Councilman Makes Sensational Charge Against City Officials.

BLUNDER COSTS \$20,900

Fire Alarm Cables Alleged to Have Been Put In at Expense of Taxpayers, Though Outlay Was Entirely Unnecessary.

Sensational disclosures regarding an alleged blunder of city officials that is said to have cost taxpayers \$20,200, were made yesterday afternoon by Councilman Driscoll, during a heated debate at a meeting of the street com-mittee, called to consider the applica-tion for a franchise made by the Na-tional Automatic Fire Alarm Company. tional Automatic Fire Alarm Company.
It is charged that this sum was expended needlessly, since the Home Telephone Company, by the terms of its franchise, could have been forced by the administration to put in cables for the electric wires of the fire-alarm service, for which the money was

Mayor Lane, when asked for a state-ment, declared that the matter was brought to his attention but three days ago. He said he had already begun an investigation, by addressing a communication to Charles A. Savar-ian, City Electrician, under whose supervision the wiring for the fire de-partment is done. As yet the Mayor has received no reply. He was therefore not in a position, he said, to throw any light upon the subject, and could make no further statement, except to assert that it may be found that the City Council is involved, as he thought if a large purchase of cable was made, the Council authorized it. In such case, he said, those voting for it would probably be as culpable as any others.

Savarian Not Informed.

City Electrician Savarian said that the Council authorized the purchase of cable for the fire department about a year ago, and that the bills were received last October, aggregating about \$20,900. He said he did not know whether or not the franchise of the Home Telephone Company carried a provision that bound it to furnish such cables, or "conductors" for the city: but if such a provision is contained in the franchise, he said, some one has made a mistake. Who is blamable, he said he could not de-

It is evident, judging from investiga-tion, that this matter is destined to arouse a bitter controversy. It is said that it will be carried into the Council sooner or later and that Mayor Lane and sooner or later and that Mayor Lane and his political advisers will be charged with the \$30,900, inasmuch as the order for the cable is said to have come from the executive branch of the administra-tion. Some members of the Council, it is said, may be involved, for voting for an appropriation for the purchase, if it was an unnecessary expense. That the matter will be thoroughly investigated seems certain.

seems certain Councilman Driscoll, after declaring in the dehate that the city had paid out about \$30,000 of the taxpayers' money needlessly for fire department equipment, declined to make any further statement. He refused to discuss the matter.

Hold Lively Session.

The session of the street committee of the Council, specially called to consider the Automatic Fire Alarm Company's spplication for a franchise, was the live-liest meeting of the committee in many months. Councilmen Kellaher, Cottel and Concannon locked horns with Coun-cilmen Vaughn, Wallace and Driscoil over the matter, the former being un-favorable to any arrangement whereby the applicants would be granted the privi-

lege of using the city's poles, condults and wires for its system.

Councilman Kellaher has led the fight sgainst the grauting of the franchise from the time it was introduced into the Council, and has announced that he will continue the fight to the end. As matters now stand, however, it is predicted that now stand, however, it is predicted that he will lose the battle. Against him are lined up Councilmen who are in the ma-jority and in addition Councilman Vaughn favors the franchise. Mr. Vaughn is usually found voting against anything that Councilman Driscoll favors, but in this instance they are standing together. From this it would seem that nothing can defeat passage of the measure.

During the meeting yesterday afternoon in the committee meeting, Councilmen keilaher and Driscoll frequently disa-greed, and, in a burst of indignation, Mr Driscoll declared that the city has spent about \$30,000 needlessly for fire depart-ment cables. His remark led to an investigation, resulting in the disclosure

No Recommendation Made.

After hearing arguments for and against the proposed franchise by R. W. Montague, the company's legal representave: Superintendent Walker, of the Automatic Company: Fire Chief Campbell, Electrician Savarian and some of the Councilmen, a vote was taken. The result was that no recommendation was raided to the Council or the company to the Council or the Council made to the Council on the matter. Coun-cilmen Kellaher. Cottel and Concannon voted against granting the franchise; Councilmen Wallace and Driscoll voted in favor of its passage and Councilman Vaughn, who was in the chair, declined

Chief Campbell and City Electrician Savarian are opposed to the franchize, because they declare the automatic system should be separate and apart from the city's fire-alarm system. This is also the view of all the Councilmen who

BRIDGE BIDS REJECTED

Executive Board Will Let Contracts

Next Wednesday.

In order to expedite the awarding of a contract for the construction of a reinforced concrete bridge across Sullivan's Gulch on East Twenty-eighth street, the Executive Board yesterday afternoon voted to adjourn to meet next Wednesday at 4 P. M. The bridge committee will hold a session at 2 o'clock the same day to make a recommendation.

day to make a recommendation.

The Executive Board rejected four bids of Robert Wakefield and one of the Pacific Engineering Company, these being cific Engineering Company, these being above the estimate and limit allowed by the Board. This leaves three bids from which to select. The Northwest Bridge Company, of Portland, which recently received the award for the construction of a steel bridge across the gulch on Union avenue, is the lowest bidder in this instance, its tender being \$51,400. Unless tance, its tender being \$51,400. Unless the construction of the const

bligatory upon the Board to award this firm the contract. The other bids are by Paquet, Giebisch & Joplin, for \$73,000, and Contracting Engineering Company

The citizens of the district in which the bridge is to be built are very anxious to have the contract let, and it is because of this that the members of the Executive Board ordered the adjourned

MRS. SOPHIE GEER IS DEAD Wife of P. W. Geer and Daughter of

Well-Known Silverton Family.

Mrs. Sophic Geer, wife of P. W. Geer and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Adolf Wolf, of Silverton, Or., died last night at 6:30 o'clock, at the Good Sa-maritan Hospital, after an illness of two months. Her husband, her mother and her brother, Dr. Louis J. Wolf, at her bedside when the end

News of Mrs. Geer's death will bring sincere sorrow and regret to a large circle of friends. Mr. and Mrs. Geer were married in New York City barely a year ago, the ceremony being per-



The Late Mrs. Sophie Geer.

formed by Mayor McClellan, Mrs. Geer's liliess was not generally known of by her friends. She was brought West when her condition first became scrious, two months ago, from her home at Morris Plains, N. J., where Mr. Geer had charge of the Homor Daysoners forces.

Mr. Geer had charge of the Homer Davenport farm.

Mrs. Geer was a finely eduacted and unusually talented young woman, having spent three years in New York developing a marked ability in music and elocution. She was a bright entertainer, and invariably was the soul of the social affairs she attended. She was born in Oregon 33 years ago, and spent most of her years at Silverion, the home of her parents, and also of the home of her parents, and also of Mr. Geer. Her brother, Dr. Wolf, was physician with the last Peary expedi-

ion to the North Pole. Partial arrangements for the funeral were made last night, and the services will be held Sunday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock at the Holman chapel.

FAVORS SMALL COLLEGES

Dr. W. H. Foulkes Lectures Before Women's Club.

Rev. W. H. Foulkes was the speake Rev. W. H. Folihes was the speaker of the afternoon at the Woman's Club meeting yesterday, his topic being "The Small College." After touching briefly on the origin and history of the modern American intellectual movement, he showed how the small colleges, scattered everywhere are the natural and bevitshowed how the small colleges, scattered everywhere, are the natural and inevitable expression of the American spirit, just as the universities of Oxford and Cambridge are an expression of English cambridge are an expression of English was taken, however, and the matter continues as usual. aristocracy, while the universities of Ber-lin and Leipsic and the gymnastics of Germany represent most fittingly the Ger-

man Imperial spirit.

The speaker summarised the reasons why the small college ideal and reality should continue in strength.

should continue in strength.

First—It comes in closest contact with
the homes of the people. Second—It depends largely upon the voluniary support of the communities in which it exists
and, while laying a burden upon them,
gives them vigor to bear the burden.

Third—It makes possible a liberal education for many who would otherwise be
unable to obtain it. Fourth—It furnishes
students and professors for the larger unable to obtain it. Fourth-It furnishes students and professors for the larger universities. Fifth-Drawing, as it does, on the resources of the various denominations which it represents, it helps to save the church from being self-centered. Six-It appeals to the generosity of men who do not confuse bigness with greatness. Seventh-It promises to perpetuate the democratic spirit, to relieve intellectual congestion and to promote community loyalty without developing sectional jealousies. Eighth-It will contional jealousies. Eighth-It will con-tinue to place emphasis upon character as the basis of culture and by the pre-dominance of the moral elements in its

constitution and methods, develop a full counded manhood and womanhood. In conclusion Dr. Foulkes said: "As the end of all individual discipline "As the end of all individual discipline is the development and perfection of one's own powers of mind and heart, so the ideal of social discipline is none other than the bringing to its full flower the best earthly institution God ever established; which, despite social distinctions, immoral assaults, and religious indifference has persisted in keeping. In the main, true to its heaven-ordained mission and which, better than any college or club, embodies the spirit of American social and religious responsibility and liberty; that institution of which the mother is the earthly center, heaven the final prototype and eternity the only end—the home."

FORFEITS HIS CITY JOB John Brooks, Convicted of Misde-

meanor, Is Discharged.

Superintendent Donaldson, of the Street Superintendent Donaldson, of the Street-cleaning Department, sent in a communi-cation to the Executive Board yesterday afternoon, recommending the discharge of John Brooks. The Board adopted the re-

"Superintendent Donaldson recommends the dismissal from the service of Mr. Brooks," said Mayor Lane, explaining the case, "What will you do with the recommendation?"

Brooks was employed in the Streetleaning Department," explained Auditor

"What is be doing now?" asked C. A. Cogswell, a member of the Board. "He's breaking rock at Kelly Butte," replied the Auditor, "He was found guilty of a misdemeanor and the Municipal Judge sent him to the rockpile."
"Then he is in the street work yet,"
remarked the Mayor. "And crushed rock

is scarce, too."

R. W. Pryke, who formerly drove a hose cart for the Fire Department, was also dismissed from the service of the city because of intoxication and inatten-

If Buby Is Cutting Teeth Be sure and use that old well-tried Mrs. Winsion's Soothing Syrup, for teething. It soothes the child, soo gums, allays pain, colic and diarrh

Gets Contract.

WILL PAVE STARK STREET

Property-Owners Demand Improvement, Despite Increase in Size of Tender-Other Bids Held Up Until Next Wednesday.

Although the members of the City Council and the Executive Board have recently expressed themselves as of the opinion that it would be a good thing to arrange some means of "helding down" the bids of the Warren Construction Com pany and the Barber Asphalt Paving Company, alleged trusts, the Warren concern won a victory to the extent of \$16.676 yesterday afternoon before the Executive Board. The personal appearance before the members of a number of large property-owners, and their unanimous requests for a hard-surface pavement, resulted in the award of a contract to that corporation for bitulithic from Seventh to Burnside streets on Stark street.

Notwithstanding the fact that, after readvertising for this improvement three times, the Warren Construction Company the sole handlers of bitulithic, increased its bid, the people owning property abutting clamored for the pavement and secured what they desired. This, they explained, is because they are willing to pay almost any price to have the im-

Owing to the fact that property-owners on Belmont street have contested an im-provement of bitulithic, and that the matter is now under consideration by Circuit Judge Cleland, Assistant City Attorney Grant advised the Executive Board yesterday afternoon to hold up all bids yesterday afternoon to hold up all bids for bibulithic pavement until a decision is rendered. It was said that this may be done today. Whether or not the city has the legal right to use this prepara-tion for paving, is the question to be decided. If Judge Cleland bolds it has not, it is said no more contracts for this brand of paving will be let in this city. That the Warren Construction Company

That the Warren Construction Company and the Barber Asphalt Company have a big fight on hand, seems apparent, from the attitude of the members of both the City Council and the Executive Board. After Assistant City Attorney Grant advised holding up other blds of the Warren corporation, several blds were ordered laid over until Wednesday next, when there will be an adjourned meeting of the Board. If Judge Cleland decides the pending case in the meantime, action will be taken accordingly.

There is a movement on in the City Council to fix a maximum rate to be charged for bitulithic and asphalt paying. and a strong sentiment prevails among some of the members for the appointment of a special committee to investigate and

make a report.

In the case of recent bids by the Warren Construction Company, It has been
very noticeable that where readvertisements have been ordered, the concern has increased its rate. In the contract that was awarded by the Executive Board yesterday afternoon, at the special personal request of the abutting property-owners, the bid the last time was \$1400 higher than it was at first. This was after the improvement was adventised. after the improvement was advertised

At a recent meeting of the street com-mittee of the Council, Councilmen Rushlight, Cottel and Vaughn declared them-selves in favor of curbing the alleged trust

PORTLAND BANKERS' VIEWS ON PROPOSED MEASURE.

Board of Trade Ascertains Opinion in Response to Request for Favorable Action.

In connection with the request that the Board of Trade take action upon the Aldrich emergency currency hill, that organization has taken up the matter with the different banks of the city.

President William MacRae, of the

President William MacRae, of the Bank of California, expresses himself as opposed to this bill, believing that it would not be a proper remedy for existing conditions. On the other hand, he strongly inclines toward the formation of a central bank with a large paid-up capital, and branches in the most important commercial centers of each state. His conviction is that this plan would come nearer meeting the requirements me nearer meeting the requirements of the business community and be a more satisfactory basis for currency than President A. L. Mills, of the First Na-

nal Bank, has the following to say in regard to the measure:

regard to the measure:

"Though not agreeing fully with the provisions of the Aldrich bill. I nevertheless believe its passage would be a distinct benefit to the country, and if such a law had been in existence last Fall, there would have been no panic. The opportunity to obtain an emergency currency, as suggested in this bill, would have stopped the runs upon the trust rency, as suggested in this bill, would have stopped the runs upon the trust companies in New York, and consequently there would have been no wide-spread trouble. As an emergency measure, the Aldrich bill is a good one. I hope that eventually a currency commission will be appointed to prepare a proper financing measure based somewhat upon the lines adopted in Germany and France.

President J. Frank Watson, of the Mer-

President J. Frank Watson, of the Merchants' National Bank, is opposed to any scheme for granting National banks the privilege of issuing currency based on anything but United States bonds, as

is the custom now. President Cohen, of the Portland Trust Company; President Peter Hume, of the Bank of Sellwood, and President H. H. Newhall, of the East Side Bank, have also expressed themselves as opposed to the Aldrich bill.

As soon as the replies from the other banks have been received, the matter will be submitted to a special committee of the board.

CONFESSES LIST OF CRIMES Murder and Many Burglaries Ad-

mitted by Tucson Prisoner. TUCSON, Ariz, Feb. 28.-D. W. Haw-kins, a prisoner in the County Juli here, today confessed to a series of burglaries

der of Albert Leonhardt in Tucson, on the night of December 22 last. Leonhardt, who was a young carpanter from Columbus, O., was shot by unknown parties. Hawkins confessed that himself and his wife committed the deed with the purpose of robbery. The two were arrested on a burglary charge a week ago and were sweated. Hawkins, who is 22 years of age, says that his father is a mailcarrier in Chicago.

WILLIAM D. BUXTON DEAD Resident of Russellville Passes Away

After Long Illness.

William Davenport Buxton, who came to Oregon 43 years ago, died at his ne at Russellville, on the Base Line road. Thursday night, after a lingering liness of three years. He suffered a stroke of paralysis three years ago and had been nearly helpless ever since. Mr. Buxton was born near Charleston, Virginia, in 1836, being one of a family of 11 children. In 1853 he was married to Miss Sarah E. Neff, in Des Moines County, Iowa, and to them 10 children were born, four of whom survive: Mrs. Julia Kesler, of Syca-



The Late William D. Buxton.

more, Or.; Mrs. Alice Cox, of Moun-taindale, Or.; Harvey Buxton, of Port-land, and Mrs. Clara Briggs, of Cottrell, In 1863 Mr. Buxton crossed the plains to Oregon with his family, and first settled on Howell Prairie, where he lived on a farm for 25 years. He came to Portland 21 years ago, and moved to his farm at Russellville 15 years ago, where he lived until his death. The funeral will be conducted from the Mostavilla Mathedian Cheech, this the Montavilla Methodist Church this

HOUGHTON BEFORE COURT

Paroled Convict Pleads Not Guilty of Grand Larceny.

Seven defendants in criminal cases were arraigned before Judge Cleiand in the Circuit Court at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Among them was Charles Houghton, familiarly known among his acquaintances as "Chick." Houghton was quaintances as "Chick." Houghton was recently pardoned by Governor Chamber-iain while serving a term for robbery. He is now charged with stealing two bolts of cloth, worth \$40, from William Velton, a tailer, who has a store at 465½ Washington street. The crime is alleged to have been committed February 19.

James Sullivan was straigned as an accomplice. He was allowed until next Tuesday to plead, while Houghton pleaded not guilty.

Roy Sommers, charged, with stealing a quantity of jewelry from Mrs. Eva Hamil-

quantity of jewelry from Mrs. Eva Hamilpleaded not guilty. His case was set for trial April 16

John McNuttson, charged with burglarwas allowed until Tuesday to enter his

Harry Johnson pleaded not guilty to a charge of breaking into the Swedish Mission Church, at Seventeenth and Glisan streets, and stealing carpenter tools belonging to Gus E. Klin.

R. W. Gollett and Charles Lynd were arraigned and given until Toesday to plead. They are charged with forging a check for \$3.50 on January 2, and passing it on L. Helming, of Troutdale.

DEMURRERS ARGUED TODAY

Indictments in the Ross Bank Cases

Are Attacked. Attorneys for J. Thorburn Ross and the other officials of the defunct Title Guarantee & Trust Company, now under indictment, will srgue this morning the demurrers filed in the Circuit Court, Judge

Gantenbein, Judge O'Day and Judge Bro-naugh will sit en banc in department No. 1. and will jointly decide whether the de-murrers are sufficient ground for dismiss-ing the indictments by which the officials are charged with receiving money, know-ing the bank to be insolvent. The demuring the bank to be insolvent. The demur rers contend that, although the charge may come under the new banking law, passed by the last Legislature, the law is not yet in effect.

Argument on the demurrers in the three other cases of the state against the bank

officials were heard by Presiding Judge Cleland, who will not alt with the other judges this morning, that he may avoid any charge of violating the proprieties of the presiding judgeship. The demurrers in the other cases have not yet been passed on by Judge Cicland.

WOMAN CHOKES A COYOTE

Strangles Wolf After Animal Had Sunk His Teeth in Her Breast.

Choking a coyote to death after the animal had fastened his teeth in her breast is the experience related of Mrs. T. A. Caldwell by the Lakeview Examiner. According to the Examiner, Mrs. Caldwell, who lives on the M. Wingfield ranch, near Adel, was attracted to the harnward by a commention among the barnyard by a commotion among the poultry. Discovering that a coyote was making a raid on her chickens, Mrs. Caldwell sought to scare away the ani-Caldwell sought to scare away the animal. She had no idea that the wolf would attack her, but releasing his hold on a hen, the animal turned flercely on the woman, who, as she started to heat a hasty retreat, tripped and fell. The coyote was upon her in a moment and fastened his teeth in her breast. Mrs. Caldwell grabbed Mr. Coyote by the throat, and notwithstanding his desperate efforts to free himself from the woman's clutch, the animal finally sank exhausted, but the brave woman did not release her hold until the animal was dead, and dead to stay. The coyote was skinned, and Mrs. Caldwell will keep the hide as a souvenir of the most bloodhide as a souvenir of the most blood-curdling experience in her life.

EIGHT PEET HIGH-SCENIC PHOTOS. See them at Kiser's, 248 Alder et.

Tueson, Los Angeles, Vallejo, San encisco and elsewhere, and to the mur- 1 A 2487.

BOARD'S VIFWS

School Children in Rose Festival Parade.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE VOTE

lingham Will Send Exhibit to

The Portland Women's Club, at its was 34 to 28 in favor of the plan. init in favor of it.

The leaders of the fight to give the children a part in the celebration took the position that the little people themselves were not only eager to parade but that the whole festival idea was a beautiful object lesson to them and of great educational value. "Well," remarked Mrs. Abigail Scott

Duniway, who was one of the strongest champions of the plan at the meeting, "the situation was about like this. The mothers all want their children to take part in this beautiful demonstration. We don't see where there can be any harm in it, and we do see where great good can come of it, and it helps make the little boys and girls feel that they are some-thing of a factor in our civic life.

Like Old Bachelors.

"The members of the club who were against the idea were, as a rule, women without any children, and they are like a lot of old bachelors; they know more about raising a family of boys and girls than any mother ever did know. By all means, the children should be allowed to have their parade, and I hope the principals of the public schools will give

The principals of the public schools will The principals of the public schools will settle the matter at a meeting to be held at the Ladd School, at 9 o'clock this morning, and it is a question whether consent will be given, for the members of the Board of Education, at least a majority of them, are opposed to the plan, and a number of the principals have expressed themselves as of like mind. At the same time, public sentiment in genthe same time, public sentiment in gen-eral is heartily in favor of the project, for the reason that the children's parade of last year was the most picturesquand interesting feature of the whole Ros

Bellingham, Wash., is not only considering sending a float to appear in the All-Northwestern parade, but will prob-ably send exhibits of flowers for the ex-position, which will continue two days during the week.

Ross Welch, secretary of the Bellingham Chamber of Commerce, has written that the matter will come before the next meeting of that body with the chances largely in favor of some substantial participation. The Bellingham Reveille is also doing what boosting it can for the Portland Rose Festival, and wants to send a delegation of citizens here, as well as to enter a display

If it is at all possible Bellingham should accept the invitation of Portland to take part in the coming flower restival which has caused the Oregon metrocolis to be known far and wide as "The Rose City." There are some people, and very desirable citizens they are, who act upon impressions received from a beautiful display of flowers, in deciding upon a new home, at well as many who are interested in displays of big potatoes, tall wheat and remarkable timber products.

Aircady Bellingham, through the efforts of the Rosarians, enjoys an enviable repuaccept the invitation of Portland to

of the Rosarians, enjoys an enviable reputation as a flower center, and it will not be long until we are known as the greatest bulb-growing place in the United States. It would be an excellent thing to take advantage of Portland's invitation and make a floral display that will convince a por-tion of the world that the bulb industry ha-been started here in earnest. It is true th-date of the Portland fair comes so late i the season that only our late tulips can be shown, but we should make an imposing dis-

The local theatrical managers will co-operate with the Rose Festival manage ment towards making the big event next June a success that will be worthy of Portland and the entire Northwest. At a meeting of representatives of the Hellig, Marquam, Baker, Lyric, Empire, Star, Grand and Pantages theaters it was decided to give a monster benefit for the festival fund at the Marquam on the afternoon of Friday, March 13. The Imperial Amusement Company gives the Marquam free for the matinee and all the theaters will contribute acts.

ROSEBURG. Or., Feb. 28.—(Special.)—W. L. Cobb, of this city, chairmen of the official board of the Methodist Church, South, has been chosen as delegate to the laymen's missionary conference of his church, in Chattanooga, Tenn., April 20 to 23. Mr. Cobb will represent all the churches of his denomination in the entire Pacific Northwest.

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Scott's Emulsion

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All Druggists; 50c. and \$1.00.

Women's Club Would Allow

Mothers Belonging to Organization Unite to Carry Resolution-Bel-Show-Theaters to Assist.

neeting yesterday afternoon, went on record in favor of having the school children of the city participate in the floral parade the second day of the Rose Fesival next June. The question was discussed at some length, and the final vote more significant than the mere figures of the vote is the fact that the members of the club who have children were a

Carnival.

Bellingham Is Interested.

flowers in the show, as the following edi-torial explains:

Theaters Will Assist.

Roseburg Sends Delegate.

Fill the Tank

wheels turn round.

The human machine is set in

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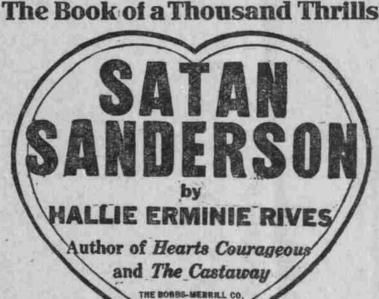
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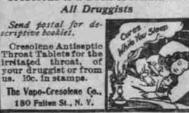
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