WARM REPLY BY SHERIFF STEVENS

Makes a Spirited Statement Regarding Relations With the County Court.

PERSECUTED, HE DECLARES

Responsible for Prisoners Not in His Control—"Seven-Cent Meals and Nine Dollars-a-Day County Court Sessions."

Sheriff Stevens, bracing himself for a contest with the County Court for custody of county prisoners, most of whom the court, at one time and another takes from his control and places at the Kelly Butte quarry and half of whom are now at that place, yesterday made a statement, saying that although he is expected to assume all risk for safekeeping the prisoners and is under bond therefor, "I am deprived of any voice in their control, while nominally and legally they are supposed to be in my charge."

Sheriff Stevens maintains that the prisoners at the quarry should be in his hands, instead of in the hands of "those who are not under bonds for their keeping," meaning the appointees of the County Court. He cites the fact that owing to the enmity of the court toward him and its unwillingness to supply him with needed deputies and jailers, the one jailer is on duty the full 24 hours of each day and while sleeping at night, must leave the jail without a watch, thus exposing the county to the danger of a jailbreak.

As to the feeding of prisoners, which the court has taken out of the hands of the Sheriff, thereby saving the county, as its members say, $200 a month, Stevens declares the food unfit to eat and pronounced unfit by the physician called to attend the men who have been sickened by it.

Stevens has taken his grievances before the Legislators of Multnomah County, several of whom are lending him favorable ear, to the end that he shall be restored to his control of the prisoners, by legislation at Salem this Winter. His statement is as follows:

Sheriff Stevens' Statement.

"I have thus far refrained from making any public protest against the persecutions to which I have been subjected by the Multnomah County Commissioners since I first took charge of my office; but I am somewhat interested in the remarkable statements credited to Mr. Barnes in this morning's Oregonian. This thrifty guardian of the county funds states that the Commissioners are feeding the prisoners at Kelly's Butte at less than 7 cents per meal.

"Now, any man possessed of ordinary intelligence knows that with food of all kinds at present high prices it is an impossibility to get the cost per meal down to 7 cents, even by using stuff which could not be sold to other customers at the market. I will admit that by omitting the daily stipend which he is allowed by the county for this new culinary duty which he has assumed, or by omitting all other charges except the bare cost of the uncooked food, Mr. Barnes can make a very alluring showing from a financial standpoint. It still remains a question in my mind, however, whether the taxpayers as a whole prefer to pay three Commissioners $9 per day to engage in mathematical calculations by which meals actually costing the county more than formerly, are made to appear at 7 cents each, or whether they prefer to have the Sheriff attend to the matter in the manner intended by the law.

"Commissioner Barnes lays particular stress on an alleged saving of $200 per month by feeding the prisoners on food which would have no temptations for a well-bred dog. He harshly alludes to this alleged $200 per month saving as 'graft which the Sheriff used to put into his pockets.' Graft is a hard word. I am perhaps less familiar with its meaning than is the man who uses the word in such a careless manner. I recall the fact that, until a comparatively short time ago, the County Commissioners met only once a week, or fortnightly, and their per diem ceased when they were off trying law cases and attending to private matters. Now it seems the necessity of keeping the cost of meals down to 7 cents each makes it imperative that these $9-per-day sessions be held almost daily.

This Cast Is Brand New.

"I will incidentally mention that the additional cost of these frequent sessions, presumably held for the purpose of buying a few potatoes or some stale bread for the Kelly Butte culinary department, is not 'money which formerly went into the pockets of the Sheriff as graft on the county.' It is something brand new, evolved on purpose to fit the opportunity. Of course it is not 'graft,' or, if it is, it is not graft that 'formerly' existed. It exists now. I presume this increased cost of running the Commisioners' office will be explained as due to the increase in population and business in the country. This, however, is one of those poor rules that works only one way and does not apply to the Sheriff's office. With 20,000 more people in the county and more than one-third more work than when my predecessor took office, I have one additional regular deputy who took the place of an extra deputy last term. This necessitates both myself and my deputies working far into the night in order to keep up with the work of the office.

"Mr. Barnes knows perfectly well that the prisoners were sickened by the rotten food supplied by his 11½-cent contractor, as he, in company with Commissioner Lightner, visited the jail the morning following the trouble, when more of the unfit stuff was served, and he then and there announced that it was unfit to serve. The Deputy County Physician, Dr. McCormick, also pronounced it unfit for human beings to eat. I have heard it said that any kind of food is good enough for a jailbird, but heaven forbid that I should ever be guilty of feeding them food which I could not eat myself without gagging. It should also be remembered that there are in the jail a number of insane people and innocent men held as witnesses for lack of bail. Among the unfortunate insane who seem to have lost friends as well as reason I frequently find some who are too delicate to eat the 11½-cent concoctions, humanely supplied by the Commissioners, and I have thus far been obliged to feed these unfortunates at my own expense rather than see them suffer. I make no special pretensions to humanitarian proclivities, but there are limits to the amount of suffering any man can behold and still remain impassive.

Accountability of Sheriff.

"My objection to the prisoners being taken out of my charge at Kelly's Butte is due to the accountability for their keeping, to which I am still held. These prisoners are out of my control, and yet, when they break jail and escape from those who are not under bonds for their keeping and scatter through the county, I will be expected to recapture them. In other words, I must assume all the risk and all the responsibility for these prisoners and at the same time be deprived of any voice in their control, while nominally and legally they are supposed to be in my charge.

"The remarkable precautionary measures regarded necessary by Mr. Barnes in his administration of the sheriff's office are quite clearly set forth in his statement that 'a watchman in the courthouse on the floor above the jail is on duty at night and the jailer George Mitchell sleeps in the jail all night; therefore there is no danger of a jail break.' This discovery is worthy of a Sherlock Holmes; in fact it is quite in keeping with the culinary expert who can figure out seven-cent meals, and make himself believe that there are such things. For his information, I will state that the character of the criminals with whom I have come in contact is such that they would actually prefer having the jailer asleep instead of having one awake and on watch.

"Mr. Barnes is correct in stating that I was notified before election that the commissioners would take the feeding of the prisoners away from me. I was urged to acquiesce in the programme, and make it an issue in my campaign, but refused, as I did not care if elected to become an office boy in the county commissioner's office. Since the $9 a day commissioners began serving seven-cent meals at Kelly Butte, I have been informed by some of their intimate friends, that I was a fool for not 'making my peace' with them and retaining the feeding of the prisoners as well as 'assuring my re-election.' The concessions by which it was intimated that I could make that 'peace' did not appeal to me. I am being hampered in my work and belittled by the commissioners, but, until my present term expires, I shall run the office in accordance with the oath I took, and will not be a party to any petty grafts or political deals regardless of what financial or political emoluments might accrue through my agreeing to them."

AT THE THEATERS

What the Press Agents Say.

TWO PERFORMANCES TODAY

Merry Musical Comedy, "The Yankee Consul," at Heilig Theater.

There will be two performances at the Heilig Theater, Fourteenth and Washington streets today. A special matinee at 2:15 o'clock and tonight at 8:15 when the tuneful musical-comedy success "The Yankee Consul" will be the bill.

"A Bachelor's Romance" Today.

"A Bachelor's Romance" was made famous by Sol Smith Russell, and in the hands of the Baker Company it has again won laurels. Mr. Hastings, Miss Seymour, Mr. Gleason and Mr. Dills are giving performances that cannot be excelled. Matinee today; concluding performance tonight.

Saturday Matinee at Empire.

The school children have been impatiently awaiting the Saturday matinee at the Empire to see the great Western melodramatic comedy "Out in Idaho," with its vivid pictures of frontier life. The story is based on those of Bret Harte and it is alive with action from beginning to end.

Matinee Today at the Star.

There will be a matinee today of "The Heritage of the Red" at the Star Theater. The play was written especially for Miss Verna Felton, the leading woman of the Allen Stock Company, by Herbert Bashford, author of "The Hon. John North."

Do Not Miss "Faust" at the Lyric.

Whatever else you do, be sure and see the Lyric's great spectacular production of Goethe's immortal mystery drama, "Faust," as it has been presented to crowded houses during the past week. Warda Howard in the role of Marguerite is doing splendid work.

COMING ATTRACTIONS.

"The Heir to the Hoorah" at Heilig Theater Next Sunday.

"The Heir to the Hoorah" will begin an engagement of four nights at the Heilig Theater tomorrow, Sunday night. A matinee will be given Christmas afternoon. This delightful comedy was the first play given at the Heilig Theater after it was taken by Calvin Heilig last April and made an instantaneous hit.

Rose Melville as "Sis Hopkins."

The funniest of all funny comediennes, Rose Melville, will present her famous success, "Sis Hopkins," at the Heilig Theater next Thursday, Friday, Saturday nights, December 27, 28, 29, with a special matinee Saturday. Seat sale will open next Tuesday.

"Trilby" Opens Tomorrow at Baker.

Tomorrow afternoon the Baker Company will give its first performance of the great Christmas week production, "Trilby," and will also give a Christmas day matinee. John Sainpolis will enact the difficult role of Svengali, and Trilby will be played by Miss Lawrence.

"Belle of Japan," Empire, Tomorrow

"The Belle of Japan," one of the brightest, most up-to-date comedy-dramas of the season, will appear at the Empire Theater all of next week, beginning with tomorrow's matinee and will give a special Christmas day matinee.

Allen Stock Company in Two Plays.

Two plays will be given next week by the Allen Stock Company at the Star. For the daily matinees "Little Lord Fauntleroy" will be offered with Master Harold Hoff, the boy balladist, in the title role. "A Sultan's Daughter" will be played at night.

"Arra-Na-Pogue" Monday at Lyric.

The Christmas week attraction at the Lyric, commencing Monday afternoon, will be a grand revival of the famous Dion Boucicault's immortal Irish comedy-drama, "Arra-Na-Pogue."

AT THE VAUDEVILLE THEATERS

Splendid Comedy at the Grand.

Only a few more performances will be given of the great vaudeville entertainment at the Grand. There is one act as good as the ordinary three-act comedy. This is a sketch written by Ezra Kendall for Mr. and Mrs. Perkins Fisher called "The Half-Way House."

The Pantages' Programme.

Packed houses night after night this week attest to the good show at Pantages this week. Ask your friends who have been there. Miss Laurelle's spectacular novelty and the four Mangeans in the greatest of acrobatic acts are the headliners. All the others are up to the mark.

Christmas Week at Pantages'.

The Christmas offering at the Pantages Theater will be suitable to the occasion. The very best acts are being booked for the holidays. The feature will be Marron and Marron in the latest comedy hit, "The Sailor and the Piper."

SOMETHING NEW.

The morning at 9 o'clock we place on sale Spring, 1907, styles ladies' white Persian lawn shirtwaists and India silk waists. All samples, swell styles, secured for 60 cents on the dollar. Correct for presents. McAllen & McDonnell, the store noted for best goods at lowest prices.

The Meier & Frank Store

Portlands Largest and Best Store

— Established 1857 —

Very Very Busy in all Departments

Open tonight & as late as necessary —

BUILDING SHOWS INCREASE

FIGURES FOR 1906 ARE 39 PER CENT ABOVE LAST YEAR'S.

Prospects for 1907 Still Better, Says Building Inspector Spencer in Report.

According to the annual report of Building Inspector Spencer submitted yesterday to Mayor Lane, Portland's building activities for 1906 exceed in value those of 1905 by $1,634,196 or an increase of 39 per cent. Last year 2848 permits were issued, representing in value $4,183,356. This year approximately 3129 permits will be issued valued at approximately $6,827,564.

The number of permits issued the past three months far exceeds that of any other quarter during the year and is thought to be due to the appointment of a deputy building inspector who has been very active. The record of permits by months is as follows:

Month—	Permits.	Valuation.
January	182	$ 405,534.40
February	211	328,298.00
March	267	432,385.00
April	255	571,808.00
May	244	1,008,605.00
June	230	407,307.00
July	269	740,621.00
August	280	718,091.00
September	226	409,136.00
October	449	830,555.00
November	307	675,225.00
*December	208	300,000.00
Totals	3,129	$6,827,564.40

*Estimated.

In his report, Building Inspector Spencer says:

The total fees collected for permits amount to $5500. The department is more than self-supporting, having a balance in its favor for 1906 of $3200.

Several changes have been made in the building ordinance, and many more are needed. Its weakest point is with regard to elevator shafts and stairways. This in time is sure to be a matter of life and death, and is the greatest danger in our buildings today. Elevator shafts and stairways, in case of fire, act as great chimneys and are usually the first means of egress rendered useless.

Two deputies are badly needed for the ensuing year. This year has been the greatest in the history as regards building, and the year 1907 bids fair to eclipse the present. Plans are now being prepared and will soon be upon the market for upward of 75 stories of business blocks. But few houses are to rent, and so long as rents remain at the present figures homes will be built without number. The force is inadequate to care for and supervise the present building operations. With the prospects of increased activity along business lines, we shall be in greater need of assistance.

Approximately 3200 permits were issued during the year, and to properly inspect each job would require at least six visits, or a total of 19,200 visits for the year. With but two inspectors, who spend three-fourths of their time in the field, this would require a visit every ten minutes. The utter absurdity of such a proposition in a city of this size and covering the territory that it does, is readily seen. Therefore it is expedient that additional help be provided immediately. Other cities the size of Portland have from six to eight men in the building department. Portland stands 40th in population and fourth in area of the cities in the United States.

TRAINS DELAYED BY SLIDE

O. R. & N. Blockaded Near North Fork in the Blue Mountains.

Trains Nos. 5 and 1, due here yesterday over the O. R. & N., were delayed 12 hours by a landslide a short distance from North Fork, in the Blue Mountains. The continued rains of the week had loosened the ground on a mountain side, and it slid down, covering the track. Train No. 6, leaving Portland Thursday for the East, was also held up.

The warm rains of the past few days are responsible for another rapid rise in the Santiam River, and the Southern Pacific bridge, on the Springfield branch, spanning the south fork of the Santiam, became unsafe yesterday and could not be used. Trains on that branch are sent around by Albany.

Suit for Sum Due for Services.

F. E. Pierce was made defendant in an action brought by the Pacific Sanitarium & Benevolent Association, in the State Circuit Court yesterday to recover $652.75, alleged to be due for medical services. The complaint states that Pierce agreed to pay for medical attention given to one E. P. Brown and that only a portion of the amount has been paid, leaving a balance due of $625.75 on the cost of an operation performed by Dr. B. E. Biller, together with hospital fees.

PERSONAL MENTION.

Benjamin Ide Wheeler, president of the University of California, arrived in Portland last night from Seattle, where he has been spending the past week. He arrived too late to catch the night train for Berkeley, and will leave this morning or tonight. He is registered at the Hotel Portland.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—(Special.)—The following from the Pacific Northwest registered at New York hotels today:

From Portland—Mrs. Steinbach, Miss Steinbach at the Savoy; H. J. Cress, at the Manhattan.

From La Grange, Or.—W. B. Sargent at the Grand Union.

From Tacoma—Miss B. Baker at the Netherland.

From Seattle—H. Meenach, J. D. Meenach and wife at the Breslin; M. Lar and wife at the Park Avenue.

CHICAGO, Dec. 21.—(Special.)—The following from Portland, Or., registered at Chicago hotels today:

W. McCurtiss, C. H. Webber and wife, F. W. Murkle, H. C. Corbett, at the Auditorium.

OVER A MILLION CIGARS TO CHOOSE FROM.

We are sure to please you. Cigars at all prices and sizes. Special holiday packages. Sig Sichel & Co., agents Garcia, Mi Hogar and Lord Baltimore cigars.

Red Eyes and Eyelids, Weak Eyes And Tired Eyes Need Murine Eye Tonic.

ASKS MONEY FOR JETTY

HOQUIAM COMMERCIAL CLUB TAKES ACTION.

Requests Congress to Improve Bar as Originally Planned—Channel Needs Immediate Attention.

HOQUIAM, Wash., Dec. 21.—(Special.)—The following resolution respecting outer entrance harbor improvements was passed at a meeting of the Commercial Club tonight. A copy will be mailed to the Washington delegation in Congress:

Whereas, the entrance to Gray's Harbor has developed a tendency to divide, thus endangering its present channel, and,

Whereas, the commerce of this port has expanded to National importance, and,

Whereas, our district engineer has recommended further improvement of our entrance, in accordance with original plans adopted by Congress and which, in our judgment will give the relief required, and,

Whereas, an emergency exists demanding immediate attention,

Therefore be it resolved: That the Hoquiam Commercial Club urge upon its congressional delegation the great and immense necessity for an appropriation by Congress of the amount recommended by our district engineer, this amount to be expended as recommended in construction of a north side jetty, to the end that we make permanent our channel and increase the depth of water on our outer bar, and be it further,

Resolved, that the president and secretary of this association send copies of these resolutions to each of our congressional delegation and offer all assistance within our power in obtaining this much needed government aid.

HOQUIAM COMMERCIAL CLUB.
By Alexander Polson, president; William E. Campbell, secretary.

Bank Clearings Increase.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 21.—According to figures secured by the California Promotion Committee, the bank clearings for the week ending at noon, December 20, show that the clearings continue to surpass the record made last year for the same week. In San Francisco during the past week the clearings amounted to $49,691,895, while for the same period in 1905 they were $39,806,691. This shows an increase of $9,286,203, or 23 1-3 per cent.

There's nothing like Hood's Sarsaparilla for keeping blood pure and giving real strength.

BRING THE CHILDREN to see the Columbia Theater IT'S FREE!

SPECIAL HOLIDAY REDUCTION ON ALL GARMENTS

We are making a little better Suit to measure for $25 than usual. Better Trousers for $5.00 and $6.00

Mannish Coats for Women $20 to $40

Columbia Woolen Mill Co. TAILORS

Frank L. Smith Meat Co.

226-228 ALDER ST. BET. FIRST AND SECOND

"FIGHTING THE BEEF TRUST"

Oregon's Finest, Choicest, Freshest Poultry for Christmas

NOT A COLD STORAGE BIRD IN OUR MARKET

Dressed Turkeys, per lb. ..... 25¢
Choice Fat Dressed Geese, per lb. ..... 16¢
Fancy Dressed Chickens, per lb. ..... 16¢

We will cut up and serve to our customers Saturday and Monday our Christmas Beef, Lamb, Pork and Veal. Prices the same as usual.

Prime Rib Roast Beef, Rolled Roast Beef, Tenderloin Steak, Sirloin Steak, Veal Shoulder Roast, Veal Shoulder Cutlets, Round Steak and Hamburg Steak, and Shoulder Roast Lamb ..... All 10c per lb.

Porterhouse and "T"-Bone Steaks, Pork Shoulder Roast and Chops, Leg of Pork, Leg of Veal, Rump Roast and Loin Roast of Veal ..... All 12½c per lb.

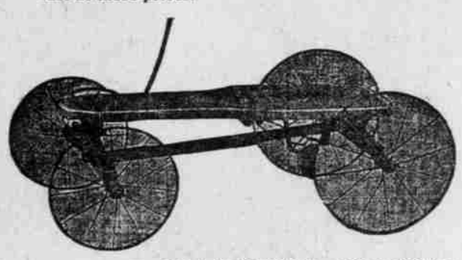
Leg of Spring Lamb, Loin and Rib Chops of Spring Lamb, Pork Loin Roast and Chops ..... All 15c per lb.

Shoulder Roast of Spring Lamb, Breast of Veal, Pot Roast and Rump Roast of Beef ..... All 8c per lb.

Beef for boiling and stewing, Spring Lamb Stew, Liver and Hearts. All ..... 5c lb.

SATURDAY SPECIAL SALE

On four desirable articles that will suit the taste and needs of every boy and girl between the ages of 6 and 16. Come early; they'll sell fast at these prices.



$1.50

CALIFORNIA COASTER
32-inch California Coaster, size of wheels, 12 and 14 inches.

WABASH HANDCAR
Length 43 inches, rubber tired wheels, 11 inches.... $4.50

WABASH COASTER
Length 34 inches, wheels 11 inches..... $3.50

EXTRA SPECIAL GOOD GIFT FOR BOYS
A $1 Teddy's Pom-Pom Gun for

25c

A Toy Gun, shoots hollow rubber balls, perfectly harmless.

HONEYMAN HARDWARE COMPANY
"Where Quality Predominates More Than Price"
FOURTH AND ALDER STREETS OPEN EVENINGS