

NO ATTEMPT MADE TO PACK MEETING

Threatened Coup by Montavilla Taxpayers Fails to Materialize.

LEVY OF 2.5 MILLS VOTED

William DeVeny Makes Speech in Defense of the Honor of Montavilla—Estimates for the Coming Year.

By popular vote a special tax of 2.5 mills was levied by the school board of school district No. 1, at the annual meeting of the taxpayers held at the High School last night.

That rumor is unfair to the people of Montavilla, he declared. "I and others out there would like to know the name of the sensational woman who telephoned to Chairman Beach that such a ruse was contemplated."

After Chairman Beach had read the annual report of the directors, J. N. Teal made a motion that the report be adopted, and that the levy of 2.5 mills, as recommended in the report, be made.

Tax Will Produce \$405,000.

The special levy was made upon an assessed valuation of \$16,200,000 and will produce \$405,000. The total estimated receipts of the district for 1907 is \$892,450.

The report of the directors dwells rather vaguely upon the new buildings and additions that are to be erected. "Many parts of the district are in sore need of additional room and more room should be provided at Arieta, Terwilliger, Peninsula, Highland, Irvington, Portsmouth and Montavilla, as well as in other localities, if sufficient funds are available."

By the vote of the taxpayers last Spring there were added to district No. 1 five adjoining districts, thus greatly increasing the area of the district as well as the number of pupils attending the schools and the number of teachers employed.

Probable Expenditures in 1907.

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Includes Teachers' salaries, Janitors' salaries, School clerk's salary, Superintendent's salary, Interest, Telephone, Insurance, Water, Advertising, Rent, Stationery, Fuel, Gas, Janitors' supplies, Printing, Streets and sewers, Repairs and alterations, High School laboratory, School furniture, School books, School supplies, Extraordinary expenses, Electric power, Manual training, New buildings and completion of buildings, Outstanding accounts and due on building contracts.

PERSONAL MENTION.

Cyrus A. Dolph, a member of the law firm of Dolph, Mallory, Sims & Geary, has been confined to his home, 363 West Park street, since Thanksgiving, suffering from a general breakdown.

News has been received in Portland that Theodore Hardee has resigned his position as secretary of the Ways and Means committee of the National Civic Federation.

CHICAGO, Dec. 27.—(Special.)—Oregonians registered today as follows: From Portland—A. P. Herbst, F. A. McKinnon, at the Majestic.

NEW YORK, Dec. 27.—(Special.)—Northwestern people registered at New York hotels today as follows: From Portland, at the Marlborough, W. J. Hoffman and wife, from Clatskanie, at the Herald Square, B. Spenc-

NOT AUTHOR OF PRAYER

Bishop Lawrence Denies Connection With So-called Endless Chain.

Rev. A. A. Morrison, D. D., has received a communication from Rt. Rev. William Lawrence, Bishop of Massachusetts, requesting Dr. Morrison to announce that the bishop has had nothing to do with the "prayer chain" in circulation in the United States, and purporting to have originated with the bishop. Several copies of the prayer have been received through the mails by residents of Portland. The recipient is told to repeat the prayer a certain number of times, and to mail a number of copies to friends, that the chain may not be broken, and is promised a great blessing if the directions are faithfully carried out. A curse is threatened those who fail to comply.

Woodstock Push Club Social.

The Woodstock Push Club will give a social and dance tonight at the Woodstock hall. C. Ben Riesland of the club announces that there will be a strong programme, and cordially invites all to be present. Professor C. M. Yoder and his pupils will render vocal and instrumental selections. C. M. Smith, the first president of the club, will speak on the work the club has done, while Mr. Riesland will tell of its future needs. After the programme there will be a dance and lunch. The Women's Auxiliary will join in the meeting.

Divorce Suits Allege Desertion.

OREGON CITY, Or., Dec. 27.—(Special.)—Two divorce suits, in each of which desertion is alleged, have been filed here. A. A. Dickerson is suing C. D. Dickerson for a divorce, charging failure to provide and desertion in December, 1905. They were married in Clatsop County in December, 1893. J. E. Doyle is also suing Mattie Doyle for a legal separation, alleging that the wife, whom he married at Portsmouth, N. H., in September, 1897, wilfully deserted him in April, 1905.

Sheridan Libel Suit Postponed.

BOISE, Idaho, Dec. 27.—(Special.)—The criminal libel case brought against R. S. Sheridan, manager of the Capital News, by Governor Gooding was called before Justice Dunbar. On request of the defense it was postponed until January 8.

CONTRACTS LET FOR TWO FILLS

Pacific Bridge Company Only Bidder for Big East Side Improvements.

COST WILL BE \$45,937.10

Company Keeps Barely Within Engineer's Estimate, Plus Ten Per Cent for Profit.

The street committee of the executive board yesterday afternoon awarded two contracts to the Pacific Bridge Company for fills on East Morrison and East Eighth streets the cost of which will aggregate \$45,937.10. For these two improvements the Pacific Bridge Company was the only company to submit bids. The contract for filling East Morrison street between East Seventh and East Ninth street amounts to \$17,960.34, which is only 46 cents under the City Engineer's estimate with the customary 10 per cent added. The contract price for the fill on East Eighth street is for \$27,976.76, which is 44 cents less than the City Engineer's estimate, with the 10 per cent added. The Pacific Bridge Company has dump cars and a gravel pit at Montavilla, and is in a position, it is said, to make the fills more cheaply than any other concern in the city. Other contracting companies did not send in bids because they could not do the work within the estimate made by the City Engineer, as they do not own dump cars. When a petition is filed for street improvements the City Engineer makes an estimate of the cost of such improvements which is placed on file as a public record. He figures closely and the contract is awarded to the bidder who makes the lowest tender, which must be within the estimate plus 10 per cent for profit.

Realizing that it would have no competition the Pacific Bridge Company kept within an estimate of the City Engineer by cents only. City Engineer Taylor and several contractors at the meeting yesterday declared that the proposals of the company were reasonable and the members of the board decided to award the contracts as there were no prospects of other bids being offered for the two improvements. The award of the contracts by the street committee are subject to the approval of the executive committee. Other awards for street improvements made yesterday are as follows: East Seventeenth street, between Nehalem and Linn avenues, A. L. Keenan, \$4603.52. East Nineteenth street, between East Morrison and East Stark streets, Joplin and Meeks, \$2715.22. East Twentieth street, between East Morrison and East Stark streets, Joplin and Meeks, \$3064.41. East Twentieth street, between East Morrison and East Stark streets, Joplin and Meeks, \$3064.41. East Twentieth street, between East Morrison and East Stark streets, Joplin and Meeks, \$3064.41.

WIRELESS PLANT FOR NORTH HEAD.

VALLEJO, Cal., Dec. 27.—Master Electrician George Hanson, of the Mare Island Navy Yard, with five of his assistants, left today for Ilwaco, Wash., to establish a wireless telegraph plant at North Head. This will be completed in a month, when another station will be fitted out at Cape Blanco, 200 miles south of Ilwaco, completing the chain of wireless stations on the Pacific Coast.

Elks Give Annual Xmas Tree; Santa Claus Is Present



ALTHOUGH Santa Claus was a little late in finding the Elks Club, it was many hours later before he got away after he had finished. In fact, at the time this goes to press, Old Santa is still hanging out presents and listening to Joe Day sing.

The Elks had a Christmas tree last night. They had other things as well, but the tree was the drawing card. Wearers of the antlers came from all over the American map to attend the doings, and if they didn't get enough to eat and plenty to wash it down it was because they were bashful. Half a thousand members of the antlered herd gathered at the lodge room of the Elks building, corner of Seventh and Stark streets, last night and were children again for a time. There were presents for every one, and it is known that several prominent Elks received several gifts that they did not tell their wives about. It was 9 o'clock when "Alabama Blossom" Day took charge of things. Day was so tight that he was blacked up so that he outshone the ace of spades.

THE ELKS' CHRISTMAS TREE

Dr. McKay introduced him as "Mr. Coon," and for once the color line was not drawn. "If you don't spit no one will know you," was the advice given Day by Henry Griffin, just as "Mr. Coon" was about to assume command. But Joe laughed, which gave him away at once. Nothing at once that there was a spirit of thirist in the multitude, sweet elder and amber water was ordered passed around, after which the collection was taken. Then old St. Nick blew in. This Santa Claus had the usual snowy beard and white locks, red flowing robes and a nose that would have been a model for a strawberry patch. Henry Griffin played this role, and he proved an excellent "present master." There were gifts by the hundreds, and it was nearing the wee small hour time when all of the things were passed out. James Anderson's brick mold and the poem that accompanied it was one of the hits of the evening. One of the most pleasing features of the entertainment was the songs by the Arion Society, under the leadership of Louis Danmarch. They gave several well-known German songs, each number being greeted with cheers. Santa presented the singers with pipes, telling them to go "way back and smoke up."

SCHMITZ ASKS QUICK TRIAL

Attorneys Desire Transfer to Another Department.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 27.—A new move was made today by the attorneys for Mayor Schmitz in the indictment case. Notice was filed with the District Attorney that they have moved that the Presiding Judge in the Superior Court transfer the Mayor's case from Judge Dunne's department to some other department. The motion will be argued before Judge Graham tomorrow. The arguments Schmitz advances in an affidavit attached to this motion are that he wants a "speedy trial," separate and apart from the "Japanese" case, and that the conditions and performing the other duties of his office.

HOLIDAY RATES.

Announced to Ocean Beaches.

To enable patrons to visit ocean beaches during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, the O. R. & N. Co. will, on November 25 and 26, December 24 and 25, and January 1, sell round-trip tickets to all North Beach points at a rate of \$2.50. For further information ask at City Ticket Office, Third and Washington streets, Portland, Or.

CHARTER BLOCKS LOW WATER RATES

Amendment Must Be Passed Placing Burden of Extensions on Property-Owners.

MAYOR FAVORS CHANGE

Water Board Will Probably Recommend to Council Reduction of Water Charges—Charter Amendment Will Then Be Forced.

If the family water rates are lowered by a third as will probably be recommended to the City Council by the Water Board which will hold a special meeting Monday morning, the Legislature or the people of Portland will be forced to amend the charter so as to compel property owners to assume part of the expense of keeping up the Water Department. The revenue of the department will be reduced to such an extent that to secure the extension of mains, which is necessary if Portland is to have an adequate water service, it is believed the Legislature or the people by popular vote will be compelled to come to the aid of the department by enacting the desired legislation.

The Water Board has placed itself on record as favoring an amendment to the charter which would enable the levying of a tax upon the property owners and if the board recommends the one-third reduction of the family water rates it will be a move to effect this end. The most popular plan proposed to reduce the rates paid by the consumer is to levy a tax upon the property owners who have mains running in front of their property. If this is done it is believed that next year the rates will be reduced to about half what they are at the present time. Upon the surface there appears to be little doubt but that the Water Board will recommend this reduction when it meets Monday morning. The belief that the Council will adopt the recommendations is also general as there is a feeling among the members that the present system of collecting the revenues for the Water Department is unjust.

If the Water Board does what is anticipated an ordinance providing for the reduction will be presented to the Council with the recommendation from the board that it pass. This ordinance will probably be passed at the meeting of the Council Monday morning at 10 o'clock without being referred to the committee. The charter provides that a readjustment of the rates must be made before the beginning of a new year. It is a foregone conclusion that Mayor Lane will not veto the ordinance.

The Legislature or the people of Portland will have to amend the charter if the Council makes the cut," declared Mayor Lane yesterday. "The reduction will come legislation or otherwise the Water Department will be sadly handicapped through lack of funds. It is simply putting it up to the people. If the Legislature does not amend the charter so that the property owners may be taxed to share with the consumers the cost of maintenance and improvement of the system it will undoubtedly come up for popular vote at the Spring election. The present system is vicious and the people will see to it that a change is made."

It is estimated that to make all the extensions of mains demanded by the growth of the city would cost approximately \$1,000,000. By the reduction of the family rates the estimated fund available for this purpose would be reduced to less than \$200,000 which is entirely inadequate. Before the cut was contemplated it had been estimated that \$225,000 would be available for extensions. The proposed reduction will, if it is made, happily affect about 30,500 families. About 25,000 buildings in Portland receive the service and of these 20,500 are dwellings, the inhabitants of which will receive the benefit of the reduction. The family rate by the month is for faucet 50 cents, toilet 50 cents, and bath 50 cents, making a total of \$1.50 for the three. The proposed reduction would make the rate for faucet 30 cents, toilet 25 cents and bath 25 cents, thus bringing the change down to \$1. For additional service, such as an extra bath, for which there is charged 25 cents, no reduction is contemplated.

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The New Year's Oregonian For 1907

The Annual number of The Oregonian for 1907 will be published on Tuesday morning, January 1. This number will be replete with information of the principal interests directly connected with Portland's most rapid development during 1906.

The total volume of business handled by Portland in 1906 has vastly exceeded the total volume of business for 1905. This is a remarkable showing, when it is remembered that the Lewis and Clark World's Fair was held in Portland during 1905. The most enthusiastic forecast in the latter part of the year 1905 did not anticipate that the volume of business handled in Portland in 1906 would begin to equal in volume the business of Portland during Exposition year.

The keynote of the Annual number of The Oregonian for 1907 will be the wonderful degree of prosperity Portland has enjoyed during 1906 in the building line. The number will contain two full-page engravings of Portland buildings now under construction, and of other miscellaneous features connected with the erection of these buildings. Special attention will also be paid to the rapid appreciation of all Portland realty values. A great deal of Portland's best business property has doubled in value during the past year alone. Incidental to the activity of the real estate market in Portland, considerable attention will be paid in the Annual number to horticulture and irrigation projects in Oregon. One page will be devoted to irrigation, and an adequate amount of space to railroad development and the present status of fruit culture in Oregon. Oregon fruits carried off the first awards at the Buffalo Exposition.

The number will contain a double-page illustration of the business section of Portland. Portland today is the greatest lumber-shipping port in the world. It is one of the greatest export cities in flour and wheat in America. It is today the most important railroad terminal center of the Pacific Coast.

Everybody in the East wants information of Portland and the Pacific Northwest. The Annual number of The Oregonian for 1907 will be mailed to any address in the United States, Canada or Mexico for

8 Cents Postage Prepaid Address The Oregonian Portland, Or.