

CHANGE OF FRONT

Idaho Members Will Not Oppose Nettleton.

DUBOIS FRIGHTENS THEM

Fight Over Nampa Postmaster Suddenly Ends When Heyburn and French Learn Dubois Has Interesting Papers.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Feb. 27.—Only yesterday Senator Heyburn and Representative French declared most emphatically that they would defeat the confirmation of A. G. Nettleton as postmaster at Nampa, Idaho, on the ground that he was out of harmony with the county and state Republican organization. Over night they heard that Senator Dubois would champion Mr. Nettleton and probably received a hint that he might produce some interesting, if not damaging documents, showing that the opposition to Mr. Nettleton grows out of his refusal to pay campaign assessments made against him by State Chairman Brady. Whatever their motive, they have completely changed their tune and are today willing to abide by the President's decision that postmasters need not make political contributions in order to retain their offices.

Mr. Heyburn, who intended to lead the fight, and who had arranged to have a hearing before the postoffice committee in opposition to Mr. Nettleton, today issued a statement that he will take no action regarding Mr. Nettleton's confirmation until the people of Nampa have had an opportunity to express their wishes. "If Mr. Nettleton's reappointment is satisfactory to them, it is to me," he said.

Mr. French, who was formerly disappointed at Mr. Nettleton's nomination and who intended to appear with Mr. Heyburn to oppose his confirmation, says today he will not take the initiative, but will follow Mr. Heyburn. He hopes no action will be taken on the nomination, so that at the close of this session Mr. Nettleton will be reconfirmed. If this could be brought about, Mr. French is reported to the President to appoint Victor E. Elver, endorsed by the state machine, on the ground that the Senate, having failed to act, did not approve of Mr. Nettleton's reappointment. But Mr. French is doomed to disappointment.

Another Step to Yakima Irrigation. OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Feb. 27.—The House today passed Representative Jones' bill permitting the Yakima Indians to sell pieces of their allotment and apply the proceeds to the purchase of permanent water rights for their remaining 20 acres. When this bill passed the Senate, the last material obstacle in the way of the Government irrigation project in the Yakima Valley will have been removed, and it is understood that steps will immediately be taken to prepare plans for this work.

Northwest Postal Affairs. OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Feb. 27.—Postmasters appointed: Oregon—Corner, O. B. Bates, vice Alice Barlow, removed; Howard, Samuel T. Galewood, vice R. J. Abell, removed. Washington—Rock Creek, Enoch W. Scoborn, vice S. Bourman, resigned. William S. Irwin has been appointed regular, Emerson F. Surface substitute rural carrier, route 4, at Estacada, Or.

Move to Open Coeur d'Alene Land. OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Feb. 27.—Representative French today introduced a bill to open the Coeur d'Alene Indian reservation in Idaho to settlement, after making 80-acre allotments to 500 Indians. About 200,000 acres of valuable land will be opened to entry under the various land laws.

Price of Alaska Coal Land. OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Feb. 27.—Senator Heyburn today introduced a bill providing that coal land in Alaska lying within 15 miles of a railroad shall be sold for \$10 an acre, and more remote coal land for \$5.

PROFIT IN 60-CENT GAS

(Continued From First Page.)

It is said it is found cheaper to use oil gas on a small scale to mix with the coal gas than to transform the entire plant into one for oil gas.

Oil Gas Cheaper on Coast.

Portland and San Francisco are both in a position to make oil gas cheaper than any other kind. The oil from the California fields can be purchased now for 30 to 35 cents at the wells in Southern California. In fact there are companies which will readily make contracts to supply oil in any quantity for a term of years at 25 cents a barrel. This means something like 30 cents a barrel delivered in San Francisco and 50 cents a barrel delivered in Portland.

Oil gas is the need of the Pacific Coast, and the only reason that it is not more generally used is the cost of transforming the gas plants for that purpose. Oakland uses oil gas, and so does Los Angeles. In the former city the price is exorbitant (\$1.50), but in Los Angeles it has been fixed at 35 cents and the gas company is making money.

The local gas company is assessed for \$3,000,000 on its plant. The supervisors approve the plant at \$12,000,000. The gas company alleges its plant is worth \$3,000,000, and demands that it be allowed a fair interest on that sum. The company says that during the year 1905 it expended \$2,083,322 in the manufacture and distribution of gas. Of this, the manufacturing cost was \$1,700,000. The total distributing cost was \$363,322. The administration cost \$684,411.

Cost of Administration.

Table with columns for item and cost. Includes Salaries, Office expenses, Office supplies, Legal expenses, Insurance, and Total.

The Supervisors suggested that if the \$450,000 which the company charged as cost of maintenance or depreciation be reduced to \$250,000 a \$200,000 more than last year, the charge of \$515,322 for bad debts be eliminated, and also the item of \$278,853 interest on bonded indebtedness cut out, a total of \$572,650 would be taken from the cost of the gas as shown in the report of the company for last year. This

WOULD REDUCE THE YEARLY COST OF MAKING AND DISTRIBUTING THE GAS FROM \$2,083,322 TO \$1,466,472.72.

Great Profits at \$1 Rate. Figuring on a valuation of \$12,000,000 this would give the company a revenue of about 9 per cent on its investment. This shows the enormous profits made on the dollar rate, even taking the company's own figures, which, in some instances, are believed to be greatly inflated. Such items as the cost of pipe are declared by experts to be greatly exaggerated in the figures of the gas company.

Turning now to the cost per thousand feet, the company alleges the gas it retails for \$1 costs it 73 cents delivered. It figures 31 cents for manufacturing, 13 cents for distribution and 35 cents for administration expenses. It will be seen by the figures given above that in "administration" is included interest on bonded indebtedness, loan debts, and the like, which the supervisors say should not be included.

Now the question arises for what can gas really be distributed to the people of San Francisco. The gas company says it cannot be done for less than 73 cents. As conditions in San Francisco and Portland are about identical it may be accepted then that the local gas company could supply gas in Portland at a cost of 73 cents to itself. As the local company is allowed a dollar rate here it acknowledges that its profit is 26 cents a thousand feet.

Exorbitant Rate in Portland.

At the outset, therefore, it is evident that the rate of \$1.15 charged in Portland is exorbitant, even from the standpoint of the gas company. Reference is made in all cases to gas of not less than 25 candle power. Anything that may be said as to the cost of gas in San Francisco, it must be understood, will apply with equal force to Portland. Provided, of course, that the capitalization and value of the plant is as inflated in Portland as in San Francisco.

Assuming that the local gas company was properly capitalized and was not asking the public to pay the interest for it on its borrowed or inflated capital, counting out the bad debts and cutting out the charge of depreciation (which figures twice, the second time as maintenance), the cost to the gas company of making and distributing gas is reduced to the remarkable figure of 45 cents. If one were inclined to be an idealist and chose to cut out leakage (which under modern conditions cannot be eliminated) he would still further reduce the figure to 33 cents. However, this is manifestly unfair, but the 45-cent cost is practical, according to those conversant with the situation in this city.

Figures Cost at 62 Cents.

The Gas Inspector of San Francisco, O. M. Tupper, who has made a careful study of the situation, and who has not allowed himself to be swayed by the public clamor for cheaper gas, has estimated that it can be made and distributed in San Francisco at a cost to the gas company of 62 cents. This would make 75 cents a fair rate. He figures that the 45-cent cost would be possible under certain conditions, but makes due allowance for certain claims of the company.

The Equitable Gas Company, above referred to, openly stated that the gas it sold for 50 cents a thousand cost it only 42.27 cents to make and distribute. It must be remembered, however, that this company supplied only the most thickly settled part of San Francisco. In this connection the last comparative table available is of greatest interest. It shows the cost of making gas as figured by the San Francisco Gas & Electric Company (as the local monopoly was then known) and the Equitable Gas Company. The figures are for the year 1903. The table is as follows:

Table with columns for item, San Francisco Gas & Electric Co., and Equitable Gas Co. Includes Anthracite coal, manufacturing, distribution, and total costs.

Naturally the gas question has brought up the issue of municipal ownership. It is argued if the improved conditions which the gas company says it cannot have about are possible, they could be secured through municipal ownership. It is pointed out that in Glasgow, where municipal ownership prevails, gas is supplied to consumers for 61 cents. Opponents of municipal ownership then refer to Sheffield, where gas is supplied under private ownership at 26 cents. However, it is a recognized fact that municipal ownership of gas plants on the Pacific Coast could in no way reduce conditions to a level below that already attained in point of service.

Lower Gas for Astoria.

ASTORIA, Or., Feb. 27.—(Special.)—An official announcement was made by the Astoria Electric Company today that on March 1 it will reduce the price of illuminating gas from \$2.50 to \$1.75 per 1000 feet. This will be the lowest rate on gas that has ever been granted in Astoria.

Kimuro Beaten by Honda.

K. Kimuro, a Japanese, was assaulted and badly beaten on the head at 1 o'clock this morning by M. Honda, another Japanese. Complaint was made at headquarters and Kimuro was requested to swear out a warrant this morning for his assailant's arrest.

CAN COMPEL REPLY

Decision on Interstate Commission's Power.

AS TO PRIVATE CAR LINES

Circuit Court Holds They Are Subject to Elkins Law and Must Not Give Rebates—Company Will Appeal.

CHICAGO, Feb. 27.—Judge Landis, in the United States Circuit Court, today made a decision in favor of the Interstate Commerce Commission, in which he declares the Commission has power to compel witnesses to answer questions. The decision was made in the case of Frank J. Reichmann, vice-president of the Streets Western Stable Car Line, who refused at a recent hearing before the Commission to answer the question, "What part of the mileage from whatever source have you given up to snippers during the last six months?" An appeal will be taken to the United States Supreme Court.

On advice of counsel, Mayor Reichmann refused to answer the question on the ground that the Commission was without authority to compel an answer. The decision is considered by the Government one of the most important of recent years touching on the powers of the Commission. It is taken by Government lawyers to mean that under the Elkins law private car lines can be regulated by the Commission as well as the corporation. The car line company contended that it had a right to give shipper money from its own treasury, so long as it was not acting as agent for the railway company. Judge Landis declares he does not believe Congress meant to enact that condition.

CAN'T REDRESS GREAT WRONG

Interstate Commission Finds Oil Rates Favor Standard.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—The Interstate Commerce Commission today in an opinion by Commissioner Prouty, announced his decision in the cases of the Fred G. Clark Company against the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Railway Company and the other end of the Waverly Oil Works against the Pennsylvania Railroad Company and others. In these cases the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad Company was the defendant. The Commission holds that the combination rates on petroleum and its products from Cleveland and Pittsburg to points reached by the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad Company resulted in unreasonable and unjust rates; that the refusal of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Company to consent to participate in through rates in that traffic is unjust and unreasonable; and that the situation is such as to operate greatly to the advantage of the Standard Oil Company.

The Commission, however, is without authority to grant relief in these cases and the petitions therefore are dismissed. Lodge Proposes New Commission. WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—Senator Lodge today introduced an amendment to the railroad rate bill, providing for the displacement of the Interstate Commerce Commission by a new commission of nine members. The amendment provides that not more than five members shall be of one party, three of them shall be lawyers and three persons of experience in the management of railroads. Salaries are fixed at \$12,000 for each member, except the chairman, who is given \$20,000 more.

PACKERS NOT UNDER OATH

Durand Says Their Own Lawyer Advised Them Against It.

CHICAGO, Feb. 27.—Evidence was introduced by the Government today tending to show that the matter of testifying under oath or not during the investigation conducted by Commissioner Garfield had been left to the packers themselves. It was claimed by District Attorney Morrison that this proved that the packers were not under compulsion when they gave their information to the agents of the Government. The examination of Mr. Garfield was concluded in the afternoon, and Mr. Durand followed him on the stand.

Adverse Decision Can't Stop Folk.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 27.—The decision of the Supreme Court yesterday that the police of the City of St. Louis have no authority to act in the county, outside the confines of the city, has occasioned much speculative comment in racing and liquor circles. Rumors are in circulation that an attempt will be made to open race tracks this Summer, and likewise the Sunday "big" will be lifted in the Summer gardens in St. Louis County.

GAVE HIS LIFE TO SCIENCE

End Comes to Secretary of Smithsonian Institution After Slight Paralytic Stroke—Writer and Famed Astronomer.

AIKEN, S. C., Feb. 27.—S. P. Langley, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and known as a scientist throughout the world, died here at noon today. Professor Langley was 72 years old. His whole life had been devoted to scientific work. Though by profession a civil engineer and architect, astronomy occupied most of his time. Several years ago Professor Langley conducted a series of experiments with a flying machine at Widewater, Va., on the Potomac River, the results of which were watched with wide-spread interest. The experiments, however, ended disastrously.

HIS FINAL FLIGHT

Prof. Langley, of Flying-Machine Fame, Dead.

Col. A. F. Walcott, Turfman.

NEW YORK, Feb. 27.—Colonel A. F. Walcott, a Civil War Veteran and turfman, died last night at his home here from heart disease. He was born in Salem, Mass., 68 years ago, and was a member of one of the oldest New England families. Colonel Walcott made a tour of the world twice. He began breeding horses at Crab Orchard, Ky., in 1855. Previous to this he had been well known as a speculator, having made and lost several fortunes in Wall street. He was one of the biggest buyers at the sale of the Lordillard stable, and built extensive stables at Sheephead Bay. In 1867 Colonel Walcott lost heavily on the wheat corner, and was forced to sacrifice his Monmouth Park stables.

CELSORSHIP AT STANFORD

President Jordan Gives Notice to College Correspondents.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, Palo Alto, Cal., Feb. 27.—The following notice was this afternoon given out by President David Starr Jordan: "No more news will be given out from the president's office to either Daily Palo Alto men or the student correspondents of the San Francisco papers until some arrangement is arrived at between these correspondents and the president's office by which the news given out to them will not be misconstrued." This decree in substance asserts an absolute censorship over all student news writers, and is manifestly an outgrowth of the recent trouble, when Ben Allen, formerly editor of the Daily Palo Alto, was suspended from the university. All university exercises will be suspended tomorrow in respect to the memory of the late Jane L. Stanford, who died in Honolulu a year ago.

BRIGHAM'S FINE STOCK GOES ON SALE TOMORROW A. M.

At Northwest Corner Seventh and Washington Streets

Under the Direction of SHANAHAN Portland's Greatest Bargain-Giver

FOR 31 years Brigham's Store has been the chosen trading place for people who use the very best Laces, Underwear, Hosiery and Notions that the markets of the world afforded for women and children. Brigham's name was only associated with the very best grades of merchandise. Brigham's prices were always as reasonable as the same qualities could be had for anywhere in the United States.

SHANAHAN Bought the entire Brigham stock and will place it on sale commencing tomorrow at 8 A. M. at an average of

65 PER CENT ON THE DOLLAR OF BRIGHAM'S LOW PRICES

Table listing various clothing items and prices. Includes YPSILANTI UNION SUITS, LADIES' SWISS RIBBED DRAWERS, CHILDREN'S VESTS AND DRAWERS, P. D. CORSETS, EQUIPOISE WAISTS, YPSILANTI TIGHTS, AUSTRALIAN WOOL CHILDREN'S, LADIES' AUSTRALIAN WOOL, LADIES' SWISS RIBBED VESTS, COLUMBIA WOOLS, and FURNISHING DEPARTMENT.

ART DEPARTMENT

All Stamped Linens 50 Per Cent Below Cost—Embroidery Cottons All 50 Per Cent Below Cost. Peri Lusta, D. M. C. Cotton, Electron, Helios. Point Lace and Battenberg Materials All 50 Per Cent Below Cost. Stamped Cushion Covers 50 Per Cent Below Cost. Brainerd & Armstrong Embroidery Silks, regular 50c dozen, now 38c.

HOSIERY

Children's Fancy Hose, values to 50c, now 10c. Ladies' and Children's Silk Hose Greatly Reduced. Ladies' and Children's Underwear Will Be Sacrificed. P. Centemeri & Co. Kid Gloves at a Great Reduction. Real Laces and Fine Handkerchiefs at Half Price.

Sale Begins Daily at 8 A. M., Closes 6 P. M.; Saturdays 10 P. M.

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CHICKERING Pianos

The oldest in America, best in the world, and the forty-five other worthy American makes. Sold Only By Eilers Piano House. Portland, Spokane, Boise, San Francisco, Astoria, Seaside, and All Other Important Points.

DENT'S Toothache Gum advertisement featuring an illustration of a man holding his head in pain and a box of the product.