

### MONEY WASTED, SAYS DRISCOLL

#### 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 \$20,900, were made yesterday afternoon by Councilman Driscoll, during a heated debate at a meeting of the street committee, called to consider the application for a franchise made by the National Automatic Fire Alarm Company. It is charged that this sum was expended needlessly, since the Home Telephone Company, by 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 spent.

Mayor Lane, when asked for a statement, 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. Savarian, City Electrician, under whose supervision the wiring for the fire department is done. As yet he has not received a 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 determine.

It is evident, judging from investigation, 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 his political advisers will be charged with the \$20,900, inasmuch as the order for the cable is said to have come from the executive branch of the administration. 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.

Councilman Driscoll, after declaring in the debate that the city had paid out about \$20,900 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 application for a franchise, was the liveliest meeting of the committee in many months. Councilmen Kellaker, Cotte and Conannon locked horns with Councilmen Vaughn, Wallace and Driscoll over the matter, the former being unfavorable to any arrangement whereby the applicants would be granted the privilege of using the city's poles, conduits and wires for their system.

Councilman Kellaker has led the fight against the granting 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 he will lose the battle. Against him are lined up Councilmen who are in the majority 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.

### No Recommendation Made.

After hearing arguments for and against the proposed franchise by R. W. Montague, the company's legal representative; 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 made to the Council on the matter. Councilmen Kellaker, Cotte and Conannon voted against granting the franchise; Councilmen Wallace and Driscoll voted in favor of its passage and Councilman Vaughn, who was in the chair, declined to vote.

### FORFEITS HIS CITY JOB

John Brooks, Convicted of Misdemeanor, Is Discharged.

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

### 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.

### IF BABY IS CUTTING TEETH

Be sure and use that old well-tested remedy, Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for children's teething. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays pain, colic and diarrhoea.

### MRS. SOPHIE GEER IS DEAD

Wife of P. W. Geer and Daughter of Well-Known Silverton Family.

Mrs. Sophie 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 Samaritan Hospital after an illness of two months. Her husband, her mother and her brother, Dr. Louis J. Wolf, were at her bedside when the end came.

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 performed by Mayor McClellan. Mrs. Geer's illness was not generally known by her friends. She was brought West when her condition first became serious, some months ago, from her home at Morris Plains, N. J., where Mr. Geer had charge of the Honor Day farm.

Mrs. Geer was a finely educated and unusually talented young woman, having spent three years in New York developing an exceptional ability in music and education. She was a bright entertainer, and invariably was the soul of the social affairs she attended. She was born in Oregon 32 years ago, and spent most of her years at Silverton, the home of her parents, and also of Mr. Geer. Her brother, Dr. Wolf, was a prominent physician in the city.

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.



The Late Mrs. Sophie Geer.

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### FAVORS SMALL COLLEGES

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

Rev. W. H. Foulkes was the speaker of the afternoon at the Women'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 inevitable expression of the American spirit, just as the universities of Oxford and Cambridge are an expression of English aristocracy, while the universities of Berlin and Leipzig and the gymnastics of Germany represent most fittingly the German imperial spirit.

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

First—it comes in closest contact with the homes of the people. Second—it depends largely upon the voluntary 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 universities. Fifth—drawing, as it does, on the resources of the various nations 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 business 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 continue to place emphasis upon character as the basis of culture and by the preservation of the moral elements in its constitution and methods, develop a full rounded manhood and womanhood.

"As the end of all individual discipline is the development and perfection of one's own powers of mind and heart, so the end of the moral discipline is none other than the bringing to its full flower the best earthly institution God ever established, which, despite social distinctions, immovable assets, 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 spiritual prototype, and eternity the only end—the home."

### MURDER AND MANY BURGLARIES ADMITTED BY TUCSON PRISONER.

TUCSON, Ariz., Feb. 28.—D. W. Hawkins, a prisoner in the County Jail here, today confessed to a series of burglaries in Tucson, Los Angeles, Vallejo, San Francisco and elsewhere, and to the murder of Albert Leonhardt in Tucson, on the night of December 25 last. Leonhardt, who was a young carpenter from Columbus, O., was shot by unknown parties.

Hawkins confessed that himself and his wife committed the deed with the purpose of robbery. This was a burglary on a burglary charge a week ago and was sweated. Hawkins, who is 22 years of age, says that his father is a miller in Chicago.

### 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. Caldwell, who lives on the M. Wingfield ranch, near Adel, was attracted to 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 animal. She had no idea that the wolf would attack her, but releasing his hold on a hen, the animal turned fiercely on the woman, who, as she started to beat 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 blood-curdling experience in her life.

### CONFESSES LIST OF CRIMES

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### WOMEN'S CLUB WOULD ALLOW SCHOOL CHILDREN IN ROSE FESTIVAL PARADE.

Significance of the Vote Mothers Belonging to Organization Unite to Carry Resolution—Bellingham Will Send Exhibit to Show Theaters to Assist.

The Portland Women's Club, at its meeting 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 Festival next June. The question was discussed at some length, and the final vote was 34 to 28 in favor of the plan. What is most significant in the mere figures of the vote is the fact that the members of the club who have children were a unit 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 Dunway, 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 something 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 their consent."

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 general is heartily in favor of the project, for the reason that the children's parade of last year was the most picturesque and interesting feature of the whole Rose Carnival.

Bellingham is interested. Ross Welch, secretary of the Bellingham Chamber of Commerce, has written that the matter will come before the next meeting of that body, and will probably send exhibits of flowers for the exposition, which will continue two days during the week.

If it is at all possible Bellingham should accept the invitation of Portland to take part in the coming flower festival which has caused the Oregon metropolises 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 the show, as the following editorial explains:

Already Bellingham, through the efforts of the Rosarians, enjoys an enviable reputation as a flower center, and it will not be long until we are known as the great bulb-growing place in the United States. It would be an excellent thing to take advantage of this reputation and make a floral display that will convince a portion of the world that the bulb industry has been started here in earnest. It is true the wants of Portland are 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 Bellingham, 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 Sends Delegate. ROSEBURG, Or., Feb. 28.—(Special.)—W. L. Cobb, of this city, chairman 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 30 to 2. Mr. Cobb will represent all the churches of his denomination in the entire Pacific Northwest.

### VICTORY FOR TRUST

Warren Construction Company 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 "holding down" the bids of the Warren Construction Company and the Barber Asphalt Paving Company, alleged trusts, the Warren concern won a victory to the extent of \$164,250 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 reconsidering 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 improvement.

Owing to the fact that property-owners on Belmont street have contested an improvement of bitulithic, and that the matter is now before the Board, Circuit Judge Cleland, Assistant City Attorney Grant advised the Executive Board yesterday afternoon to hold up all bids for bitulithic 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 preparation for paving, is the question to be decided. If Judge Cleland holds 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 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 bids of the Warren corporation, several bids 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 paving, 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 which was awarded by the Executive Board yesterday afternoon, at the special request of the abutting property-owners, the bid the last time was higher than it was at first. This was after the improvement was advertised three times.

At a recent meeting of the street committee of the Council, Councilmen Rushlight, Cotte and Vaughn declared themselves in favor of curbing the alleged trust and fixing a maximum rate. No action was taken, however, and the matter continues as usual.

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W. W. Gullett and Charles Lynd were arraigned and given until Tuesday to plead. They are charged with forging a check for \$25 on January 2, and passing it on L. Helming, of Troutdale.

### HOUGHTON BEFORE COURT

Paroled Convict Pleads Not Guilty of Grand Larceny.

Seven defendants in criminal cases were arraigned before Judge Cleland in the Circuit Court at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Among them was Charles Houghton, familiarly known among his acquaintances as "Chick." Houghton was recently pardoned by Governor Chamberlain, who serving term for robbery. He is now charged with stealing two bolts of cloth, worth \$40, from William Velton, a tailor, who has a store at 46 1/2 Washington street, on Tuesday afternoon.

James Sullivan was arraigned 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 Hamilton and George Ritchie, was arraigned and pleaded not guilty. His case was set for trial April 15.

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### FEW FAVOR ALDRICH BILL

PORTLAND BANKERS' VIEWS ON PROPOSED MEASURE.

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

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

President William MacRae, of the Bank of Jefferson, expressed himself as opposed to this bill, believing that it would not be a proper remedy for existing conditions. On the other hand, he strongly inclined toward the formation of a central bank with a large paid-up capital, and branches in the most important commercial centers of each state.

In concluding the Aldrich bill, it comes nearer meeting the requirements of the business community and be a more satisfactory basis for currency than the present one.

President A. L. Mills, of the First National Bank, has the following to say in regard to the measure:

"I am 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 emergency currency, as suggested in this bill, would have stopped the runs upon the trust companies in New York, and consequently there would have been no widespread 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 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 Solidwood; and President H. H. Newhall, of the East Side Bank, have also expressed themselves as opposed to the Aldrich bill.

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

### EIGHT FEET HIGH—SCENIC PHOTOS.

See them at Kisor's, 248 Alder st.

### OPPOSES SCHOOL BOARD'S VIEWS

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### WILLIAM D. BUXTON DEAD

Resident of Russellville Passes Away After Long Illness.

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