

# CITY'S STREETS ARE GIVEN AWAY

### Mayor Lane Says Council Has Made Presents of Property Worth \$200,000.

## TIME TO HALT, HE SAYS

### Chief Executive of City Declares He Has Vetoed Ordinances in Vain and That He Intends to Appeal to Citizens at Large.

Property valued at not less than \$200,000 has been given away by the City Council, according to Mayor Lane, since he has been in office through the vacation of streets, and he is determined to put a stop to it. He declares that he has argued and pleaded with the councilmen in vain, and if they do not mend their ways he threatens to arouse public sentiment to such a pitch that the city's legislative body dare not vacate any more streets. He may appeal to the Initiative One Hundred to aid him.

"I feel sure that the property given away at different times by streets being vacated represents as much as the bonded indebtedness of our city," said he yesterday. "For years the City Council has been steadily at work handing out streets to both private and corporate interests, and I believe that it is time for something to be done to end it. Where has all of our thoroughfares lead down to the river because they were vacated. I feel that the day is not far distant when the city will have to pay out actual money to make streets which would have been prevented had proper care and foresight been exercised."

At nearly every meeting of the City Council ordinances are passed providing for vacation of portions of certain streets. As rapidly as they pass they are vetoed by the Mayor. When returned to the Council in nearly all instances they are passed over his veto. At the last regular meeting of the Council this week two such ordinances were enacted over his veto and one other passed.

One of the ordinances vetoed and later passed provided for the vacation of about 400 feet along Cole street, which is 60 feet in width. In his veto message upon this ordinance he said: "I have given up all hope that this city is to remain sane in the way of public rights or property which any person or corporation may desire to possess."

### Ironworks Gets Part of Street.

The ordinance providing for the vacation of a portion of Hull street and which will undoubtedly be vetoed by the Mayor was passed the same afternoon. The street is to be cut down from 60 feet to 20 feet in width for a distance of about 260 feet. The Willamette Iron Works desires 20 feet of the street, and W. H. Corbett, representing the company, made the verbal agreement that he would prepare a petition for the property owners to pave with bituminous pavement the remainder of the street.

It was declared that one of the property owners will receive 20 feet on the street would not accept it, if he had to stand the expense of improvement of the remaining portion.

Mayor Lane informed the council that perhaps the city could persuade him to take it by offering him inducements, and many of the councilmen took him seriously. Mayor Lane says that lots in that part of North Portland are selling at about \$500 each. The street to be vacated would make about two lots. He claims that as but one of many similar vacations.

The streets cannot be sold by the city, but Mayor Lane says that it would be an easy matter to effect so-called "vacations." There is nothing to prevent, so says the Mayor, a person who desires a part of a certain street to donate to the city another tract suitable for park purposes.

The streets are dedicated to public use, and although the city has no title to them the City Council has the right by ordinance to give away the streets. The ordinance reads: "If the Council shall find that public interest would not be prejudiced by vacation of such street and that consent of the owners of the requisite number of front feet has been obtained, the Council may grant the prayer of the petitioner."

When a vacation of the street becomes the possession of those who own the adjacent property, the center of the street being the dividing line. Most of the streets which are given away are small lots, but Mayor Lane takes the decided stand that they will be needed by the city in years to come. The streets have been granted considerable property in the form of streets for terminal purposes.

### Dismissal is Sustained

#### C. E. Wood Dropped From Fire Department for Drunkenness.

The dismissal of C. E. Wood from the fire department was sustained yesterday by the Civil Service Commission. Wood was a Lieutenant of hose company No. 3, and has a warning was first reduced in rank and later dismissed on the charge of drunkenness.

When the case was up before the commission yesterday Attorney John Shillock produced a copy of the department rules which he alleged had been violated. He said that under the rules of the department he refused to recognize the charges against his client and would ask for an immediate reinstatement. He then read the rule that provided that a copy of the charges must be sent to any member of the department accused of wrongdoing, prior to the date of hearing.

Mr. Shillock declared that the rule had not been followed in this case.

Chief Campbell demanded that the attorney surrender his copy of the rules, as it was city property and that none outside of the department had any right to its possession. When Mr. Shillock declined Chief Campbell threatened to have him arrested. The attorney said that it had been given into his care by Wood.

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#### And Our New Shop, Third and Washington Streets.

Gun-metal cigarette cases, match safes, newest designs, attractive prices.

For any case of nervousness, sleeplessness, weak stomach, indigestion, dyspepsia, relief is sure in Carter's Little Liver Pills.

### Councilmen Defend Action.

The Councilmen declare that the vacation of any street is not made without a careful and exhaustive investigation, and not without just cause. Referring to the railroads the Councilmen say that they buy up whole blocks for terminal purposes and then ask for the streets. As terminal grounds are necessary, they say that in fairness to the railroads they cannot refuse these demands without impeding the material growth of the city. As to the other streets that are vacated, the Councilmen declare that they are absolutely of no value to the city and that they never would be. Councilman Preston, however, when the Hull-street ordinance was up for consideration, declared that at some future date the city would have to pay out thousands of dollars to provide more streets for North Portland.

"When streets are vacated the city should receive in return property equivalent in value to that given away," continued Mayor Lane when he was yesterday. "We are now in the market for property for park purposes, and it almost makes me sick to think of all the city property which has been given away without a cent in return."

### Why Give Property Away?

"Property of Portland is valuable, and why should it be given to private and corporate interests? We need property for parks and playgrounds for the children. When persons want a valuable street, why couldn't they donate to the city a tract that we could make into a park or playground? And again I have vetoed ordinances providing for vacation of streets, but in nearly all instances my veto was of no avail. Now I would like to know how much longer the people of Portland intend to stand by and see their streets distributed around."

### Lecture on "Liberal Christianity."

At the Unitarian Church tomorrow evening Rev. Lewis G. Wilson will give a public lecture upon "The Future of Liberal Christianity." This lecture shows the evolutionary necessity of religion and the defective and

insufficient character of life without conscious religious interests and associations. The responsibility of the American citizen for the perpetuation of religious influences is urged, and the tendencies of Christian thought and life in America are described. These lectures are given on the foundation established by the late Robert Charles Billings, and conducted under the direction of the American Unitarian Association. This is Mr. Wilson's second long itinerary, having traveled through the South and Southwest last year.

## "Taking" Santa Claus Is Much in Demand

### Man Who Acts Part of Kris Kringle to Perfection Has More Engagements Than He Can Fill.

ONE East Side resident says a person is unfortunate at this time of the year to be possessed of special qualifications of a high-grade and successful Santa Claus. One who has a reputation for acting a "taking" Santa Claus is sure, he says, to have his hands full to meet all the invitations that will come to him from his friends besides answering the calls of numerous churches.

F. L. Kneeland, who lives near Gray's crossing on the Mount Scott railway, has just this kind of reputation, and he has calls at present all over the city to act as Kris Kringle. In addition he will be at innumerable private Christmas exercises, and will make his appearance at many houses and at many churches as he can get around to. In some cases his engagements conflict, but he will try to disappoint as few as possible. He will be Santa Claus at the Second Baptist Church, also at St. James Church and at Arleta and one or two more. If his friends do not balk or wear out before he gets all the way round, he is thinking some of leaving the reindeer at home and hiring an automobile, and then charging about \$10 for every appearance to meet expenses, but he will not do so this year.

Mr. Kneeland does not know how he got his reputation, but he does know he has it and that it keeps him busy in making arrangements to appear this year in a stunning Santa Claus rig that will outshine anything of the sort that has ever been gotten up in Portland. When Mr. Kneeland acts as Santa Claus he does not do it by halves. That is how he got his reputation. Look for his costume this season. It will be great.

### PORTLAND'S PROSPERITY

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There is also a plan to lay out a scenic driveway on the heights west of the city. It is believed that property owners will find it to their interests to dedicate the land for the road without expense to the city. The entire project can be carried out for \$1,000,000, according to the estimates which have been made, although more funds would be necessary later for the further improvement of the system. The largest single item of expense would be the bridge at Elk Rock, which would cost \$175,000, at present estimates.

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### MILLION DOLLARS FOR NEW PARKS

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### PLANS ARE READY

#### Co-operative Christian Federation About to Begin Work.

#### SOLID BASIS IS SECURED

#### It Is Reported That Eastern Trust Will Guarantee a \$1,000,000 Bond Issue to Start the Gigantic Undertaking.

Plans have been completed by the Christian Co-operative Federation to begin the work of carrying out its projects, which were inaugurated more than a year and a half ago, for the establishment of colonies in Oregon and the development of large areas of land which are now practically barren. Officers of the federation have been putting forth every effort during the past year to place their gigantic undertaking upon a solid basis, and it is understood that a stage has been reached where the sale of bonds and practical work can begin. Reports are current that a large New York trust company is ready to guarantee immediately a \$1,000,000 bond issue, to be followed soon by other issues.

The federation was incorporated in Portland in July, 1905, and its plans, as originally outlined, are now to be realized, according to those associated with the movement. Rev. H. S. Wallace is the principal promoter. The entire project involves a bonded capitalization of \$50,000,000, to be guaranteed by some of the most substantial banking and trust companies of the East. The Eastern companies are to back the bonds to the extent of 10 per cent interest annually, and in addition to this the bond holders are to receive an additional 5 per cent interest, conditional upon the profits from the undertaking. In guaranteeing bonds the Eastern capitalists are depending upon the business basis of the scheme, as outlined by its promoters, the revenue to be derived ultimately from the productivity of Oregon's soil.

It is understood that options have already been taken by the federation upon large tracts of Eastern and Central Oregon lands. This acreage will be purchased by the money derived from the bonds and immediate steps taken for its development. Large portions of the land will be subject to irrigation, and extensive reclamation schemes are included in the project. To cultivate the soil and carry out the various features of the plan, colonization will be encouraged on a large scale. Much money will be expended in exploitation which, while bearing on the state as a whole, will be centered upon the project of the federation. Thousands of people, sympathizing with the federation and its purpose, will be brought to Oregon and placed upon the land which is to be purchased, subdivided and operated under the direction of competent managers, affiliated with the corporation.

While the object of the federation is primarily the development of agriculture on lands now unproductive, it is not that alone. It is also intended to establish cheese factories, creameries, woolen mills, clothing factories and many other industries. These factories and mills will dispose of the products of the land, and each will serve as a cog in the vast system to be built up. Entire cities and towns are to be laid out on the land owned by the federation, and the entire system to be operated to a degree on the communistic principle.

As is suggested by its name, religion plays a part in the federation and its plans. It is proposed to build up a small government on a fraternal, rather than on a paternal scale. No attempt will be made to dictate individual religious persuasions, but the people composing the communities are expected to live in harmonious Christian relations. The right to expel any resident will be reserved by the management, but anyone so expelled will be refunded the money which he has invested.

With the immense capitalization which it is expected ultimately to realize, the officers of the federation expect not only to establish large farming communities and cities, but also to build railroads. The land to be purchased will be distant from the centers of population, but if the project is carried out in its entirety, it will be given adequate transportation facilities, thus opening for complete development land now of low value.

### RETURNS WITHOUT FIGHT

#### W. H. Taft on Way to Portland From Calgary to Face Charges.

Contrary to the expectations of the police, W. H. Taft, ex-convict, high financier and former dealer in real estate here, has consented to return to Portland without the long and arduous process of extradition and, in company with Deputy Sheriff Archie Leonard, he left Calgary, Alberta, for this city at noon yesterday and is expected to arrive tonight or tomorrow. The party is composed of Taft, Leonard, Attorney Max Cohen and Dr. George Peters.

A message was received by The Oregonian yesterday afternoon, stating that the party had left Calgary for Portland, and from this it is evident that Taft has recovered rapidly from an attack of pneumonia, as when Deputy Sheriff Leonard reached Calgary several days ago, it was announced by wire that he was unable to see the prisoner, who was reported to be dangerously ill.

Taft is wanted here on charges of fraudulent evidence and forgery. Although he was an ex-convict, he flourished in the real estate business and made money rapidly. Dr. George Peters, accompanying the party, is but one of many victims. Max Cohen is attorney for the persons who have brought charges against Taft.

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#### And Our New Shop, Third and Washington Streets.

Pipe racks, Stein racks, ornamental and useful.

### SUNDAY TRIPS TO SEASIDE

The A. & C. R. R. will run an excursion to Seaside and return every Sunday at the round trip rate of \$1.50. Take advantage of the low rate and see the ocean. Tickets for sale during the week at 348 Alder street and at the Union Depot, Sunday morning.

### A BARGAIN WINDOW.

Corner West Park and Washington streets. A windowful of bargains. Every article would make a beautiful Christmas gift. Pure wools, coats, silk petticoats, kimonos, etc., all marked down to an astonishing low price. Le Palais Royal, 275 Washington street.

### HARRIS TRUNK CO

Have the finest assortment of suit cases and bags. Sixth street opposite Oregonian.

Schilling's Best is elected by popular vote.

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The details of the plan will be worked out and the proposition of bonding the city for \$1,000,000 voted upon at the June election.

A report upon the scheme of parks and boulevards was made at the meeting of the Initiative One Hundred last night by J. C. Ainsworth, chairman of the committee which has had the matter in charge. He gave a general outline of the plan and recommended bringing an Eastern expert to Portland within the next few months to make surveys and to work out the details. Upon motion of Mr. Ainsworth, the organization passed a motion requesting the Council to appropriate \$500,000 early in January for the purpose of employing an Olmstead engineer to come to Portland to select the most feasible routes for boulevards and locations for park sites.

The project includes the laying out of a splendid boulevard or driveway around the greater portion of the city. This driveway would go south on Fourteenth street, and thence out the White House road to Elk Rock on the Willamette river. At this point the river would be spanned by a high bridge. A section of the road would be dedicated through the golf links at Sellwood, and from that point to Mount Tabor, where a large park would be laid out. From Mount Tabor the driveway would run northwest to Irvington, to there connect with Portsmouth boulevard to University Park and St. Johns.

There is also a plan to lay out a scenic driveway on the heights west of the city. It is believed that property owners will find it to their interests to dedicate the land for the road without expense to the city. The entire project can be carried out for \$1,000,000, according to the estimates which have been made, although more funds would be necessary later for the further improvement of the system. The largest single item of expense would be the bridge at Elk Rock, which would cost \$175,000, at present estimates.

It is also desired to connect the East and West Side roads by a bridge at St. Johns. This was included in the original plan but it was found that the expense could not be met by the city, as the site is outside the boundaries. A preliminary sketch of this bridge has been made and an estimate, placing the expense at \$861,000. This matter will be taken up along other lines with a view toward having

### PORTLAND'S PROSPERITY

People in Portland who may want to furnish their friends in the East with exact information of Portland's status as one of the great cities and tidewater ship-ports of the Coast should mail these friends copies of the New Year's Oregonian that will be published Tuesday morning, January 1 next. The paper will be handsomely illustrated. Price by mail to any address in the United States, Canada or Mexico, postage prepaid.

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