

WEAK POINT IN THE INITIATIVE

Conflicting Measures May Be Enacted.

SEVERAL BEFORE THE VOTERS

Details of the Bills Show a Wide Divergence.

ALL COULD BECOME LAW

Special Session of the Oregon Legislature Would Then of Necessity Be Called to Straighten Out the Tangle.

buffet, palace, oil and refrigerator cars, the amount of the license fee being based upon the gross earnings. Statements of gross receipts are required, together with other information, as provided by the chief company shall pay a gross earnings license tax of 2 per cent. These two measures, being different in their plan of taxation, if both are adopted, both might stand the test of the courts, and the companies be compelled to pay the double tax.

Two Printing Office Amendments.

Another instance of direct conflict is seen in the proposed constitutional amendments upon the subject of the office of State Printer. The People's Power League has drafted an amendment which leaves the subject of state printing entirely in the control of the Legislature, so that the Legislature may let the printing out by contract to the lowest bidder, or provide for the election of a State Printer and fix his salary or rate of compensation. This amendment proposes to make the state printing office entirely a legislative office.

The typographical unions have prepared an amendment which proposes to make the office a constitutional one, and requires that all public printing be done at the state printing office at Salem. This would prevent either letting the printing by contract, or "farming" it out, by a printer who was himself paid by rates, and who let the work be done in part by commercial printers.

This latter amendment would probably make it necessary for the state to own its printing plant, whereas the plan is now owned by private persons and rented to the occupant of the office. It is apparent that these two proposed amendments are in direct conflict, and there would be confusion if both should be adopted.

Various Other Measures.

Besides these measures, which are conflicting in their terms, there will be submitted for the consideration of and the adoption or rejection by the people, the following proposed laws or constitutional amendments:

An amendment proposed by the People's Power League to permit the referendum to be demanded against one or more items, sections or parts of an act passed by the Legislature, and extending the initiative and referendum to cities so that it can be exercised in municipal affairs.

An amendment preventing the Legislature from passing charter bills and giving the people of a municipality power to enact and amend their own charters under the general laws of the state.

An amendment to article II, sections 1 and 2, providing that a constitutional amendment may be submitted to the people after being adopted by one legislative session, instead of requiring the adoption by two sessions as at present, and also providing that only a majority of five-sevenths of the voters shall be required, instead of a majority of all the votes cast at the election, as at present. This proposed amendment also provides that no constitutional convention shall be called unless approved by the people on a referendum vote.

Against Railroad Passes.

A law proposed by the People's Power League making it unlawful for any public-service corporation to grant any pass or reduced-rate ticket or transportation to any person unless the same be upon the same terms that are given to the public generally, but this does not prevent the giving of passes to officers or employees of the company or exchange with other companies or the giving of passes to persons attending shipments of live stock. This measure requires railroad and other public-service companies to make an annual report of all passes or "free or reduced service rates granted, with the names of the persons to whom granted, and also requires all public officers to make an annual declaration under oath that they have not received or used any free or reduced-rate pass or service from such a company.

An Amendment to the Constitution.

An amendment to the constitution, proposed by the Woman Suffrage League, extending the elective franchise to women.

An amendment proposed by R. R. Ryan, of Salem, fixing flat salaries for state officers.

A law proposed by the Wholesale Liquordealers' Association, to amend the local-option law by increasing the percentage of signatures required to submit the liquor question, and making the local-option law effective by precincts only, so that two or more precincts cannot be grouped together.

A law proposed by the owners of the Barlow road, providing for the purchase of the road by the state for \$24,000.

How Confusion May Result.

The fear expressed is, that with so many measures submitted, the voters, or a large number of them, will not vote against the measures they do not want, and thereby two propositions upon the same subject might be adopted, or that some which fall and careful attention has not been given might become laws.

How Two Measures May Be Adopted.

The Development League bill provides that railroad companies shall report to the state executive council, composed of the Governor, Secretary of State and State Treasurer, the number of sleeping, dining, oil and refrigerator cars not owned by said company but used by it in operating its railroads in this state during each month of the year, the value of each car so used, the number of miles each car has been run on said railroad each month and the number of miles each car has been run each month in the state.

Two Special Car Bills.

The Grange has a bill for the levying of a license tax upon sleeping, dining, buffet, palace, oil and refrigerator cars, the amount of the license fee being based upon the gross earnings. Statements of gross receipts are required, together with other information, as provided by the chief company shall pay a gross earnings license tax of 2 per cent. These two measures, being different in their plan of taxation, if both are adopted, both might stand the test of the courts, and the companies be compelled to pay the double tax.

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SEA WOLF McLEAN LOST IN BIG GALE

Goes Down With Crew of Six When Fishing Schooner Turns Turtle.

LAST SEEN IN DISTRESS

Daring Seal-Poacher Had Many Adventures and Was Wanted by Government for Raid on Copper Island Rookery.

VICTORIA, B. C., Jan. 28.—The fishing schooner Ella G., a small "pinkie" schooner of about 15 tons, is reported from Bamfield to have been lost with all hands, six in number, having turned turtle in the southwest gale of Tuesday, when the wind blew from 50 to 60 miles an hour. There were six men on board, one of whom was the notorious sealer, Alex McLean, whose escapades with the sealing schooner Carmencita caused the United States Government to order a revenue cutter to arrest the vessel.

The Ella G. formerly owned in Seattle and purchased by Victorians after being taken from Clayoquot, where she was wrecked three years ago, left Victoria Saturday, the 26th, on a fishing cruise off the Vancouver Island coast in the vicinity of the entrance of the Straits. She was seen Tuesday last by settlers at Carmanah Point, standing off Bonilla Point, 27 miles to the eastward of Carmanah, and according to those who then watched her, she did not pass out, and appeared to be acting strangely.

Ballast May Have Shifted.

Last night there were rumors that she had been lost, a dispatch coming from Bamfield Creek to the effect that the schooner had turned turtle and all on board were lost.

The Ella G., after she was salvaged from the beach at Clayoquot, had a large amount of ballast of cement and pig iron removed, and it is not thought the ballast was placed properly in the vessel again. Captain Alex McLean, who was interested with Captain Forest, a local fisherman, and Mr. Winch, of this city, in the ownership of the schooner, was a sealer who has become notorious as a result of the sealing raids and a recent illicit sealing cruise to Behring Sea in the schooner Carmencita. Jack London, the novelist, stated McLean was the foundation for the character of Larsen, "The Sea Wolf" of his novel of that name, and he has since been known on the Pacific Coast as "The Sea Wolf."

Daring of the Sea Wolf.

With a brother, Dan McLean, who died some years ago, McLean engaged in sealing on the Pacific Coast for many years and on one occasion was seized by the Russian cruiser Aleut, when sailing off the Copper Islands with the American schooner James Hamilton Lewis, and he then most daringly tried to disable the cruiser by throwing a cable about her propeller. The attempt did not succeed and he and his crew were imprisoned.

McLean was responsible for a number of sealing raids, the last being in August of 1904, when he tried to raid Copper Island and was driven off by shore guards, two of his men being shot, one, Walter York, afterward dying at Port Townsend. In consequence of this the United States Secret Service men started to work, and orders were given for McLean's arrest when he was absent on his voyage last year, with a crew of 21 men from San Francisco.

The owners at San Francisco were indicted and are now on bail, and a warrant was issued for McLean, which was never served, as he remained at Victoria, where the Carmencita, now in port, was sold to pay debts. An effort was made by the Washington Government to seize McLean, arrested for illicit sealing, which failed, and he remained here, engaging in fishing until his last fatal voyage.

PATIENTS WERE IN DANGER

FIRE IN BELLEVUE HOSPITAL IS QUICKLY EXTINGUISHED.

Sheets of Asbestos in Laundry Building Disappear Like Paper Before the Flames.

NEW YORK, Jan. 28.—Eight hundred patients in Bellevue Hospital were endangered by a fire in the laundry building early today. Through the quiet and effective work of the hospital brigade and the regular firemen, who responded with muffled bells, only a small number in some of the outlying pavilions were awakened. By prompt work the fire was confined to the laundry and the loss was only a few thousand dollars.

Spontaneous combustion is believed to have started the fire, a remarkable feature of which was that sheets of asbestos, supposed to be fireproof, burned like tinder, according to Steward Philip H. Smith, chief of the hospital fire brigade.

BIG LOSS TO TRAINING STATION

Apprentices in Irons Have a Narrow Escape From Death.

NEWPORT, R. I., Jan. 28.—Seven buildings, connected with the United States Naval Training Station at Coasters Harbor Island in this city, were destroyed by fire tonight, causing an estimated loss of \$100,000. The buildings destroyed were the detention building, machine shop, paint

EVENTS OF COMING WEEK.

Except for possible developments in the Franco-Venezuelan crisis, and possibly through unexpected complications in the Moroccan conference, the week begins with little promise of news events of an unusual character. The critical point in the Franco-Venezuelan situation which seemed imminent has passed for the moment, as France has announced that she will await a "more propitious time" for taking such action against Venezuela as she has decided upon. It is intimated that her desire is to await the conclusion of the Algeiras convention before involving herself with Venezuela.

shop, paymaster's storehouse, carpenter shop, and two small streets.

One of the burned buildings contained all of the small boats and cutters used for practice purposes. All were destroyed. Several apartments in a building were confined by the detention building at the time the fire broke out. Physical instructor Joseph Kirby liberated them by a heroic effort. When he reached the detention building he found it hot, and the young prisoners on account of the smoke, but they answered his call. Supported by a line of men Kirby made his way to the spot where the boys were confined, and passed them back one by one to the wall behind him, and so out to the seawall. In passing over the seawall two of the manacled boys fell overboard, but were rescued.

PEORIA POLICEMAN GOES VIOLENTLY INSANE.

Holds Up Police Station and Then Barricades Himself in House With Gun and Revolver.

PEORIA, Ill., Jan. 28.—Charles Harwood, an ex-police man, now violently insane, entered his police headquarters this evening and with a revolver held up several officers for 15 minutes, while he vented his insane wrath in a deluge of curses. After threatening to shoot the entire crowd and falling to shoot himself, he was taken to a hospital, where he was held in a cell.

DRIVES OUT NAKED WIFE

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Postmaster W. T. Cavanaugh, of Olympia, accidentally shoots Dr. J. W. Maxwell while hunting. Page 1.

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75-CENT GAS IS ISSUE IN CHICAGO

City Council Will Cut Price and Save Consumers From Greedy Graft.

PORTLAND PRICE TOO HIGH

Expert Testimony Shows Profits in 75 Cents in Illinois and Indicates Cheaper Manufacture in Oregon.

CHICAGO, Jan. 28.—(Special.)—The City of Chicago, through Mayor Dunne and the Municipal Council, is waging a fight for 75-cent gas. Representatives of the gas companies have told the lighting committee of the Council that gas cannot be produced and sold in this city at that price. The rates are now 90 cents and 81, and the most prominent experts in the United States declare that 75 cents is a generous price to pay. One university professor, who has made a study of the question, challenges the companies to contradict successfully his statement that the companies could make a fair profit by selling gas to Chicago consumers at 75 cents.

In the light of the expert testimony on the gas question in this city, the 60-cent rate, offered in Portland, Or., for a new franchise, would be fair to the public and would afford a profit to the manufacturer, owing to the much cheaper price of oil on the Pacific Coast and the fact that capitalization and bonded indebtedness have not yet been inflated to the limit in Portland, and rates do not have to be high in order to pay consequent dividends and interest.

Chicago gas is made from crude oil, the same as Portland gas; therefore, apt comparisons can be made between the rates of the two cities. Many other East-coast cities use oil for gas manufacture, and though they pay much more for oil than do Pacific Coast plants for the California product, the rates to consumers are universally less than in Portland, even in cities which make gas out of coal—a much more expensive process—as in Cincinnati and Cleveland, where the price to consumers is 75 cents, or 40 cents less than in Portland. Coal gas is the name of the product in those cities, where oil is used, the product is called water gas.

The situation here is more favorable for consumers than at Portland, Or., in that the Legislature of Illinois has given City Councils the right to fix the price of gas in this and other cities in the state, while the Legislature of Oregon has not done so for the cities of Oregon. Consequently, while the people of Chicago can force fair rates for gas, through their City Council, the people of Portland have not this recourse, and must have it until the Legislature of Oregon shall grant the Portland Council the power.

Council Studies Gas Cost.

The Council of Chicago has proceeded to avail itself of this right, and in order that the legislative body of the city may deal fairly with the gas companies and may not be charged with confiscation of property, it has undertaken an exhaustive inquiry into the cost of manufacturing and distributing gas to consumers.

Much data has been procured from other cities concerning the price now paid for gas. Here are the figures for the municipalities named:

Chicago	..... \$1.00
New York	..... 1.00
St. Paul	..... 1.10
St. Louis	..... 1.10
Boston	..... .90
Duluth	..... .90
Cleveland	..... .75
Cincinnati	..... .75
Terre Haute	..... .75
Wheaton	..... .75

The cases of Cincinnati and Cleveland, being cities of nearly 200,000 population, are cited by the advocates of cheaper gas in proof of the fact that 75-cent gas is not unreasonable. The gas companies, on the other hand, declare that while the cost price of gas in the cities named is less than it is here, the quality of the gas offered is inferior to Chicago gas—that it is coal gas and is of smaller candlepower. The authorities do not accept the word of the gas men, who, while proclaiming that 75-cent gas is a commercial impossibility, have steadfastly refused to permit a detailed examination of their books or to furnish figures of their own in refutation of the contention of the city.

The Ogdon Gas Company has submitted to a partial scrutiny of its accounts, but the People's Gas Light and Coke Company has pleaded that "it would be giving away its own hand to throw open its books to the authorities."

75 Cents a Fair Price.

It is admitted by the Council investigators that local conditions must be taken into consideration in fixing upon a fair and reasonable price for gas. The cost of fuel and labor and other expenses in a given city, as compared with another city, must be reckoned with. So also is it necessary to take into account the kind of gas furnished, its candlepower and sustained quality. It is interesting, therefore, to know the experts declare that gas of 26 candlepower ought to be furnished to Chicago consumers at 75 cents, and this where the price of labor is reasonably high.

That dollar gas is entirely too high, every gas company in Chicago has virtually admitted. The Ogdon Gas Company is now furnishing gas for 50 cents and James F. Meagher, general counsel for the People's Company, has made an offer to the city to reduce the price from \$1 to 90 cents, suggesting, but not demanding, that the company be given a five-year franchise on that basis.

Mr. Meagher naively declared that this offer was made because he did not wish the city to fix a price that would mean

confiscation and drive the company into the courts for self-protection. Litigation, he suggested, would run along for three or four years and cause endless friction. The lighting committee, reading between the lines, decided that if Mr. Meagher would volunteer a reduction of 10 cents a thousand cubic feet there was good reason for believing the company would still have a good thing, if it obtained only 75 cents. The preliminary expert testimony employed by the city bears out this belief.

Bemis Defends 75-Cent Rate.

Professor E. W. Bemis, of Cleveland, acknowledged to be one of the best authorities in the country on the cost of producing and distributing gas in large cities, has submitted facts and figures to the Council demonstrating that a 75-cent rate in Chicago is reasonable. His computation, as a matter of fact, makes the topmost figure, 74 cents, after allowing a liberal margin of profit to the companies.

Manufacturing and putting in holder..... 25.50
Cost of distribution..... 21.71
Repairs, renewals and reserve fund..... 3.49
Six per cent interest..... 19.20
Total..... 70.90

He admitted in the case of the People's Gas Company, when questioned by its representatives, that the cost, including a fair profit, might be between 72 and 74 cents, because that company is required by ordinance to furnish 24-candle power.

"I believe my estimate is correct," said Professor Bemis, "as we have no other recourse than to figure interest on the tangible value of or on what the gas plant could be duplicated for. When a gas plant costs \$15,000,000 and the capitalization is \$8,000,000, I say it is right to make the estimates on the actual values. If the people buy the securities they take their own risk. The public should not be compelled to pay higher prices for gas just because investors may or may not have made an error in judgment."

Profit in 59-Cent Rate.

Professor John E. Webb, of the University of Chicago, is authority for the tangible value of gas can be sold profitably in Chicago for 59 cents a thousand cubic feet. He says:

"Those who know the general and special facts with reference to the items of cost say 59 cents would cover the cost of furnishing all the raw material, of putting the gas in holders and of paying for all repairs on the plants and all labor and office expense involved in the process of manufacture. Fifteen cents," he declares, "would pay for distribution, including leakage, bad debts, cost of meters, repairs to mains in the streets and all labor and office expenses connected with distribution and collection."

"These figures are known to be high under an extravagant management, but for the sake of safety in the calculation they may be accepted. Five per cent on the actual investment would equal 12 cents more per thousand cubic feet, thus making a total of 71 cents as a fair price, but make it 75 cents and in no court could evidence be adduced showing that that price is not reasonable and very generous in this city."

St. Louis Upholds 88 Cents.

E. G. Cowdry, general manager of the La Cledde Gas Company, of St. Louis, has submitted figures to the Council committee for consideration. He volunteered the information that a voluntary reduction in the price of gas in Milwaukee resulted in greater consumption and a consequent increase in the receipts of the company involved. He also brought out the important point that the production of water gas does not require the same amount of fuel as that used in the manufacture of coal gas. The candlepower of coal gas, he said, is only 18, while that of water gas is 24.

He differed, however, very materially from Professors Bemis and Webb on the cost of gas in Chicago. In this city he thought the kind of gas furnished at present by the People's Company ought to be worth 88 cents. He made the division of expense as follows:

Cost of manufacture	..... 50.00
Reserve fund	..... 10.00
Cost of distribution	..... 21.71
Interest on capital and dividends	..... 25.00
Total	..... 106.71

It will be readily noted that Mr. Cowdry, unlike Professor Bemis, took into the equation the factor of overcapitalization. Professor Bemis allows 2.50 cents for repairs, renewals and reserve fund. Mr. Cowdry allows 19 cents for reserve fund alone. Professor Bemis allows 19.20 cents for interest on investment and Mr. Cowdry 25 cents for interest and dividends. He makes the cost of manufacture 75 cents higher than Mr. Bemis and the cost of distribution about 2 cents higher. The Council committee is not disposed to look upon Mr. Cowdry's figures as absolutely impartial, because he is in the gas business himself.

Fair Profit in 60 Cents.

H. M. Ashton, special attorney for the city on gas and electric lighting, is one who believes the word of the gas company officials counts for little.

"The sooner we realize that we cannot get 75-cent gas without a fight," he said, "the better off we shall be."

Mr. Ashton said he had evidence from various cities showing that gas could be produced at a profit at 60 cents or even less. He recalled the famous Cleveland gas suit of 1882. "In that suit," he said, "The officials of the company reported that the cost, aside from depreciation and profit, but including taxes, was 28 cents per thousand cubic feet at the burner. In the report that two Chicago companies made to the New York Stock Exchange when it was desirable to show how valuable were the securities, the total cost of gas, including piping, maintenance, taxes, etc., was said to be 48 cents—this not including profit."

He said the average price of gas in the municipally owned plants in Europe is

BUSINESS BETTER SINCE THE FAIR

Predicted Slump Fails to Materialize.

PESSIMISTS POOR PROPHETS

City Never More Prosperous Than at Present Time.

EVIDENCE IS INDISPUTABLE

Bank Clearings, Postoffice Receipts, Building Permits and Real Estate Transfers All Show Gains Over 1904.

Those who had the foresight and good judgment to predict that the Lewis and Clark Exposition would be followed by no aftermath of business depression in Portland and the State of Oregon are now reaping their reward, especially if they backed up their opinion by investing in local real estate, while those who confidently sounded the warning of a coming slump are now denied even the satisfaction of uttering the time-honored phrase, "I told you so." Conditions in all lines of business in Portland were never better than at present, while the prospects for the future are rainbow hued.

When the Exposition was but in the formative period, a class of people, always ready to see the dark side of things, began talking about the bad effect it would have on all lines of business. When the Fair was in progress and its success as a great public enterprise was unassailable, these pessimistic forecasts were continued. Now that the gates of the Exposition have been closed a sufficient time to permit of a definite conclusion being reached, it is admitted by everyone and proved by statistics that its effect was for the good and that every kind of business is more prosperous than at the corresponding period of previous years.

The present prosperity of Portland, however, does not bear any of the earmarks of a boom. Whenever a boom occurs in any city it is pretty generally followed by a relapse and stagnation of business, but in the case of Portland it is just a healthy, steady growth in all lines. There is every reason to believe that the present rate of progress is to be continued in the immediate future.

A comparison of the bank clearances for the months following the Exposition and corresponding months last year shows a substantial increase. During October, 1905, half of which belonged to the post-Exposition period, the clearings of the Portland Clearing-House Association were \$24,635,174.41. In October, 1904, the clearings were \$21,627,106.58. The November and December clearings of 1905 amounted to \$21,683,825.86, and for the same period the previous year to \$20,698,377.73.

Indicates a General Growth.

That this advance is simply a step in the general growth of the business of the city is shown by the fact that the clearings for these two months in 1905 were only \$16,282,230.52. Of course the figures for the present year are not available, but indications are that they will be well in excess of those of the opening month of other years.

"Conditions were never better in banking circles," says A. L. Mills, president of the First National. "Instead of any depression after the close of the Exposition there has been a steady increase in business, and of course an increase in the transactions of the banks means general progress." The outlook was never more favorable.

J. Frank Watson, president of the Merchants' National, gave similar testimony. "One feature that is worthy of notice is that there is more outside capital in the banks than ever before," he said. "This capital is here to be invested in Portland property and Portland business, so it shows what strangers think of our city. Practically every business enterprise in the city is doing more than it was one year ago. The merchants all testify to the activity and the figures of the banks bear out their statements."

"We can confidently expect great things to follow the building of the north-bank road. As soon as the opposition to building the bridge over the Willamette and other obstacles are removed we shall feel the effects of its entrance to this city even more than we have already."

Another criterion of a healthy condition of business in Portland is the increase in postal receipts. There was a wonderful increase in these figures during the Fair period, and people were inclined to think that it was due to the influx of visitors at that time. Doubtless a portion was, but subsequent developments indicate that the largest part was due to the growth of the city and the growth of its business. The sale of stamps did not diminish to any appreciable extent after the close of the Fair. The receipts for November and December reached a total of \$8,648,223. This is an increase of \$2,153,347 over corresponding months of 1904.

Postoffice Receipts Larger.

According to Postmaster Minto, 1905 has opened just as encouragingly. "When completed, the January sales statement will doubtless show an increase over one year ago fully as great as December last year," he said.