

GAS COMPANY CAUSES DELAY

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

MAYOR WILL INVESTIGATE

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

Singing under constant rebukes from various sources for blocking streets while improvements were going on, several local 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 blamed for delays in completing their contracts. In the course of this defense, a member of the firm of Bechill Bros. retorted that their delay on Front street, from Burnside to Flinders, 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. Instead of putting down a six-inch gas main for a distance of five blocks, leaving the thoroughfare in such a shape that everything and everybody had to dance attendance on the gas company, Bechill Bros. 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 Bechill created a sensation by charging that the City Engineering Department had given the gas company no permit to put in their sidewalks, as required by every citizen, or any other corporation, it having proceeded without any authority whatever. "Are you sure they are putting in a sidewalk without permission from the City Engineer?" inquired Mayor Lane in a dumfounded way.

"Yes, I am certain," responded Bechill. "Aided by one of the clerks in the Engineer's office, we searched everywhere, but could find no trace of any record wherein they were given the right to use the streets in this manner. The City Engineer Taylor, who was present, was appealed to by His Honor, but could throw no additional light upon the subject. 'I have no objection to the matter,' he said, 'and am unable to say what the situation is.'"

How Question Came Up.

The question involving delays in street improvements arose in connection with the usual applications of contractors for extensions of time in filling their contracts. Chairman Salin, of the committee, had spoken very plainly upon the subject, prefacing his remarks with a statement 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 the public, while they transferred their efforts in some other direction.

"We want to be perfectly candid with you," continued Mr. Salin, addressing his remarks to several local contractors who were present. "We wish also to treat you fairly in every respect, and shall expect you to do the same with us. We are most anxious to have the city in every respect the best. That is the only reason why we are reasonably strict in the matter of contracts. Any fair-minded property-owner knows he is bound to some interruption in matters of this kind and is ready to make allowance for delays; but I can mention at least two instances where men failed in business through diversions of the account of torn-up streets of long standing."

Christ Minsinger, president of the Star Seed Company, speaking from the contractor's standpoint, claimed that there were at least a dozen similar cases during the year when it was impossible to do street work. This had a tendency to cause delays, and it was a condition that could hardly be reckoned with in making bids.

Causes of Delay.

He alleged also that while bids were opened December 22, 1905, for the improvement of Clackamas street, between Union avenue and East Seventh street, the Star Seed Company, for some reason or other, was not awarded the contract until long afterward, the time for completion expiring May 15. When the bids were opened 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.

Nobody 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 bad 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 refrained from adopting any severe measures with them. The committee decided to reject the bid of George Bauer, which was the only one submitted, for the improvement of Grand avenue, between Falling and Shaver, on the ground of its informality. It offered to perform the work for \$225.10.

The bid of the Pacific Bridge Company for the improvement of East Belmont street, between East Water street and Union avenue, was also rejected. Whitney L. Bole, representing a majority of the property-owners, appearing before the committee and offering to do the work for less money than the \$12,126.82 proposal of the bridge company, who were the lowest bidder.

Contracts Are Awarded.

Harry Howard and Miller & Bauer were awarded the contracts for the improvement of Seventeenth street, between Elizabeth and Clifton, on their respective bids of \$270.00 and \$220.72, a total of \$490.72 for the whole work. Contracts for the improvement of East Morrison street, between East Ninth and East Twelfth, and East Alder, from East Tenth to East Twelfth, were both let to the Concrete

SUES FOR THE COIN

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.

GETS REMNANT OF LETTER

Was in Commercial Club Mail Chute and Badly Burned.

Harvey W. Davis alleges that in December, 1905, he deposited \$425 in a purse with the St. Charles Hotel Company to be placed in the safe, and when he called for the money he was told it could not be found. He sued the hotel company to recover the amount, and yesterday the trial of the case was begun in Judge Sear's Court, and will be concluded today. J. C. Davis, the father of Harvey W. Davis, who resides at Shugda, in Linn County, testified that in August, 1905, he

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 incidents of the fire. The box is on the ground floor, and the letters must have caught from sparks dropping down the chute from the upper story.

All that can be distinguished of the address to Mr. Courson is: "Mr. Edgar E. C—, 628 Lo—, 628 Lovejoy street in Mr. Courson's number. Inside the envelope are parts of checks amounting to \$112.5. The letter was mailed by George T. Murton, who has offices in the Chamber of Commerce building. Mr. Murton is auditor of the First Presbyterian Church, and Mr. Courson is organist and choir director.

A curious coincidence in connection with the matter is that several years ago, when the trans-Atlantic steamer Oregon was lost, a package addressed to Mr. Courson was delivered to him under somewhat of the same conditions. When the mail from the steamer was recovered only the last three letters of Mr. Courson's name remained. He had been receiving packages of music from Germany for some time past, and the steamer the Oregon was one of these. Some mail clerks who remembered sending similar packages to him received this one and correctly guessed the address which it had borne.

LOAN OF SCHOOL FUNDS

Important Duties of the Secretary of State.

SALMON, OR., April 12.—(To the Editor.)—Referring to your editorial of a few days ago entitled "The Important Office," and sent the duties of the Secretary of State, allow me to express my appreciation of the matter therein presented and to say that I appreciate to the full the responsibilities and duties of the office as you set them forth, especially the fact that our constitution makes the Secretary of State a member of the State Land Board, whose actions may be of the greatest service or harm to Oregon.

FOURTEEN WARRANTS ISSUED

They Are for Men Indicted for Land Frauds in Oregon.

District Attorney Bristol issued 14 warrants yesterday for the men wanted on the last indictment returned by the Federal grand jury. The warrants will be served 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 prominence. The warrants are for men in Oregon, Washington, California and Wisconsin.

LILLIS LOSES HIS ACTION.

Deposed Jailer Must Serve as Patrolman, Rules Court.

M. K. 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 restored to his former position, and must continue as a patrolman. This is the effect of a decision of Judge Fraser yesterday, sustaining a demurrer to the mandamus proceeding filed by Mr. Lillis against Acting Chief of Police Critch-macher. Lillis in his complaint retorted that he passed the civil service examination for jailer after having been refused an examination for patrolman because he was not of sufficient height.

AT THE THEATERS

What the Press Agents Say.

OPENS SUNDAY NIGHT.

Creston Clarke in "Beaucaire" at the Hellig Theater Next Sunday.

The advance sale of seats will open this morning at 10 o'clock for the new play, "Beaucaire," at the Hellig Theater. The play is also for the exchange and sale of seats for the Firemen's and Policemen's benefit to 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 something in showing that Creston Clarke last season found in "Beaucaire" a character more agreeable to his ambition and giving him a more desired outlet as one of America's leading actors than any other ever before interpreted by him. As a matter of fact, his friends and admirers everywhere are expressing gratitude in finding such a splendid piece of theatrical property in such capable hands as Mr. Clarke's. Those who have carefully followed the young actor's achievements in the past declare that the role of "Beaucaire" is in a direct line with his expressed determination not to deviate from the path of special attraction, and that it affords him special advantages such as he has never before enjoyed.

MATINEE TOMORROW.

Big Musical-Comedy Extravaganza Will Be Attraction at Hellig.

Tomorrow afternoon at 2:15 o'clock a special matinee will be given at the Hellig Theater. The Chatterbox Musical Comedy Extravaganza, "Roses in Toyland," will present the comical and original three-act children to see this beautiful attraction, as it is without a doubt the biggest, brightest musical offering ever given in Portland and one that appeals to both young and "grown-up" children. Curtain tonight and tomorrow night at 8:15 o'clock.

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"The Fatal Wedding."

Business at the Empire this week has gone up with a merry performance with legs and backs. The Fatal Wedding, the new play

tion filed in court by Lillis did not state that the attorney's examination of the position of jailer 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 fixed by the charter. Judge Fraser 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 illegally fencing Government land has been taken into custody, in pursuance of the indictment returned by the Federal grand jury, March 22. Earl M. Scharrf, of Monument, is the person charged with appropriating the acreage of Uncle Sam for his private use without authority and contrary to the statutes. The indictment alleges that he has closed in a tract of 2000 acres in Grant County. Scharrf, who is a rich sheepman, has been set at liberty after giving \$500 bail.

Reside in the indictment of the grand jury, Scharrf 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. F. Barrette, 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 Fraser. At the request of the attorney, John L. Lee, he was granted time until Monday to plead. Barrette is at liberty on bail.

Chinese Petition in Bankruptcy.

Lee Wob, a Chinese farmer and hop-grower of Aurora, Marion County, filed a petition in bankruptcy yesterday in the Federal court. In an affidavit sworn to of his financial condition, Wob stipulates debts amounting to \$17,288. He swears that he has no property or money wherewith 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 Hellig 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 treasury notes.

Captain Stokes, of engine No. 1, was 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 Turnbull, of chemical No. 1, sold \$50 worth of tickets and received a contribution of \$15.

Lieutenant Stevens, of truck No. 1, and Captain Hanson, of engine No. 2, 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. The tickets were distributed to which were given them for distribution today.

Many contributions have been sent to the fund without considering the theater. "This is the first time that anything of this kind has come up," said Captain Stokes, of engine No. 1, "and on behalf of the firemen of this city, I wish to extend our sincere thanks for the kindly remembrances of the citizens which have come in such a beneficial form."

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Perfect Woman

You may have the Beauty of Perfect Health

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. 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 Compound.

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

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

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

AT THE VAUDEVILLE THEATERS

Star's Feature Acts.

At the Star the feature act is that of Nathan, a musical wizard, who introduces electrical effects while operating on the various musical instruments. The act is unique and novel. His imitations on the violin are especially entertaining. Miss Isabelle Jensen is a good singer and she renders three songs which display her exceptional vocal ability. The Strodes have a comedy sketch of the domestic order, in which husband and wife are each cured of their infatuation for other people and in which there is a startling and unexpected climax. Levitt and Ahmore have a playlet with comedy, and their method of amusing the public is out of the ordinary. A clever stinging and dancing turn is contributed by Dean and Drew, and besides these there are illustrated songs and moving pictures.

Grand's Next Bill.

Commencing next Monday afternoon, the Grand will have another attractive vaudeville entertainment, with many feature acts. Among those already announced for the new program are the Oregonians, two musical comedy stars, with songs and dances; the Burke Brothers, exponents of club juggling; a comedy sketch by Benfro and Jensen; the two English comedians, contortionists, high kickers and dancers, and Croch and Richards, in an up-to-the-minute musical act. This is an array 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 a candidate for Republican nomination for Attorney-General at the primaries, April 30.

BUSINESS ITEMS.

If Baby Is Cutting Teeth. Be sure and use that old and well-tried remedy, Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup, for children teething. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind colic and diarrhoea.

Castellane Leaps the Gap.

When Castellane prepares to leap the gap at the Grand this week the audience is so

Made in New York

THE 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 Fifth Avenue.

Correct Clothes for Men

Exclusive Agent Here.

Buffum & Pendleton Co., Inc.

311 Morrison St.