# GAS COMPANY CAUSES DELAY

It Tears Up Streets, Say the Contractors, and Leaves Them in Bad Shape.

MAYOR WILL INVESTIGATE

Corporation Is Sald to Have Acted Without Any Permit, and Contractors Blame It for Their Slow Progress.

Stinging under constant rebukes from various sources for blocking streets while improvements were going on, several lo-cal contractors turned at bay before the streets committee of the Executive Board yesterday, and for the first time, perhaps, gave the public a chance to judge how much they should be thanked for delays in completing their contracts. In the course of this defense, a member of the firm of Bechill Bros. recited that their delay on Front street, from Burnside to Flanders, was occasioned largely by the action of the Portland Gas Company in tearing up the sidewalks adjacent to their property and preventing the contractors from utilizing the space in piling the old paving blocks, besides putting down a six-inch gas main for a distance of five blocks, leaving the thoroughtare in such a shape that everything and everybody eise had to dance attendance on the gas company. Bechill attributed some of company. Bechill attributed some of their misfortunes to the action of the Water Department in laying mains and to freezing weather also, but the gas company came in for the biggest share of censure.

### Done Without Permission.

He was reluctant at first to discuss every feature of the situation, but under the spur of what was considered unjust treatment. Contractor Beehill created a sensation by charging that the City En-gloeering Department had given the gas company no permit to put in their side-walks, as required by every citizen, or any other corporation, it having pro-ceeded without any authority whatever.

'Are you sure they are putting in a sidewalk without permission from the City Engineer?" inquired Mayor Lane in a dumbfounded way.

"Yes, I am quite certain," responded-Bechill. "Aided by one of the clerks in the Engineer's office, we searched every-where, but could find no trace of any tecord wherein they were given the right to use the streets in that fashion."

City Engineer Taylor, who was present, was appealed to by His Honor, but could throw no additional light upon the subject. "I have not investigated the matter," he said, "and am unable to say what the situation is."

The committee instructed Mr. Taylor to examine luio the matter and report at the meeting of the Executive Board a week hence. The Mayor stated after-varil that he proposed to look into it the neighty, but would not indicate what he would do in case the gas company

though it was so badly burned that only a portion of the address was legible. The fire in the mailbox was one of the peculiar inoidents of the fire. The box is on the ground floor, and the letters must have caught from sparks dropping down the cusual applications of contractors for already spaken very plainly upon the subject, prefacing in remarks with the assertion that it had been charged openly that contractors were in the habit of tearing up a street after securing the contract and then leaving it in that disturbed condition, to the detriment of business, while they transferred their efforts ess, while they transferred their efforts e other direction

merel, the servants of the people, and letters of Mr. Coursen's name remained. He had been receiving packages of music from Germany for some time past, and the package on the Oregon was one of these. Some mail clock will be the constant of the package on the Oregon was one of these. matter of contracts. Any fair-minded property-awner knows there is bound to this one and correctly guessed the address which it had borne. delays; but I can mention at least two instances where men falled in business through diversion of trade on account of orn-up streets of long standing.

Christ Minsinger, president of the Star Send Company, speaking from the con-tractors' standpoint, claimed that there were at least three months during the year when it was impossible to do street work. This had a tendency to cause de-lays, and it was a condition that could handle the received and the standard of the could hardly be reckoned with in making bids.

## Causes of Delay.

He alleged also that while bids were opened December 22, 1965, for the improvement of Clackamas street, between Union avenue and East Seventh street, the Star

ion to readvertise for bids was adopted without edissent.

### Contracts Are Awarded. Harry Howard and Miller & Rauer

were awarded the contracts for the improvement of Seventeenth street, between Elizabeth and Clifton, on their respective of State and State Treasurer, for recommended that the change from one positions in such matters, and if the public deems me worthy of the great trust to which I applied that the change from one positions in such matters, and if the public deems me worthy of the great trust to which I applied that the change from one positions in such matters, and if the public deems me worthy of the great trust to which I applied that the change from one position to the other could not be legally made, and City Attorney McNary and W. Land Board to recommend to the Loxislature are clivit Service Commission, argued to the contract.

Tweifth, were both let to the Concrete

## Construction Company for \$30,12 and

Construction Company for \$20.15 and \$537.50, respectively.

C. A. Bigelow, E. J. Duly and Joseph Buchtel appeared before the committee upon behalf of the East Side Improvement Association, and entered a vigorous protest against allowing the Pacific Bridge Company any further time in fluishing its contract for making the Grandavenue fill, except under the condition that the company put on a double crew of men and work night and day toward the completion of its contract. They claimed that the delays were unnecessary, and were causing all kinds of hardship and dissatisfaction on the Bast Side. They were assured that when the company applied for an extension of time their attention would be called to this pliuse of the situation.

The applications of Calvin Brown. L. D.

situation.

The applications of Calvin Brown, L\* D Bosworth and A. R. Fones, traction engineers of the street rollers, for an increase in pay bused on a fixed salary of 160 a month, in lieu of the 25-cents-sh-hour system that has prevailed during the past two years in the engineering department, were referred to the Council, it being shown that the Executive Board had no jurisdiction.

## GETS REMNANT OF LETTER

Was in Commercial Club Mail Chute and Badly Burned.

Harvey W. Davis Accuses St. Charles Hotel.

SAYS HE DEPOSITED MONEY

Gave \$425 to Be Put in Safe, He Declares, and Never Got It Back-Hotel Proprietor Enters Denial.

Harvey W. Davis alleges that in Decomber, 1865, he deposited \$425 in a purse with the St. Charles Hotal Company to be placed in the safe, and when he called Among the remnants of letters found in the mailbox in the Chamber of Commerce buffding after the fire of last Friday was one which has been safely delivered by the postal authorities to Edgar E. Coursen, for whom it was intended, al-



which Creston Clarke will present at The Heilig Theater, Fourteenth and Wash ington streets, next Monday night. April 16, for the benefit of the Firemen's

"We want to be perfectly candid with you." continued Mr. Sabin, addressing his remarks to several local contractors who have procent. "We wish also to treat you talt! In every respect, and shall expect you to so the same with us. We are steamer was recovered only the last three second to the service of Mr. Coursen's name remained.

## LOAN OF SCHOOL FUNDS

Important Duties of the Secretary of State.

EALEM. Or., April 12 -- (To the Editor,) -- Etferring to your editorial of a few days ago entitled. "One Most Important Office," and anent the duties of the Secretary of State, allow me to express my appreciation of the especially the fact that our constitution makes

ment of Clackamas street, between Union avenue and East Seventh street, the Star Sand Company, for some reason or other, was not awarded the contract until long afterward, the time for completion expiring May 16. Time commerced to run against him from the date the bids were opened, he said, in consequence of which he was compelled to ask the committee in advance for an extension.

Nobedy appeared to be able to tell what caused the delay in the award of this contract, or why the contractors had not been given the additional time at the outset.

Mayor Lane explained that in cases where had weather operated to cause delays, the Executive Board had a rule that the contractor should give the Board notice of conditions at least 30 days before the expiration of the contract.

Several other contractors offering what appeared to be reasonable excuses for delay, the committee ferfalmed from adopting any severe measures with them. The committee decided to reject the bid of George Baser, which was the only one submitted, for the improvement of Grand svenue, between Palling and Shavet, on the ground of its informality, ite offered to perform the work for Excelle.

The bid of the Pacific Bridge Company for the improvement of East Belmont street, between Bast Water street and Union avenue, was also rejected. Whitney 1. Boiles, representing a majority of the property-owners, appearing before the prompittice and offering to do the work for less money than the \$12.18.52 proposal of the bridge company, who were the low-set bidders.

Upon this showing, Max Flelschner's motion to readvertise for bids was adopt.

called F. H. Fleming, auditor of the Mer-chants' National Bank, who testified that on August 25, 1565, the St. Charles Hotel Company deposited in the Merchants' Na tional Bank two checks drawn on an Al-bany bank, one for \$20 and the other for \$80 signed by J. C. Davis. The latter, in testifying that he gave no checks to his son, was very positive about it. The de-fendant will endeavor to prove that H. W. Davis spent the money he claims he

Rev. Joseph H. Strowbridge, of Albany, and other witnesses testified that the reputation of Harvey W. Davis was not Percy R. Kelly and J. Wyatt, of Al

hany, appeared as attorneys for plaintiff, and John F. Logan and John C. Shillock

FOURTEEN WARRANTS ISSUED

They Are for Men Indicted for Land Frauds in Oregon.

Distribt Attorney Bristol Issued 14 war rants yesterday for the men wanted on the last indictment returned by the Federal grand jury. The warrants will be eral grand jury. The warrants will be sent out by mail and by Government officers in person and served as rapidly as possible. Although the names of the men wanted will be kept closely guarded until they are brought within the custody of the officers, it is known that some are persons of considerable wealth and promi The warrants are for men in Ore-Washington, California and Wis-

In spite of the large number of warrants already issued, the end is not yet. District Attorney Bristol and Special In-spector Neuhausen are busy preparing to bring before the grand jury other land-fraud matters even more important, it is inderstood, than those which have been passed upon. It is reported that summons are now being issued for about 150 wit-nesses who are wanted to tell what they know in connection with the next batch of cases that is to come up. The upper-floor of the Federal building was com-paratively deserted yesterday for the first time in several weeks. Within a few days it will be again crowded by the zoores of ring before the grand jury other land-

LILLIS LOSES HIS ACTION.

Deposed Jailer Must Serve as Patrolman, Rules Court.

M. E. Lillis, removed from the position of city jailer and placed on patrol duty in the police department, is not entitled, under the civil service rules, to be reation. As near as I can compute at this writing, the state is thus deprived of over \$100,000 in taxes. Our state land laws are undounted to the purpose of protecting the public domain from the landgrabber, baye in part perhaps been the means of encouraging perjury and forgery and have dequived the homecommer, settler and citizen of their rights, permitting speculators to secure title to large holles of our beet lands and thereby rotarding the growth of Gregon.

The Legislature usually looks to the Land Soard, composed of the Gevernor, Secretary of State and State Treasurer, for recommendations to the other could not be legally me worthy of the great trust to which I as pire, I, will consider it the duty of the next Land Board, to recommend to the Lexislature a revision of the land laws.

tion filed in court by Lillis did not state that the civil service examination for the position of salier and the examination for a patrolman's position were different, the Executive Board could transfer Lillis from one position to the other.

Mr. Brewster stated that, as a matter of fact, the examination was the same for the two positions, and the salary the same, and the Executive Board could change the classification if it was not fixed by the charter. Judge Frazer held that the court could hardly hold that the Legislature intended that the first Civil Service Commission should establish rules and grades for all time until changed by the Legislature. The first Civil Service Commission was largely experimental, and the rules of the Commission could be changed the same as the rules of a court.

## For Fencing Government Land.

Another of the men charged with ille-gally fencing Government land has been taken into custody, in pursuance of the indictment returned by the Federal grand jury, March 22. Emil M. Scharff, of Monjury, March 22. Emil M. Scharff, of Mon-ument, is the person charged with appro-priating the acreage of Uncle Sam for his private use without authority and con-trary to the statutes. The indictment al-leges that he has closed in a tract of 2009 acres in Grant County. Scharff, who is a rich absopman, has been set at liberty after giving \$600 bail.

Besides the indictment of the grand jury. Scharff faces a civil charge, filed yesterday by District Attorney Bristol, asking for an injunction to restrain him from maintaining fences around the land mentioned.

### Accused of Falsely Using Label.

C. P. Barette, a tailor, who is charged with unlawfully placing a label of the Journeymen Tailors' Union on a suit of clothing, was arraigned in the State Circuit Court yesterday before Judge Frazer. At the request of his attorney, John A. Loe, he was granted time until Monday to plead. Burette is at liberty on ball.

Chinese Petition in Bankruptcy. Lee Wob, a Chinese farmer and hop-raiser of Aurers, Marion County, filed a petition in bankruptcy yesterday in the Federal court. In the appended statement of his financial condition, Wob stipulates debts amounting to \$17,585. He awears that he has no property or money where-with to meet the claims against him.

Railway Given More Time.

Judge Wolverton yesterday allowed the Southern Pacific Company until May 1 in which to file an answer in three cases which have recently been removed from the state courts to the Federal courts. The complainants are Elva R. George, E. M. Sharp and M. F. Copley.

## FIREMEN'S BENEFIT PLAY

Tickets Sold for "Monsieur Beaucaire" Insure a Capacity House.

The rapidity with which the tickets have been selling for the firemen's benefit performance of "Monsieur Beaucaire" at the Heilig Theater Monday evening demonstrates that there will be a capacity house in attendance. The tickets now sold more than cover the seating capacity. The box office opens this morning, when the tickets sold can be exchanged for reserved seats. Captain Stokes, of engine No. 1, was viven a bunch of tickets to dispuse of given a bunch of tickets to dispose of and in a little less than five hours had disposed of \$192 worth and received several cash donations, Captain Turn-bull, of chemical No. 1, sold \$56 worth of tickets and received a contribution

Lieutenant Stevens, of truck No. 1 and Captain Hansen, of engine No 7 each disposed of \$100 worth of tickets The police department also helped the fund materially. Captain Moore's relief sold 200 tickets in less than two hours, and has requested 200 more which were given them for distribution

the fund without considering the the-

of this kind has come up," said Cap-tain Stokes, of engine No. 1, "and on for the kindly remembrances of the

## AT THE THEATERS

What the Proce Agents Say.

OPENS SUNDAY NIGHT.

Creston Clarke in "Beaucaire" at The Heilig Theater Next Sunday.

The advance sale of seats will open this morning at 10 o'clock for the first Sunday night performance in The Heilig Theater; also for the exchange and sale of seats for the Firemen's and Policemen's benefit to be given Monday night, April 16. Creston be given Monday night, April 16. Creston Clarke will be the attraction, presenting Booth Tarkington's great comedy-drama. "Monsieur Beaucaire." Sunday, Monday and Tuesday nights, April 15, 16 and 17, at The Hellig. There is satisfaction in knowing that Creston Clarke last season found in Beaucaire." a character more agreeable to his ambitton and giving him a more decided prestige as one of America's leading actors, than any other ever before interpreted by him. As a matter of fact, his friends and admirens everywhere often expressed genuine delight in finding such a splendid piece of theatrical property in such capable hands as Mr. Clarke's. Those who have carefully followed the roung actor's achievements in as Mr. Characa. Those who have carefully followed the young action a schleroments in the past declare that the role of "Heautairs" is in a direct line with his expressed deformination not to deviate from the path of excited motive, and that it affords him appeals advantages such as he has never before du-

MATINEE TOMORROW.

### Big Musical-Comedy Extravaganza Will Be Attraction at Heilig.

Tomorrow afterneon at 2:15 o'clock a apecial matines will be given at The Heilig. Theater, Fourteenth and Washington streets, when Hamilin & Mitchell's big musical comedy extravagants, "Babes in Toyland," will be the attraction. By all means, take the children to see this beautiful attraction, as it is without a doubt the biggest, brightest musical offering ever given in Portland and once that appeals to both young and "grown up" children. Curtain tonight and tomorrow night at 5:15 o'cleck.

"Cherry Blossoms."

There will be a special Saturday night closing performance of "The Cherry Bios-soms" beriesque company at the Baker. This progressive and up to date management has secured a special train for San Francisco in conight will be the last three appearances of this most excellent company in Pertiand. "The Cherry Blossoms" is one of the recognized attractions in the buriesque field, and Portland patrops of this popular amusement feature have taken to this company with great enthusiasm. It offers an evening's entertainment that everyone, old and young, can enjoy,

es at the Empire this week has gone every performance with leaps and The meledrama, "The Fatal Wed-

Woman You may have the Beauty of

The perfect woman is the woman who has perfect health. Beauty is more than skin deep. Beauty is as deep as pure blood and a perfect digestion. Especially is female beauty dependent on the perfect health of the delicate female organism.

Perfect Health

If you wish to have the beauty and attractiveness of perfect health, if you wish your eyes to sparkle, your complexion to resume its brilliancy, and your whole body to thrill with the glow of renewed vitality, take that famous woman's medicine,

# Lydia E.Pinkham's Vegetable Compound

If you have headaches, backache, organic pains, painful or irregular periods, or any female trouble, begin with Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound at once. It will save you needless suffering. It will restore your womanly beauty.

Dear Mrs. Pinkham:—Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound cured me of a severe and protracted case of female trouble. After the birth of my child this trouble began, but your Compound restored me to perfect health. My little girl is now six years old, and I am a perfectly well woman, and as happy as a mother could desire to be. I give the entire credit to Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable

MRS. S. R. BECKMAN, Cor. Murphy Ave. and Whitehall St., Atlanta, Ga.

No woman, were she a Venus de Milo, could continue beautiful with a dragging down female complaint. Mrs. Pinkham invites all sick women to write to her for advice. For twenty-five years, Mrs. Pinkham, daughter-in-Law of Lydia E. Pinkham,

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound Cures Where Others Fail

has under her direction, and since her decease, been advising sick women free of charge.

ding." Is the attraction, and as soon as the public discovered what a really meritorious attraction it is in the hands of this capable company, it was quick to respond. "The Fatal Wedding" is really one of the best of the melodramas is really one of the coast year after year. It is also one of the most successful all over the United States. It appeals to all classes and committee must successful all over the United States. all over the United States. It appears to all classes and something must surely be lacking in the man or woman who could not enjoy a performance of this great play by a clever company. Tonight, tomorrow night and special ladies' matines tomorrow afternion at 2:13 will be the last three performance of "The Fatal Wedding" at the Empire.

COMING ATTRACTIONS.

"Merry Maldens" Coming.

"The Merry Maidens" buriesque company will be at the Baker next week, starting Sunday matine. All those who enjoy a good hearty laugh, a witty joke, good singing, catchy and tuneful music, pretty girls daintily costumed and a jolly time generally. daintily contumed and a joily time generally, will mise all these, and more too, should they fall to see "The Merry Maidean." They present the comical and original three-act farce entitled "The Maid and the Mule." There was a pretty actress named Maud and a mule named Maud. An elderly chap became enamored with the actress, but the elever-playwright gets the two so muddled and mixed in the parts that the poor old fellow doesn't know half the time whether he is making love to a maid or a mule. Sam Rice, the leading comedian with the "Merry Maidens," is a whole show in him-

## "Roanoke" Next Week.

"Rounoke," which will open a week's engagement at the Empire Sunday matines, is one of the best creations from the pen of the author. Hal Reid. Mr. Reid has given to the American public some of the pretifest and most wholesome of all plays on the stage. "Reanable" is a romance of the South, the scenes being laid in the State of Virginia, and the characters portrayed are all true to life, simple, heautiful and never overdrawn. life, simple, heautiful and never overdrawn. When Cantellane prepares to leap the gap It is a play dear to the hearts of everyone, at the Grand this week the audience is so

"Roanoke" has not been to Portland in a long time, but has attained great success all over the East ever since its initial produc-tion. At the Empire next week it will be in the hands of Lee Morris and a capable com-

Star's Feature Acts.

## Pantages' Good Show.

One continual round of laughter is the hilarious farce comedy, "My Uncle From New York," as presented at Pantages this week by Margorie, Mark and company. The produc-tion is replete with novel situations and bright dialogue and is easily one of the vaudeville hits of the season. There are a lot of other great features as well. Among the number, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Hun are great sketch ar-Mr. and Mrs. ben run are great sector ar-tists; Smith and Kills have a strikingly orig-inal and clever act, and Miss Anna Jordan is a dashing and attractive southertie. Arthur Elizwork is singing the illustrated song this week. The moving pictures are a distinct fea-ture rather than an incident of the bill. They show 'The Train Robbery,' the most thrilling tim exit decided.

Castellane Leaps the Gap.

AT THE VAUDEVILLE THEATERS

novel. It is mitiations on the vicilin are especially entertaining. Miss leabels Jensen is a conceilerance who is already popular. Miss wilson and company, in a sketch, and the rest of the entertainment are first-class.

Grand's Next pays and supported times. I wilson and wife are each cursed of their infatuation for other people and in which there is a startline expected climax. poe and in which there is a starting and un-expected climax. Leavitt and Ashmore have a playlet with comedy, and their method of amusing the public is out of the ordinary. A clever singing and dancing turn is contrib-uted by Dean and Drew, and besides these there are illustrated songs and moving pic-

is the only man who dares perform the feat on a theater stage. Studdard and Wilson are on a literator stage. Stoldard and Wilson are a couple of young musicians who give a comedy called "The Rat-Catcher," in which they use a number of musical instruments and aprinkle the act with local gags. Heach and Parth offer a German comedy sketch, with purodies and new funny songs. Mr. Austin, the foremost wheeverter in the world, performs it middle and foremost serves of difficult.

Commencing next Monday afternoon, the Grand will have another attractive vansleville entertainment, with many feature acts. Among those already annumed for the new programme are the Gregions, two musical conedy stars, with songs and dances; the edy stars, with songs and cances; the Burke-Brothers, exponents of clui juggling: a com-edy sketch by Rentro and Jensen; the two Singlish Rosebuds, contortionists, high kickers and cancers, and Crouch and Richards, in an up-to-the-minute musical act. This is an ar-ray of talent which will more than maintain the high standard of vaudeville entertainment at this popular theater,

## GEORGE H. DURHAM

For Attorney-General.

George H. Durham, of Grant's Pass Josephine County, formerly of Portland, announces himself as candidate for Republican nomination for Attorney-General at the primaries, April 39.

BUSINESS ITEMS.

If Buby Is Cutting Teeth

Be sure and use that old and well-tried reedy, Mrs. Winslow's Scothing Syrup, for chdren testhing. It soothes the child softsthe goms, allays all pain, cures wind coland diarrhoes.

# Made in New York

HE ALFRED BENJAMIN & CO. tailor shops are a block from Broadway-a minute's walk from Fifth Avenue.

The Alfred Benjamin & Co. designers and cloth buyers live in the atmosphere of authoritative style. Compare the style of Alfred Benjamin & Co.



Correct Clothes for Men with the Clothing made in other cities and you'll understand what it means to be but a block from Broadway-a minute's walk from

Correct Clothes for Men

Exclusive Agent Here.

Buffum & Pendleton Co., Inc.

311 Morrison St.