PORTLAND, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 1906

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

DEFENSE MADE BY GAS COMPANY

Its Employes Go on the Witness-Stand.

TESTIFY FOR THE CORPORATION

Declare That Complaints Are III-Founded.

TELL OF METHODS USED

Contradicf Assertions of Consumers in Many Instances by Saying That Their Use of Gas Has Increased Materially.

GAS COMPANT'S DEFENSE.

The Gas Company presented its side of the case at the investigation penterday.

Eart Cicland (Gas Company employer testified as to the nature of suplaints made before the commitre and entered into explanations of these complaints originated.

Ex-City Engineer Chase said that during his administration, six years to 1902, he had no trouble with the Gas Company in its usage of the

Charles S. Bell (Gas Company em ploye) stated that the company was never dereliet in dealing with complaints of leaks or other defects.

E. M. Jackson (cashler of Gas Company) testified on question of slot neters, stating that they were not desirable for the company. oss-examination of Mr. Jackson by the committee brought out several important points leading to the con-

M. Scott (additional witness for the public read a comparative statement showing cost of gas in various cities of the United States.

Councilman Rushtight in examining witness volunteered two personal experiences wherein the Gas Company employes were guilty of negligent service in detecting leaks in lixtures installed by the company, E. S. Dowling (Gas Company inpectors stated that he inspects all houses where gas pipes are put in

and that the company does not toler

The Portland Gas Company took up its defense yesterday afternoon before the City Council's committee on investigation. The corporation met the manifold charges brought against it by the public with the attitude that the public had been mistaken. The defense, so far as developed yesterday, consists

of a campaign of explanation and refu-Employes of the Portland Gas Company were placed on the witness stand to reveal by dint of technical verbiage the cause and sophistry of each and every complaint; to point out the misapprehension under which the public at large has been laboring. There was an explanation of some sort or other for every complaint ever made verbaily or in written form before the Council

Important Points Brought Out.

Several of the witnesses put on by the corporation were assailed by rigid cross-examination on the part of mempers of the Council committee with the result that some important points in the evidence against the corporation were brought out. The cross-examination of Cashier Jackson on the subject of slot meters served to strengthen the charge that there was no logical reason for the excessive charge of \$1.50 per 990 cubic feet for this kind of service.

During yesterday's proceedings the corporation's representatives dealt only with the charges against its service and methods of serving the public. The questions of watered stock or inside dealings were not brought up at all. Mesers. Wood and Teal represented the gas company, as at previous sessions, and Mr. McGinn looked after the public's interest. Those of the committee present were: Masters, Menefee, Rushlight, Kellaher and Bennett,

Gives Important Testimony.

One additional witness, L. M. Scott, of The Oregonian staff, was introduced by Mr. McGinn. Mr. Scott read and submitted to the committee an important statement of the price and nature of the gas furnished in various important cities of the United States. He also furnished the committee with two books by eminent gas authorities showing the methods pursued by gas companies in defrauding the public. The testimony introduced by F. A.

Jackson, cashler of the gas company, was in many respects the most import ant part of the session. His cross-exam nation on the subject of slot meters brought out that tenants of roominghouses and places where slot meters are used pay \$1.50 for the same gas and same service that the landlady or proprietor gets for \$1.15 through a common or headeters consisted in a statement that they were expensive, troublesome and alogether undestrable, being used by an

Mr. Jackson was the last witness to be alled to the stand in behalf of the gar company. In reply to questions asked by

Mr. Teal he said these slot meters are supplied to undestrable and irresponsible consumers from whom the company must have a deposit of some security. It s the policy of all gas companies to more for this service, he said, for the reason of this undesirable element which consumes it. Besides, it costs more for meters, reading of meters and making collections. Witness declared the company would very much prefer to install the ordinary meter. Concerning the results of guarantees for payment witness said beer checks, pieces of fron and washers were frequently put into the siots instead of coins, thus causing a oss to the gas company.

Reason for Higher Bills.

"State whether you have any difficulty with people who guarantee bills," asked

"Often the landlady or proprietor o lodging-houses in which these meters are used are out and no end of trouble a therefore encountered in making col lections. That's one reason why we set he rate higher.

"About these head meters; where there are several slot meters in a building." said Mr. Rushlight, "the head meter, as understand it, registers all gas that eners that particular building."

"That is right," was the reply What is your object in having the head meter where there are departments or suites of rooms with slot meters in

"You know, Mr. Rushlight." "I know, but then the committee would

like to know as well," was the response Reason for Head Meters

"Excuse me," applogized the witness The gas that goes through the pipe for lighting or that may go through that way does not go through these prepaid meters, and that is the reason we have hese head meters-to check up whatever s not shown on the prepay meters. Those are used ordinarily for cooking, in light nousekeeping, in buildings that are espefally piped for this purpos

"Isn't it a fact," added Mr. Bushlight that you have head meters in some odging-houses in the city that register all of the gas that goes into that purticular place for the use of the landlady and for all of the gas that passes through the slot meters?

"We always require a head meter because if we did not parties could the gas from any other point and thus

avoid paying for it." Render Bill on Head Meter.

"Then what do you do when you don't get sufficient money out of the slot meters to meet the amount of gas that passes through the head meter?

"Render a bill on the head meter." "Then is it not a fact," said Mr. Rush light, "that the landlady of the house is esponsible for the gas consumed in that ouse even if you have slot meters? If you don't get funds enough out of the slot meters to meet the amount of gas that has been consumed, then you go back on the head meter and hold the landlady sponsible for the total amount of gas

that you haven't been paid for?" "We have that arrangement with some educting merely what we get out of the upplemental meters, and the balance belongs to the head meter. All that is paid

for at the lower rate." Would Like to Do So.

"Then it looks to me as if the landlady was responsible for the gas coming through the head meter, and that the tenants could just as well have the ordinary meter installed, and thus get the advantage of the lower rate," continued Mr.

"We have emergency men at the office for that purpose, and would like very much to do that, and have done with slot meters," replied Mr. Jackson.

"When you go to a rooming-house to rob the slot meters, does the landlady go along?" asked 'Mr. Rushlight. "I don't understand that word 'rob,"

was the response. "What he means I suppose is collect. ing the money out of the meter," sug-

"We are certainly always willing that she shall go," was the reply. "We never go around to collect unless the proprietor

that when it was positively known there were no slugs in meters, gas company employes would find them anyhow.

WOMAN ACCUSES J. P. MORGAN OF BOBBING HER OF VAST



Mrs. E. B. Williams.

Mrs. E. B. Williams, who makes the charge that J. P. Morgan robbed her of a vast estate, was arrested last week as she was about to enter the New York offices of J. P. Morgan & Co. She declares that she intrusted the estate to Mr. Morgan's care, that be paid her large sums of money for five years and then finally entered into same. She was taken before a Police Magistrate and sent to Bellevue to be examined as to her santry.

STOLEN STREETS

Philadelphia Rapid Transit Gives Up Midnight Franchise.

COMPETITION OPEN AT LAST

Widener-Elkins Syndicate Surrenders for Nothing What Cost It \$1,500,000 - Wabash Will Gain Entrance to City.

PHILADELPHIA, March 28,-(Speclai.)-Political reform in Philadelphia achieved its most notable single vic-The famous midnight tory today. traction franchise steal of 1991 virtually was undone. The Philadelphia Rapid Trunsit Company, the backbone of the Widener-Elkins traction clique whose interests extend to many states, agreed to disgorge the stolen franchises and to pay the city \$400,000 Competition, which the traction monopoly never would permit, is almost assured, and incidentally the Wabash Railroad probably will gain its longsought entrance into Philadelphia Moreover, the city will regain franchises worth millions of dollars,

All this was accomplished by Mayor Weaver, who saw a chance to club the Rapid Transit Company, and used It. All that is necessary to bind the bargaln is ratification by the City Councits and by the traction stockholders which, it is expected, will meet with no opposition in either quarter.

Whence Opportunity Came.

The Mayor's opening lay in the fact that the traction company, which is constructing a subway under Market street through the heart of the city, has not pushed Its work rapidly enough to complete it within the time limit, which expires June 1, and was compelled to ask the city for a threeyear extension. A conference with the traction officials was arranged for today, and then it was that the trolley men came to terms and pledged themselves to return the stolen franchises, nullifying the biggest steal of the old Quay-Durham hard of political

Notorious Midnight Steal.

The midnight steal in 1901 was the result of the attempt of the late "Al" Johnson, brother of Mayor Tom Johnson, of Cleveland, to obtain a franchise here. He surveyed the street, mapped out the lines and by using virtually all of the unoccupied streets suitable for car lines, worked a comprehensive system of subways and surface roads. He applied for his franchise, but the Republican machine refused to listen to him. Instead, a number of politicians formed a paper corporation. They went to Harrisburg, the Legislature railroaded through the corporate grants, and Governor Stone signed the bill in the dead of night after the midnight session of the Legislature. The City Councils here were then called into extra session, and granted franchises covering every unoccupied street in the city absolutely free.

Wanamaker's Offer Scorned,

Ex-Postmaster-General John Wanamaker led a sensational fight against the steal, and made a formal offer to Mayor Ashbridge of \$2,500,000, to be paid into the city treasury if the franchises should be given to him instead of the Mack-Foerderer politicians asking for them. The "Of course, this is not official," said Mayor flung the offer to the ground and Mr. Rushlight, "but I've heard it said signed the ordinances in spite of a storm of public protest. The politicians holding the franchises

at once began to bargain with the Wideener-Elkins interests, owning the Union Traction Company, and finally sold their easily acquired new franchists to the Widener-Elkins people for \$1,500,000, practically all of it clear profit upon a political hold-up.

Gives Back What Cost \$1,500,000.

The Union Traction Company merged itself into the new company, and after long delay set out to build the Marketstreet elevated and subway system upon one of the grants. None of the other grants ever was utilized, and, in order to hold the Market-street franchise, the company has now been forced to relinquish over half of the franchises it was forced into buying.

HULL WILL SUE HIS TRADUCER

Dobson's Charges of Corruption

Will Mean Slander Trial. DES MOINES, March 20 .- Congress man J. T. Hull today gave notice that he would sue his opponent, George L. Dobson, for exemplary damage for slander because of statements made by the latter in his opening speech in his campaign to defeat Hull for the Re-publican nomination for Congress in this district.

The speech was delivered last night and was sensational in its accusations. Dobson declared Hull had used his office for personal enrichment; that he was in league with Rockefeller and Wall-street interests, and that he had corruptly used money to secure his renomination two years ago. Dobson was formely Secretary of State.

DISGORGING GRAFT MONEY

Cincinnati County Treasurers Repay Gratuitles to Country.

CINCINNATI. March 20.—Following the declaration of Tilden R. French that he would pay to the county the amount it is estimated he received as "gratuitly" from the banks during his terms as County Treasurer, if the

to the money, Mr. French today handed to County Prosecutor Rollison a check for \$35,000. If the figures produced from the bank books indicate a larger amount, he promised to pay the

Ex-County Treasurers Rudolph K.

Hinnick and John M. Gibson have also agreed to pay to the county their "gratuity."

Late tonight George B. Cox, the ex-Republican leader of this city, was subpensed to appear before the grand jury here tomorrow.

No Furlough to Run Campaign. WASHINGTON, March 26.-Secretary

Taft, acting under instructions from the President, recently wrote to General Mc-Mahon, of the Soldiers' Home Board, that it was not considered to be compatible with public interests for George W. Steel, governor of the home in Indiana, to have a furlough while he made a campaign for Congress. Mr. Steel formerly was a mem-ber of the House and was defeated by Frederick Landls Mr. Landls is a candi-date for re-election and Mr. Steel is seeking his old position. Complaint has been nude that Steel is using his position to aid him, and that his influence over 3000 inmates of the home will be to the disad-vantage of Landis.

Result of Milwaukee Primaries.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., March 20 .- At 30 o'clock this morning Mayor Rose laims he has been nominated on the emocratic city ticket by a plurality of 550 or 600 votes over George Bruce. S. Decker is nominated for Mayor on the Republican ticket over W. J. Fibrantz and William Arnold will lead the Social Democratic ticket without oppositions. The election will be held

Two-Cent Fare Bill Killed.

DES MOINES. Ia., March 20.-The committee on railroads and commerce today voted to kill the Sankey 2-cent railroad fare bill. Prominent men were before the committee to protest against the measure.

AN EXCEPTIONAL SENTENCE

United States Forest Inspector Is-

sued Fraudulent Vouchers. LOS ANGELES, March 20.-Edward B. Thomas, an ex-United States Forest Inspector, was today convicted on the charge of having issued fraudulent vouch-ers and sentenced to three years in the penitentiary and to pay fines aggregating 1700. He was found guilty on 10 counts. The amount of Thomas' alleged frauduent vouchers was less than \$300

ROSS GETS MONEY'S WORTH Accused of Heating Large Building

With Stolen Gas.

MILWAUKEE, March 20.-Charles Ross, a retired hardware dealer, was ar-rested today, charged with stealing \$25,000 worth of gas in the past seven years by tapping the Milwaukee Gas Light Com-pany's mains. Ross owns a large agartment building. It is alleged the building

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PLEA OF PACKERS

Claim of Immunity Would Let Any Lawbreaker Escape.

BOON TO LAWLESS TRUSTS

Attorney - General Pictures Them Going to Washington to Confess Their Crimes and Escape Punishment.

CHICAGO, March 20 - Attorney-General Moody spoke nearly all day in the hearing of the immunity pleas advanced by th packers, concluding his argument just in time to allow him to take a train for Washington. He declared that the pleas of the packers were not well founded and that they could not be entitled to im nunity, because they had given their evidence of their own free will and had n seen placed on oath, nor subjected to compulsion of any kind. He at times grew very sarcastic in his references to the Statements of the attorneys for the defendants, who had claimed that their Hents could not be punished because they had voluntarily given evidence to Com

nissioner Garfield. Late in the afternoon Mr. Moody referred to the letter written by President Roosevelt to the Attorney-General, which was placed in the record of the case by the attorneys for the packers. He said:

Packers Attack President.

"It has been said here that the President wrote a letter referring to this matter. I am the last mun in the world to say that these gentlemen should not give their best to their clients, but, if they felt it their duty to place that letter in evidence, when it touches upon another subject, against the man in the White House who is unable to come here to protect himself, if they felt it their duty to make their attack upon him, I have little ore to say."

"In justice to us," said John S. Miller. I would like the Attorney-General to exdain how, since the letter was made public document by him, it could be an attack upon the President." "I will allow my statement to stand un-

ualified," retorted the Attorney-General, Mr. Moody then declared that it was aly those who had committed acts without the law, and who feared the law, who ought to be protected by it. "Does the learned Attorney-General for-

get that Mr. Garfield told these defendants that he was here to investigate a violation of the injunction issued against violation of the law against restraint of trade?" asked Mr. Hynes.

Own Fault if Crime Is Shown.

Daring robbers take immense sum from bank at Moscow. Page 2.

Thousands killed and whole towns destroyed by Formosa earthquake. Page 4. that these men were warned that criminal action might be taken. If they did then seek the protection of the law, having been warned, the fault is their own, the responsibility is theirs and the results fall upon their own heads." In concluding his address, Mr. Moody

> "If on these propositions these defendants escape a trial, it will be a calamity to the Government and for these defendauts. I hold for them that they are innocent until they are proved to be guilty. You, Judge Humphrey, alone of all the 80,000,000 people of this land, have the solution of this question, and I leave it with confidence to you."

Only Compulsion Gives Immunity.

When he resumed his argument this norning, Mr. Moody began by citing a number of authorities in support of the position maintained by the Government, "A person cannot be compelled as a witness before any tribunal," he said, "and in order to be compelled, he must be a witness before some tribunal under compulsion of the law. To give incriminating evidence against himself, the compulsion must be exercised over his claim of exemption. The substitute by which the constitutional privilege of any man may be supplanted must be co-extensive with the privilege which it supplants. It need

not be more." The Attorney-General argued at considerable length on the contention that, in order to obtain immunity, a witness must claim it under oath and while on the witness-stand. He declared that none of the defendants in the present case had done this, and that, therefore, claims for immunity could not be seriously considered by the court.

No Authority for Packers' Claim. Concerning the compulsion said by the

Garfield, the Attorney-General said: Garfield, the Attorney-General said:

There is no longer any contention here that there was any actual compulsion in the acts of Mr. Garfield other than the powers invested in him. The claims are made that the information furnished to a Government official entitled to have it was furnished under compulsion of the law and that under the act of 1903 this entitles the defendants to immunity. That and nothing else is the issue in this case. This question is strangely void of authority. My friends, the attorneys upon the other side, have not cited one line of authority upon this question. Upon the other hand, we have the interpretation of a long line of Government officers and one case which bears directly upon the point at issue.

The Attorney-General declared that the The Attorney-General declared that the

utterly at variance with the terms of the immunity act. The Attorney-General

statements of John S. Milfer, who repre-

sents Armour & Co. in the case, were

Mr. Miller said in his argument that, if a man had committed a crime in the postal service and went voluntarily to the proper person and made confession, he would be entitled to immunity if the law gave im-munity. Let us see where the most ex-traordinary claim leads to. It is a great

discovery of my learned friend, for which yet uncounted generations of captains of industry will thank him. Washington will become the altruria to which they report for the pardon of their offenses. If will be much easier, instead of running away from a subpena, to run toward the Government agency and serve a confession upon the Government agent, anybody in this land who is now seeking to avoid the service of a subpena will thank my learned friend for giving him a very much shorter road to travel. Washington, under such circumstances, would become a great resort, not only in Winter but in Summer. All the people who are violating the laws of the land may go there at intervals and obtain their immunity. All they have to do is to go there in obedience to the compulsion of the law. He can do it at intervals. The law is a license to commit crime. Now I can fancy these gentlemen gathering there. I can fancy Mr. Swift and Mr. Armour and their meeting in Washington with some other great magnate who has been washed in what they may call "Milier's Bath." I can imagine them meeting and saying:

"Good morning good morning. Mr. Rockefeller, have you had your immunity bath this monrning:" Look at the absurdity of the thing.

The Sarcasm of the Attorney-General

The sarcasm of the Attorney-General rought out much laughter, and the halliffs had some trouble in restoring quiet

in the courtroom. Mr. Miller, who had waived part of the time allotted for his argument to allow the Attorney-General to speak, made a brief reply to some of the questions asked by the Attorney-General. Immediately after the conclusion of his argument, Mr. Moody left for Washington.

LEADER OF AMERICAN COLONY IN MEXICO INCLUDED.

Pleasure-Seckers and Fishermen Off Gulf Coast of Mexico Killed by Terrible Norther.

MEXICO CITY, March 20.-Nineteen ersons perished in a terrific norther which swept the coast of Vera Cruz yesterday. Two of the storm victims were pleasure-seekers from this city, B. Strittmatter, nephew of J. C. Strittmatter, president of the American club, and Francisco Pena, a member of a prominent family here. The other

17 were fishermen. J. C. Bush, C. H. Bush and R. Barkley, who were in a boat with Strittmatter and Pena, were rescued. It is believed that there has been further loss of life. As yet no reports

have been made of vessels lost. SEVEN CENTS IN POCKET

Absconding Bay City Broker Dies of Yellow Fever in Guatemala.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 29.-Confirmaabsconding broker, who left here last August with \$60,000, has been received by from the State Department inclosing three dispatches from Alfred Winslow, the American Consul at Guatemaia City. The dispatches chiefly tell of Howard's flight through New Orleans Barrios and of his attempt to reach Gua- little success. temala City by a circuitous route. While stopping at a small hamlet How-ard was stricken with yellow fever, from which he died within a few days

cents was found among his effects,

GOOD BLOOD FOR OREGON Splendid Horses Imported for Im provement of Native Stock.

BOSTON, Mass., March 20 .- (Special.)-Twelve magnificent horses, three of them stallions, a fourth a Welsh cob, along with three valuable Dorkings, two brace of Indian game birds and a great Eng-lish mastiff, arrived or the White Star liner Cymric today from Liverpool. The horses are consigned to the Baldwin Sheep & Land Company at Hay Creek. Or. All the animals are yearlings or two-year-olds with long registered ped igrees, and are worth about \$500 each igrees, and are worth about 1500 each. They are of the well-known Hurold stock.

CHICAGO CONSUL AROUSES BRIT-



Consul Charles G. Henrotin.

representative of Belgium in Chicago

ernment. During the recent agitation Henrotin severely criticized the misdonaries of the Congo Improvemen Association. Recently, according to dispatches, Sir Edward Grey, government, was questioned in Parita-ment in London as to the statements appearing in Chicago newspapers as emanating from Consul Henrotin that the British government was trying to setse the Congo Free State. charges made against the missionaries pure motives and that their stories of the Congo brutalities were exaggerated for the purpose of arousing public sentiment in America and England hostile to the continuance of Belgian rule. Sir Edward Grey said these charges had not come to the notice of the British government officially.

RICHEST OF MEN BADLY WORRIED

John D. Rockefeller on Verge of Insanity.

DAUGHTER'S WILD DELUSION

Haunted by Dread She Will Die in Poverty.

BROTHER A CANCER VICTIM

Master of Standard Oil Guarded in Lakewood Fortress Against Process-Servers While Disease

Plays Havoe in Family.

NEW YORK, March 20.-John D. Rockefeller, the richest man in the world, is worrying himself into a state bordering on insanity in his heavily-guarded home at Lakewood, N. J., his friends fear today, while his daughter, Mrs. Charles A. Strong, wife of the Columbia University professor, is in France attended by the greatest specialists, who are striving to cure her of the strange delusion that she

will die a pauper, This delusion seems to grow on her, despite the certainty that her inheritance out of her father's vast fortune can

scarcely be short of \$50,000,000. Mr. Rockefeller's condition is due, in a large measure, to his daughter's mental state, his friends say, and worry over her is as much to be blamed as worry over the process-servers who have haunted his steps and made him take to his beautiful country residence, which is in a state of armed siege. He is also distressed over

the illness of his brother, Daughter's Dread of Poverty.

Cannes, where Mrs Strong has been all Winter, she is no better. She still contimues the system of close economy that first drew attention to her mental state, tion of the death of Allen Howard, the She discharges several servants a day. believing that she cannot afford to keep them. The servants, of course, pay no the Chief of Police in a communication attention to such actions, as they are

under instructions to humor their mistress in every possible way. Mrs. Strong economizes on laundry and grocery bills and thus far efforts to di-

Confirmation was obtained today of statements that William Rockefeller, brother of John D., is suffering from cancer, but not of the virulent type reported. It was learned that Mr. Rockefeller was advised by his physicians last Fall to go abroad because of a cancer, a growth at the base of the tongue, which for the last two or three years hat been causing more or less trouble. At times it was necessary for Mr. Rockefeller to lower his voice to such an extent that it was barely possible to understand him in conversation. The recent reports of his illness are attributed to a probable renewal of symptoms previously

displayed. Goes Abroad to Escape Hadley.

In quarters usually well informed as to the interests of William Rockefeller, no alarm was expressed today over the reports of his illness. It was intimated that, in view of the pending Standard Ott William Rockefeller in his present condition, to spend the Winter in Italy. No confirmation could be had of the report that his ailment had developed into

cancer. active in the management of Standard Oil interests, aside from the Standard Oil Company, but since the resignation of John D. Rockefeller and his son from practically every corporation but the Standard Oil Company the responsibilities of William Rockefeller have increased.

FIGHT AGAINST HOGGATT

Objection to Confirmation Holds Up Appointment as Governor.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, March 20.—Objection was made in the Senate today to the confirmation of W. H. Hoggatt as Governor of Alaska. Whether this opposition will be sufficient to defeat his confirmation was not developed, but the nomination went over without action. Mr. Hoggatt's past record has been brought up against him, notwithstanding the President felt sure he had reformed. he had reformed.

May Drive Sheep Across Reserve.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, March 20.—Senator Fulton had a hearing today before the Indian committee in advocacy of his bill permitting Umatilia County sheepmen, particularly those around Pendleton, to drive their sheep across the Umatilla Indian reser vation in going to the Summer range in the Wenaha forest reserve. The Socretary of the Interior now refuses them ermission to cross the reservation, and consequence they are obliged to make a detour of 80 to 85 miles. The committee will incorporate the bill as an amend-ment to the Indian appropriation bill.

Fish Hatchery Bill Reported.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washngton. March 30.—The omnibus fish hatchery bill was favorably reported to the House today, carrying \$25,000 each for fish hatcheries in Washington and Idaho.