98c**
Nickel Lamp; 16-inch white dome shade; central draft burner; extraordi... **\$1.44**
Navy value at... **\$1.44**
The Griswold Food Choppers, chops all kinds of meats, raw or cooked; fine or coarse; chops vegetables, dried fruits, etc.; etc.; three sizes; great values at these low prices—... **\$1.00**
\$1.00 size, 64c; \$1.25 size, 88c; \$1.50 size, 98c.

Women's \$25 Suits \$10.85

Special lot of 53 Women's Tailored Suits—All this season's styles in jacket and 3/4-length, tight-fitting effects—Tweeds, chevrons and cashmeres in plain colors and fancy mixtures—Plain tailored and braid trimmed—About all sizes—Exactly 53 suits in the lot. We don't expect they'll last more than two or three hours—if you want one, better come early as possible this morning—\$25.00 suits on sale at this ridiculously low price, each **\$10.85**



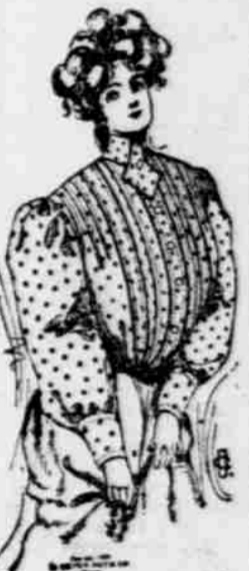
All our high-grade Velvet Suits at one-half price. Evening Costumes and Wraps at one-third off. All our Walking Skirts at low prices. Raincoats at low clearance sale prices. Dress Skirts at quick-selling prices. All grades of Suits at clearance prices. All Coats at prices far below cost. Silk, cotton and lace Waists, prices from 98c to \$90, all at low clearance sale prices. Kimonos, Matinees, Wrappers, Dressing Saques, Petticoats, all at greatly reduced prices—Second Floor.

Women's Combination Purses and Cardcases at 33c on the Dollar

Our entire stock of women's Combination Purses and Cardcases on sale at remarkably low prices. Seal, walrus, alligator and other high-grade leathers; very best styles and makes; all grades; note the wonderfully low prices we have made on them:
25c values at... **8c** \$1.00 values at... **33c** \$ 4.00 values at... **\$1.33**
35c values at... **12c** \$1.25 values at... **42c** \$ 5.00 values at... **\$1.66**
50c values at... **17c** \$1.50 values at... **50c** \$ 6.00 values at... **\$2.00**
75c values at... **25c** \$2.00 values at... **67c** \$ 7.00 values at... **\$2.33**
85c values at... **28c** \$2.50 values at... **83c** \$ 8.00 values at... **\$2.77**
\$3.00 values at... **\$1.00** \$10.00 values at... **\$3.33**

Sale of 40 Fine Silk Waists Values Up to \$22.00 for \$6.45

At promptly 10 o'clock this morning we will place on sale a special lot of 40 high-grade Silk Waists—Crepe de chins, chiffon cloths and taffeta silks—Fancy round and pointed yokes—Surplice fronts and accordion-plaited effects—Lace, tucked and shirred trimmed—White, tan, blue, navy, brown and black—Beautiful Dress and Evening Waists worth up to \$22 each—Choice while \$6.45 they last at phenomenally low price **\$6.45**
NOT A ONE OF THEM WILL BE SOLD BEFORE 10 O'CLOCK.



Silk Petticoat Bargains
Three great special lots of fine silk Petticoats, in plain and changeable colorings; all the leading shades; black, tan, red, green, navy, purple, gray, helio, pink, etc., etc.; accordion-plaited, three ruffles, stitched bands and ruffling trimmed; best values in the city.
\$7.50 Silk Petticoats for \$4.55
\$9 Silk Petticoats \$5.45--\$12. \$14 Vals. \$6.35

Great Values in Women's Fine Shoes

500 pairs of women's box calf, vici kid, patent-tip Shoes, light or heavy soles, lace styles, all sizes and widths; shoes of equal styles and grade are sold at other stores at \$3.00 a pair; our price for this sale, pair... **\$1.79**
1000 pairs of women's patent leather vici kid, velour calf Shoes; all this season's very best styles in lace and Blucher; button, lace and college cut; all sizes and widths; Johnson Brothers' splendid footwear; every pair guaranteed to give satisfactory service, we sell them at this sale for... **\$2.15**
All our J. & T. Cousins' fine Shoes for women on sale at clearance sale prices. Johnson Brothers' and French, Shriner & Urner's fine Shoes at low prices. Misses' vici kid, patent-tip lace Shoes; best values ever offered at: 5 to 8 at, pair... **\$1.02** 8 1/2 to 11 at, pair... **\$1.22** 11 1/2 to 12 at, pair... **\$1.52**
All our men's, boys' and children's Shoes at low clearance sale prices.

The New Valentines Are Ready

Portland's largest and best display of Valentines—thousands and thousands of them in every new novelty and effect—comics, post cards, lace valentines, new drop valentines, exquisite hand-painted valentines. Prices very reasonable. Bookstore—Main Floor.
CLEARANCE SALE OF BOOKS
All sets of books at cost. All Bibles at 40 per cent reduction. Children's toy books at one-third off. 6-inch School Globes 35c each. All reference books, travel, history, art, etc., at prices below cost—Bookstore. Entire stock of books at clearance sale prices.



Best Hosiery Bargains in the City

800 pairs of women's fine 40-gauge imported German Cotton Hose; double sole; all sizes; fast color; the best 30c and 35c values on sale for pair... **18c**
Women's and misses' fine 1x1-rib lisle Hose; seamless; sizes 8 1/2 to 10; every pair in the lot regular 35c value; your choice at the clearance price of, pair... **18c**
Women's fine black gauze lisle Hose; double sole; dull finish; fine gauze; all sizes; every pair the regular 50c values, on sale at the low price of, pair... **27c**
Women's 2x1-rib Cashmere Hose; all sizes; 50c values on sale at, pair... **27c**
Women's cotton Hose; fine gauge; double sole; regular 25c values on sale at **17c**
Children's fleeceline Hose; light weight for misses, heavy weight for boys; all sizes; fast color; best 25c values on sale at the extraordinary price of... **19c**
Misses' fine rib light weight lisle thread Hose; all sizes; on sale at, pair... **19c**

Blanket Sale

100 pairs of 10-4 white wool Blankets, blue and pink borders, full weight and good values at, pair... **\$4.45**
100 pairs of white wool Blankets, in full size and weight, pink or blue borders; best \$6.50 grade, today... **\$5.40**
Extra-large size natural gray wool Blankets, fancy colored borders; our best \$7.00 values on sale at this exceedingly low price... **\$5.85**
All our gray wool Blankets at clearance sale prices.
All our white wool Blankets at clearance sale prices.
Goose-feather Pillows; regular size; blue and white striped; heavy tick covering; best \$2.00 values on sale at the low price of, each... **\$1.29**