COURT ASKS PROOF

Husband's Testimony in Divorce Suit Not Enough.

P. T. FLETCHER IN DILEMMA

Must Have Witness to Fact That Wife's Cold and Unaffectionate Nature Makes His Life a Burden.

If P. T. Fletcher insists upon having a divorce from Mrs. Fletcher, he will have to resort to strategy. The fact that Mrs. Fletcher is cold and distant does not suffice. He must prove that fact by other witnesses than himself.

Fletcher was denied a divorce by Presiding Judge Sears, of the state Circuit Court, yesterday. The decree had been asked for on the ground of Mrs. Fletcher's icy demeanor, and the only witness concerning her temperament naturally was the husband. But a husband's unsupported testimony isn't enough.

To proceed further Fletcher will have to take a friend or two home to dinner, for the wife cooks excellent meals and atiends to the house in praiseworthy fashion, so the testimony shows. Having finished dinner, it will be necessary for the head of the household to endeavor to caress the other half of the sketch. When she scorns his advances, he can call the attention of those present to the fact, and thus lay the foundation for a more successful divorce suit.

The suit stands in a class by itself in the annals of the local divorce courts. Fletcher filed action several weeks ago, alleging his wife had become cold and distant. She continued living with him, cooked their meals and attended to her household duties. But when he sought an after-dinner caress she would scoff at the idea. Fletcher's affectionate nature could not endure this treatment, and after standing it two years, he started out for the divorce.

As to whether or not Mrs. Fletcher's conduct constituted technical desertion Judge Sears made no decision. He said he found authorities divided on this question, but since plaintiff had offered no corroborative evidence, it was not necessary to go deeper into the case. Just how Fletcher will proceed to get his corroboration is a problem that he must work out for himself.

Harry Dixon's matrimonial career has been brought up with a sharp turn, and he is in trouble. Dixon is a brute, according to his wife, Lena Dixon, who wants a divorce from him on the grounds of continued cruelty. She has filed suit asking for an order restraining Dixon from visiting her pending a settlement of the suit. Judge Sears issued the order as requested.

It appears, however, that Dixon's desire to visit his wife was greater than his fear of the consequences, which he will now have to face, for Mrs. Dixon yesterday reported a violation of the restraining order, and an order was issued by Judge Sears directing the husband to appear in court and show cause why he should not be fined for contempt of court.

Few divorce complaints recite such brutal treatment as that charged against her husband by Mrs. Dixon. During the two years of their married life he has beaten her, cursed her, abused her and compelled her to earn her own livelihood, she says. A few days ago he gave her a severe thrashing, she says, and thereupon she looked up a lawyer and arranged for divorce proceedings. They were married in Portland, November 3, 1901.

ESCAPED CONVICT IS CAUGHT

William Winters Identified at Rockpile by Deputy Sheriff Leonard.

Charles Winters, one of 10 men arrested some days ago on suspicion that they were professional criminals, has a criminal record as well as a reward on his head. This fact was discovered yesterday afternoon by Deputy Sheriff Archie Leonard, who unearthed Winters' criminal record and established the fact that the man escaped several years ago from the Government prison at Leavenworth, Kan. The reward offered for his recapture is $60.

Winters was at work on the rockpile yesterday afternoon when identified by Deputy Sheriff Leonard. At the time of his arrest Winters was sent to the rockpile for 90 days on a charge of vagrancy, since evidence for a more serious charge could not be secured. One object in detaining Winters and his fellow toughs was to give the police time to look up their past records. And while Winters' photo and description as a fugitive from Leavenworth was on the police records, the police department failed to connect the two.

Deputy Sheriff Leonard identified his man from the circular of escape sent the county authorities several years ago and placed on file at that time. Bertillon measurements of the fugitive were taken during the afternoon and this completed the identification. The authorities at Leavenworth will be notified at once. Winters is being held at the County Jail.

SUES LANDLORD FOR DAMAGES

Eilers Piano House Says He Broke Rental Agreement.

As damages for his alleged failure to keep a rental contract, the Eilers Piano House wants the sum of $363 from Thomas Scott Brooke. In a suit filed in the Circuit Court yesterday the piano company sets out that it contracted for the entire second floor of the new brick building at Park and Washington streets. They were to have had possession last October, the complaint states, and, in anticipation of this move, laid in additional stock valued at $100,000, hired extra salesmen and mechanics and made other extensive arrangements for the move.

But when the time came to move they found that A. P. Armstrong had secured the second floor, and they were shut out. Storage and demurrage on extra stock and salaries and other expenditures entailed by this alleged breach of contract cost them $363.10, the piano people say, and they think the amount should be paid by Brooke, who is trustee of the building in question.

Bill of Exceptions Filed by Mays.

A bill of exceptions, containing 818 pages of typewritten matter, was filed yesterday in the Federal Court by W. D. Fenton, attorney for Franklin Pierce Mays, convicted of conspiracy to defraud the Government in conjunction with George Sorenson and Willard N. Jones.

Since last September a stenographer has been employed typewriting this document, which probably is one of the most voluminous of its kind ever filed in the Federal Court. The bill contains something like 200 exceptions.

Mrs. Huntsman's Statement.

Mrs. Katherine Huntsman, who sued R. I. Eckerson for $20,000 damages, alleging malicious prosecution, declares that the jury, which disagreed, stood nine in her favor and two for the defendant. The jury was made up of 11 men. During the deliberations of the jury, she says she is informed that one juror who voted for the defendant offered to vote for a verdict in her favor if the nine jurors would consent to make the damages only $50. But, she says, a verdict could not be reached on this basis. The case will be tried for a third time.

Real Estate Man Loses Suit.

James Humphries was not acting as an authorized agent of Mrs. Z. White when he sold her property at Fourth and Oak streets for $100,000. Accordingly, he is entitled to no commission. This was Judge Frazer's decision yesterday, in Humphries' suit for commissions on the sale aggregating $2500. The real estate man claimed he was instructed to sell the property, that he disposed of it to Dr. E. H. Parker, and that his commission was withheld. Mrs. White denied having authorized Humphries to make any sale, and offered corroborative testimony. Judge Frazer, in his ruling, said there was nothing in the evidence to show that Humphries was acting as Mrs. White's agent, and that he was entitled to no commission.

Jurors Inspect the Scene.

The Peninsula Lumber Company's mill and grounds were inspected yesterday forenoon by a Circuit Court jury which is trying the damage suit of Rankin against the company. Rankin wants $10,300 to recompense him for the loss of an eye, an accident which befell him last June while he was working near a lathing machine at the mill in question.

FANATICS LOSE IN COURT

TONGUES OF FIRE RIOTERS FOUND NOT GUILTY.

Cult's Special Policemen Fail to Convict First Victim of Their Authority.

The three special policemen, recently appointed by Mayor Lane to guard the hall of the Tongues of Fire on

"A Tongue of Fire" Special on Guard

Second street, failed in their effort to have G. Karlson and Fred and R. Foster fined for disorderly conduct yesterday morning in the Municipal Court, where the charges were heard by Judge Cameron.

In a rough-and-tumble fight in front of the Tongues of Fire hall last Saturday night Karlson was beaten to a pulp by Special Policemen Harper, Miller and Brown, when he refused to "move on" at their command. He resisted arrest and put up a gallant fight, "landing" a knockout blow on Miller's forehead and proving himself too much for that officer to handle alone. Specials Harper and Brown came to the rescue and a battle ensued that threatened to end in a riot, but Patrolman Wanless, in full uniform, arrived in time to prevent this, and Karlson was taken to police headquarters.

A charge of "refusing to move on" was placed against Karlson by Special Policeman Miller, and in default of $25 bail the prisoner was lodged in the City Jail.

Monday morning the case was called in the Municipal Court, and a portion of the testimony was taken, but when Fred and R. Foster, brothers, took the

The Same Special Ready for Action.

stand in behalf of the defense, Judge Cameron wished to ascertain why they were on the scene during the battle, and ordered both placed under arrest. The case was then continued until yesterday morning, to give them time to produce evidence. They were able to show they took no active part in the melee and the charges against them were continued indefinitely.

Karlson was found guilty of the technical violation of law in refusing to "move on" when ordered to do so by an officer, but the offense was considered so trivial by Judge Cameron that he imposed no fine, and the prisoner went free. Karlson and the Fosters, however, were warned never again to be found around the Tongues of Fire hall, under penalty of punishment.

Great interest attached to the case because of the peculiar circumstances under which the arrest of Karlson was made. He declared to the police that he was not molesting the fanatics, but that he was attacked in a savage manner by Special Policeman Miller for an unknown reason, and that because of this he refused to move when Miller ordered him to. Karlson says he will take the case before the Police Commission.

HERE TO CONVENE

Hardware Men Come for Annual Session.

MAY FORM A FEDERATION

Retail Hardware and Implement Dealers of Northwest Will Spend Two Days in Talking Shop and Completing Organization.

After a delay of two days in opening their session, due to the blocking of the Washington railroads by storms, which prevented the Spokane and other Washington delegations from reaching Portland, the hardware men of the Northwest will meet at 9 o'clock this morning in the Chamber of Commerce Hall. The convention is the first annual meeting of the Oregon State Retail Hardware and Implement Dealers' Association, an organization that was formed here last year. It is expected that a Pacific Coast federation of the various implement and hardware associations in the Pacific Northwest will be formed here this week.

A lengthy programme, consisting of discussions of interest to the hardware trade, has been prepared. The session will last two days and will include a banquet at the Hotel Portland, when the dealers will be the guests of the Portland jobbers.

The executive committee, consisting of H. J. Altnow, of Woodburn; Henry J. Goff, Forest Grove; Frank Dayton, Portland; E. F. Willis, Banks; F. E. Chambers, Eugene, and Frank Spencer, of Salem, will meet this morning at 9 o'clock and complete the arrangements for the convention. At 10 o'clock the convention will be formally opened. H. J. Altnow, president of the organization, will preside, and he will respond to the address of welcome to be delivered by E. M. Brannick, manager of Studebaker Bros.

Reports from the various officers will be given, showing the strength the organization has gained during the past year. The election of officers for the coming year will be the last order of business and will occur Thursday afternoon.

The reception committee of the association is composed of F. Dayton, Dayton Hardware Company; V. A. Avery, Avery & Co.; George J. Kadderly, Kadderly & Co.; C. L. Seaquest, Seaquest Bros.; C. N. Stockwell, Columbia Hardware Company; H. C. Ross, Coleman Hardware Company; A. H. Anderson, Portland Hardware Company; and F. R. Chown, all of Portland.

Members of the Portland jobbers' reception committee are: John S. Patton, Moline-Bain Company; George Royer, Mitchell, Lewis & Staver Co.; E. M. Brannick, Studebaker Bros.; Charles Lownsdale, Pacific Hardware & Metal Association; and J. S. Beall, Beall & Co.

The following programme has been arranged for the session:

Wednesday afternoon: Announcement of standing committees; "Mutual Insurance," E. W. Evenson, Spokane, Wash., secretary Washington Hardware & Implement Dealers' Mutual Fire Insurance Association; "For Pessimists," Andrew Kocher, Canby, Or.; "Organization, Co-Operation and Benefits Derived Therefrom," T. M. Shearman, publisher Implement and Vehicle Record (others are invited to discuss this subject); "Catalogue House Competition," J. J. Kadderly, Portland; "How to Gain Trade, Benefiting the Community in Which You Reside and Yourself," discussion.

Thursday morning: "Credits and Collection of Accounts," discussion; "Peddling and Trailing Through the Country," discussion; "Display of Goods, Show Windows, etc.," John Hardy, Portland; "The Live and Successful Salesman and the Practice of Salesmanship," E. M. Brannick; "Marking the Selling Price," discussion; "Railroad Rebates," Pier, Portland; "Equalization of Freights," discussion.

Thursday afternoon: "Organization and Co-Operation and the Benefits Derived Therefrom," Jay Smith, manager Marshall-Wells Hardware Company, Portland; "The Jobbers' and Retailers' Duty," John J. Gammie; "Parcel Post and Third Class Postal Rates on R. F. D. Routes," discussion; "The Retailers' and Jobbers' Duty," T. D. Honeyman, Portland; "Man with the Grip," Charles Archerd, Portland; "Business Outlook for 1907," Edward J. Failing, Portland; "Business Outlook for 1907," Mr. McCallam; election of officers.

The out-of-town delegates to the hardware convention were the guests of J. W. Fuller & Co., at a "Ham Tree" theater party last night, under the chaperonage of F. R. Brydle. The red badges worn by all members of the party of 100 were quite conspicuous and kept the audience guessing as to their identity until it was revealed by the direct "plays" of the comedians. Songs were twisted into appropriate local rhymes for their benefit and there were jokes galore about the hardware business. It was evident from the moment the curtain went up that the whole company knew how to entertain special guests, and when Frederick V. Bowers sang in tuneful lay about painting the whole town red with Fuller's red paint the visiting delegates became the center of attraction.

This was undoubtedly the largest theater party which has been given in Portland this year and was well managed, the seats being all in the same section and the party, arriving in groups, did not become scattered. "The Ham Tree" company was at its best, and every hardware man present declared it the best show he had seen in many seasons.

BRUIN HAS NO FEARS

Captain of Detectives Believes Legislature Will Not Take Away Job.

Captain of Detectives Patrick Bruin laughs at the idea of the Legislature's effort to oust him by its action in legalizing all of the civil service appointments with the single exception of his, and declares that the passage of the bill now before the House would be illegal and of no consequence whatever. He appeared last night to be perfectly confident of retaining his position in the police department, and said that if his enemies are not careful they will boost him into a good job.

"The action of the Legislature relative to my case is illegal and would undoubtedly be declared so by the Supreme Court," said Captain Bruin. "Even if it were legal, I could take another examination and get back into the department."

During the afternoon yesterday Captain Bruin was in consultation with Mayor Harry Lane at the City Hall, and from his strong confidence in retaining his place in the police department, his statement that his enemies might boost him into a "good job" could easily be construed to mean that, if the fight against him continues, he might be named as chief to succeed the present head of the force, should Mayor Lane be re-elected.

Mayor Lane has stood by Captain Bruin through thick and thin, and there is every reason to believe that he will continue to back him up in all the onslaughts made by the enemy. Meanwhile, Bruin is on duty as head of the detective bureau and inspector of police.

ACTIVE WORKER IN TAYLOR-STREET M. E. CHURCH, IS DEAD.

Mrs. Martha T. Jones.

Mrs. Martha T. Jones, whose death occurred Monday at the family home, 587 East Twentieth street, was well known in Portland and an active member of the Taylor-Street Methodist Episcopal Church. She lacked less than two months of reaching her 78th year, having been born April 3, 1829, at Cleveland, O.

Mrs. Jones spent her childhood in Cleveland, going with her parents to Burlington, Ia., when she was 11 years of age. During her residence there she was united in marriage to J. F. Jones, a merchant, who later engaged in business in Portland in the firm of J. F. Jones & Son. W. B. Jones, the junior member of the firm, was the last to die of six children of Mr. and Mrs. Jones. Besides her husband, Mrs. Jones is survived by a grandson, J. F. Jones, Jr., a student of Portland Academy.

The funeral of Mrs. Jones will be held at the residence at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

MULTNOMAH CLUB ELECTS

Board of Trustees Chosen Which Will Name a President.

The annual election of trustees for the Multnomah Club was held in the club gymnasium last night. H. C. Campbell, Edgar Frank, George McMillan, E. E. Morgan and J. R. Rogers were elected to the offices, each to serve for two years. The gathering last night was large, and about 100 of the older members of the club assembled in the gymnasium to ratify the choice of the nominating committee.

The meeting was called to order by C. F. Swigert, in the absence of the president. The important question of issuing the club bonds to club members was then taken up, and, after a short talk by the chairman, a motion was made by W. C. Dunlway that bonds ranging from $100 to $500 be issued to the members. It was unanimously adopted, and a second motion making the interest on the bonds 5 per cent, was also made and carried.

The indebtedness of the club now is $35,000, and it was estimated that if one-half of the active members would take a $100 bond, the debt could be paid. Nothing will be done for a few weeks, as the matter will rest with the board of trustees. The board elects its own officers; it is generally understood that George McMillan will be elected president.

SWEARING OFF IS NOT A PART OF CHINESE NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION

Instead the Celestial Drives Out the Devil, Pays Off His Debts, Makes Merry, and Then Goes Back to His Old Ways.

THERE is not such a great deal of difference between the Oriental's New Year's and the white man's. Being a free moral agent, the Occidental attributes his shortcomings and vices to himself, while the heathen attributes them to unseen devils. Once a year the pale-face person decides to improve upon his moral caliber by a series of good resolutions, while the orange-colored man aims at the same end by driving out the halucinary devils. But it doesn't matter, for they're both back in the same old ways before the sun of the second day of the first week after goes to rest.

But there's one good thing about the Chinese New Year's, and which was very much in evidence yesterday. This is John's habit of paying up all his debts. If some almond-eyed beat owes you money which you despair of ever collecting, now is the time to go after him. It has been drilled into his superstitious head ever since he was born, and into the heads of his forebears for more centuries than most people ever heard of, that he must pay off his debts with the dying of the old year. Otherwise the devils will hang around. A man who owes money has a hard time getting away from the Chinese devils. They seem to like him. Possibly that's the way they got their high rank in his Satanic Majesty's service.

A lot of good money resolved itself into smoke and noise last night. Firecrackers worth several hundreds of dollars were exploded. At 6 o'clock Chinatown reverberated with the rattle of small crackers and the heavy boom of larger ones. There was a lull then until quite late, while John feasted on roast pork, candied fruits and various Oriental delicacies. After this there was more noise.

The chasing out of the devils does not have any direct ethical effect on John. He will work himself into a fever chasing imaginary devils and then retire to his game of fantan or his pipe of opium. But, then, those are not iniquities except under the Occidental's social scheme. The white man, not the devils, fret about such things as those. The province of the devils is not to put temptations in poor John's way, but rather to deprive him of his good fortune in worldly matters.

Visitors were numerous in Chinatown last night, but the Chinese were not inclined to admit them freely. The first few days the celebrators wish to have to themselves. They have always insisted upon this. Later they will throw their doors ajar and welcome all comers—white, black, red or powdered.

EXPLOSIVE FOUND BY TRACK

NITRO-GLYCERIN CARTRIDGE IS TURNED OVER TO POLICE.

Pedestrian Picks Up the Explosive on the Waverly-Woodstock Line. Investigation Will Be Made.

A cartridge three inches long and three-quarters of an inch in diameter, supposed to contain nitro-glycerin enough to blow to bits any car on the system of the Portland Railway, Light & Power Company, was found early yesterday morning beside the track of the Waverly-Woodstock line at Thirtieth and Gladstone streets by a pedestrian, and was turned over to Patrolman Fields, who lives three blocks distant.

Patrolman Fields kept the cartridge until he reported for duty at headquarters at 3:45 P. M., when he turned it over to Captain Slover, commanding the first relief. It was then given in charge of Chief of Police Gritzmacher, who ordered an immediate investigation, and called for an expert to determine the exact character of the explosive believed to be within the shell. this could not be done last night, but this morning the test will be made.

In view of the fact that a big stick of powerful dynamite was found on the tracks of the St. Johns division of the railway company January 24, combined with this find, leads the police to the belief that some insane person is trying to blow up the cars on the system, but Chief Gritzmacher says that the act is so diabolical that he cannot conceive of any person making such an attempt, and he is inclined to think perhaps it is the work of a person who wishes to intimidate the crews operating the trolley-cars.

"I do not believe that Portland contains a person so devilish and fiendish as to deliberately place explosives such as dynamite or nitro-glycerin on car tracks to blow up cars and destroy lives," said Chief Gritzmacher. "I think rather that it is the work of some one who wishes to frighten the car crews. An examination of the cartridge may reveal that it is an innocent thing, but it is supposed to contain a big charge of nitro-glycerin. The police will make a thorough investigation."

The cartridge was stored at police headquarters last night, and early this morning Chief Gritzmacher will renew his efforts to locate an expert, in order to have an analysis of the contents of the shell.

This is the second scare of the year occasioned by finding high explosives along streetcar tracks, and, while it is thought likely by the police that it is done for intimidation, it is also realized that great danger to life and property is thus brought about, and all possible efforts will be made to bring the perpetrators to justice.

BUILDING FUND GROWING

SOLICITORS ADD $785, MAKING GRAND TOTAL $244,070.

Heavy Subscriptions Looked for by Y. W.-Y. M. C. A. Workers Before the End of Week.

STATUS OF ASSOCIATION BUILDING FUND.

Subscribed at Fall Canvass	$230,733.80
Subscribed February 5-11	12,552.00
February 12	785.00
Total	$244,070.80

The Y. M.-Y. W. C. A. building fund continues to grow as a result of the "long pull, the strong pull, and the pull all together," now being made. The returns of the solicitors yesterday at noon showed that nearly $800 more had been added to the total reported Monday night. It is expected that some heavy subscriptions will roll in within the next few days, which will materially swell the fund.

The names and amounts subscribed yesterday were as follows:

W. F. Burrell	$500
Heywood Brothers Company	100
E. W. Aylesworth	10
W. B. Chase	25
E. L. Pettis	50
D. B. Mackie	100
Total	$785

A whirlwind campaign to secure 300 new members has been inaugurated by the Boys' Department of the Y. M. C. A. The contest among the boys for the largest list of names began this morning at sunrise and will continue until the evening of February 22. At that time a banquet in honor of the boys who have secured one or more names will be given at the association building.

This large number of new names added to the list in the Boys' Department will put this branch of the Portland institution at the head of the list in this country. Lindsley Ross, of 590 Main street, brought in the name of the first new member yesterday morning at 6:30 o'clock. If the membership is increased and the work forges to the front it will mean that the boys will have a larger space and more equipment in the new building than they will with their present membership.

The project is the boys' own, not being fostered to any great extent by the main association.

HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

Portland Produce Association Elects Trustees and Plans for Banquet.

The Portland Produce Association, which held its annual meeting last night at the office of the association, elected directors for the ensuing year. At a special meeting of the new board to be held this week the other officers are to be elected and a secretary appointed. It was decided to hold an annual banquet at the Commercial Club dining hall Saturday night, February 23. This banquet will be largely a subscription affair, as there is no large sum in the treasury for the purpose.

No regular nominations for the board of directors were made before the time of the meeting, the association following the plan of previous years of having the nominations made in open meeting. The names of the directors to serve during the coming year are: Mark Levy, W. B. Glafke, J. A. Bell, Fred Page and H. C. Thompson.

PROMOTION FUND GROWS

F. A. Seufert, of The Dalles, Contributes $120—Local Men $600.

The Portland Commercial Club is in receipt of a communication from F. A. Seufert, Sr., of Seufert Brothers Company of The Dalles, Oregon, in which that gentleman inclosed $120 for use by the club and the Oregon Development League in advertising the resources of the state. This is the first and only subscription ever given to the advertising fund of the league by anyone outside the city. It is highly appreciated by the club.

The club also appreciates the way in which the merchants of the city have gone down in their pockets for the benefit of the advertising by the club and the league. Since the last monthly dinner the following firms have pledged to the fund for the year:

Ben Selling	$120
Bank of California	300
Buffum & Pendleton	60
Oregon Hotel	60
Bushong & Co.	60
Total	$600

On February 14 a meeting will be held by the Astoria Commercial Club, at which a number of delegates from Portland will be present. The object of the meeting is the reorganization of the club at Astoria, and the advertising of the resources and opportunities of that city.

Hon. J. H. Ackerman, superintendent of public instruction, has written a personal letter to every county superintendent in the state, requesting them to put the facts regarding the colonist rates to this state before the teachers of all the schools that they may in turn tell the school children of the matter. In this way it is expected that the fact that the low rates are in force will become generally known. P. L. Campbell, president of the State University, has posted the rates at Eugene.

POLITICS AT ST. JOHNS

Candidates Are Suggested for Municipal Election in April.

With the approach of the city election in St. Johns, the first Monday in April, names are being mentioned as possible candidates for the important offices. For Mayor several are under consideration. Councilman S. C. Norton is frequently mentioned in connection with this office, but he has not yet said he would take the nomination. R. W. McKeon, editor and publisher of the Review, also is mentioned. He has been a member of the charter commission. The names of D. C. Rogers, president of the St. Johns Commercial Club, B. T. Leggett, a former Councilman, Mayor W. P. Hinman, and W. H. King, a present member of the Council, are also suggested as available candidates.

The Recorder is the next office in importance. W. L. Thorndyke, the present incumbent, will be a candidate for re-election, and is considered a strong man for the place. F. O. Downs also is mentioned as a possible candidate for Recorder. He ran independent last election for the office.

The charter will also come up for adoption at the coming election. G. J. Perkins, the clerk of the Commission, is typewriting the new charter, doing the work himself, owing to the complicated character of the copy, but will have it ready for inspection within a few days. However, it is pretty well understood what the new charter contains. It is simply a revision mainly of the present charter. It will be voted on under the initiative, provided the Legislature passes an enabling act giving cities power to use that act.

It is understood that the temperance people will again make an effort to make St. Johns go "dry" at the April election. They were defeated by only seven votes at the election last year. There will be enough politics to keep the voters of St. Johns busy until after the first Monday in April.

MEETING OF SCHOOL BOARD

Four Resignations of Teachers Received and Successors Named.

Four new teachers were employed, a like number of resignations were accepted, and several transfers made by the Board of Education at its meeting yesterday afternoon. The new teachers engaged are: Ada Aldrich, of Independence, Mount Tabor School; Martha M. Irvin, of Gresham, Arleta School; Miss Cramer, of Cascades, Sellwood School, and T. A. Hays, of Albany, West Side High School. Resignations were accepted from Edna L. Henley, of the Ladd School; Ethel Powers, of the Ladd School; Ella M. Acheson, of the Thompson School, and Merton Hughes, of the manual training department.

Lulu Campion, of the Ladd School, and Mabel Winter, of the High School, were granted leave of absence, and transfers were made as follows: Miss Nelson, Chapman to Ladd; Miss Wakeman, West Side High to East Side High; Miss A. Andresen, Holladay to Stephens; Miss Shives, Mount Tabor to Shaver; Blanche Ross, Ockley Green to Stephens; Miss Hibbard, Stephens to Shattuck; Ella Nicholson, Woodlawn to Shattuck; Margaret O'Connor, Thompson to Highland, and Mabel Smith, North Central to Ockley Green.

The board took up the consideration of building a new school at Creston station, near Mount Tabor. The proposed location lies between the Clinton Kelly and Arleta schools. The building committee will look over the situation and report at the next meeting of the board.

FREE WATER AND BRIDGES

Mr. Moore Speculates on the Dual Combination.

PORTLAND, Feb. 12.—(To the Editor.)—I have just read The Oregonian's interesting editorial comment on the principal speech at the free water meeting last Sunday, and wish to ask for an explanation of your comments.

Mr. Wagnon was probably incorrect in saying that the landlord would not, to an extent, reap the benefits of free water. The landlord reaps a benefit from every improvement, whether great or slight to the city or the nation. This is self-evident—if a community is prosperous and law-abiding, rent is high. Under the reverse conditions, rent is low. No one can deny these facts, for improvement is what causes rent. But on the other hand, I think you will have to admit that you are wrong in your analysis of the speaker's free bridge analogy. You say that no one consumes a bridge in crossing, and that everyone consumes water. Are you not getting tangled up in your own phraseology?

A bridge wears out and is replaced. At first, piece by piece, and finally is replaced in its entirety. In other words, it has been consumed by the people passing over it. Furthermore, while I am on the bridge I am appropriating a portion of it to my exclusive use, as well as actually consuming a part. And it is proportionately a greater part of the whole than is the water I consume. On the other hand, when I pay my water tribute I am not paying for the water I have "consumed." But I am paying for the wear and tear on the water mains, and also a part of the cost of maintaining, exactly as in the case of the bridge.

Mr. Wagnon's analogy was correct and exact. The Oregonian has simply become used to "free" bridges and not yet used to "free" water. A few years hence it will undoubtedly oppose some then newly-proposed reform by showing that it is essentially different from "free water." That is the necessary course of progress. Not so long ago I was reading newspaper comment on a public that had "voted itself 'free' transportation across the Willamette River." Why does not The Oregonian put its ear to the ground and then get up and climb into the band wagon? A. M. MOORE.

"THE WHISKEY WITH A REPUTATION"

Here is Absolute Proof of that Reputation:

Won Three Straight Medals

HIGHEST AWARD AT

ST. LOUIS, 1904
PARIS, - 1905
PORTLAND, 1905

Could there be more convincing evidence that QUAKER MAID RYE is the best Whiskey to be had?

Ask for it at any first-class bar, cafe or drug store

S. HIRSCH & CO.
KANSAS CITY, MO.

KEEP EXISTING NORMALS

Plea for Maintenance of Drain and Monmouth Schools.

PORTLAND, Feb. 12.—(To the Editor.)—If we are to believe reports from the state capital, it is the purpose of the majority of the Oregon Legislature to eliminate the Normal Schools at Drain and Monmouth, by cutting off appropriations for their maintenance.

This will leave only the two normal schools at Weston in Eastern Oregon, and Ashland in the extreme southern portion of the state. At the present time, every normal school in Oregon is filled to its utmost capacity with students who are equipping themselves as teachers and for the various strenuous vocations of our modern life. No one, I think, will challenge the fact that graduates from these institutions make valuable citizens of the commonwealth, when their time comes for active participation upon life's stage.

Is this a question of Oregon's financial inability to maintain its educational institutions? Is this state so poor and so bankrupt that it cannot afford a relatively small sum to assist in the education of those who are to become in their own time the teachers and leaders of our children? Have we really come to that pass?

If figures are not deceptive—if they do not lie—the State of Oregon has, according to its population more available funds for public education than any other state in the Union. Should an intelligent Legislature in its laudable efforts to curtail expenses chop at the very root of our educational institutions? Is that the sane policy? If curtailment of expenditures is necessary in the maintenance of the various departments of the state, is it the part of wisdom to apply the ax at the foundations of our seats of learning? Why not chop and prune where "grafts" really exist?

The Normal School at Drain is located in a small town. So is that at Monmouth. These locations were originally made as a matter of geographical convenience. The moral atmosphere of these towns is all that could be desired. The boys and girls who attend these schools, and who in due time are to teach our boys and girls fundamental knowledge and the ethics of morality, are free from the temptation and sinister environments of large cities. They grow up clean and wholesome, and they will impart this wholesome virility to coming generations.

At the Drain Normal School there are 200 pupils in attendance. The other three schools are filled to their utmost capacity. And yet these educational institutions do not and cannot equip one-half the number of teachers required by the state.

Remember this: Oregon is increasing in wealth and population by giant bounds. It is no longer the frontier state of a decade ago. The state owes it to coming generations that its educational institutions shall be maintained at the highest possible point of excellence. There cannot be too much from this standpoint.

It is to be remembered that the parents who take advantage of Normal School training for their children to fit them for teachers or other callings in life, are not usually the class of people who are financially able to send their children to colleges. But these children must receive an education adequate to equip them for the requirements of modern life—else they will be at a disadvantage from the very beginning.

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